



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 23-12-2020

EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Over 75 per cent districts in India, home to more than 63.8 crore people, are hotspots of extreme climate events such as cyclones, floods, droughts, heat and cold waves, according to a study released by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW). This is the first time that extreme weather event hotspots in the country have been mapped. The frequency, intensity, and unpredictability of these extreme events have risen in recent decades. While India witnessed 250 extreme climate events in 35 years between 1970 and 2005, it recorded 310 such weather events in only 15 years since then, the study has pointed out. In the last 50 years, the frequency of flood events increased almost eight times. Events associated with floods such as landslides, heavy rainfall, hailstorms, thunderstorms, and cloudbursts increased by over 20 times. Six of India's eight most flood-prone districts in the last decade—Barpeta, Darrang, Dhemaji, Goalpara, Golaghat, Sivasagar—are in Assam. The yearly average of drought-affected districts increased 13 times after 2005. Nearly 68 per cent of the districts have faced droughts and drought-like situations. Drought-affected district hotspots of India in the last decade were Ahmednagar, Aurangabad (both Maharashtra), Anantapur, Chittoor (both Andhra Pradesh), Bagalkot, Bijapur, Chikkaballapur, Gulbarga, and Hassan (all Karnataka).

2. Ans) (c)

Explanation :

The 'India Workplace Equality Index', touted as the country's first comprehensive benchmarking tool for employers to measure their progress on LGBT+ inclusion at the workplace, was launched. Hotelier-activist KeshavSuri through his non-profit KeshavSuri Foundation, partnered with Pride Circle, Stonewall UK and FICCI, to bring the IWEI to India Inc. It's first report announced winners from among 65 companies which shared data on their diversity and inclusion practices. 21 firms won under the gold category, while 18 were placed under silver and 13 got bronze. The index measures nine areas: policies and benefits, employee lifecycle, employee network group, allies and role models, senior leadership, monitoring, procurement, community engagement and additional work.

The IWEI comes two years after the Supreme Court's landmark reading down of Section 377.

Hence both statements are correct.

3. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

The WHO's 2019 Global Health Estimates, released recently, said non-communicable diseases now make up 7 of the world's top 10 causes of death, an increase from 4 of the 10 leading causes in 2000. The new data cover the period from 2000 to 2019. Heart disease has remained the leading cause of death at the global level for the last 20 years. Heart disease now represents 16 per cent of total deaths from all causes and the number of deaths from heart disease increased by more than two million since 2000 to nearly 9 million in 2019. Diabetes and dementia are also among the world's top 10 causes of death. While more non-communicable diseases are now causing deaths worldwide, there has been a global decline in deaths from communicable diseases, which however still remain a major challenge in low- and middle-income countries. In 2019, pneumonia and other lower respiratory infections were the deadliest group of communicable diseases and together ranked as the fourth leading cause of death. HIV/AIDS dropped from the 8th leading cause of death in 2000 to the 19th in 2019. Tuberculosis is also no longer in the global top 10, falling from 7th place in 2000 to 13th in 2019, with a 30% reduction in global deaths. The estimates further confirm the growing trend for longevity: in 2019, people were living more than 6 years longer than in 2000, with a global average of more than 73 years in 2019 compared to nearly 67 in 2000.

4. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

Breakdancing became an official Olympic sport. The International Olympic Committee's pursuit of urban events to lure a younger audience saw street dance battles officially added to the medal events program at the 2024 Paris Games. Also confirmed for Paris by the IOC executive board were skateboarding, sport climbing, and surfing. Breakdancing was proposed by Paris organizers almost two years ago after positive trials at the 2018 Youth Olympics in Buenos Aires.

5. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

Rahim Khan's tomb was opened to the public after six years of restoration work — perhaps the largest conservation project ever undertaken for any monument of national importance in India. Abdul Rahim Khan-i-Khanan (1556 – 1627), popularly known as simply Rahim, was a poet who lived in India during the rule of Mughal emperor Akbar. Abdul Rahim was the son of Bairam Khan, Akbar's trusted guardian and mentor. He was one of the nine important ministers (dewan) in his court, also known as the Navaratnas. Rahim is known for his Hindi dohe (couplets) and his books on astrology. Apart from writing various dohas, Rahim translated Babar's memoirs, Baburnama from Chagatai language to Persian language. He had an excellent command over the Sanskrit language. In Sanskrit, he wrote two

books on astrology, Khetakautukam and Dwatrimshadyogavali. The village of Khan Khana, which is named after him, is located in the Nawanshahr district of Punjab. Tomb of Abdul Rahim Khan-I-Khana: His tomb is situated near Humayun's Tomb, in New Delhi. It was built by him for his wife in 1598, and his body was placed in it in 1627. Comparison with Taj Mahal: Five decades before the Taj Mahal was built by Shah Jahan, it was Abdur Rahim Khan-e-Khanan who built a tomb in Delhi in memory of his wife MahBanu. It was the first Mughal tomb built for a woman. After his death in 1627, Rahim was also buried beside his wife, just like Shah Jahan was in the Taj.

6. 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, or without documents, 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.

7. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

CITES is an international agreement between governments to ensure that international trade in wild animals, birds and plants does not endanger them. India is a member. Appendices I, II and III of CITES list 5,950 species as protected against over-exploitation through international trade. Many of these animals, such as iguanas, lemurs, civets, albino monkeys, coral snakes, tortoises, are popular as exotic pets in India. The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), which enforces anti-smuggling laws, says India has emerged as a big demand centre for exotic birds and animals with an increase in smuggling of endangered species from different parts of the world.

PARIVESH (Pro-Active and Responsive facilitation by Interactive, Virtuous and Environmental Single-window Hub) is a Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change initiative for single window clearances of Environment, Forests and Wildlife and Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Clearances.

8. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

A not very common type of malaria, Plasmodium ovale, has been identified in a jawan 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.

9. Ans) (d)

Explanation

Prime editing is a 'search-and-replace' genome editing technology in molecular biology by which the genome of living organisms may be modified. The technology directly writes new genetic information into a targeted DNA site.

10. Ans) (d)

Explanation

The Government of India set up Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) on 1st March 2002 under the provisions of the Energy Conservation Act, 2001. The mission of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency is to assist in developing policies and strategies with a thrust on self-regulation and market principles, within the overall framework of the Energy Conservation Act, 2001 with the primary objective of reducing energy intensity of the Indian economy.

The Major Promotional Functions of BEE include: Create awareness and disseminate information on energy efficiency and conservation Arrange and organize training of personnel and specialists in the techniques for efficient use of energy and its conservation Strengthen consultancy services in the field of energy conservation Promote research and development Develop testing and certification procedures and promote testing facilities Formulate and facilitate implementation of pilot projects and demonstration projects Promote use of energy efficient processes, equipment, devices and systems Take steps to encourage preferential treatment for use of energy efficient equipment or appliances Promote innovative financing of energy efficiency projects Give financial assistance to institutions for promoting efficient use of energy and its conservation Prepare educational curriculum on efficient use of energy and its conservation Implement international co-operation programmes relating to efficient use of energy and its conservation In a step further towards its vision of building an energy efficient India, the government-backed Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) has extended its list of items covered under the 'Star Labeling Programme' by adding Deep Freezers and Light Commercial Air Conditioners (LCAC).