



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 20-07-2020

EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (d)

Explanation

The United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is one of the principal organs of the United Nations. It is the principal body for coordination, policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on economic, social and environmental issues, as well as the implementation of internationally agreed development goals.

It has 54 members, elected by the General Assembly for overlapping three-year terms.

It coordinates the work of the 14 UN specialized agencies, ten functional commissions and five regional commissions, receives reports from nine UN funds and programmes and issues policy recommendations to the UN system and to member states.

Few important bodies under the purview of ECOSOC:

International Labour Organization (ILO)

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

World Health Organization (WHO)

Bretton Woods Twins (World Bank Group and International Monetary Fund)

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

2. Ans) (b)

Explanation

Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs) are areas within 10 kms around Protected Areas, National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries. ESZs are notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India under Environment Protection Act 1986. In case of places with sensitive corridors, connectivity and ecologically important patches, crucial for landscape linkage, even areas beyond 10 km width can also be included in the eco-sensitive zone. Prohibited activities:

Commercial mining, saw mills, industries causing pollution (air, water, soil, noise etc), establishment of major hydroelectric projects (HEP), commercial use of wood, Tourism activities like hot-air balloons over the National Park, discharge of effluents or any solid waste or production of hazardous substances.

Regulated activities: Felling of trees, establishment of hotels and resorts, commercial use of natural water, erection of electrical cables, drastic change of agriculture system, e.g. adoption of heavy

technology, pesticides etc, widening of roads. Permitted activities: Ongoing agricultural or horticultural practices, rainwater harvesting, organic farming, use of renewable energy sources, adoption of green technology for all activities. Thus, organic farming is allowed in ESZs.

3. Ans) (a)

Explanation

The Anti-Defection Law was passed in 1985 through the 52nd amendment to the Constitution. It added the Tenth Schedule to the Indian Constitution. According to it, a member of a House belonging to any political party becomes disqualified for being a member of the House, if:

He voluntarily gives up his membership of such political party; or

He votes or abstains from voting in such House contrary to any direction issued by his political party without obtaining prior permission of such party and such act has not been condoned by the party within 15 days. The Supreme Court in the *Kihoto Hollohan versus Zachillu and Others*, 1992 has said that judicial review cannot be available at a stage prior to the making of a decision by the Speaker/Chairman. Nor would interference be permissible at an interlocutory stage of the proceedings.

The only exception for any interlocutory interference (decree or judgment) being cases of interlocutory disqualifications or suspensions which may have grave, immediate and irreversible repercussions and consequences. Therefore, Constitutional courts cannot judicially review disqualification proceedings under the Tenth Schedule (anti-defection law) of the Constitution until the Speaker or Chairman makes a final decision on merits. The Bench explained that the reason for limiting the role of courts in ongoing defection proceedings is that the office of the Speaker is held in the highest respect and esteem in parliamentary traditions. The scope of judicial review against an order of a Speaker or Chairman in anti-defection proceedings would be confined to jurisdictional errors, that is infirmities based on violation of constitutional mandate, mala fide actions and non-compliance with rules of natural justice.

4. Ans) (b)

Explanation

Researchers have now used a different approach for earthquake prediction by trying to predict the frictional strength of phyllosilicates.

Frictional Strength is the force required to cause movement along a fault.

Earthquakes usually occur along faults (fractures between rocks which can range from a few millimetres to thousands of kilometres). When two blocks of earth slip past one another, seismic waves are generated in a short span of time and earthquakes occur.

Phyllosilicates minerals in the form of thin plates found along the weakest part of the faults where earthquakes occur. The new model predicts that movement along phyllosilicate-rich fault zones becomes more difficult as it becomes faster and this has been consistent with experiments.

5. Ans) (c)

Explanation

Article 72 and Article 161 of the Indian Constitution empowers the President and the Governors respectively, the power to grant pardons, reprieves, respites or remissions of punishment or to suspend, remit or commute the sentence of any person convicted of any offence.

The scope of the pardoning power of the President under Article 72 is wider than the pardoning power of the Governor under Article 161.

The pardoning power of the Governor extends to the sentence of any person convicted of any offence against any State law.

However, the Governor cannot pardon against the death sentence and sentence of a Court Martial.

6. Ans) (c)

Explanation :

The first International Chess Day is being celebrated on 20 July. On 12 December 2019, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 20 July as World Chess Day to mark the date of the establishment of the International Chess Federation (FIDE) in Paris in 1924. Under initiative of FIDE, July 20 has been observed as International Chess Day by chess players around the world since 1966. An early game similar to chess called Chaturanga originated in Northern Indian Subcontinent during the Gupta period (~ 319 – 543 CE) and spread along the Silk Roads west to Persia. Chatrang, and later Shatranj, was the name given to the game when it arrived in Sassanid Persia around 600 CE.

7. Ans) (a)

Explanation :

President Ram Nath Kovind expressed grief on the demise of Professor C. S. Seshadri. He was 88. C.S. Seshadri (1932 - 2020) was an eminent Indian mathematician. He was the founder and Director-Emeritus of the Chennai Mathematical Institute (CMI), and is known for his work in algebraic geometry. The Seshadri constant is named after him. It expresses the so called local positivity of a line bundle on a projective variety.

Awards and Honours received:

Padma Bhushan

Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award

8. Ans) (c)

Explanation :

Pharma major Biocon announced has received the approval of the DCGI to market Itolizumab for treatment of cytokine release syndrome (CRS) in COVID-19 patients. Itolizumab is a monoclonal antibody which is used to treat acute psoriasis. Monoclonal antibodies are proteins cloned in the lab to mimic antibodies produced by the immune system to counter an infection. They have their genesis in serum, the colourless constituent of blood that contains antibodies. These proteins bind to an antigen, the fragment of an infectious virus in the case of SARS-CoV-2, and either destroy it or block its action.

9. Ans) (a)

Explanation :

Roshni Nadar-Malhotra replaced her father Shiv Nadar as the chairperson of the \$9.9-billion HCL, the company that her father founded in 1976. With this, she has become the first woman chairperson of a listed Indian IT services company. She is the only child of HCL's founder, Shiv Nadar. HCL is today the third largest in the IT industry, after TCS and Infosys. Shiv Nadar founded HCL 44 years ago to make calculators and microprocessors.

10. Ans) (c)

Explanation :

DRDO has developed P7 Heavy Drop System which is capable of para dropping military stores up to 7-ton weight class from IL-76 aircraft. P-7 Heavy Drop System is used for Para drop of military stores (vehicle/ ammunition/ equipment) of 7 Ton weight class. Heavy Drop System (P-7 HDS) for IL-76 Aircraft consists of a multi-stage parachute system (comprising of 5 Main canopies, 5 Brake chutes, 2 Auxiliary chutes, 1 Extractor parachute) and platform (a metallic structure made up of Aluminium/steel alloys). It has been developed successfully with 100% indigenous resources. P-7 HDS has been inducted in the Army.