



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 20-05-2021

EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

According to an advisory from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the use of convalescent plasma has been dropped from the recommended treatment guidelines for COVID-19. PLACID trial conducted last year had found no significant benefit from the use of plasma; it still continued to find a place in the recommended guidelines. According to some experts, the use of such plasma may have caused new mutations to the virus. Plasma Blood plasma is a yellowish liquid component of blood that holds the blood cells of whole blood in suspension. It is the liquid part of the blood that carries cells and proteins throughout the body. It makes up about 55% of the body's total blood volume. This plasma contains viral antibodies that have treatment potential for severe cases of the disease. Plasma therapy Plasma therapy is a medical procedure that uses the blood of a recovered patient to create antibodies on those infected individuals. It is medically known as convalescent plasma therapy. This treatment uses antibodies found in the blood taken from a recovered Covid-19 patient. It is then used to treat those with severe SARS-CoV-2 infection to aid recovery.

2. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

Researchers have discovered an Asian gracile skink species from Western Ghats.

Key takeaways

- It is named *Subdoluseps nilgiriensis*.
- It has a slender body (7 cm)
- It is sandy brown in colour.
- It is closely related to *Subdoluseps pruthi* found in parts of the Eastern Ghats.
- This species is only the third skink species discovered from mainland India in the last millennium.

Do you know?

Skinks are non-venomous.

They resemble snakes because of the often-inconspicuous limbs and the way they move on land. Such resemblance often results in humans killing this harmless creature. It is considered a vulnerable species.

Threats: Seasonal forest fires, housing constructions and brick kiln industries in the area.

3. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Article 311 says that no government employee either of an all India service or a state government shall be dismissed or removed by an authority subordinate to the one that appointed him/her. Section 2 of the article says that no civil servant shall be dismissed or removed or reduced in rank except after an inquiry in which s/he has been informed of the charges and given a reasonable opportunity of being heard in respect of those charges. As per Article 311 (2) (a), if a government employee is convicted in a criminal case, he can be dismissed without DE. Under 311 (2) (c), a government employee can be dismissed when the President or the Governor, as the case may be, is satisfied that in the interest of the security of state it is not convenient to hold such an enquiry. In a departmental enquiry (DE), after an enquiry officer is appointed, the civil servant is given a formal charge sheet of the charges. The civil servant can represent himself/herself or choose to have a lawyer.

4. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

Mucormycosis is also known as Black Fungus in common language. It is a serious but rare fungal infection caused by a group of molds called mucormycetes, which is abundant in the environment. It mainly affects people who have health problems or take medicines that lower the body's ability to fight germs and sickness. The types of Mucormycosis are: Rhinocerebral (Sinus and Brain), Pulmonary (Lung), Gastrointestinal, Cutaneous (Skin), and disseminated Mucormycosis.

5. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The Himachal Pradesh government has launched a state-wide wellness programme called 'AYUSH Ghar Dwar' for home isolated Covid-19 positive patients, to keep them healthy by practicing Yoga.

6. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

Researchers have reported that Pleistocene-era rock paintings dating back to 45,000-20,000 years ago in cave sites in southern Sulawesi, on the Indonesian island of Sulawesi, are weathering at an alarming rate. The artwork in the area includes what is believed to be the world's oldest hand stencil (almost 40,000 years ago), created by pressing the hand on a cave wall, and spraying wet red-mulberry pigments over it. A nearby cave features the world's oldest depiction of an animal, a warty pig painted on the wall 45,500 years ago. The cave art of Sulawesi is much older than the prehistoric cave art of Europe.

Reasons:

The artwork made with pigments was decaying due to a process known as haloclasty, which is triggered

by the growth of salt crystals due to repeated changes in temperature and humidity, caused by alternating wet and dry weather in the region.

7. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

SAMVEDNA tele counselling service is for psychological support to children to address their stress, anxiety, fear and other issues during the coronavirus pandemic. The service is provided by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR). The service was launched in September 2020 and is available in various regional languages. OSAMVEDNA is an acronym for ‘Sensitizing Action on Mental Health Vulnerability through Emotional Development and Necessary Acceptance’.

8. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

The State Bank of India (SBI) sold electoral bonds worth ₹695.34 crore from April 1 to 10, when the Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, West Bengal, Assam and Kerala polls were in full swing. The amount sold was the highest-ever for any Assembly elections since the scheme started in 2018.

What are electoral bonds?

Electoral Bond is a financial instrument for making donations to political parties. The bonds are issued in multiples of Rs. 1,000, Rs. 10,000, Rs. 1 lakh, Rs. 10 lakh and Rs. 1 crore without any maximum limit.

State Bank of India is authorised to issue and encash these bonds, which are valid for fifteen days from the date of issuance. These bonds are redeemable in the designated account of a registered political party.

The bonds are available for purchase by any person (who is a citizen of India or incorporated or established in India) for a period of ten days each in the months of January, April, July and October as may be specified by the Central Government. A person being an individual can buy bonds, either singly or jointly with other individuals. Donor’s name is not mentioned on the bond.

9. Ans:B

Explanation:

At the United Nations Security Council, India has reiterated its strong support for the just Palestinian cause and its unwavering commitment to the two-state solution.

Background:

There is an ongoing fight in Israel and the Gaza Strip. Roughly 200 Palestinians have died, and officials say nearly half of them are women and children. Israel has reported at least 10 dead. An escalation of fighting between Israelis and Palestinians has led the UN to warn of a “full-scale war”. Where is the Gaza Strip? The Gaza Strip is an entirely artificial creation that emerged in 1948 when roughly three-fourths of Palestine’s Arab population was displaced, in some cases expelled, during the course of Israel’s creation.

And most of the refugees, they were sort of scattered across the region in neighboring countries like Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. Some went to the West Bank, which came under Jordanian rule after 1948. And a very large number went to the Gaza Strip, which is this tiny little coastal strip between Egypt and what is now Israel. Today, the population of Gaza, about 70% of Gaza's population are refugees.

10. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

On the eve of an Arctic Council meeting of Foreign Ministers, the US has expressed concerns about increased military activities in the Arctic. This comes after Russia defended its military activities in the strategic region.

About Arctic council:

It is an Intergovernmental forum which addresses issues faced by the Arctic governments and people living in the Arctic region. It is Not a treaty-based international organization but rather an international forum that operates on the basis of consensus. The decisions, recommendations or guidelines of the Arctic Council are non-enforceable and strictly the prerogative of the individual state. Its mandate explicitly excludes military security. Who takes part in it? The 1996 Ottawa Declaration lists the following countries as Members of the Arctic Council: Canada, the Kingdom of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, the Russian Federation, Sweden and the United States. In addition, six organizations representing Arctic indigenous peoples have status as Permanent Participants. They include: the Aleut International Association, the Arctic Athabaskan Council, Gwich'in Council International, the Inuit Circumpolar Council, Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North and the Saami Council.

Observer status in the Arctic Council is open to non-Arctic states, along with inter-governmental, inter-parliamentary, global, regional and non-governmental organizations that the Council determines can contribute to its work.