



# EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 10-05-2021

### EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

SEBI's technical group (TG) on social stock exchanges (SSEs) has submitted its report. The expert panel was headed by Harsh Bhanwala, ex-Chairman, Nabard.

Key recommendations made:

1. Eligibility:

Both for-profit (FP) and not-for-profit organisations (NPO) should be allowed to tap the SSE provided they are able to demonstrate that social intent and impact.

Corporate foundations, political and religious organisations should be made ineligible to raise funds using the SSE mechanism.

2. Modes available for fundraising:

For NPOs, it shall be equity, zero coupon zero principal bond (ZCZP), development impact bonds, social impact fund, currently known as social venture fund (SVP) with 100 per cent grants-in grants out provision, and donations by investors through mutual funds.

For FP enterprises, it will be equity, debt, development impact bonds, and social venture funds.

3. Corpus size of the fund:

Minimum corpus size for such funds be reduced from Rs 20 crore to Rs 5 crore and the minimum subscription amount be reduced from Rs 1 crore to Rs. 2 lakh.

4. The capacity building fund for SSE:

It should have a corpus of Rs 100 crore. This fund should be housed under Nabard. Exchanges and other developmental agencies such as SIDBI should be asked to contribute towards this fund.

What is social stock exchange (SSE)?

It is a novel concept in India and such a bourse is meant to serve private and non-profit sector providers by channelling greater capital to them. As per the proposal, SSE can be housed within the existing stock exchange such as the BSE and/or National Stock Exchange (NSE).

2. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

Lumpy Skin Disease is a viral illness that causes prolonged morbidity in cattle and buffaloes. Caused by the poxvirus Lumpy skin disease virus (LSDV).

Symptoms:

It appears as nodules of two to five centimetre diameter all over the body, particularly around the head, neck, limbs, udder (mammary gland of female cattle) and genitals. The lumps gradually open up like large and deep wounds.

Spread:

It spreads through mosquitoes, flies and ticks and also through saliva and contaminated water and food.

Affected Countries:

LSD is endemic to Africa and parts of West Asia, where it was first discovered in 1929. In Southeast Asia the first case of LSD was reported in Bangladesh in July 2019. In India it was first reported from Mayurbhanj, Odisha in August 2019.

Treatment:

There is no treatment for the virus, so prevention by vaccination is the most effective means of control.

Context:

The Bihar government sounded an alert and issued an advisory about the likely spread of the disease.

Concerns:

In India, which has the world's highest 303 million heads of cattle, the disease has spread to 15 states within just 16 months. This might have a devastating impact on the country, where most dairy farmers are either landless or marginal landholders and milk is among the cheapest protein sources.

### 3. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Serial number 15 (SN15), a prototype of the futuristic Starship rocket developed by Elon Musk's SpaceX company, was able to launch and successfully land on Wednesday, heralding a new era in space exploration for NASA.

Background:

The latest successful landing is a relief for NASA and SpaceX, as four previous prototypes of Starship had failed to do so, getting destroyed during or soon after touchdown at the southeastern tip of Texas, near Brownsville.

What is Starship?

It is a full-scale, stainless steel, bullet-shaped rocketship built by SpaceX. The spacecraft has been described as a game-changer for space travel, being a fully reusable transportation system for crew and cargo to the Earth's orbit, Moon and Mars. SpaceX has described Starship as "the world's most powerful launch vehicle" with an ability to carry over 100 metric tonnes to the Earth's orbit. Significance of the latest development:

Reusability is at the heart of making interplanetary travel accessible, SpaceX believes, since a majority of the launch cost is attributed to the expense of building a rocket that is ultimately designed to burn up during re-entry.

Potential Applications:

Starship can deliver satellites further and at lower marginal costs than Falcon vehicles and it can ferry both cargo and crew to the International Space Station (ISS). Once developed, Starship is also expected to help carry large amounts of cargo to the Moon, for human spaceflight development and research. Beyond the Moon, the spacecraft is being designed for carrying crew and cargo for interplanetary missions as well.

NASA's Artemis mission:

Last month, NASA chose SpaceX to build a lander for its Artemis programme, which plans to send humans to the Moon in this decade. The vehicle, which is based on Starship, will carry the next man and the first woman to land on the Moon. With the Artemis programme, NASA aims to demonstrate new technologies, capabilities and business approaches that will ultimately be needed for the future exploration of Mars.

4. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik declared working journalists of the state as frontline Covid warriors.

5. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

The world's longest pedestrian suspension bridge named "Arouca" was opened in Portugal.

6. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The United States placed India and eight other countries on the Priority Watch List for IP protection and enforcement.

7. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

The Pulayar, also Pulaya, or Holey or Cheramar, are one of the main social groups found in Kerala, Karnataka and in historical Tamil Nadu or Tamilakam. Pulayas are noted for their music, craftsmanship, and for certain dances which include, Kōlam-thullal (a mask dance which is part of their exorcism rituals) and Mudi-āttam or hair-dance. Mahatma Ayyankali (1863- 1941) was called as Pulaya King.

Context:

Two Tribal settlements (Kattupatti and Kuzhipatti) of Pulayar community within the limits of Anamalai Tiger Reserve in Tamil Nadu are gearing up for their annual festival of local deity Vairapattan.

8. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

In a major boost to organic products exports from India, first consignment of millets grown in Himalayas from snow-melt water of Ganges in Dev, Uttarakhand would be exported to Denmark. APEDA, in collaboration with Uttarakhand Agriculture Produce Marketing Board (UKAPMB) & Just Organik, an exporter, has sourced & processed ragi (finger millet), and jhingora (barnyard millet) from farmers in Uttarakhand for exports, which meets the organic certification standards of the European Union. Millets are gaining a lot of popularity globally because of high nutritive values and being gluten free also.

Do you know?

Oil cake meal is a major commodity of the organic product exports from the country followed by oil seeds, fruit pulps and purees, cereals & millets, spices, tea, medicinal plant products etc. At present, organic products are exported provided they are produced, processed, packed and labelled as per the requirements of the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP). The NPOP has been implemented by APEDA since its inception in 2001 as notified under the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulations) Act, 1992. NPOP has also been recognized by the Food Safety Standard Authority of India (FSSAI) for trade of organic products in the domestic market. Organic products covered under the bilateral agreement with NPOP need not be recertified for import in India.

9. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

In order to attain self-sufficiency in the production of pulses, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has formulated a special Kharif strategy for implementation during the Kharif 2021 season.

A detailed plan for both area expansion and productivity enhancement for Tur, Moong and Urad has been formulated. Under the strategy, the high yielding varieties (HYVs) of seeds will be distributed free of cost to increase area through intercropping and sole crop. It is proposed to distribute almost 10 times more seed mini kits than 2020-21 amounting to Rs. 82.01 crores. The total cost for these mini-kits will be borne by the Central Government. The Agricultural Technology Application Research Institutes (ATARIs) and Krishi Vigyan Kendras will also be roped in for effective implementation and training to the farmers.

10. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

While El Niño (Spanish for 'little boy'), the expression heard more commonly in India, is the abnormal surface warming observed along the eastern and central regions of the Pacific Ocean (region between Peru and Papua New Guinea), La Niña (Spanish for 'little girl') is an abnormal cooling of these surface waters. Together, the El Niño and La Niña phenomena are termed as El Niño Southern Oscillation

(ENSO). These are large-scale ocean phenomena which influence the global weather — winds, temperature and rainfall. They have the ability to trigger extreme weather events like droughts, floods, hot and cold conditions, globally. While La Niña conditions enhance the rainfall associated with the Southwest monsoon, it has a negative impact on rainfall associated with the Northeast monsoon.