



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 13-07-2020

EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Iran and China have drafted a sweeping economic and security partnership. The partnership would vastly expand Chinese presence in banking, telecommunications, ports, railways and dozens of other projects. In exchange, China would receive a regular and heavily discounted supply of Iranian oil over the next 25 years. The document also describes deepening military cooperation, potentially giving China a foothold in a region that has been a strategic preoccupation of the United States for decades. It calls for joint training and exercises, joint research and weapons development and intelligence sharing. This would clear the way for billions of dollars of Chinese investments in energy and other sectors, undercutting the Donald Trump administration's efforts to isolate the Iranian government because of its nuclear and military ambitions. It represents a major blow to the Trump administration's aggressive policy toward Iran since abandoning the nuclear deal reached in 2015 by President Barack Obama and the leaders of six other nations after two years of gruelling negotiations.

2. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

The world's costliest fungus — *Ophiocordyceps sinensis* — also known as Himalayan Viagra, which sells in international markets for upwards of Rs 20 lakh per kg, has entered the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species. The list has placed the fungus, known for its aphrodisiac and rejuvenation properties, in the 'vulnerable' category. Citing the reason for placing the fungus in the vulnerable category, IUCN said "its spread has declined by at least 30% over the past 15 years as a result of overharvesting". The fungus is also known as keeda jadi in Uttarakhand because of its caterpillar-like appearance. It is endemic to the Himalayan and Tibetan plateau and is found in China, Bhutan, Nepal and India. In India, it is primarily found in Uttarakhand in the higher reaches of districts like Pithoragarh and Chamoli.

3. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

The US remained India's top trading partner for the second consecutive fiscal in 2019-20. According to the data of the commerce ministry, in 2019-20, the bilateral trade between the US and India stood at \$ 88.75 billion as against \$87.96 billion in 2018-19. The US is one of the few countries with which India

has a trade surplus. The trade gap between the countries has increased to \$17.42 billion in 2019-20 from \$ 16.86 billion in 2018-19. In 2018-19, the US first surpassed China to become India's top trading partner. The bilateral trade between India and China has dipped to \$81.87 billion in 2019-20 from \$87.08 billion in 2018-19. Trade deficit between the two neighbours have declined to \$48.66 billion in 2019-20 from \$53.57 billion in the previous fiscal. The data also showed that China was India's top trading partner since 2013-14 till 2017-18. Before China, UAE was the country's largest trading nation.

4. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

The US Navy announced that Lt. j.g. Madeline Swegle had completed naval flight school and would later this month receive the flight officer insignia known as the "Wings of Gold". She is the "first known Black female Tactical Aircraft (TACAIR) pilot" in the U.S. Navy's 110 history of aviation. Swegle's milestone comes more than 45 years after Rosemary Mariner in 1974 became the first woman to fly a tactical fighter jet in the Navy.

5. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

Renowned ceramic artist Jyotsna Bhatt passes away after she suffered a stroke. Jyotsna Bhatt (1940 – 11 July 2020) was an Indian ceramist and potter. She studied and later taught at the Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda for forty years. Apart from ceramics, she also experimented with stoneware and terracotta. In her ceramics, she preferred matte and satin matte glazes as well as teal blue to moss green and other earth tones. She frequently used alkaline earths, amorphous moulds and various minerals.

6. Ans) (b)

Explanation

Kanger Valley National Park is situated in Bastar region of Chhattisgarh. it derives its name from the Kanger River, which flows centrally from northwest to southeast direction. Kanger River is among one of the very few perennial rivers of Bastar.

Kanger Valley got the status of a national park in 1982.

Recently, researchers have found *Ophiocordyceps nutans* fungi for the first time in the kanger national park, while setting out on a plant survey at the park.

This is the first occasion when these fungi have been found in the central region, earlier these have been reported in India only from the Western Ghats.

7. Ans) (d)

Explanation

The Sundarbans is a mangrove area in the delta formed by the confluence of the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna Rivers in the Bay of Bengal. It was declared as the UNESCO'S World Heritage site in 1987.

Sunderban Wetland has been accorded the status of 'Wetland of International Importance' under Ramsar Convention in 2019. The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat is an international treaty for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands. It was signed in 1971.

As part of the Man and Biosphere Programme (MAB), the Government of India adopted the National MAB programme and declared the entire Sundarban as the Sundarban Biosphere Reserve in 1989.

- The MAB Programme (accepted by UNESCO in 1970) develops the basis within the natural and social sciences for the rational and sustainable use and conservation of the resources of the biosphere.
- It also envisages the improvement of the overall relationship between people and their environment.

8. Ans) (c)

Explanation

Originally Part IV of Indian Constitution, Article 45 and Article 39 (f) of DPSP, had a provision for state funding as well as equitable and accessible education.

The 86th amendment to the Constitution of India in 2002, provided Right to Education as a Fundamental Right in part-III of the Constitution.

The same amendment inserted Article 21A which made Right to Education a fundamental right for children between 6-14 years. The 86th amendment provided for a follow-up legislation for Right to Education Bill 2008 and finally Right to Education Act (RTE) 2009.

The RTE Act 2009 which states that at least 25% strength of a class in private schools should consist of children belonging to weaker sections and disadvantaged groups. The disadvantaged sections of the society include:

- SCs and STs
- Socially Backward Classes
- Differently abled

9. Ans) (a)

Explanation

Recently, a passenger bus service was started for the first time after India's Independence in Swabhiman Anchal region (formerly known as the cut-off area) in Odisha's Malkangiri district.

Swabhiman Anchal is situated along the Odisha-Andhra Pradesh border, and had long been a stronghold of left-wing extremists. The region is covered by water from three sides and another side by inhospitable terrain. Balimela reservoir is also situated in the region.

10. Ans) (c)

Explanation

National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) is a not-for-profit public limited company incorporated in 2008 under section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956 (corresponding to section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013). It was set up by the Ministry of Finance as a Public Private Partnership (PPP) model. The Government of India through the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) holds 49% of the share capital of NSDC, while the private sector has the balance 51% of the share capital. It aims to promote skill development by catalyzing creation of large, quality and for-profit vocational institutions.