



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 13-05-2021

EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (c)

Explanation: China's seventh census, once-in-a-decade population census, was conducted recently.

Key findings:

12 million babies were born last year, the lowest number since 1961, a year when China was in the midst of a four-year famine unleashed by Mao Zedong's Great Leap Forward policy in 1958 that devastated the farm sector and claimed millions of lives. China's population was 1.41 billion in 2020, increasing by 72 million since the last census in 2010, recording a 5.38% growth in this period. The average annual growth was 0.53%. The census recorded a slowing population growth rate that will likely see China's population peak — and be overtaken by India's — by as early as 2025.

Concerns for China:

The slowing growth rate is a consequence of China's stringent family planning rules over decades — known as the “one-child policy”. It has evoked concerns of a rapidly ageing society and the impact on China's labour force, and fears that China will, as some experts have said, “get old before it gets rich”.

The impact on the labour force and healthcare is a particular concern.

Efforts towards a change:

China loosened family planning rules and allowed couples to have two children in 2016, but that has failed to mark a boom amid changing lifestyles and declining preferences, particularly in urban areas, for larger families.

Why was the One Child Policy adopted by China?

It was adopted out of the Malthusian fears that unchecked population growth would lead to economic and environmental catastrophe. It was also a response to concerns about food shortages.

What is Malthusian theory all about?

Thomas Robert Malthus was the first economist to propose a systematic theory of population. He argued that if left unchecked, a population will outgrow its resources, leading to a host of problems.

2. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

Tensions have been building up in Jerusalem since the start of Ramzan in mid-April between Israeli forces and Palestinians. Recently, Israeli armed forces stormed Al-Aqsa Mosque in the Haram esh-Sharif in Jerusalem. In retaliation, Hamas, the Islamist militant group that runs Gaza, fired dozens of rockets.

Why Jerusalem?

Jerusalem has been at the centre of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. According to the original 1947 UN Partition Plan, Jerusalem was proposed to be an international city. But in the first Arab Israel war of 1948, the Israelis captured the western half of the city, and Jordan took the eastern part, including the Old City that houses Haram esh-Sharif. Al-Aqsa Mosque, Islam's third holiest site, and the Dome of the Rock are situated within Haram esh-Sharif (Noble Sanctuary). Israel captured East Jerusalem from Jordan in the 1967 Six-Day War and annexed it later.

Citizenship issues:

Since its annexation, Israel has expanded settlements in East Jerusalem, which is now home for some 220,000 Jews. Jews born in East Jerusalem are Israeli citizens, while Palestinians in the city are given

conditional residency permits. Palestinians in East Jerusalem, unlike other parts of the occupied West Bank, can, however, apply for Israeli citizenship. Very few Palestinians have done so.

3. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

The Union Territory of Puducherry has become the fourth State/UT after Goa, Telangana and Andaman & Nicobar Islands to provide assured tap water supply to every rural home under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).

About the Jal Jeevan Mission:

JJM envisages supply of 55 litres of water per person per day to every rural household through Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC) by 2024. It is under the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

It also encompasses:

Prioritizing provision of FHTCs in quality affected areas, villages in drought prone and desert areas, Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) villages, etc. Providing functional tap connection to Schools, Anganwadi centres, Gram Panchayat buildings, Health centres, wellness centres and community buildings. Technological interventions for removal of contaminants where water quality is an issue.

Implementation:

The Mission is based on a community approach to water and includes extensive Information, Education and Communication as a key component of the mission. JJM looks to create a jan andolan for water, thereby making it everyone's priority. The fund sharing pattern between the Centre and states is 90:10 for Himalayan and North-Eastern States, 50:50 for other states, and 100% for Union Territories.

4. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

India celebrates May 11 as 'National Technology Day'. The day, which was first observed on 11 May, 1999, aims to commemorate the scientific and technological achievements of Indian scientists, engineers. Theme this year is "Science and Technology for a Sustainable Future".

Significance:

It is the day India successfully tested nuclear bombs in Pokhran on May 11, 1998. India successfully test-fired its Shakti-1 nuclear missile in operation called Pokhran-II, also codenamed as Operation Shakti.

On the same day, India performed a successful test firing of the Trishul Missile (surface to air short range missile) and had test flown the first indigenous aircraft – 'Hansa – 3'.

5. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

USA will join the Christchurch Call to Action to Eliminate Terrorist and Violent Extremist Content Online. It is a New Zealand-led global campaign to stamp out violent extremism online. The Christchurch Call is named after the New Zealand city in which 51 people from the Muslim community were killed in terrorist attacks broadcast live on the Internet on 15 March 2019. The Christchurch Call is an action plan that commits governments, international organizations and Internet players to take a series of measures, in particular:

developing tools to prevent the downloading of terrorist and violent extremist content;

combating the causes of violent extremism; improving transparency in the detection and removal of content; and ensuring that the algorithms designed and used by businesses do not direct users towards violent extremist content, so as to reduce their viral nature.

6. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

WHO approved the Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine for emergency use. It is the first Chinese jab to receive the WHO's green light. It is the two-dose vaccine, which is already being deployed in dozens of countries around the world. The WHO has already given emergency use listing to the vaccines being made by Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, J&J, and the AstraZeneca jab being produced at sites in India and in South Korea.

How does this vaccine work?

The Sinopharm vaccine is an inactivated coronavirus vaccine, like Covaxin developed by Bharat Biotech India (BBIL) in collaboration with the National Institute of Virology (NIV). Inactivated vaccines take the disease-carrying virus (in this case SARS-CoV-2) and kill it using heat, chemicals or radiation. WHO notes that these vaccines take longer to make and might need two or three doses to be administered. The flu and polio vaccines use this approach as well. Out of the major vaccines being used in the world, Sinopharm, Covaxin and Sinovac (also developed by China) are the only ones that use inactivated virus. Others such as Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna are mRNA vaccines. Oxford-AstraZeneca, Sputnik and Johnson and Johnson's single-dose vaccines use a viral vector.

7. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

Acute shortage of anti-fungal injection 'amphotericin' and other anti-fungal medicines used to treat mucormycosis, is now adding to difficulties of patients. Mucormycosis is a life-threatening infection that follows Covid-19 in roughly 30% diabetics. Amphotericin B injection is used to treat serious and potentially life-threatening fungal infections. It is in a class of medications called antifungals. It works by slowing the growth of fungi that cause infection. It is typically given by injection into a vein. Amphotericin B was isolated from *Streptomyces nodosus* in 1955 and came into medical use in 1958. It is on the World Health Organization's List of Essential Medicines.

8. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

On 11 May 1998, the First indigenous aircraft "Hansa-3" was test flown at Bangalore.

9. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

Puducherry has become the 'Har Ghar Jal' Union Territory by ensuring that every rural home gets a household tap connection.

10. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

An anti-COVID oral drug developed by the DRDO has been approved by the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) for emergency use as an adjunct therapy in moderate to severe coronavirus patients, the defence ministry said.