



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 13-02-2021

EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

The National Commission for Women was set up as statutory body in January 1992 under the National Commission for Women Act, 1990 to:

Review the Constitutional and Legal safeguards for women ;Recommend remedial legislative measures ; Facilitate redressal of grievances and Advise the Government on all policy matters affecting women.

The objective of the NCW is to represent the rights of women in India and to provide a voice for their issues and concerns. The subjects of their campaigns have included dowry, politics, religion, equal representation for women in jobs, and the exploitation of women for labour. They have also discussed police abuses against women. It has taken many suo-moto cases, for example during Covid-19 lockdown-it gave help to many stranded women to reach their home. For such type of cases, NCW have Suo-Motu Cell. National Commission of Women has power of Civil Court which is Summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person from any part of India and examining him on oath. Requiring the discovery and production of any document. Receiving evidence on affidavits. Requisitioning of any public record or copy thereof from any court of office. The commission regularly brings out a monthly newsletter Rashtra Mahila in Hindi and English. NCW publishes its own books from time to time. It also sponsors research studies on various aspects concerning women issues and helps in getting them published.

2. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

In a development that could increase tensions between the USA and Germany, the association which is building the Nord Stream 2 pipeline has said that it has resumed work on the controversial project. In 2015, Gazprom and 5 other European energy firms decided to build Nord Stream 2, valued at around \$11 billion. The 1,200 km pipeline will run from Ust-Luga in Russia to Greifswald in Germany. It will carry 55 billion cubic meters of gas per year. The under-construction pipeline will run along with the already-completed Nord Stream 1 system, and the two together will supply an aggregate of 110 billion cubic meters of gas to Germany per year. Why is the pipeline controversial? Nord Stream 2 has drawn criticism from the US, where it is believed that the project would increase Europe's dependence on Russia for natural gas, thus strengthening its President. Currently, EU countries already rely on Russia for 40% of their gas needs.

3. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

A chameleon discovered in Madagascar by scientists from Germany and Madagascar may be the world's smallest adult reptile. The discovery has been reported in the journal Scientific Reports. The team found one male and one female of the species, named *Brookesia nana*, during an expedition in 2012. The male has a length (snout to vent) of 13.5 mm and a total length of 21.6 mm when the tail is included. Previously, the chameleon species *Brookesia Micra* was thought to be the smallest. The longest, the reticulated python, at 6.25 m is almost as long as 289 *Brookesia nanas*. Madagascar is home to tiny lizards and also the smallest species of snakes. One possible reason for such small species is the so-called

“island effect” that causes species on small islands to get smaller.

4. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) would come up with the first thunderstorm research testbed of India soon. The testbed will be developed at Balasore, Odisha jointly by the IMD, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

5. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Union Minister of Agriculture informed Lok Sabha about National Research Centre for Makhana.

In India, makhana cultivation takes place mainly in West Bengal, Bihar, Manipur, Tripura, Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and UP. But, Bihar alone is the largest producer of Makhana with 90 percent of overall production across the world. It belongs to the Nymphaeaceae family. It is a perennial plant.

It grows in stagnant water like ponds, swamps, and wetlands in the tropical climatic areas very much similar to the lotus. Darbhanga in particular and Mithila, in general, is the major Makhana producing region in the country.

6. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

MoU was signed for the construction of the Lalandar [Shatoot] Dam between India and Afghanistan recently. Key takeaways The project is a part of the New Development Partnership between India and Afghanistan. Benefits: (1) Meet the safe drinking water needs of Kabul City; (2) Provide irrigation water to nearby areas; (3) Rehabilitate the existing irrigation and drainage network; (4) Aid in flood protection and management efforts in the area; (5) Provide electricity to the region. This is the second major dam being built by India in Afghanistan, after the India- Afghanistan Friendship Dam [Salma Dam], which was inaugurated by the Prime Minister and the President in June 2016.

7. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

They are a community that traces its roots to the Kamata kingdom, which comprised parts of Assam, West Bengal, and adjoining territories. In the medieval period, the community was dominant and ruled their territory of Kamatapur, which comprised a large part of Bangladesh, West Bengal, Bihar, and India's north-east. After Independence, the princely state of Cooch Behar became part of West Bengal.

Today, Koch Rajbongshis are found in Assam, Meghalaya, West Bengal, and Bihar, and in Bangladesh, Nepal, and some parts of Bhutan. They are estimated to number over 33 lakh in West Bengal, mostly the northern districts, and have a large presence in Assam.

8. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

A team of scientists at the Berkeley Lab has reported some of the properties of element 99 in the periodic table called “Einsteinium”, named after Albert Einstein. For the first time, researchers have been able to characterise some of the properties of this element. It was discovered in 1952 in the debris of the first hydrogen bomb (the detonation of a thermonuclear device called “Ivy Mike” in the Pacific Ocean). The most common isotope of the element, einsteinium 253 has a half-life of 20 days. Because of its high radioactivity and short half-life of all einsteinium isotopes, even if the element was present on Earth during its formation, it has most certainly decayed. This is the reason that it cannot be found in nature and needs to be manufactured using very precise and intense processes.

9. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

BJP MP P.P. Chaudhary has issued a breach of privilege notice against Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra in the Lok Sabha for her remarks against a former Chief Justice of India. While speaking on the Motion of Thanks on the President's address, she has cast some aspersions with respect to the conduct of a judge. So the question is whether the conduct of a judge can be discussed on the floor of the House or not. (Article 121 of the Constitution does not allow allegations to be levelled against a sitting or former judge). What are privileges? Parliamentary privilege refers to the right and immunity enjoyed by legislatures, in which legislators are granted protection against civil or criminal liability for actions done or statements made in the course of their legislative duties. Which provisions of the Constitution protect the privileges of the legislature? The powers, privileges and immunities of either House of the Indian Parliament and of its Members and committees are laid down in Article 105 of the Constitution. Similarly, Article 194 deals with the powers, privileges and immunities of the State Legislatures, their Members and their committees.

10. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

As per the 2019 Crime in India Report compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau: Only 2.2 % of cases registered under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act between the years 2016 and 2019 ended in convictions by court. The total number of the persons arrested and the persons convicted in the years from 2016 to 2019 under the UAPA in the country are 5,922 and 132, respectively. In the year 2019, as many as 96 persons were arrested for sedition (Section 194A IPC) but only two were convicted and 29 persons were acquitted. Under UAPA, both Indian and foreign nationals can be charged. It will be applicable to the offenders in the same manner, even if crime is committed on a foreign land, outside India. Under the UAPA, the investigating agency can file a charge sheet in maximum 180 days after the arrests and the duration can be extended further after intimating the court. As per amendments of 2019: The Act empowers the Director General of National Investigation Agency (NIA) to grant approval of seizure or attachment of property when the case is investigated by the said agency. The Act empowers the officers of the NIA, of the rank of Inspector or above, to investigate cases of terrorism in addition to those conducted by the DSP or ACP or above rank officer in the state. It also includes the provision of designating an individual as a terrorist.