



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 14-12-2020

EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

Morocco agreed to become the fourth Arab nation to normalise relations with Israel in as many months, as part of a deal in which the US agreed to recognise its claim over the disputed Western Sahara region.

A former Spanish colony, Western Sahara is a vast, arid region in northwest Africa. It is mineral rich: home to abundant reserves of phosphate, a key ingredient in the manufacturing of synthetic fertilisers. It has also lucrative fish resources and is believed to have off-shore oil. The region first came under Spanish control in 1884, and was made a province called 'Spanish Sahara' by the European country in 1934. Then in 1957, its northern neighbour Morocco, which had become independent from French rule just a year before, staked its claim over the entire territory, reasserting a centuries-old position. Then in 1975, ten years after the UN called for its decolonisation, Spain withdrew from Western Sahara, partitioning the region between Morocco, which received the region's northern two-thirds, and Mauritania the remaining third in the south. Since then, Morocco has controlled around 80 per cent of Western Sahara, including its phosphate reserves. Combined with its own deposits of the mineral, Morocco currently holds over 72 per cent of the world's phosphate reserves. China, which has the second-most reserves, has less than 6 per cent.

2. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

A not very common type of malaria, Plasmodium ovale, has been identified in a soldier in Kerala. The soldier is believed to have contracted it during his posting in Sudan, from where he returned nearly a year ago, and where Plasmodium ovale is endemic. Malaria is caused by the bite of the female Anopheles mosquito, if the mosquito itself is infected with a malarial parasite. There are five kinds of malarial parasites — Plasmodium falciparum, Plasmodium vivax (the commonest ones), Plasmodium malariae, Plasmodium ovale and Plasmodium knowlesi. Plasmodium ovale: P ovale rarely causes severe illness and there is no need for panic because of the case detected in Kerala. P ovale is very similar to P vivax, which is not a killer form. Symptoms include fever for 48 hours, headache and nausea, and the treatment modality is the same as it is for a person infected with P vivax. P ovale is no more dangerous than getting a viral infection. It is termed ovale as about 20% of the parasitised cells are oval in shape. P ovale malaria is endemic to tropical Western Africa. P ovale is relatively unusual outside of Africa.

3. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

The Supreme Court upheld an Allahabad High Court order granting immunity from investigation and prosecution if one declared illegal acquisition or possession of exotic wildlife species between June and December. This was under a new amnesty scheme announced by the Centre. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has come out with an advisory on a one-time voluntary disclosure scheme that allows owners of exotic live species that have been acquired illegally to declare their stock to the government between June and December 2020. With this scheme, the government aims to address the challenge of zoonotic diseases, develop an inventory of exotic live species for better compliance under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and regulate their import. In its current form, however, the amnesty scheme is just an advisory, not a law. The disclosure has to be done online through MoEFCC's Parivesh portal. The advisory has defined exotic live species as animals named under the Appendices I, II and III of the CITES. It does not include species from the Schedules of the Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972.

4. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

The UNESCO has decided to launch an international prize in the field of 'creative economy' in the name of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Starting November 2021, the dollar 50 thousand award will be given away once in two years for global economic initiatives of the youth. The award will recognise exceptional initiatives taken by cultural workers and organizations in the development of the creative economy. Currently, there are 23 UNESCO International Awards in the name of international celebrities and organisations. UNESCO has declared 2021 as 'International Year of Creative Economy for Sustainable Development'.

5. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

Bangladesh Foreign Minister has said that the 'Swadhinata Sarak' between Bangladesh and India will be opened on 26 March next year. The road remains functional on the Indian side while it will be connected through Mujibnagar, Meherpur district in Bangladesh. Chilahati-Haldirbari rail link which was active till 1965 will be inaugurated during the summit meeting between the two Prime Ministers on December 17, 2020.

6. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

Myristica swamp treefrog, a rare arboreal species endemic to the Western Ghats has been recorded for the

first time north of the Shencottah gap in the Vazhachal Reserve Forest in Kerala's Thrissur district. Its scientific name is *Mercurana myristicapalustris*. These frogs are rare and elusive for the reason that they are arboreal and active only for a few weeks during their breeding season. During this season, there is a large aggregation of males that descend from the high canopy of the trees. The males vocalise in groups from the low perches in the swamps. They exhibit unique breeding behaviour. The breeding season, unlike for other frogs, starts in the pre-monsoon season (May) and ends before the monsoon becomes fully active in June. Arboreal locomotion is the locomotion of animals in trees.

7. Ans) (a)

Explanation

Malaria is caused by Plasmodium (a protozoan). Malaria caused by Plasmodium falciparum is the most serious one and can even be fatal. Plasmodium enters the human body as sporozoites (infectious form) through the bite of infected female Anopheles mosquito. The parasites initially multiply within the liver cells and then attack the Red Blood Cells (RBCs) resulting in their rupture. Hence, statement 3 is not correct. The rupture of RBCs is associated with release of a toxic substance, hemozoin, which is responsible for the chill and high fever recurring every three to four days.

8. Ans) (c)

Explanation

Recently, the Prime Minister has addressed the International Bharati Festival 2020, virtually organised by the Vanavil Cultural Centre (Tamil Nadu). The event celebrates the 138th birth anniversary (11th December 2020) of Tamil poet and writer Mahakavi Subramanya Bharati. Involvement during Nationalist Period: After 1904, he joined the Tamil daily newspaper Swadesamitran. This exposure to political affairs led to his involvement in the extremist wing of the Indian National Congress (INC) party. In order to proclaim its revolutionary ardour, Bharathi had the weekly newspaper named 'India' printed in red paper. It was the first paper in Tamil Nadu to publish political cartoons. He also published and edited a few other journals like "Vijaya". He attended the annual sessions of INC and discussed national issues with extremist leaders like Bipin Chandra Pal, B.G. Tilak and V.V.S. Iyer. His participation and activities in Benaras Session (1905) and Surat Session (1907) of the INC impressed many national leaders for his patriotic fervour.

9. Ans) (c)

Explanation

The history of India begins with the birth of the Indus Valley Civilization (IVC), also known as Harappan Civilization. The importance of trade in the life of the Indus people is witnessed by the presence of numerous seals, uniform script and regulated weights and measures in a wide area. The Harappans carried

on considerable trade in stone, metal, shell, etc. Metal money was not used and trade was carried by the barter system. They practised navigation on the coast of the Arabian Sea. They had set up a trading colony in northern Afghanistan which evidently facilitated trade with Central Asia. The Harappan villages, mostly situated near the flood plains, produced sufficient food grains. Wheat, barley, rai, peas, sesame, lentil, chickpea and mustard were produced. Millets are also found from sites in Gujarat. While rice uses were relatively rare. The Indus people were the earliest people to produce cotton. While the prevalence of agriculture is indicated by finds of grain, it is more difficult to reconstruct actual agricultural practices. The Harappans were very well acquainted with the manufacturing and use of Bronze. The Harappans did not know the use of Iron. Iron was not discovered by the Harappan people. Since it was a bronze age civilization, it had made many metallurgical advances in copper and bronze but not in Iron. As per a study published in the Journal of Archaeological Science, the diet of the people of Indus Valley civilization had a dominance of meat, including extensive eating of beef. The study finds the dominance of animal products such as meat of pigs, cattle, buffalo, sheep and goat, as well as dairy products, from rural and urban settlements of Indus Valley civilization.

10. Ans) (a)

Explanation

The Climate Ambition Summit 2020 will mark the fifth anniversary of the Paris Agreement, and will provide a platform for government and non-governmental leaders to demonstrate their commitment to the Paris Agreement and the multilateral process. It aims to set out new and ambitious commitments under the three pillars of the Paris Agreement that are mitigation, adaptation and finance commitments. It will be hosted by the United Nations, United Kingdom and France in partnership with Chile and Italy.