



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 18-03-2021

EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

New Delhi has been adjudged as the world's most polluted capital city for the third straight year in the 2020 World Air Quality Report by Swiss organisation, IQAir. Globally, New Delhi is ranked as the 10th most polluted city in the world.

2. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The India, Australia and France trilateral dialogue will be hosted by New Delhi in April 2021. The ministerial-level dialogue will see participation from EAM Jaishankar, French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian and Australian Foreign Minister Marise Payne.

3. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

Bhaona is a traditional form of entertainment, with religious messages, prevalent in Assam. It is a creation of Sankardeva, written in the early 16th century. The plays of bhaona are popularly known as Ankiya Nats and their staging is known as bhaona. The bhaonas are written in the Assamese and Brajvali languages.

4. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The Himachal Pradesh government has decided to start planting seabuckthorn in the cold desert areas of the state. It is a shrub which produces an orange-yellow coloured edible berry. In India, it is found above the tree line in the Himalayan region, generally in dry areas such as the cold deserts of Ladakh and Spiti. In Himachal Pradesh, it is locally called chharma. Ecological, medicinal and economic benefits: (1) Treating stomach, heart and skin problems; (2) Its fruit and leaves are rich in vitamins, carotenoids and omega fatty acids; (3) Helps troops in acclimatising to high-altitude; (4) Important source of fuelwood and fodder; (5) Prevents soil-erosion; (6) Checks siltation in rivers; (7) Helps preserve floral biodiversity; (8) Used in making juices, jams, nutritional capsules etc.

5. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Zo community was recently in news. A Mizoram-based group representing the community has petitioned Indian President and Prime Minister to impose sanctions on military-ruled Myanmar. The Zo people are an ethnic group of India, Bangladesh and Myanmar. They are known as “Chin” and “Zomi” in Myanmar, and “Mizo”, “Zomi” and “Kuki” in India. In north-eastern India, they are present in: Nagaland, Mizoram, Manipur and Assam.

6. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

According to a recent research paper, Martian ‘blueberries’ find a parallel on Earth.

Key takeaways

In 2004, NASA’s Mars exploration rover ‘Opportunity’ found several small spheres on the planet, informally named Martian blueberries. Opportunity’s spectrometers noted they were made of iron oxide compounds called haematites. Presence of haematites suggests that there was water present on Mars. Haematite is known to form in oxidising environments. Study of the Jhuran formation in Gujarat (which is between 145 and 201 million years old) of the haematite concretions revealed that they resemble the ones on Mars.

7. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

NASA successfully landed its Perseverance rover on Mars. In 2004, NASA’s Mars exploration rover ‘Opportunity’ found several small spheres on Mars, informally named Martian blueberries. The study of the mineralogy noted that they were made of iron oxide compounds called haematites. Similar haematite concretions have been found in Kutch, Gujarat. These have been called the Jhuran formation.

8. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

The flowering of bamboo inside the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary (WWS) may pose a threat to wildlife in the Nilgiri biosphere, a major tiger and elephant habitat. The bamboo groves in the Wayanad forest are the mainstay of herbivores in the Nilgiri biosphere during summer. With the onset of the summer, migration of wild animals starts from the adjacent sanctuaries in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu to Wayanad due to shortage of fodder and water. The flowering may adversely affect migration, especially by elephants, wild gaur, and other lower herbivores due to the mass destruction of bamboo groves after the flowering. It is a tall, bright-green coloured spiny bamboo species, which grows in thickets consisting of a large number of heavily branched, closely growing culms. Bamboosa bambos is a monocarpic (flowering

only once) plant. Family: Poaceae family (grass family). Its flowering cycle varies from 40 to 60 years. It is also known as the giant thorny bamboo, Indian thorny bamboo, spiny bamboo, or thorny bamboo. It is a species of clumping bamboo native to southern Asia.

9. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

Launched in December 2020 by the Assam Government, Orunudo scheme is one of the most popular schemes of the state. About the Scheme: Under the scheme, a monthly assistance of Rs 830 is transferred to women members of marginalised families of Assam. On account of being a DBT, or a Direct Benefit Transfer scheme, the money is credited directly to the bank account of the woman head of a family because they are “primary caretakers of the household”. The scheme gives “a choice to the poor and needy households on how they want to spend their money”.

Eligibility:

The applicant, a woman, has to be a permanent resident of Assam, whose composite household income should be less than Rs 2 lakh per annum. Families with specially-abled members and divorced/widowed/separated /unmarried women are prioritised. Poorer families, those without National Food Security Act (NFSA) or ration cards, are also given priority. Families without any women members, MPs, MLAs (former and current), members of Panchayati Raj institutions and urban local bodies, government officials and employees of cooperative societies are excluded from the scheme. Families owning four-wheelers, mechanised boats, tractors or refrigerators, ACs and washing machines, or more than 15 bighas of agricultural land, are not eligible either.

10. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Nominated MP Swapan Dasgupta has resigned from Rajya Sabha, a year before completion of his term. What’s the issue? The opposition had raised the issue of his disqualification from Rajya Sabha under the anti-defection law because the BJP had fielded Dasgupta as its candidate for Tarakeswar constituency in the West Bengal Assembly elections. Who are Nominated members? The Rajya Sabha has 12 nominated members from different walks of life. The broad criterion for their nomination is that they should have distinguished themselves in fields like literature, science, art, and social service. The President nominates such individuals as recommended by the Centre. Nominated members have the same rights and privileges as elected members, with one notable difference — they cannot vote in the election of the President.

Anti-defection law:

In 1985 the Tenth Schedule, popularly known as the anti-defection law, was added to the Constitution. The purpose of the Amendment was to bring stability to governments by deterring MPs and MLAs from changing their political parties on whose ticket they were elected. The penalty for shifting political

loyalties is the loss of parliamentary membership and a bar on becoming a minister. The law specifies the circumstances under which changing of political parties by MPs invite action under the law. It covers three types of scenarios with respect to an MP switching parties: When a member elected on the ticket of a political party “voluntarily gives up” membership of such a party or votes in the House contrary to the wishes of the party. When an MP who has won his or her seat as an independent candidate after the election joins a political party. For nominated MPs, the law specifies that within six months of being nominated to the House, they can choose to join a political party. But, if they join a party thereafter, then they lose their seat in Parliament