



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 10-02-2021

1. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has sought the intervention of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to allay the apprehension of the people in Wayanad over the recent draft notification of the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEFCC) that envisages a buffer zone around the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary (WWS).

What's the issue?

The present draft issued by the MOEFCC notifies 118.59 sq km around the WWS as ESZ. But, Kerala wants ESZ measuring 88.2 sq km around the WWS. The government is of the view that densely populated areas should be excluded while notifying ESZs. About the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary:

The sanctuary is a component of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve (5,520 sq km) and is a vital component of the Elephant Reserve No. 7 of South India. It is the only sanctuary of Kerala where sighting of four-horned antelope has been reported. Presence of Egyptian vulture, Himalayan griffon, and Cinereous vultures are also reported in the sanctuary and the two species of vultures, red-headed and white-backed vultures, once common in Kerala, are now restricted to the Wayanad plateau. The Nagarhole-Bandipur-Mudumalai-Wayanad forest complex is also one of the most important tiger habitats in the country. Recent estimation of tigers, using camera traps, has indicated the presence of 79 tigers in the sanctuary. The forests of the wildlife division form the major catchments for the tributaries of the Kabani river system.

2. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

As many as 50 speakers from 25 political parties participated in the debate in Rajya Sabha on the Motion of Thanks lasting over three days.

What is "Motion of Thanks" and what it contains?

The President makes an address to a joint sitting of Parliament at the start of the Budget session, which is prepared by the government and lists its achievements. The address is followed by a motion of thanks moved in each House by ruling party MPs. During the session, political parties discuss the motion of thanks also suggesting amendments. President's Address and Motion of Thanks are governed by Articles 86 (1) and 87 (1) of the Constitution and Rules 16 to 24 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

3. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

The U.S. has announced plans to reengage with the UN Human Rights Council that former President Donald Trump withdrew from almost three years ago. About UNHRC:

UNHRC was reconstituted from its predecessor organisation, the UN Commission on Human Rights to help overcome the "credibility deficit" of the previous organisation. Headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

Composition:

The UNHRC has 47 members serving at any time with elections held to fill up seats every year, based on allocations to regions across the world to ensure geographical representation. Each elected member serves for a term of three years. Countries are disallowed from occupying a seat for more than two consecutive terms.

4. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

India's first-ever geothermal power project will be implemented by state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) at Puga village of eastern Ladakh.

5. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Recently, an alternative Smart Wall has been proposed to replace the physical and armed patrolling with advanced surveillance technology at the USA-Mexico border. Earlier in 2019, the USA declared a national emergency to fund construction of a border wall along the USA-Mexico Border citing "invasion" of drugs and criminals from Mexico. There is no one single definition for this recently-conceived solution, however It is a collection of discrete technologies that work together to prevent illegal entry, smuggling, and all the various threats posed by a porous border. It uses drones, scanners, and sensors to create a technological barrier too high to climb over, too wide to go around, and too deep to burrow under. Using Internet-of-Things (IoT) technologies like in-ground sensors, security cameras and software solutions, a smart wall could empower border officials with enhanced situational awareness to prevent illicit activity.

6. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Members of Parliament (MPs) other than ministers are private members. These can be MPs of ruling party too. Bills introduced by them are called Private member bill. Bills introduced by Ministers are called Government Bills. The admissibility of a private Bill is decided by the Chairman in the case of the Rajya Sabha and the Speaker in the case of the Lok Sabha. The Member must give at least a month's notice, for the House Secretariat to examine it for compliance with constitutional provisions and rules on legislation. While a government Bill can be introduced and discussed on any day, a private member's bill can only be introduced and discussed on Fridays. Member who is introducing it will only draft it. While in government bill, drafting is the responsibility of concerned department in consultation with the law department. As per PRS Legislative, no private member's Bill has been passed by Parliament since 1970. To date, Parliament has passed 14 such Bills, six of them in 1956.

7. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), which is headed by PM Narendra Modi, had issued detailed guidelines on how to reduce and deal with disasters caused by what is scientifically called Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs).

What are GLOFs and how vulnerable are the Himalayas?

When glaciers melt, the water in glacial lakes accumulates behind loose, natural "glacial/moraine dams" made of ice, sand, pebbles and ice residue. A GLOF refers to the flooding that occurs when the water dammed by a glacier or a moraine is released suddenly. Unlike earthen dams, the weak structure of the

moraine dam leads to the abrupt failure of the dam on top of the glacial lake, which holds large volume of water. According to NDMA, glacial retreat due to climate change occurring in most parts of the Hindu Kush Himalaya has given rise to the formation of numerous new glacial lakes, which are the major cause of GLOFs. NDMA has recommended use of Synthetic-Aperture Radar imagery to automatically detect changes in water bodies, including new lake formations, during the monsoon months.

8. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

Japi is a traditional symbol of Assamese folk culture. In the earlier days when umbrellas were unheard of, farmers used Japi as a headgear to protect them from the sun and rain. This made Japi an essential gear for the farmers while working in the fields.

9. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has amended its rules to cap trans-fatty acids (TFAs) in food products, just weeks after it tightened the norms for oils and fats. Food products in which edible oils and fats are used as an ingredient shall not contain industrial trans-fatty acids more than 2% by mass of the total oils/fats present in the product, on and from 1st January 2022. The 2% cap is considered to be the elimination of trans-fatty acids, which India will achieve by 2022. In December 2020, the FSSAI had capped TFAs in oils and fats to 3% by 2021, and 2% by 2022 from the current levels of 5%. Important value additions Trans-fatty acids are created in an industrial process that adds hydrogen to liquid vegetable oils to make them more solid, increase the shelf life of food items, and for use as an adulterant as they are cheap. They are present in baked, fried, processed foods and adulterated ghee, which become solid at room temperature. They are the most harmful form of fats as they clog arteries and cause hypertension, heart attacks, and other cardiovascular diseases. The WHO has called for the elimination of industrially-produced trans-fatty acids from the global food supply by 2023.

10. Ans) (c)

Explanation :

The third phase of Chah Bagicha Dhan Puraskar mela is set to be held in Guwahati was held recently.

About the Scheme: Started by the Assam government in the year 2017- 18. Launched to encourage people to open bank accounts in tea garden areas. Under this scheme, the workers of the tea community will receive Rs. 2500 in their bank accounts. Eligibility:

Residents of Assam and who work on tea gardens. Women belonging to BPL category. Tea production in India: India accounts for 14% of global tea exports and nearly 20% of the tea produced in the country is exported, according to Tea Board India.

India is: The largest consumer of tea in the world. The second largest producer of tea in the world.

The fourth largest exporter of tea in the world. Places where tea is grown in India:

Tea cultivation and plantation is practiced in Assam, Darjeeling, Nilgiri Hills of South India and Tarai along the foothills of the Himalayas.

Conditions of Growth:

Climate: Tea is a tropical and sub-tropical plant and grows well in hot and humid climate. Temperature: 20°-30°C. Rainfall: 150-300 cm annual rainfall. Soil: Slightly acidic soil with porous sub-soil which permits a free percolation of water.