



+ EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 29-06-2021

EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Eight pygmy hogs released in Manas National Park, Assam. They were released by the Pygmy Hog Conservation Programme (PHCP). By 2025, the PHCP plans to release a target of 60 pygmy hogs in Manas- their home where their last original population still survives, albeit in declined numbers.

What is PHCP?

In 1995, Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, Jersey, UK partnered with Forest Department, Government of Assam, IUCN, Wild Pig Specialist Group and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India and formed PHCP which is being implemented with the PHCP's key partner Aaranyak and EcoSystems India.

About Pygmy hogs:

They are the world's rarest and smallest wild pigs. The pygmy hog is native to dense alluvial grasslands in the southern foothills of the Himalayas. Endemic to India, they are restricted to very few locations around Manas National Park in north-western Assam. With just around 250 animals in the wild, the pygmy hog is one of the world's most threatened mammals. Currently listed as 'Critically Endangered' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. The pygmy hog is designated as a Schedule I species in India under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

2. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Indonesia is the largest producer of palm oil, followed by Malaysia – both countries account for 84% of the world's palm production. Malaysia has surpassed Indonesia to become the biggest crude palm oil (CPO) exporter to top consumer India in 2020/21, after Indonesia imposed heavy taxes on exports of the edible oil last year. It comes after Indonesia imposed higher levies on crude palm oil exports in December to raise funds for its ambitious palm-based biodiesel programme, aimed at maximising domestic use of the edible oil. India is the largest importer of crude palm oil in the world. India buys palm oil from Indonesia and Malaysia, while other oils including soybean oil and sunflower oil come from Argentina, Brazil, Ukraine and Russia.

3. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

Presidio Principles: It is an initiative from World Economic Forum's Global Blockchain Council intended to lay out a foundational set of principles for those building with blockchain technology and decentralised infrastructure. These principles will provide creators of blockchain applications with a baseline for designing systems that preserve the rights of their participants.

Principles aim to preserve following participant rights:

Transparency and accessibility Agency and interoperability Privacy and security Accountability and governance.

4. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) is a UN Special Political Mission established to assist the state and the people of Afghanistan in laying the foundations for sustainable peace and development. UNAMA was established on 28 March 2002 by United Nations Security Council Resolution. According to recent UNAMA report, civilian casualties have increased by 29% in the first quarter of 2021, compared to last year, and women casualties increased by 37% and child casualties by 23%.

5. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Paribartan Electoral Trust has anonymously disbursed Rs 3 crore it received from Birla Corporation in 2019-20 using electoral bonds. This is the first time that an electoral trust has taken the bonds route to disburse corporate donations to unnamed political parties. However, Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), an independent poll watchdog, has alleged that the use of electrical bonds route is "against the spirit" of the Electoral Trusts Scheme, 2013 and Income Tax Rules, 1962.

What's the issue now?

It is mandatory for trusts to furnish each and every detail about the donor contributing to the trust and to whom the donations have been distributed. But, Paribartan Electoral Trust has said that since the donation was made through electoral bonds, in terms of the electoral bonds scheme, "information with regard to payee is not required to be disclosed".

The Concern:

So the main concern now is that if Electoral trusts start adopting this precedent of donating through bonds, which do not permit disclosure norms and discourage transparency rules/laws then it is like going back in time before the Electoral Trusts Scheme, 2013 was incorporated. In such a scenario, it will be a complete mayhem of unfair practices i.e. total anonymity, unchecked and unlimited funding, free flow of black money circulation, corruption, foreign funding, corporate donations and related conflict of interest etc. Such a practice completely negates the very purpose behind the inception of the Electoral Trusts

Scheme, 2013 and Rule 17CA of the I.T Rules, 1962.

About Electoral Trusts Scheme, 2013:

Electoral Trust is a non-profit organization formed in India for orderly receiving of the contributions from any person. The scheme was notified by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT). Objectives of the Scheme: To lay down a procedure for grant of approval to an electoral trust which will receive voluntary contributions and distribute the same to the political parties. The sole object of the electoral trust is to distribute the contributions received by it to the political party, registered under section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. These Electoral Trust companies are not allowed to accept contributions from foreign citizens or companies. The trust shall also maintain a list of persons from whom contributions have been received and to whom the same have been distributed.

6. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

National Security Advisor Ajit Doval has proposed an action plan against Pakistan-based terror groups Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) as part of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) NSAs meet.

About the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO):

It is a permanent intergovernmental international organisation.

It's creation was announced on 15 June 2001 in Shanghai (China) by the Republic of Kazakhstan, the People's Republic of China, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan, and the Republic of Uzbekistan. It was preceded by the Shanghai Five mechanism.

Membership:

SCO comprises eight member states, namely the Republic of India, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the People's Republic of China, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan, and the Republic of Uzbekistan.

7. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

Chandrayaan-2, hovering over the Moon, has found new developments on the hot outermost layer of the bright star known as Corona. These include:

Abundances of magnesium, aluminium and silicon in the solar corona. Around 100 microflares were observed, providing new insights about coronal mass heating.

Reasons behind coronal heating problem:

The corona emits ultraviolet, X-rays and consists of ionised gas at temperatures exceeding 2 million degrees Fahrenheit, while just 1,000 miles below, the surface known as the photosphere simmers at just 10,000 degrees Fahrenheit. This mysterious difference in temperatures is called the coronal heating

problem.

As per the latest findings, the high temperatures could be due to strong magnetic fields present above the Sunspots (dark patches seen in visible images of the Sun).

Chandrayaan-2 Mission:

The Chandrayaan-2 mission, which was lost after it hard landed on the dark side of the Moon in 2019, remains active in the form of its orbiter hovering over the Moon.

Scientists used the Solar X-ray Monitor (XSM) onboard Chandrayaan-2 in September 2019 to study the Sun.

The primary objective of Chandrayaan 2 was to demonstrate the ability to soft-land on the lunar surface and operate a robotic rover on the surface. The mission consisted of an Orbiter of the Moon, Vikram (after Vikram Sarabhai) – the lander and Pragyan (wisdom) – the rover, all equipped with scientific instruments to study the moon.

8. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully test-fired the subsonic cruise missile 'Nirbhay' , from an Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur in Odisha's Balasore.

9. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

India-Italy-Japan launched their trilateral, the second trilateral involving India and a European power – hoping to create stability and a rules-based international order based on the consent of all, not on the power of the few in the Indo-Pacific region.

10. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The Israeli military said it has successfully tested an airborne high-power laser that can shoot down drones, technology it hopes to deploy on a larger scale in the coming years.