



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 10-07-2020

EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

The fourth highest seizure of opium in 2018 was reported from India, after Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan, according to the latest World Drug Report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The maximum of 644 tonnes of opium was seized in Iran, followed by 27 tonnes in Afghanistan and 19 tonnes in Pakistan. In India, the figure stood at four tonnes in 2018.

In terms of heroin seizure (1.3 tonnes), India was at the 12th position in the world. Again, Iran reported the highest seizure of heroin (25 tonnes). Heroin is manufactured from the morphine extracted from the seed pod of opium poppy plants. Close to 97% of the total global production of opium in the past five years came from only three countries. Afghanistan accounted for 84% of the global opium production, Myanmar accounted for 7% and Mexico accounted for 6%. The global area under opium poppy cultivation declined for the second year in a row in 2019. It went down by 17% in 2018 and by 30% in 2019. The opiates seized in the largest quantity in 2018 continued to be opium (704 tonnes), followed by heroin (97 tonnes) and morphine (43 tonnes). Quantities of seized opiates remained concentrated in Asia, notably in south-west Asia (70%).

2. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

The first set of five volumes of Mongolian Kanjur published under the National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM) was recently presented to the Government of Mongolia. Mongolian Kanjur, the Buddhist canonical text in 108 volumes is considered to be the most important religious text in Mongolia. In the Mongolian language 'Kanjur' means 'Concise Orders'- the words of Lord Buddha in particular. Mongolian Buddhists worship the Kanjur at temples and recite the lines of Kanjur in daily life as a sacred ritual. The language of the Kanjur is Classical Mongolian. The Ministry of Culture has taken up the project of reprinting of 108 volumes of Mongolian Kanjur under the National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM). It is expected that all the 108 volumes of the Mongolian Kanjur will be published by March, 2022. The National Mission for Manuscripts was launched in 2003 by the Government of India, under the Ministry of Tourism and Culture, with the mandate of documenting, conserving and disseminating the knowledge preserved in the manuscripts. One of the objectives of the

mission is to publish rare and unpublished manuscripts so that the knowledge enshrined in them is spread to researchers, scholars and general public at large. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

3. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Prime Minister Modi will dedicate to the nation the 750 MW Solar Project set up at Rewa, Madhya Pradesh on July 10, 2020. This Project comprises of three solar generating units of 250 MW each located on a 500 hectare plot of land situated inside a Solar Park (total area 1500 hectare). The Solar Park was developed by the Rewa Ultra Mega Solar Limited (RUMSL), a Joint Venture Company of Madhya Pradesh UrjaVikas Nigam Limited (MPUVN), and Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI), a Central Public Sector Undertaking. This project will reduce carbon emission equivalent to approx. 15 lakh ton of CO₂ per year. The Rewa Solar Project was the first solar project in the country to break the grid parity barrier. The project is also the first renewable energy project to supply to an institutional customer outside the State, i.e. Delhi Metro, which will get 24% of energy from the project with remaining 76% being supplied to the State DISCOMs of Madhya Pradesh. It has also received World Bank Group President's Award for innovation and excellence.

4. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Operation Samudra Setu, which was launched on 05 May 2020 as part of the national effort to repatriate Indian citizens from overseas during the COVID-19 pandemic has culminated after successfully bringing 3,992 Indian citizens back to their homeland by sea. Indian Naval Ships Jalashwa (Landing Platform Dock), and Airavat, Shardul and Magar (Landing Ship Tanks) participated in this operation which lasted over 55 days and involved traversing more than 23,000 kilometres by sea. This operation was undertaken by the Indian Navy in close coordination with Ministry of External Affairs, Home Affairs, health and various other agencies of the Government of India and State Governments. Indian Navy has previously undertaken similar evacuation operations as part of Operation Sukoon in 2006 (Beirut) and Operation Rahat in 2015 (Yemen). Another Landing Ship (Tank) Kesari undertook 'Mission SAGAR', carrying 580 tonnes of food aid and medical stores including ayurvedic medicines to Maldives, Mauritius, Madagascar, Comoros Islands and Seychelles, covering over 14,000 km in 49 days.

5. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

Ministry of Defence (MoD) announced that Unmarried permanently disabled sons of ECHS beneficiaries will be eligible to get benefits of ECHS facilities even after attaining 25 years. The unmarried permanently disabled and financially dependent sons of Ex-Servicemen Contribution Health Scheme (ECHS) beneficiaries who have become disabled after attaining the age of 25 years will now also be eligible for benefits under the schemes. This was decided by the Ministry of Defence (MoD), Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare (DESW). This follows a similar decision for the beneficiaries of the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) in January this year.

6. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The standoffs between Indian and Chinese troops in Ladakh on the Line of Actual Control (LAC), where initial steps towards disengagement have taken place, are around a number of patrolling points (PPs) in Galwan, Hot Springs and Gogra areas. Patrolling Points (PPs) are identified and marked on the Line of Actual Control (LAC), which are patrolled with a stipulated frequency by the security forces. They serve as a guide to the location of the LAC for the soldiers, acting as indicators of the extent of 'actual control' exercised on the territory by India. By regularly patrolling up to these PPs, the Indian side is able to establish and assert its physical claim about the LAC. Not all of the Patrolling Points are numbered. Some of the PPs are prominent and identifiable geographical features, such as a pass, or a nala junction where no numerals are given. Almost all of the Patrolling Points are on the LAC, except for the Depsang plains in northern Ladakh, where PP10, PP11, PP11A, PP12 and PP13 – from Raki Nala to Jivan Nala – do not fall on the LAC. These are short of the LAC, on the Indian side. The PPs are not posts and thus not manned. They are just physical markers on the ground, chosen for their location and have no defensive potential or tactical importance for the Army. PPs 10 to 13 in Depsang sector, PP14 in Galwan, PP15 in Hot Spring, and PP17 and PP17A in Gogra are currently being disputed by both sides, where the standoffs have taken place in the past nine weeks.

7. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

The Union Cabinet gave its approval to a pan India central sector scheme i.e. Agriculture Infrastructure Fund, to inject formal credit into farm and farm-processing based activities.

It is a part of the over Rs. 20 lakh crore stimulus package announced in response to the Covid-19 crisis. The fund aims to provide medium - long term debt financing facility for investment in viable projects for post-harvest management Infrastructure and community farming assets. The Agriculture

Infrastructure Fund will be managed and monitored through an online Management Information System (MIS) platform. It will enable all the qualified entities to apply for loan under this Fund.

8. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

Measles is a highly contagious viral disease that causes death among many malnourished children globally. It can cause serious complications, including blindness, encephalitis, severe diarrhoea, ear infection and pneumonia. Rubella is a contagious, generally mild viral infection that occurs most often in children and young adults. Apart from it, Rubella also infects pregnant women and may cause death or congenital defects known as Congenital Rubella Syndrome (CRS) which causes irreversible birth defects.

9. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

Open Sky Agreements are bilateral agreements that the two countries negotiate to provide rights for airlines to offer international passenger and cargo services. It expands international passenger and cargo flights.

It allows unlimited number of flights to the selected cities of each other's countries.

The National Civil Aviation Policy (2016) allows the government to enter into an 'open sky' air services agreement on a reciprocal basis with South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) nations as well as countries beyond a 5,000 kilometre radius from New Delhi.

It implies that nations within 5,000 kilometer of distance need to enter into a bilateral agreement and mutually determine the number of flights that their airlines can operate between the two countries.

India has open sky agreements with Greece, Jamaica, Guyana, Finland, USA, Japan, etc.

10. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The State Election Commission is a constitutional body. It has been entrusted with the function of conducting free, fair and impartial elections to the local bodies in the state. Article 324 (1) vests in the Commission the powers of superintendence, direction and control of the elections to both Houses of the State Legislature.

Article 243K (1) states that the superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of electoral rolls for, and the conduct of, all elections to the Panchayats (Municipalities under Article 243ZA) shall be vested in a State Election Commission. It consists of a State Election Commissioner appointed by

the Governor. Article 243K (2) states that the tenure and appointment will be directed as per the law made by the state legislature. The State Election Commissioner shall not be removed from his/her office except in like manner and on the like grounds as a Judge of a High Court.