



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 24-12-2020

EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) achieved a major milestone with the maiden launch of Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM), Army Version from Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, off the Coast of Odisha around 1600 hrs. The missile completely destroyed a high speed unmanned aerial target which was mimicking an aircraft with a direct hit. Army version of MRSAM is a surface to Air Missile developed jointly by DRDO, India and IAI, Israel for use of the Indian Army. MRSAM Army weapon system comprises of Command post, Multi-Function Radar and Mobile Launcher system.

2. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The Centre and the World Bank signed a USD 500 million project to build safe and green national highway corridors in Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh. The Green National Highways Corridors Project will support the Road Transport and Highways Ministry to construct 783 kilometres of highways in various geographies by integrating safe and green technology designs such as local and marginal materials, industrial by-products and other bioengineering solutions. The project will help reduce GHG emissions in the construction and maintenance of highways. The project will also enhance the capacity of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways in mainstreaming safety and green technologies. The \$500 million loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), has a maturity of 18.5 years including a grace period of five years.

3. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

Indian Army and Bank of Baroda have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for 'Baroda Military Salary Package'. The MoU lays down the basis on which banking services would be provided by Bank of Baroda to serving and retired personnel of Indian Army. Services under 'Baroda Military Salary Package' will be offered to serving and retired personnel of Indian Army through the Bank's network of over 8,200 domestic branches and around 20,000 business correspondent touchpoints. The package offers benefits including free Personal Accidental Insurance cover, Permanent Total Disability cover, Partial disability Cover as well as Higher Education Cover and Girl Child Marriage Cover on death in case of

serving personnel. Other offerings under the package include unlimited free ATM transactions at all bank ATMs, waivers or concessions on various service charges in retail loans, free remittance facility through RTGS/NEFT, free Demand Draft/Banker's Cheque, substantial discount in locker rentals, and various additional benefits in usage of Cards.

4. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

China has justified its ongoing joint air exercise "Shaheen-IX" with Pakistan, even though it had expressed apprehensions about India's "Malabar exercise" last month. China defended "Shaheen-IX" exercise with Pakistan air force as a routine arrangement, which experts believe is reflective of a larger strategic posture towards India. The Air Forces of China and Pakistan are holding their annual exercise "Shaheen-IX" since 9th December in Pakistan's southern Sindh province near Indian border. India recently hosted the Malabar 2020 naval exercise with the U.S., Japan and Australia. A Chinese state media had termed the Malabar naval drill as an ill-intentioned attempt to corner China. India had categorically stated that the orientation of Malabar exercise had been towards a free, open, inclusive Indo-Pacific as well as a rule-based international order.

5. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

Union Government has for the first time laid down Rights to the Electricity Consumers through "Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Rules, 2020" Consumers across the country will now have the right to a minimum standard of service for supply of electricity. DISCOMs have to ensure minimum standard of service under the rules. This will also include the right to round-the-clock electricity supplies, unless stated otherwise for a specific category, such as an agricultural connection. These rules provide for rights of consumers and obligations of distribution licensees, release of new connection and modification in existing connection, metering arrangement, billing and payment, among others. An automatic compensation mechanism will be put in place. It will include no supply to a consumer beyond a particular duration and certain number of interruptions in supply, which will be specified by the regulatory commission. A new connection has to be given within a maximum time period of seven days in metro cities, 15 days in other municipal areas, and 30 days in rural areas. The rules recognise consumer as a prosumer as well, where prosumers will maintain consumer status and have the same rights as a general consumer. They will also have right to set up renewable energy generation unit, including rooftop solar photovoltaic systems — either on their own or through a service provider. Electricity is a concurrent subject and the Centre has the power to make rules that have to be enforced by all.

6. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

Singapore's street hawker culture, was designated an Intangible Cultural Heritage by the UNESCO. The street hawker centres are representative of Singapore's multiculturalism, with stalls selling cheap, delicious food of Chinese, Malay, Indian origins, among others. Intangible culture is that part of culture which cannot be touched but can only be recorded. It includes performing arts like song, music, drama, skills, crafts etc. Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage was adopted in 2003. India ratified it in 2007. UNESCO's list of intangible culture It is an annual list which focuses on those forms of performing art which are of outstanding value but are vulnerable due to lack of support.

The program currently compiles two lists – Representative List: It comprises cultural practices and expressions that help to demonstrate the diversity of this heritage and raise awareness about its importance. It is longer. Urgent Safeguarding list: It is composed of those cultural elements “whose continuous recreation and transmission” are threatened and are in need of immediate support.

7. Ans) (d)

Explanation

The National Green Highways Mission (NGHM) has been launched by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) following the promulgation of 'Green Highways Policy' in September 2015. The objective of the Project is to demonstrate safe and green National Highway corridors in selected States and enhance the institutional capacity of the MoRTH in mainstreaming safety and green technologies. It should not be confused with the Green Energy Corridor which is a comprehensive scheme for evacuation & integration of renewable energy (RE).

8. Ans) (b)

Explanation

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs on the management of the Covid-19 pandemic in the country, has recently submitted its report. The Constitution of India makes a mention of these committees at different places, but without making any specific provisions regarding their composition, tenure, functions, etc. Broadly, parliamentary committees are of two kinds—Standing Committees and Ad Hoc Committees. Standing Committees are permanent (constituted every year or periodically) and work on a continuous basis. Each standing committee consists of 31 members (21 from Lok Sabha and 10 from Rajya Sabha). The members of the Lok Sabha are nominated by the Speaker, just as the members of the Rajya Sabha are nominated by the Chairman from amongst its members. Hence, statement 1 is not correct. Departmental Standing Committees: Out of the 24 standing committees, 8 work under the Rajya Sabha and 16 under the Lok Sabha. A minister is not eligible to be nominated as a member of any of the standing committees. In case a member, after his nomination to any of the standing committees, is appointed a minister, he then ceases to be a member of the committee. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

9. Ans) (b)

Explanation

A volcano is an opening on the surface that allows material warmer than its surroundings to escape from its interior. There are three reasons why magma might rise and cause eruptions onto Earth's surface:

Magma can rise when pieces of Earth's crust called tectonic plates slowly move away from each other.

Magma also rises when these tectonic plates move toward each other. A final way that magma rises is over hot spots. Hot spots are the hot areas inside of Earth. These areas heat up magma which then becomes less dense and rises. Kilauea Volcano, also called Mount Kilauea ("Much Spreading" in Hawaiian), is located in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park on the southeastern part of the island of Hawaii, U.S.A. It ranks among the world's most active volcanoes. Barren Island, Andaman Islands (India's only active volcano). Barren Island is an island located in the Andaman Sea. It is the only confirmed active volcano in South Asia, and the only active volcano along a chain of volcanoes from Sumatra to Myanmar.

Hence, statement 3 is correct.

10. Ans) (b)

Explanation

Since a National Gas Grid (NGG) was conceptualized in 2000, India has built more than 16,000 km of gas network. Recent initiatives include: The Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga Project seeks to cater to the energy requirements of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal. The project doesn't involve Uttarakhand. Hence, statement 1 is not correct. North East Region (NER) Gas Grid: It will pass through Assam, Sikkim, Mizoram, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Nagaland and Meghalaya in a phased manner.