



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 11-11-2020

EXPLANATION

1. Ans (b)

Explanation:

In Maharashtra, the Central Railway workshop at Parel in Mumbai has manufactured a fifth Narrow Gauge locomotive which will chug between Kalka to Shimla route, a UNESCO World Heritage Railway. The Kalka–Shimla railway is a 2 ft 6 in (762 mm) narrow-gauge railway in North India which traverses a mostly-mountainous route from Kalka to Shimla. Kalka railway station is located in Haryana. The railway was built under the direction of Herbert Septimus Harington between 1898 and 1903 to connect Shimla, the summer capital of India during the British Raj, with the rest of the Indian rail system. On 8 July 2008, UNESCO added the Kalka–Shimla railway to the mountain railways of India World Heritage Site. A narrow-gauge railway is a railway with a track gauge narrower than standard 1,435 mm (4 ft 8 1/2 in). Most narrow-gauge railways are between 600 mm (1 ft 11 5/8 in) and 1,067 mm (3 ft 6 in).

2. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

China has cited COVID-19 regulations for denying departure to a stranded Indian merchant ship loaded with Australian coal. The ship named Jag Anand been awaiting anchorage at the Chinese port Jingtang near Tangshan in China's Hebei province since June this year. The Port of Jingtang is an artificial deep-water international seaport on the coast of Tangshan Municipality, Hebei, in Northern China. It is part of the Tangshan port complex, which consists of Jingtang, Caofedian and Fengnan ports. Combined, they constitute the 9th largest port in China. Jingtang port is located in Bohai bay (Bohai sea) close to the port of Tianjin.

3. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The Indian army gifted 20 horses and 10 dogs to the Bangladesh army on Tuesday. The handing over was done in a ceremony at the Benapole-Petrapole Integrated Check Post (ICP) on the India - Bangladesh Border. The fully trained military horses and mine detecting dogs were gifted to Bangladesh in order to further strengthen the bilateral relations between the two countries. These equines and canines were trained by the Remount and Veterinary Corps of Indian Army. The Indian Army has also trained Bangladesh Army personnel for training and handling these specialist dogs and horses.

4. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

Hunar Haat will restart from November 11, 2020 after a gap of about seven months due to the Corona pandemic. Minority Affairs Minister will inaugurate the Hunar Haat at Delhi Haat at Pitampura. The theme of this event is Vocal for Local where indigenous exquisite products made from Maati (clay), Metal and Machiya (wooden and jute products) will be the major attraction. Hunar Haat is being organised across the country by the Ministry of Minority Affairs under a mission to provide market and opportunity to master artisans and craftsmen. Ministry of Minority Affairs is also working to establish “Hunar Hub” across the country to provide a platform to master artisans and craftsmen to display as well sell their products.

5. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

Asteroid Apophis, which was expected to pass extremely close to Earth, may now hit the blue planet in 2068 due to a phenomenon called Yarkovsky effect. This effect has eventually accelerated the asteroid's flow and also changed its path. Discovered in 2004, Asteroid Apophis, named after the Greek God of Chaos, is a 1,120-foot-wide (340-meter-wide) asteroid. That's about the size of three-and-a-half football fields, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration said. According to a recent report, the sun can heat an asteroid in a non-uniform way, causing the space rock to radiate heat energy asymmetrically. This can cause a thrust or a tiny push in a certain direction, sometimes changing the path of the asteroid. This effect is called the Yarkovsky acceleration. Before the discovery of Yarkovsky effect, the possibility of the collision was impossible. The detection of this effect acting on Apophis means that the 2068 impact scenario is still a possibility. As per the new calculations by astronomers at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, asteroid Apophis, which will also be extremely close to Earth on April 13, 2029, is deviating from its actual orbit and may crash into Earth in 2028.

6. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

Russia brokered a new peace deal between Armenia and Azerbaijan, the two countries that have been in a military conflict for over six weeks over the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh in the South Caucasus. As per the new peace deal, both sides will now maintain positions in the areas that they currently hold, which will mean a significant gain for Azerbaijan as it has reclaimed over 15-20 per cent of its lost territory during the recent conflict, the AFP reported. Further, under this agreement, all military operations are suspended, Russian peacekeepers will be deployed along the line of contact in Nagorno-Karabakh and along the Lachin corridor that connects the region to Armenia. Straddling western Asia and

Eastern Europe, Nagorno-Karabakh is internationally recognised as part of Azerbaijan, but most of the region is controlled by Armenian separatists. Russia's role in the conflict has been somewhat opaque since it supplies arms to both countries and is in a military alliance with Armenia called the Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO).

7. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Some political parties have demanded recount of votes in the Bihar election. The penultimate round of Electronic Voting Machines (EVM) counting doesn't start unless the counting of postal ballots is over. In case the victory margin is less than the total number of postal ballots received, then a re-verification is done even if no candidate or agent has asked for it. On Tuesday, the Commission referred to this instruction when asked about the request from the Left parties for a recount in three seats. Apart from this provision, Rule 63 of the Conduct of Election Rules explicitly allows a candidate or his agent to demand a recount of postal ballots or EVM votes before the result is formally declared. The application for a partial or complete recount has to be made in writing along with strong reasons for the demand. The Returning Officer considers the grounds provided and may allow the recount in part or whole. However, the recheck of EVM votes and recounting of postal ballots can only be done before the formal declaration of results on Form 21C. After that, a candidate's only recourse is an election petition.

8. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

After Puducherry, Congress-ruled Rajasthan last week became the latest Opposition-ruled state to opt for a special borrowing window for meeting its compensation shortfall under Goods and Services Tax (GST). The Finance Ministry had said last month that the Centre would borrow from the market and then act as an intermediary to arrange back-to-back loans to pay the GST compensation shortfall of Rs 1.1 lakh crore to state governments. This arrangement will not reflect in the fiscal deficit of the Centre, and will appear as capital receipts for state governments. How has the scheme progressed so far? Under the special window, the Centre has already borrowed Rs 12,000 crore in two equal instalments and passed it on to 21 states and three Union Territories on October 23 and November 2. The second round of borrowing was done at an interest of 4.42%, and the first round at 5.19%, lower than the cost of borrowing for states.

9. Ans) (c)

Explanation

The Dharachula region is known as the Central Seismic Gap (CSG) region, despite the Himalayas being one of the most tectonically and seismically active regions in the country. Recently, scientists at Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG) have unearthed large concentrations of micro and moderate

magnitude earthquakes in this region and adjoining areas. The Dharchula region is located in Uttarakhand (Kumaon Himalaya). The major concentration is in an area around 45 km from the new Kailash Mansarovar road, connecting Dharchula in Uttarakhand to Lipu Lekh on the China border.

10. Ans) (b)

Explanation

Some recommendations of National Education Policy 2020. Class 10 and 12 board examinations to be made easier, to test core competencies rather than memorised facts, with all students allowed to take the exam twice. School governance is set to change, with a new accreditation framework and an independent authority to regulate both public and private schools. Emphasis on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy, no rigid separation between academic streams, extracurricular, vocational streams in schools. Vocational Education to start from Class 6 with Internships. Teaching up to at least Grade 5 to be in mother tongue/regional language. No language will be imposed on any student. Assessment reforms with 360 degree Holistic Progress Card, tracking Student Progress for achieving Learning Outcomes. By 2030, the minimum degree qualification for teaching will be a 4-year integrated B.Ed. degree.