



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 16-07-2020

EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Two types of ladybird beetles are among the three indigenous bugs found to be the biological weapons against a Caribbean-origin enemy of Indian fruit farmers — the woolly whitefly. Among the newest of 118 exotic pests troubling farmers in India, particularly fruit growers, is the woolly whitefly first described from Jamaica in 1896 and noticed in Florida, U.S. in 1909. This whitefly (*Aleurothrixus floccosus*) is invasive and polyphagous, meaning a creature that feeds on various kinds of food. ICAR's National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources in Bengaluru had in 2019 reported the spread of the pest from the Caribbean island through transportation of infested seedlings.

2. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

On United Nations' 75th Anniversary, PM Modi will virtually address the valedictory of high-level segment of United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on July 17. The UN Charter established ECOSOC in 1945 as one of the six main organs of the United Nations. The Council consists of 54 Members States, which are elected yearly by the General Assembly for overlapping three-year terms. It is the central platform for fostering debate and innovative thinking, forging consensus on ways forward, and coordinating efforts to achieve internationally agreed goals. It is also responsible for the follow-up to major UN conferences and summits.

ECOSOC's annual High-Level Segment includes:

High-Level Political Forum provides political leadership, guidance and recommendations for sustainable development, and reviews progress in implementing sustainable development commitments.

Development Cooperation Forum reviews trends and progress in development cooperation.

Over 1600 non-governmental organisations have been granted consultative status to the Council to participate in the work of the United Nations.

3. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

The Army is set to place a repeat order for Spike-LR (long range) Anti-Tank Guided Missiles from Israel as part of emergency procurement. The decision comes days after the Army's decision to place a

repeat order for 72,400 Sig Sauer assault rifles from the U.S. Spike is a fourth generation missile which can engage any target with precision at ranges up to 4 kilo metres. In addition to fire and forget capability, the missile also has the ability to fire, observe and update, providing substantial flexibility to the firer to pinpoint the impact point, as also the ability to switch to a different target mid-flight, should he want to do so. The missile has an inbuilt seeker, which gives the firer the flexibility to use any of two modes: Day (CCD) and Night (IIR). The dual seeker adds to the missile's reliability.

4. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The Union government has done away with the requirement of a medical examination for trans persons applying for a certificate of identity in its latest draft rules framed under the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019. The draft of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Rules, 2020 stated that a District Magistrate would issue a transgender identity certificate and card based on an affidavit by the applicant, “but without any medical examination”. Trans persons would be required to fill out a form and submit an affidavit saying they perceive themselves to be “a transgender person whose gender does not match with the gender assigned at birth”. In case of change of gender, the application for new identification certificate would require a certificate from the medical superintendent or chief medical officer of the medical institution where the applicant underwent the intervention. An earlier draft of the rules, mandated a report from a psychologist along with the affidavit for the application. The trans rights movement had opposed this, as it was seen as going against a trans person’s right to self-identification.

5. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

An India Energy Modelling Forum was launched on July 2, 2020. Sustainable Growth Pillar is an important pillar of India–US Strategic Energy Partnership co-chaired by NITI Aayog and USAID. The SG pillar entails energy data management, energy modelling and collaboration on low carbon technologies as three key activities. In the joint working group meeting of the Sustainable Growth Pillar on July 2, 2020, an India Energy Modelling Forum (IEMF) was launched. NITI Aayog will initially coordinate the activities of the forum and finalizing its governing structure. The forum would include knowledge partners, data agencies and concerned government ministries. The Energy Modelling Forum (EMF) in USA was established in 1976 at Stanford University to connect leading modelling experts and decision makers from government, industry, universities, and other research organizations. The forum provides an unbiased platform to discuss the contemporary issues revolving around energy and environment.

6. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

Minister for Shipping has reviewed the development activities of Vallarpadam Terminal of Cochin Port. It is envisaged as first trans-shipment port of India, managed by DP World. Trans-shipment Hub is the terminal at the port which handles containers, stores them temporarily and transfers them to other ships for the onward destination. The Kochi International Container Trans-shipment Terminal (ICTT), locally known as the Vallarpadam Terminal is located strategically on the Indian coastline. It successfully fulfils all the criteria which are needed to develop it as trans-shipment hub. Vallarpadam Terminal of Cochin Port is proposed to be developed as most preferred gateway for South India and leading trans-shipment hub of South Asia.

7. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

WHO in its Guidance Note on “Public Health Criteria to Adjust Public Health and Social Measures in the Context of COVID-19” has advised comprehensive surveillance for suspected cases. In this, WHO advises that a country needs 140 tests per day per million population. With the various coordinated efforts made by the Centre and the States/UTs, 22 States/UTs in India are already conducting 140 and more tests per day per million. With 865 labs in the government sector and 358 private labs, the total number of testing labs is 1223, as on July 15, 2020. In addition to the gold standard for test, RT PCR, TrueNat and CBNAAT are also used to augment this facility.

8. Ans) (d)

Explanation

The National Chambal Sanctuary is located along river Chambal on the tri-junction of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

River Chambal is one of the most pollution-free rivers of India.

It is a 960 km long river that originates at the Singar Chouri peak in the northern slopes of the Vindhya Mountains (Indore, Madhya Pradesh). From there, it flows in the North direction in Madhya Pradesh for a length of about 346 km and then follows a north-easterly direction for a length of 225 km through Rajasthan.

It enters U.P. and flows for about 32 km before joining the Yamuna River in Etawah District.

Sanctuary is known for critically endangered gharials, the red-crowned roof turtle, and the endangered Ganges river dolphin.

There are just 68 dolphins left in the 435-kilometre-long Chambal river sanctuary which passes through three states i.e. Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. Gangetic Dolphins are the sanctuary's main attraction.

Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary (VGDS) in Bihar's Bhagalpur district is India's only sanctuary for dolphins.

9. Ans) (b)

Explanation

UAE Hope mission is one of three missions launching to Mars in 2020. It is the first interplanetary mission for the Arab World.

Other Two Missions on Mars are:

NASA's Mars rover, Perseverance, with instruments to search for chemical signs of past life.

China is also launching an ambitious mission to Mars, Tianwen-1.

The Hope Mission is aimed at giving planetary scientists their first global view of Martian weather at all times of the day.

Also, it will investigate how dust storms and other weather phenomena near the Martian surface speed or slow the loss of the planet's atmosphere into space.

10. Ans) (a)

Explanation

T cells are so called because they are predominantly produced in the thymus.

They recognise foreign particles (antigen) by a surface expressed, highly variable, T cell receptor (TCR). There are two major types of T cells: the helper T cell and the cytotoxic T cell.

As the names suggest, helper T cells 'help' other cells of the immune system, whilst cytotoxic T cells kill virally infected cells and tumours. The severity of disease can depend on the strength of these T cell responses.