



# EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 30-06-2020

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### EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The International Day of the Tropics 2020 is being celebrated on June 29. The inaugural State of the Tropics Report was launched on 29 June 2014, as the culmination of a collaboration between twelve leading tropical research institutions. Marking the anniversary of the report's launch, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution in 2016, which declared that 29 June of each year is to be observed as the International Day of the Tropics. The Day aims to raise awareness to the specific challenges faced by tropical areas and the role that countries in the tropics will play in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The Tropics are a region of the Earth, roughly defined as the area between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn. Although topography and other factors contribute to climatic variation, tropical locations are typically warm and experience little seasonal change in day-to-day temperature. An important feature of the Tropics is the prevalence of rain in the moist inner regions near the equator, and that the seasonality of rainfall increases with the distance from the equator. The tropical region faces several challenges such as climate change, deforestation, logging, urbanisation and demographic changes. Hence both statements are correct.

2. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Statistics Day of India is being celebrated on June 29, 2020 on the birth anniversary of Prof. P C Mahalanobis. This year's Theme is "SDG- 3 (Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages) & SDG- 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls)"

PC Mahalanobis (1893 –1972) was an Indian scientist and applied statistician. He is referred to as the chief architect of Indian statistical system as well as father of statistical science in India. He established the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) in 1931 in Kolkata. The institute founded the journal Sankhya, along the lines of Karl Pearson's Biometrika. In 1959 it was made an autonomous body of Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation. Post-independence, he helped in the establishment of Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), the National Sample Survey (NSS) and the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI). His most important contributions are related to Large-Scale Sample Surveys. He introduced three key concepts to the theory and practice of sample surveys which

are: Pilot surveys, Optimum survey design and Inter Penetrating Network of sub-samples technique (IPNS). He also advocated the usefulness of sampling methods. He was elected Chairman of the United Nations Sub-Commission on Statistical Sampling in 1947, and held this post until 1951. In 1936 he introduced a statistical measure named the Mahalanobis distance. It is widely used in cluster analysis and classification techniques. In 1926, he analysed 60 years' data related to floods in Orissa, which led to the construction, after three decades, of the Hirakud dam on the Mahanadi. He was one of the members of the first Planning commission of free India. The Mahalanobis model, was employed in the Second Five Year Plan, which worked towards the rapid industrialization. Hence both statements are correct.

3. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

Vice President Venkaiah Naidu paid tributes to former Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao on his birth anniversary (June 28, 2020). Pamulaparthy Venkata Narasimha Rao (1921 –2004) was a politician who served as the 9th Prime Minister of India from 1991 to 1996. He also became the Chief minister of Andhra Pradesh in 1971.

Father of Economic reforms: He sought to dismantle the License Raj system, reduce red tape and make Indian industries more competitive. He laid the foundation for trade liberalization and re-integration of Indian economy with the global economy, especially East Asian economies.

Foreign policy: Among his bold moves in foreign policy were establishing diplomatic relations with Israel and reversing decades of frosty relations between India and the United States by bringing them together. He also launched the Look East policy. Father of Indian nuclear Program: He energised the national nuclear security and ballistic missiles program, which ultimately resulted in the 1998 Pokhran nuclear tests by Vajpayee-led NDA government (the tests were planned in 1996 but they were not carried out as government at centre got changed due to 1996 general election). National Security: He was also fairly successful in controlling the separatist movements in Punjab and Kashmir. Local governance: The path-breaking 73rd and 74th Constitutional amendments empowering local bodies during Narasimha Rao's tenure as the Prime Minister are worthy of mentioning. Babri Mosque riots: Rao's term also saw the destruction of the Babri Mosque in Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh when BJP's Kalyan Singh was Chief Minister, which triggered one of the worst Hindu-Muslim riots in the country since its independence. He was also referred to as Chanakya for his ability to steer economic and political legislation through the parliament at a time when he headed a minority government.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

4. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

GNS Science, a New Zealand research institute, has published two new maps covering Zealandia's tectonic profile and shape. Zealandia is an almost entirely submerged mass of continental crust located in the southern Pacific Ocean that subsided after breaking away from Gondwanaland 83–79 million years ago. It has variously been described as a continental fragment, a microcontinent, a submerged continent, and a continent. The land mass may have been completely submerged by about 23 million years ago, and most of it (93%) remains submerged beneath the Pacific Ocean. Political Divisions Under Zealandia Are: New Zealand, New Caledonia, Norfolk island, Lord howe island group and Elizabeth and Middleton reefs. Names: It is also known as Tasmantis due to its proximity to Tasman sea. Te Riu-a-Māui is another name for Zealandia. The name and concept for Zealandia was proposed by Bruce Luyendyk in 1995. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

5. Ans) (c)

Explanation :

Recently, a special Russia-India-China- RIC trilateral Foreign Minister's Video Conference was organized to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the conclusion of the Second World War. RIC as a strategic grouping first took shape in the late 1990s under the leadership of Yevgeny Primakov as “a counterbalance to the Western alliance”. Primakov, a Russian politician and diplomat who was also the prime minister of Russia from 1998 to 1999, is credited with the idea for RIC. The group was founded for renewing old ties with India and fostering the newly discovered friendship with China. Hence both statements are correct.

6. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

The Concession Agreement for the 600 MegaWatt Kholongchhu (Joint Venture) Hydroelectric Project between Bhutan government and Kholongchhu Hydro Energy Limited was signed. The 600 MW run-of-the-river project is located on the lower course of the Kholongchhu River in Trashiyangtse District in Eastern Bhutan. The Project envisages an underground powerhouse of four 150 MW turbines with water impounded by a concrete gravity dam of 95 meters height. It will be implemented by Kholongchhu Hydro Energy Limited, a Joint Venture company formed between Druk Green Power Corporation of Bhutan and Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited of India. This is the first Joint Venture Hydroelectric Project between India and Bhutan. The project is expected to be completed in the second half of 2025. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

7. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Delhi chief minister announced setting up of a 'plasma bank' for treatment of COVID-19 patients in the national capital. The Plasma bank will be set up at the Delhi government-run Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS) and doctors or hospitals will have to approach it for plasma if a COVID-19 patient needs the same. The plasma bank will be first of its kind for the treatment of COVID-19 patients. Perhaps, it will be the first plasma bank in the country. In the plasma therapy, antibodies from blood of patients, who have recovered from coronavirus, are used to treat infected patients. It is aimed at assessing the efficacy of convalescent plasma to limit complications in COVID patients. Like in blood banks, where blood is extracted and stored for those who might be in need, the idea is to extract and store plasma from people who have recovered from Covid-19 and give it to someone suffering from the disease. Hence both statements are correct.

8. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

Four heavily armed gunmen attacked the Pakistan Stock Exchange building in Karachi. Pakistan's Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) later claimed responsibility for the attack. The Balochistan region is divided almost evenly between Pakistan (where it's called Balochistan) and Iran. A part of it lies in Afghanistan too. Politically, it comprises the Pakistani province of Balochistan, the Iranian province of Sistan and Baluchestan, and the southern areas of Afghanistan. Formerly under British rule, Balochistan was declared independent on August 11, 1947 and it formed a parliament. But Pakistan illegally occupied (because people were never asked what they wanted) it on March 27, 1948. The land holds significant reserves of gas, gold, copper, oil and uranium, but is mostly untapped by Iran. The Pakistani area continues to be poor too, because the country is accused of allegedly siphoning the area's resources away from its people and towards Punjab. Pakistan is accused of systematically repressing and marginalising Balochs. It's said that over 1,40,000 have been displaced since 2004-2005. Balochs are denied jobs and even basic facilities like water and electricity.

The BLA, the armed wing of the Baloch movement, has carried out several violent attacks in Pakistan. It has about 6,000 cadre spread across the Balochistan Province and in the bordering areas of Afghanistan. It has been banned by Pakistan since 2006. BLA rebels have claimed that they are aiming for both freedom from Pakistan and internal reform of the Baloch society. They are opposed to the traditional sardar or Kawailey system at home. The BLA has often been accused of launching attacks on Pakistan's military targets and on Chinese-built infrastructure. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is passing through Balochistan. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

9. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

The Trump administration unsuccessfully attempted to block release of the book titled "The Room Where It Happened" contending that Bolton had breached nondisclosure agreements he signed as a condition of his employment and that the book endangered national security. The book was recently released on June 23. *The Room Where It Happened: A White House Memoir* is a memoir by John Bolton, who served as National Security Advisor for U.S. President Donald Trump. The room mentioned in the title forms the crux in this memoir of the White House, detailing the workings of the Trump administration. According to Bolton, Trump was only concerned with being re-elected and not the nation. The president tended to side with foes and got suspicious of the government itself. It is these behavioural patterns, Bolton argues, that led Trump on to the path of impeachment. Bolton further adds that for Trump foreign policies are akin to "closing a real estate deal", concerning his own interests more than anybody else's. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

10. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

COVAXIN, India's first vaccine candidate against novel corona virus, developed by vaccine maker Bharat Biotech gets the approval of Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) for Phase I and II clinical trials. COVAXIN is an inactivated vaccine, created from a strain of the infectious SARS-CoV-2 virus that has shown promise in preclinical studies demonstrating extensive safety and effective immune responses. COVAXIN has been developed by Bharat Biotech in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the National Institute of Virology (NIV). The SARS-CoV-2 strain was isolated in NIV, Pune and transferred to Bharat Biotech. The indigenous, inactivated vaccine will be developed and manufactured by Bharat Biotech's BSL-3 (Bio-Safety Level 3) High Containment facility located in Genome Valley, Hyderabad, India. Human clinical trials of the experimental COVID-19 are scheduled to start across the country in July 2020. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.