



# EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 21-07-2020

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### EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (c)

Explanation

Recently, scientists have reported the discovery of the first super giant isopod species in the eastern Indian Ocean named 'Bathynomus raksasa'. It has been described as the 'cockroach of the sea'. A team of researchers from Singapore discovered it while exploring waters of the Indian Ocean in Bantan, off the southern coast of West Java in Indonesia in 2018. It is the sixth 'supergiant' species from the Indo-West Pacific, and is one of the largest known members of the genus Bathynomus. It's discovery will contribute towards increasing knowledge about the deep sea.

2. Ans) (c)

Explanation

The National Award of Excellence for Outstanding Research in Forestry for the year 2019 has been awarded to Kannan C S Warriar, a scientist at Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB).

The award has been awarded to Kannan C S Warriar for releasing three salt-tolerant productive clones of Casuarina that are suitable for salt-affected soils, for the first time in the country. India has 6.73 million hectares of salt affected land and is also the largest producer of Casuarina in the world which makes the production of these clones a significant achievement. Casuarina, also known as kattadi and savukku, is a plant genus with over 17 species with Casuarina equisetifolia being introduced in India in the 19th century. They have a role in nitrogen fixation in symbiotic association with bacteria Frankia.

They provide fuel wood, pulp for paper making and of late is a preferred choice for biomass-based power generation. They also play a key role in reclaiming mined areas and afforesting nutrient-poor sites.

3. Ans) (b)

Explanation

BlackRock is a banking Trojan and said to be an enhanced version of existing Xerxes malware which itself is a variant of the LokiBot Android trojan. A trojan is any type of malicious program disguised as a legitimate one. Often, they are designed to steal sensitive information (login credentials, account numbers, financial information, credit card information, and the like) from users. Banking trojans are a

specific kind of trojan malware. Once installed onto a client machine, banking trojans use a variety of techniques to create botnets, steal credentials, inject malicious code into browsers, or steal money.

4. Ans) (b)

Explanation

National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) was renamed as National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) with the enactment of the Disaster Management Act in 2005. It is defined in Section 46 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005 (DM Act). It is placed in the “Public Account” of Government of India under “reserve funds not bearing interest“. Public Accounts are constituted under Article 266 (2) of the Constitution. It accounts for flows for those transactions where the government is merely acting as a banker eg. provident funds, small savings etc. These funds do not belong to the government and have to be paid back at some time. Expenditures from it are not required to be approved by the Parliament..

5. Ans) (a)

Explanation

Sacred groves are protected forests which usually have a significant religious connotation for the protecting community. In India, there are over a lakh sacred groves across different states called by different names like Kaavu in Malayalam, Koyil kaadu in Tamil, Orans in Rajasthan, Devara kaadu in Karnataka, and Sernas in Madhya Pradesh. Many rare and endemic species, and species having medicinal and economic value can be found here, thus making them Biodiversity Hotspots. They house gene pools of some critically endangered plant species. They are often associated with religious beliefs and felling of trees in sacred groves is considered taboo. Sacred groves have been legally protected under ‘community reserves’ in the Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act, 2002.

6. Ans) (b)

Explanation :

A melting glacier at Europe’s Mont Blanc mountain range recently disintombed Indian newspapers buried there for 54 years. The newspapers are among the remains of Air India Flight 101, named ‘Kanchenjunga’, a Boeing 707 plane that on January 24, 1966, crashed into Mont Blanc – Europe’s third-highest peak – ending the lives of all 177 passengers and crew. Among the 177 dead was Homi Bhabha, the founding leader of India’s nuclear programme. Conspiracy theories have called Bhabha’s death – who barely two years before the crash had publicly claimed that India could develop its own nuclear device in less than 18 months – a plot against the country. After the accident, Vikram Sarabhai, succeeded Bhabha at the Indian Atomic Energy Commission. Subsequently, India tested its first nuclear bomb at Pokhran in 1974.

7. Ans) (b)

Explanation :

India is no longer involved in the Farzad-B gas field exploration project where ONGC's foreign arm OVL had originally signed an agreement for exploration in 2002, investing approximately \$100 million thus far. Farzad B gas field is an offshore natural gas field located in Persian Gulf under the control of Iranian sovereignty. It was opened in 2008 and India had been negotiating the rights to oil and gas from the field till the US sanctions on Iran jeopardised India's plans. Government of India cited policy changes by the Iranian government, Iran's precarious finances, and the U.S. sanctions situation as the reasons for the decisions on Indian infrastructure projects in Iran, which would be undertaken through local companies instead.

8. Ans) (c)

Explanation :

India's largest commercial shipbuilder Cochin Shipyard Ltd (CSL) has signed contracts for construction of two autonomous electric ferries for Norway-based ASKO Maritime, with an option to build two more identical vessels. This Autonomous Electrical vessel project, partially funded by the Norwegian Government, is aimed at emission-free transport of goods across the Oslo fjord. The 67 meter-long vessels will initially be delivered as a full-electric transport ferry, powered by 1,846 kWh capacity battery. ASKO Maritime AS, the subsidiary group of NorgesGruppen ASA, is one of the largest players in the Norwegian retail segment. CSL is already constructing 23 hybrid electric boats for Kochi Water Metro.

9. Ans) (a)

Explanation :

Gagandeep Kang, Executive Director, Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI) in Faridabad, resigned from her position at the institute. She is the first Indian woman to be elected Fellow, Royal Society, London, and was instrumental in the development of Rotavac, the first vaccine to be made from scratch in India. Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI) in Faridabad is an autonomous body under the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology.

10. Ans) (a)

Explanation :

The Assam government has decided to upgrade Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary into a national park. Dehing Patkai was declared a wildlife sanctuary in 2004. The 112 km<sup>2</sup> Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary is located within the larger Dehing Patkai Elephant Reserve, which spreads across the coal-

and oil-rich districts of Upper Assam (Dibrugarh, Tinsukia and Sivasagar). It is believed to be the last remaining contiguous patch of lowland rainforest area in Assam. It is also the place with the highest concentration of the rare endangered White Winged Wood Duck can be found. Post upgradation, Dehing Patkai will be the sixth national park in Assam — the other five being Kaziranga, Nameri, Manas, Orang and Dibru-Saikhowa.