



# EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 22-12-2020

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### EXPLANATION

1. Ans: b

Explanation:

December 21 was Winter Solstice, the shortest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. In the Southern Hemisphere, conversely, December 21 was Summer Solstice, the year's longest day.

The Earth's axis of rotation is tilted at an angle of 23.5 degrees away from the perpendicular. This tilt — combined with factors such as Earth's spin and orbit — leads to variations in the duration of Sunlight that any location on the planet receives on different days of the year.

The winter solstice, hiemal solstice or hibernal solstice occurs when one of the Earth's poles has its maximum tilt away from the Sun.

It happens twice yearly, once in each hemisphere (Northern and Southern).

For that hemisphere, the winter solstice is the day with the shortest period of daylight and longest night of the year, when the Sun is at its lowest daily maximum elevation in the sky. Its opposite is the summer solstice.

The winter solstice occurs during the hemisphere's winter.

In the Northern Hemisphere, this is the December solstice (usually December 21 or 22) and in the Southern Hemisphere, this is the June solstice (usually June 20 or 21).

2. Ans: b

Explanation:

The Government has decided to constitute a High Level Committee to commemorate the 125th Birth Anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

This High Level Committee will decide on the activities for a one year long commemoration starting 23rd January, 2021.

The High Level Committee will be headed by the Union Home Minister, Shri Amit Shah. The members will include experts, historians, authors, family members of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, as well as eminent persons associated with Azad Hind Fauj/INA.

Initiatives in the Past:

In the recent past, Government of India has taken several steps towards conserving the heritage of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

A museum has been set up on Netaji at Red Fort, New Delhi, which was inaugurated by the Prime Minister on 23.01.2019.

In 2015, Government of India decided to declassify the files relating to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and make them accessible to public.

In 2018, the Prime Minister renamed 3 islands in Andaman and Nicobar. The Ross Island was renamed as Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Dweep; the Neil Island as Shaheed Dweep; and the Havelock Island as Swaraj Dweep.

3. Ans: c

Explanation:

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) released the 'End of the Season—Southwest Monsoon 2020'.

The report highlights the following Significant Features:

The seasonal (June-September) rainfall over the country as a whole was 109% of its Long Period Average (LPA) in 2020. It was the third highest after 112% of LPA in 1994 and 110 % of LPA in 2019.

Southwest monsoon current reached south Andaman Sea and Nicobar Islands on 17th May 2020 (5 days ahead of its normal date), but further advance was sluggish. It set in over Kerala on 1st June coinciding with its normal date for onset over Kerala; Monsoon covered the entire country on 26th June 2020; 12 days before its normal date (8th July).

Monsoon started withdrawing from western parts of northwest India on 28th September 2020 against the normal date of 17th September 2020 with a delay of around 11 days. The Southwest Monsoon withdrew from the entire country on 28th October 2020.

During the season, one Severe Cyclonic Storm "NISARGA" formed during 1st to 4th June. This year also witnessed absence of monsoon depression during the season.

4. Ans: b

Explanation:

Union Minister for Environment Prakash Javadekar released the Status of Leopards report.

The leopard population has been estimated using camera trapping method.

There are 12,852 leopards in India as of 2018 as compared to the previous estimate of 7910 conducted 2014, an increase of 60% in 4 years.

The highest concentration of the leopard in India is estimated to be in Madhya Pradesh (3,421) followed by Karnataka (1,783) and Maharashtra (1,690).

Recent meta-analyses of leopard status and distribution suggest 48–67% range loss for the species in Africa and 83–87% in Asia.

In India, leopards have experienced a possibly human-induced 75-90% population decline in the last ~120-200 years.

In Indian subcontinent poaching, habitat loss, depletion of natural prey and conflict are major threats to leopard populations. All these have resulted in changing the species status from 'Near Threatened' to 'Vulnerable' by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

As for region-wise distribution, the highest number of 8,071 leopards were found in central India and eastern ghats. In the northeast hills, there are just 141 leopards.

The leopard was estimated across forested habitats in tiger range areas of the country but other leopard occupied areas such as non-forested habitats, higher elevations in the Himalayas, arid landscapes and majority of North East landscape were not sampled.

Therefore, the population estimation should be considered as minimum number of leopards in each of the landscapes.

5. Ans: b

Explanation:

National Water Mission (NWM), Ministry of Jal Shakti in collaboration with Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS), Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports launched the “JSA II: Catch the Rain” Awareness Generation Campaign.

Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan will undertake the campaign covering 623 districts across the nation from December 2020 to March 2021.

NWM has launched a campaign “Catch the rain” with tag line “catch the rain, where it falls, when it falls” in order to nudge all stake-holders to create Rain Water Harvesting Structures (RWHS) to store rain water as rains falling in the four/five months of monsoon are the only source of water for most parts of the country.

6. Ans: c

Explanation:

US President Donald Trump presented the prestigious Legion of Merit award to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Mr Modi was presented with the highest degree Chief Commander of the Legion of Merit which is given only to the Head of State or Government.

Mr Modi was given the award in recognition of his steadfast leadership and vision that has accelerated India’s emergence as a global power and elevated the strategic partnership between the United States and India to address global challenges.

The US President also presented the Legion of Merit to Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison and the former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. The awards were received by their respective ambassadors in Washington DC.

7. Ans: d

Explanation

The Mahanadi River system is the third largest of peninsular India after Godavari and Krishna, and the largest river of Odisha state.

Mahanadi river rises from a place near Sihawa in Bastar hills in the state of Chhattisgarh to the south of Amarkantak. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

The catchment area of the basin extends over major parts of Chhattisgarh and Odisha and comparatively smaller portions of Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

8. Ans: b

Explanation

India’s efforts are in advanced stages to set up coastal radar stations in Maldives, Myanmar and Bangladesh. The Coastal Radar Chain Network will link up with similar systems in India, Sri Lanka, Mauritius and Seychelles—

will provide a comprehensive live feed of ship movements in the Indian Ocean Region that can be used by friendly navies. The Indian Navy will inaugurate the Information Fusion Centre (IFC) for the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

The Information Fusion Centre will serve countries that have White Shipping Information Exchange (White-shipping refers to commercial shipping information about the movement of cargo ships) agreements with India. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

The IFC has been established at the Indian Navy's Information Management and Analysis Centre (IMAC) in Gurugram, Haryana.

IFC is the single point center linking all the coastal radar chains to generate a seamless real-time picture of the nearly 7,500-km coastline.

Recently, India has also signed the Trans Regional Maritime Network (T-RMN) agreement. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

The multilateral agreement comprises 30 countries and is steered by Italy.

This will facilitate information exchange on the movement of commercial traffic on the high seas.

Under the T-RMN, information is available mainly through the Automatic Identification System (AIS), fitted on the merchant ships as mandated by the International Maritime Organisation.

9. Ans: d

Explanation

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has recently included Gatka, Kalaripayattu, Thang-Ta and Mallakhamba in Khelo India Youth Games 2021. Hence, the option D is correct.

Gatka originates from the State of Punjab and this traditional fighting style of the Nihang Sikh Warriors is used both as self-defense as well as a sport.

Kalaripayattu, also known simply as Kalari, is an Indian martial art that originated in modern-day Kerala.

Huyen langlon is an Indian martial art from Manipur.

In the Meitei language, huyen means war while langlon or langlong can mean net, knowledge or art.

Huyen langlon consists of two main components:

Thang-ta (armed combat)

sarit sarak (unarmed fighting).

The primary weapons of huyen langlon are the thang (sword) and ta (spear). Other weapons include the shield and the axe.

10. Ans: c

Explanation

As per Section 62 of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, states can send a list of wild animals to the Centre requesting it to declare them vermin for selective slaughter.

Wildlife laws divide species into 'schedules' ranked from I to V. Schedule I members are the best protected, in theory, with severe punishments meted out to those who hunt them. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

Wild boars, nilgai and rhesus monkeys are Schedule II and III members, it is also protected, but can be hunted under specific conditions.

Rhesus Macaque monkeys are protected species under Schedule II of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. The law allows for it to be hunted by declaring it 'vermin' for a specific period if it poses a danger to human life or property.