



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 21-12-2020

EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday visited the native village of Bengali revolutionary Khudiram Bose in Midnapore, West Bengal. Bose was born in 1889 at a small village in Midnapore district. One of the youngest leaders of the Independence movement, Bose is highly regarded in Bengal for his fearless spirit. In 1905, when Bengal was partitioned, he actively participated in protests against the British. At the age of 15, Bose joined the Anushilan Samiti, an early 20th century organisation that propounded revolutionary activities in Bengal. He is most remembered for his attempt to assassinate the British judge, Magistrate Douglas Kingsford, which ultimately led him to be sentenced to death at the young age of 18.

2. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

China's Chang'e 5 lunar mission returned to Earth carrying around 2 kilograms of the first fresh rock samples from the moon in 44 years. The spacecraft landed in Siziwang Banner, north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. The probe, named after the ancient Chinese goddess of the moon, first took off from the Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Site in Hainan on November 24th. Two of the Chang'e 5's four modules landed on the moon on 1st December and collected about 2 kilograms (4.4 pounds) of samples by scooping them from the surface and drilling 2 meters into the moon's crust. The samples were deposited in a sealed container that was carried back to the return module by an ascent vehicle. The retrieved re-entry capsule of Chang'e-5 will be airlifted to Beijing, where the capsule will be opened and the samples will be ready for analysis.

Oceanus Procellarum:

The samples were retrieved from a previously unvisited area of the moon. The latest samples come from a part of the moon known as the Oceanus Procellarum, or Ocean of Storms, near a site called the Mons Rumker that was believed to have been volcanic in ancient times. Mons Rumker, never sampled before, is geologically younger than the sampling areas of the U.S. and the Soviet missions.

Significance:

With this, China became the third country after the United States and the Soviet Union, to collect lunar samples. These are also the first samples to be collected by any country after Russia in 1976.

3. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The first rescue and rehabilitation centre for monkeys in Telangana was inaugurated at Gandhi Ramanna Haritavanam near Chincholi village in Nirmal district. Monkeys that venture into human habitations would be caught in a phased manner, brought to the centre where they would be operated on for birth control and would be released into the forests again after the rehabilitation period. To make the rehabilitation centre a sustainable habitat for the primates, several fruit and flowering plants, a variety of trees that provide shade, and medicinal plants would be grown. It is the second such facility for the primates in the country. The rehabilitation centre for the monkeys was also the first such facility in south India. The other facility in the country was in Himachal Pradesh.

4. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

As part of India's efforts to further expand the coastal radar chain network meant to enable real-time monitoring of the high seas for threats, efforts are in advanced stages to set up coastal radar stations in the Indian Ocean littoral states of Maldives, Myanmar and Bangladesh. Mauritius, Seychelles and Sri Lanka have already been integrated into the country's coastal radar chain network. Similar plans are in the pipeline with Maldives and Myanmar and discussions are ongoing with Bangladesh and Thailand. Under Phase-I of the coastal radar chain network, 46 coastal radar stations have been set up across the country's coastline. Under Phase-II of the project, which is currently under way, 38 static radar stations and four mobile radar stations are being set up by the Coast Guard and is in advanced stage of completion.

Other developments:

The Indian Navy's Information Management and Analysis Centre (IMAC) located in Gurugram, which was set up after the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, is the nodal agency for maritime data fusion. As part of information exchange regarding traffic on the high seas, the Navy has been authorised by the government to conclude white shipping agreements with 36 countries and three multilateral constructs. So far agreements have been concluded with 22 countries and one multilateral construct. At the Navy's Information Fusion Centre for the Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) which is meant to promote Maritime Domain Awareness, three more International Liaison Officers (ILO) are expected to join soon. The ILOs from France, Japan and the U.S. have joined the centre.

5. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

Gastrodia agnicellus, a newly discovered orchid has been named "the ugliest orchid in the world." Found in a forest in Madagascar, it feeds on fungi and has no leaves. Although assessed as a threatened species, the plants have some protection because they are located in a national park. Madagascar is an island

country in the Indian Ocean, approximately 400 kilometres off the coast of East Africa. Madagascar is the world's second-largest island country.

6. Ans) (b)

Explanation

Green fuel, also known as Biofuel, is a type of fuel distilled from plants and animal materials, believed by some to be more environmentally friendly than the widely-used fossil fuels that power most of the world. Some of the biofuels are: Bioethanol It is derived from corn and sugarcane using the fermentation process. A litre of ethanol contains approximately two thirds of the energy provided by a litre of petrol.

Biobutanol It is produced in the same way as bioethanol i.e. through the fermentation of starch. The energy content in butanol is the highest among the other gasoline alternatives. It can be added to diesel to reduce emissions. Biohydrogen Biohydrogen, like biogas, can be produced using a number of processes such as pyrolysis, gasification or biological fermentation. It can be the perfect alternative for fossil fuel. Recently, the Indian government has invited public comments for introducing adoption of E20 fuel to promote green fuel like ethanol. Composition: E20 fuel is a blend of 20% of ethanol with gasoline. The current permissible level of blending is 10% of ethanol, though India reached only 5.6% of blending in 2019.

7. Ans) (b)

Explanation

A Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO) is highly elliptic. Its perigee (closest point to Earth) is typically as high as low Earth orbit (LEO), while its apogee (furthest point from Earth) is as high as geostationary (or equally, a geosynchronous) orbit. To attain geosynchronous (and also geostationary) Earth orbits, a spacecraft is first launched into the Geo -synchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO)..The satellite is injected precisely into its predefined sub- Geo-synchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO). Eventually, it is placed into its specified slot in the Geo-Synchronous Orbit after a series of manoeuvres.

8. Ans) (a)

Explanation

Cryptocurrency is a specific type of virtual currency, which is decentralised and protected by cryptographic encryption techniques. Bitcoin, Ethereum, Ripple are a few notable examples of cryptocurrencies. Bitcoin is a type of digital currency that enables instant payments to anyone. Bitcoin was introduced in 2009. Bitcoin is based on an open-source protocol and is not issued by any central authority. Originally, Bitcoin was intended to provide an alternative to fiat money and become a universally accepted medium of exchange directly between two involved parties. Fiat money is a government-issued currency that is not backed by a commodity such as gold. Most modern paper

currencies, such as the US dollar and Indian Rupee are fiat currencies. In April 2018, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) notified that entities regulated by it should not deal in virtual currencies or provide services for facilitating any person or entity in dealing with or settling virtual currencies. However, the Supreme Court struck down the ban on trading of virtual currencies (VC) in India, which was imposed by the RBI. The Supreme Court has held that cryptocurrencies are in the nature of commodities and hence they can not be banned.

9. Ans) (a)

Explanation

Recently, the Supreme Court (SC) has stayed in Andhra Pradesh High Court (HC) order intending to embark on a judicial enquiry into whether there is a constitutional breakdown in the State machinery, requiring a declaration of President's rule (Article 356). The President's rule is imposed through the invocation of Article 356 of the Constitution by the President on the advice of the Union Council of Ministers (executive). If the President, upon receipt of the report from the Governor of the State or otherwise, is satisfied that a situation has arisen in which the government of the State cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. Parliamentary Approval and Duration: A proclamation imposing President's Rule must be approved by both the Houses of Parliament within two months from the date of its issue. The approval takes place through simple majority in either House, that is, a majority of the members of the House present and voting. Initially valid for six months, the President's Rule can be extended for a maximum period of three years with the approval of the Parliament, every six months.

10. Ans) (c)

Explanation

Article 29 and 30 of the Indian Constitution recognises religious and linguistic minorities. However, the term "Minority" is not defined in the Indian Constitution. The National Commission for Minorities (NCM) was established with the enactment of the NCM Act in 1992. The National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992 in Section 2(c) of the Act defines a minority as "a community notified as such by the Central government". In India, this applies to Muslim, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhist, Parsis (Zoroastrian) and Jain religions. In 1993, the first Statutory National Commission was set up and five religious communities viz the Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Zoroastrians (Parsis) were notified as minority communities. In 2014, Jains were also notified as a minority community.