



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 24-09-2020

EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

The Indian and the Australian navies are undertaking Passage Exercise or PASSEX exercises on September 23-24 in the Indian Ocean. From the Indian side, Indian Naval Ships Sahyadri and Karmuk will be present and Australia will be represented by HMAS Hobart. PASSEXs are regularly conducted by the Indian Navy with units of friendly foreign navies. Australia is the third country, since June, with which India will conduct the exercises. The first was with US Navy's USS Nimitz and the second was the Russian Navy.

2. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced that the limit of using the State Disaster Response Fund for COVID specific infrastructure has been increased from 35 per cent to 50 per cent. The decision will help States have more finances at their disposal to fight the virus. The State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), constituted under Section 48 (1) (a) of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, is the primary fund available with State Governments for responses to notified disasters. The Central Government contributes 75% of SDRF allocation for general category States/UTs and 90% for special category States/UTs (NE States, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir).

3. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Parliament has passed the Bilateral Netting of Qualified Financial Contracts Bill, 2020 with Rajya Sabha approving it. The bill provides a legal framework for bilateral netting of qualified financial contracts. Netting refers to offsetting of all claims arising from dealings between two parties to determine a net amount payable or receivable from one party to another. The bill allows for enforcement of netting for qualified financial contracts. The provisions of the bill will apply to Qualified Financial Contracts between two qualified financial market participants where at least one party is an entity regulated by the specified authorities RBI, SEBI, IRDAI, PFRDA or the IFSCA. The bill is critical for financial stability in the country and will provide legal basis for bilateral netting between two parties. This bill will also ensure liquidity in the market.

4. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Railways has planned for 100 per cent electrification of its broad gauge routes by 2023. This was stated by the Railway Minister Piyush Goyal in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha. The Minister informed that around 63 per cent broad gauge lines have already been electrified out of a total 63,631 route kilometers as on 1st of April this year. A total of 23,765 route kilometre lines are yet to be electrified in the country. Several steps have been taken to expedite electrification of railway lines in the country and they include, award of Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC) contracts, better project monitoring mechanism etc.

5. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

To augment border infrastructure, the National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (NHIDCL), under Ministry of Road, Transport & Highways (MoRTH), has expedited making detailed project report for the world's longest high-altitude Shinkun La Tunnel. The tunnel (13.5 Km long) is proposed to be built on the border between Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh. Once it is complete, the Manali-Kargil highway will remain open throughout the year. The tunnel will provide all-weather road connectivity between Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir in Zaskar valley. With the construction of the tunnel, inhabitants of around 15-odd villages of Zaskar Valley in Jammu and Kashmir will be relieved since the valley remains cut off due to heavy snowfall during the winter.

6. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

Google dedicated its doodle to swimmer Arati Saha on her 80th birth anniversary. Arati Saha (1940 – 1994) was an Indian long distance swimmer, best known for becoming the first Asian woman to swim across the English Channel on 29 September 1959. At the age of 12, Saha joined India's first team to participate in the 1952 Summer Olympics in Helsinki, Finland. She was one of the only four women to make the team. In 1960, she became the first Indian sportswoman to be awarded the Padma Shri.

7. Ans) (b)

Explanation

The Karnataka government has not allocated funds to the Shuchi Scheme (a menstrual hygiene project), in its budget for 2020-21. As a result, the distribution of sanitary napkins has come to halt under the Scheme, affecting over 17 lakh school and college girls. The Shuchi Scheme, started in 2013-14, was initially a Centrally-sponsored one. However, the Centre asked States to take over the scheme from 2015-16.. The central government has supported the States/UTs through National Health Mission (NHM) in

their programme implementation plans for decentralised procurement of sanitary napkin packs. It is aimed at instilling awareness about menstrual hygiene among adolescent girls.

8. Ans) (d)

Explanation

Environment Pollution Control Authority (EPCA) was constituted under section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for the National Capital Region in compliance with the Supreme Court order. Its mandate is to protect and improve the quality of environment and prevent and control environmental pollution in the National Capital Region only. It has the power to take action suo-moto, or on the basis of complaints made by any individual, representative body or organization functioning in the field of environment. It takes all necessary steps for controlling vehicular pollution, ensuring compliance of fuel quality standards, monitoring and coordinating action for traffic planning and management..

9. Ans) (c)

Explanation

The word equinox is derived from two Latin words - aequus (equal) and nox (night), which means the day and night was almost equal in most locations. There are only two times of the year when the Earth's axis is tilted neither toward nor away from the sun, resulting in a nearly equal amount of daylight and darkness at all latitudes. The equinoxes happen in March (about March 21) and September (about September 23). These are the days when the Sun is exactly above the Equator, which makes day and night of equal length. The equinoxes along with solstices signals the changing of the seasons. The seasons on Earth change because the planet is slightly tilted on its axis as it travels around the Sun. Earth's rotational axis makes an angle of 23.5° with the normal and angle of 66.5° with the orbital plane. The two solstices happen in June (20 or 21) and December (21 or 22). These are the days when the Sun's path in the sky is the farthest north or south from the Equator. In the Northern Hemisphere, the June solstice marks the start of summer, this is when the North Pole is tilted closest to the Sun, and the Sun's rays are directly overhead at the Tropic of Cancer. In the Northern Hemisphere, the December solstice marks the start of winter, this is when the South Pole is tilted closest to the Sun, and the Sun's rays are directly overhead at the Tropic of Capricorn.

10. Ans) (b)

Explanation

Macronutrients are divided into two groups: primary and secondary. The primary macronutrients are those that are needed in the highest concentration: nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), and potassium (K). In fact, these three primary nutrients are needed in higher concentrations than the rest of the macronutrients combined. Hence, statement 1 is not correct An undesirable outcome of the Nutrient Based Subsidy

(NBS) Scheme has been the change in fertilizer mix. As against the recommended Nitrogen (N): Phosphorous (P): Potassium (K) ratio of 4:2:1, the NPK ratio in 2013-14 was 8.2:3.2:1. Hence, statement 2 is correct. Secondary macronutrients are also required for sustained plant health, but in lower quantities than the primary macronutrients. Calcium (Ca), Magnesium (Mg), and Sulfur (S) comprise the secondary macronutrients.