



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 28-11-2020

EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

France's national assembly has taken the first steps towards approving a law that would ban discrimination against people with pronounced regional accents across the country. A new bill banning accent-based discrimination, or 'la glottophobie', was approved with 98 votes against three, and spurred a lively debate in the lower house of the French parliament. If passed, the new law will make linguistic discrimination a criminal offence along with sexism, racism and other forms of outlawed bigotry. A person found guilty of discrimination on the basis of regional accents could face a maximum of three years in prison and a fine of up to €45,000 (INR 39.8 lakh). Discrimination against people with strong regional accents was rampant in society, particularly at the workplace, and is a "form of racism". According to Ouest-France, a poll conducted in January 2020 showed that around 16 per cent of the French population claim to have been discriminated against during hiring because of their accent.

2. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

Speaking on the 12th anniversary of the 26/11 attacks, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said that "the Indian Navy, Coast Guard and Marine Police have prepared a three-tier security cover in the coastal areas of the country". IMAC, based in Gurgaon, was established in November 2014. It is jointly operated by the Navy and Coast Guard. It is the nodal centre for maritime security information collation and dissemination. It is the cornerstone of the National Command Control Communication and Intelligence Network for monitoring maritime traffic in India's area of interest. IMAC's task is to facilitate exchange of maritime security information among various national stakeholders, and generate a common operational picture. IMAC tracks only non-military or commercial ships, known as white shipping. Military ships, or grey hull ships, are tracked by the Directorate of Naval Operations, as this is on a classified network.

3. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Delhi and other parts of north India are bracing for near cold wave conditions. A cold wave is declared when there's a significant drop in minimum or night time temperature. The IMD's criteria for a cold

wave in the plains is that the minimum temperature should be 10 degrees or lower and the departure from normal minimum temperature 4.5 degrees or less for two consecutive days. One of the main reasons is snowfall in high altitude areas north of Delhi, including places in Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand. Cold winds blowing from these areas lower temperature across northwest India every winter, including Delhi.

4. Ans) (a)

Explanation :An Internal Working Group (IWG) of the RBI has recently made a far-reaching recommendation: To permit industrial houses to own and control banks. According to the report, the main benefit is that industry-owned banks would increase the supply of credit, which is low and growing slowly.

The IWG acknowledges that it ignored the experts the group had consulted. The report states that all the experts except one “were of the opinion that large corporate/industrial houses should not be allowed to promote a bank”. Reacting to it, two former chief economic advisors — Shankar Acharya and Arvind Subramanian — as well as a former finance secretary — Vijay Kelkar — have called this step a grievous mistake, one that would seriously set back Indian economic and political development. The problem with banks owned by corporate houses is that they tend to engage in connected lending. This can lead to three main adverse outcomes:Over-financing of risky activities; encouraging inefficiency by delaying or prolonging exit; and entrenching dominance.

5. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

With less than two months of his tenure remaining, US President Donald Trump exercised his powers under the Constitution to pardon Michael Flynn, his former National Security Advisor, who had twice pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI. The President of the US has the constitutional right to pardon or commute sentences related to federal crimes. The US Supreme Court has held that this power is “granted without limit” and cannot be restricted by Congress. Clemency is a broad executive power, and is discretionary — meaning the President is not answerable for his pardons, and does not have to provide a reason for issuing one. Unlike the US President, whose powers to grant pardons are almost unfettered, the President of India has to act on the advice of the Cabinet. Under Article 72 of the Constitution, “the President shall have the power to grant pardons, reprieves, respites or remissions of punishment or to suspend, remit or commute the sentence of any person convicted of any offence where the sentence is a sentence of death”. In several cases, the SC has ruled that the President has to act on the advice of the Council of Ministers while deciding mercy pleas. These include Maru Ram vs Union of India in 1980, and DhananjayChatterjee vs State of West Bengal in 1994.

6. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Speculation is around the corner that about 7,000 trees are proposed to be felled for the proposed Inter-Modal Station Project (IMS) at Ajani in Nagpur. Regional office of National Highway Authority of India clarified that the IMS project is in resonance with Environment Impact Assessment. As per Detailed Project Study approximately only 1,940 trees are proposed to be felled. A compensatory afforestation of 25,000 trees shall be carried out by the NHAI on the available vacant spaces on the National Highway Projects land in and around Nagpur. Inter-Modal Station proposed to be constructed at Ajni, with a Land Acquisition of 44.4 acres of Indian Railway land, available adjacent to Railway tracks, for handling capacity of over 3 lakhs passengers per day with a facility of Bus Stand , Railway Station and a Metro Station in the proposed vicinity. This Project is taken up for development of the city of Nagpur.

7. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

At celebration of the 9th Foundation Day of GITA, Union Minister of Science & Technology underlined how Global Innovation and Technology Alliance (GITA) served as a catalyst for nurturing innovation and industrial R&D. Global Innovation & Technology Alliance (GITA) is a “not-for-profit” Section-8 Public Private Partnership (PPP) company. It is promoted jointly by the Technology Development Board (TDB), Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). The Prime Minister’s Council on Trade & Industry had, in 2010, recommended incorporation of a Government’s arm’s length entity under PPP mode to professionally manage the Government’s funds for providing flexibility to industry for undertaking R&D along with global partners. The GITA platform encourages industrial investments in innovative technology solutions by Mapping technology gaps, Undertaking expert evaluation of technologies available across the globe, Facilitating techno-strategic collaborative partnerships appropriate for Indian economy, Connecting industrial and institutional partners for synergistic matchmaking and Providing soft funding for technology development / acquisition / deployment.

8. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

Over the last four days, visitors to beaches in Maharashtra have witnessed the spectacle of a fluorescent bluish glow when the waves hit the shoreline. The phenomenon is called ‘blue tide’, and appears when luminescent marine life make the sea appear a deep shade of blue. The spectacle occurs when phytoplankton (microscopic marine plants), commonly known as dinoflagellates, produce light through chemical reactions in proteins. Waves disturb these unicellular microorganisms and make them release

blue light. Bioluminescence is the property of a living organism to produce and emit light. Animals, plants, fungi and bacteria show bioluminescence. A remarkable diversity of marine animals and microbes are able to produce their own light. It is found in many marine organisms such as bacteria, algae, jellyfish, worms, crustaceans, sea stars, fish and sharks. Luminescence is generally higher in deep-living and planktonic organisms than in shallow species. It is an anti-predatory response. Bioluminescence is assumed to startle predators, causing them to hesitate, in a form of predator intimidation.

9. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The accused in Hathras rape case will undergo brain fingerprinting. Brain Electrical Oscillation Signature Profiling (BEOSP) is also known as brain fingerprinting. It is a neuro psychological method of interrogation in which the accused's participation in the crime is investigated by studying their brain's response. The BEOSP test is carried out via a process known as electroencephalogram, conducted to study the electrical behaviour of the human brain. Under this test, the consent of the accused is first taken and they are then made to wear caps with dozens of electrodes attached to them. The accused are then shown visuals or played audio clips related to the crime to check if there is any triggering of neurons in their brains which then generate brainwaves. The test results are then studied to determine the participation of the accused in a crime.

10. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

New Zealand's government will decide next week if a climate emergency should be declared in the country or not. In 2019, the Oxford dictionaries declared "climate emergency" to be the word of the year, a word that reflects "the ethos, mood, or preoccupations of the passing year, and have lasting potential as a term of cultural significance". It defines climate emergency as "a situation in which urgent action is required to reduce or halt climate change and avoid potentially irreversible environmental damage resulting from it".

Some of the countries that have declared a climate emergency in recent years include the UK, Portugal, Canada, France and, most recently, Japan. Last November, the parliament of New Zealand passed the Zero-Carbon Act, which commits New Zealand to zero carbon emissions by 2050 or sooner.