



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 16-11-2020

EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha was appointed as the Chief Information Commissioner (CIC). Before the appointment, he has been serving as an Information Commissioner (IC) in the Central Information Commission since January 1, 2019. The RTI Act 2005 provides for the constitution of a Central Information Commission and State Information Commissions in each state. The CIC has been constituted in 2005 under the Right to Information Act, 2005. The jurisdiction of the Commission extends over all Central Public Authorities. Information Commissioners: The Central Information Commission shall consist of: the Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) such numbers of Central Information Commissioners (ICs), not exceeding ten, as may be deemed necessary Eligibility: The members shall be persons of eminence in public life with wide knowledge and experience in law, science and technology, social service, management, journalism, mass media or administration and governance.

2. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), constituent laboratory Structural Engineering Research Centre (SERC) based in Chennai, has developed an indigenous technology, Emergency Retrieval System (ERS), for quick retrieval of power transmission in the event of failure of transmission line towers. At present, the ERS systems are imported and the cost is relatively high. This technological development will enable the manufacturing in India for the first time, which will be an import substitute and will cost about 40% of imported systems. ERS is a lightweight modular system that is used as temporary support structure to restore power immediately after the collapse of transmission line towers during natural calamities such as cyclone/earthquake, or manmade disruptions. Made of structurally highly stable box sections, ERS is lightweight, modular and reusable. ERS can be assembled quickly at the disaster site for restoration of power in 2-3 days, whereas the permanent restoration may take several weeks. This development is very significant as failure of transmission lines severely impact lives of common people and causes huge monetary loss to the power companies.

3. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

In a first-ever move, the Sports Ministry has introduced a incentivisation structure to extend monetary

support to 500 private academies, through the Khelo India Scheme over the next four years starting FY 2020-21. In this model, private academies shall be graded into different categories based on achievement of players trained by the academy, level of coaches available at the academy, quality of Field of Play and allied infrastructure, availability of sports science facilities and staff. The 14 priority disciplines identified for excellence in 2028 Olympics will be eligible for receiving support in the first phase. Under the scheme, Sports Authority of India (SAI) and National Sports Federation (NSFs) will be working together. SAI will also hold discussions with NSFs and implement categorisation and gradation of the academies. The number of academies to be funded and the quantum of funding under each discipline will be determined by an objective evaluation of the need for investment and each NSF's capabilities.

4. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

The Leonid meteor showers are currently making their yearly appearance, and will reach their peak in India on November 17 and 18. In 2020, these showers are active from November 6th to November 30th. The Leonids emerge from the comet Tempel-Tuttle, which requires 33 years to revolve once around the Sun. These meteors are bright and among the fastest moving—travelling at speeds of 71 km per second. During this year's showers, peaks of around 10 to 15 meteors are expected to be seen every hour. The Leonid showers include fireballs—bright and large meteors that can last longer than average meteors, and “earthgazers”—meteors which appear close to the horizon with colourful and long tails. Meteor showers are named after the constellation they appear to be coming from. The Leonids originate from the constellation Leo the Lion—the groups of stars which form a lion's mane. On its journey around the Sun, the Earth passes through large swathes of cosmic debris. The debris is essentially the remnants of comets—great frigid chunks of matter that leave behind dirty trails of rocks and ice that linger long after the comets themselves have passed. As the Earth wades through this cloud of comet waste, the bits of debris create what appears from the ground to be a fireworks display in the sky—known as a meteor shower.

5. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

For the third time in ten years, the United States territory of Puerto Rico has voted in favour of statehood, and thus be treated at par with the current 50 states of the country. Puerto Rico, officially the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico is an unincorporated territory of the United States. Puerto Ricans have been citizens of the United States since 1917, and can move freely between the island and the mainland. As it is not a state, Puerto Rico does not have a vote in the U.S. Congress, which governs the unincorporated territory with jurisdiction under the Puerto Rico Federal Relations Act of 1950. It is located in the northeast Caribbean Sea, approximately 1,000 miles (1,600 km) southeast of Miami, Florida. It is an archipelago among the Greater Antilles located between the Dominican Republic and the

U.S. Virgin Islands; it includes the eponymous main island and several smaller islands, such as Mona, Culebra, and Vieques. The capital and most populous city is San Juan. Originally populated by the indigenous Taíno people, Puerto Rico was colonized by Spain following the arrival of Christopher Columbus in 1493. In 1898, following the Spanish–American War, the United States acquired Puerto Rico, which remains an unincorporated territorial possession, making it the world's oldest colony.

6. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The isolated UK Overseas Territory of Tristan da Cunha, which is home to the world's most remote human settlement, declared the largest fully protected marine reserves in the Atlantic Ocean at 687,000 square kilometres. Tristan da Cunha is a remote group of volcanic islands in the south Atlantic Ocean. It is the most remote inhabited archipelago in the world. Tristan da Cunha is a British Overseas Territory with its own constitution. The mountainous archipelago Tristan da Cunha is home to tens of millions of seabirds and several unique land birds. The island group is also home to the World Heritage Site of Gough and Inaccessible Islands, which is one of the most important seabird islands in the world. After joining the UK's Blue Belt Programme, it will become the largest no-take zone in the Atlantic and the fourth largest on the planet. This means fishing, mining and any such activities will not be allowed. This will close over 90 percent of their waters to harmful activities such as bottom-trawling fishing, sand extraction and deep-sea mining.

7. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

Environmental activists and local residents in Uttarakhand are opposing the cutting of trees for a project to expand Dehradun's Jolly Grant airport. Dehradun Airport, also known as Jolly Grant Airport, is located 25 km south-east of Dehradun. Commercial operations began on 30 March 2008 after a runway extension to accommodate larger aircraft. It is also known as the Air Gateway of Garhwal and plays an important role in the tourism of Uttarakhand. The Uttarakhand Civil Aviation Development Authority has proposed the expansion of Jolly Grant airport in Dehradun with the aim of upgrading it to meet international standards. It is proposed to take over 87 hectares of forest land in Doiwala village in Dehradun district, and another 17.41 hectares of non-forest land for the project.

8. Ans) (c)

Explanation

Atmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana is aimed at incentivising the creation of new employment opportunities during the Covid-19 economic recovery phase. It will provide subsidy for provident fund contribution for adding new employees to establishments registered with the Employees' Provident Fund

Organisation (EPFO). Establishments registered with EPFO will be eligible for the benefits if they add new employees compared to the reference base of employees as in September 2020. Establishments, with up to 50 employees, would have to add a minimum of two new employees. The organisations, with more than 50 employees, would have to add at least five employees.

9. Ans) (a)

Explanation

The Department of Science & Technology (DST) has selected 21 scientists for the Swarna Jayanti fellowship. The Swarna Jayanti Fellowships scheme was instituted by the Government of India to commemorate India's fiftieth year of Independence. It provides special assistance and support to a selected number of young scientists with a proven track record to enable them to pursue basic research in frontier areas of science and technology. The project submitted by the selected Fellows are considered for funding by the Science & Engineering Research Board (SERB) as per SERB norms.

10. Ans) (b)

Explanation

According to the Reserve Bank of India's, "nowcasting", India's economy will contract by 8.6% in the second consecutive quarter (July, August, September) of the current financial year which means the economy is in a 'technical recession'. In simpler words, a technical recession is two quarters in a row of economic contraction. Expansionary Phase: When the overall output of goods and services typically measured by the GDP increases from one quarter to another (not annually). Recessionary Phase: When the overall output of goods and services typically measured by the GDP decreases from one quarter (or month) to another. Business Cycle: It is composed of concerted cyclical upswings and downswings in the broad measures of economic activity which are output, employment, income, and sales in other words it is a cycle created by the expansionary and recessionary phases clubbed together.