



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 25-06-2020

EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Union Cabinet approved far reaching reforms in the Space sector aimed at boosting private sector participation in the entire range of space activities. The newly created Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) will provide a level playing field for private companies to use Indian space infrastructure. It will also hand-hold, promote and guide the private industries in space activities through encouraging policies and a friendly regulatory environment. The Public Sector Enterprise 'New Space India Limited (NSIL)' will endeavour to re-orient space activities from a 'supply driven' model to a 'demand driven' model, thereby ensuring optimum utilization of our space assets. These reforms will allow ISRO to focus more on research and development activities, new technologies, exploration missions and human spaceflight programme. Some of the planetary exploration missions will also be opened up to private sector through an 'announcement of opportunity' mechanism. Hence both statements are correct.

2. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

This year, the annual Day of the Seafarer (DotS) is celebrating its 10th anniversary on 25 June under the theme "Seafarers are Key Workers". 25 June of each year is the "Day of the Seafarer", recognizing the invaluable contribution seafarers make to international trade and the world economy. The Day of the Seafarer was first celebrated in 2011, following its establishment by a resolution adopted by the Conference of Parties to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978, held in Manila, Philippines, in 2010. The Day of the Seafarer has now been included in the annual list of United Nations Observances. International Maritime Organization (IMO) is the nodal agency for organizing it.

3. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

Mangrove environment is highly dynamic and harsh and mangrove species are variously adapted to cope with these environmental conditions.

Breathing roots: Underground tissue of any plant requires oxygen for respiration and in mangrove environment, oxygen in soil is very limited or nil. This necessitates mangrove root system to take up

oxygen from the atmosphere. For this purpose, mangrove species have specialized above ground roots called breathing roots or pneumatophores. These roots have numerous pores through which oxygen enters into the underground tissues. In some plants buttress roots function as breathing roots and also provide mechanical support to the tree.

Silt roots: In some mangrove species, roots diverge from stems and branches and penetrate the soil some distance away from the main stem as in the case of banyan trees. Because of their appearance and because they provide the main physical support to these they are called as stilt roots. These roots also have many pores through which atmospheric oxygen enters into the roots.

Vivipary: Saline water, unconsolidated saline soil with little or no oxygen is not a conducive environment for seeds to germinate and establish. To overcome this, mangrove species have unique way of reproduction, which is generally known as vivipary. In this method of reproduction, seeds germinate and develop into seedlings while the seeds are still attached to the parent tree.

4. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

Union Minister Jitendra Singh inaugurated two important Bridges Devika and Puneja in Udhampur and Doda districts respectively in Jammu and Kashmir.

Devika Bridge: Apart from taking care of traffic congestion and developmental needs of the Udhampur town area, Devika Bridge will also help in smooth passage of Army convoys and vehicles.

Puneja Bridge: The 50-meter-long Puneja Bridge was constructed by BRO at Bhaderwah in Doda District. Basoli-Bani-Bhaderwah road is a vital alternate link to the Doda, Kishtwar, Bhaderwah and Kashmir valley from Pathankot (Punjab) region without passing Jammu and Udhampur.

5. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

“Although often harmful and destructive to humans, naturally occurring wildfires play an integral role in nature. They return nutrients to the soil by burning dead or decaying matter. They also act as a disinfectant, removing disease-ridden plants and harmful insects from a forest ecosystem. And by burning through thick canopies and brushy undergrowth, wildfires allow sunlight to reach the forest floor, enabling a new generation of seedlings to grow.”

6. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The guarantee cover worth Rs. 20,000 crores will be provided to the promoters who can take debt from the banks to further invest in their stressed MSMEs as equity.

The scheme will be operationalised through Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for MSEs (CGTMSE).

This Scheme seeks to extend support to the promoter(s) of the operational MSMEs which are stressed and have become NPA as on 30th April, 2020;

Promoter(s) of the MSMEs will be given credit equal to 15% of their stake (equity plus debt) or Rs. 75 lakh whichever is lower; Promoter(s) in turn will infuse this amount in the MSME unit as equity and thereby enhance the liquidity and maintain debt-equity ratio;

90% guarantee coverage for this sub-debt will be given under the Scheme and 10% would come from the concerned promoters; There will be a moratorium of 7 years on payment of principal whereas maximum tenor for repayment will be 10 years.

7. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

Transpiration is the loss of water from the leaves through stomata. If transpiration is high due to large area of large pores of the leaves, water demand for the plant is likely to be high, which would not work for a climate like Mediterranean. So, waxy leaves and thick barks reduce transpiration and thus water need.

8. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Union Minister for Health released the annual TB Report 2020. He also released a Joint Monitoring Mission (JMM) report, a manual on Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to TB patients under NIKSHAY system, a Training Module, and the quarterly newsletter NIKSHAY Patrika. The key achievements listed in the Report include: Around 24.04 Lakh TB patients have been notified in 2019. This amounts to a 14% increase in TB notification as compared to the year 2018. Achieving near-complete on-line notification of TB patients through the NIKSHAY system. Private sector notifications increased by 35% with 6.78 lakh TB patients notified. Due to easy availability of molecular diagnostics, the proportion of children diagnosed with TB increased to 8% in 2019 compared to 6% in 2018. Provision of HIV testing for all notified TB patients increased from 67% in 2018 to 81% in 2019. Expansion of treatment services has resulted in a 12% improvement in the treatment success rate of notified patients. For 2019 it is 81% compared to 69% in 2018. NIKSHAY also expanded the provision of four Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT) schemes of the programme including of Nikshay Poshan Yojana (NPY) to TB patients. Ranking of states For the first time Central TB Division (CTD) introduced a quarterly ranking on TB elimination efforts by all the states and UTs. In the categories of larger states with more than 50 lakh population, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh were awarded as best performing States. In the category of smaller states with less than 50 lakh population, Tripura and Nagaland were awarded. In the category of Union Territory, Dadara and Nagar Haveli, and Daman & Diu were chosen as the best performers.

9. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

The sources of arsenic are natural or may partly stem from anthropogenic activities like intense exploitation of groundwater, application of fertilizers, burning of coal and leaching of metals from coal-ash tailings. Arsenic is introduced into soil and groundwater during weathering of rocks and minerals followed by subsequent leaching and runoff. Among the various arsenic removal technologies, lime softening and iron co precipitation have been reported to be the most effective.

10. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The Union Cabinet has approved the extension of the term of the Commission constituted under Article 340 of the constitution to examine the issue of Sub-categorization within Other Backward Classes in the Central List, by 6 months i.e. upto 31.1.2021. The Commission was constituted under article 340 of the Constitution with the approval of President in 2017. The Commission is headed by Justice (Retd.) Smt. G. Rohini. The expenditure related to the administration costs of the Commission would be borne by the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment. The Communities in the existing list of OBCs which have not been able to get any major benefit of the scheme of reservation for OBCs for appointment in Central Government posts and for admission in Central Government Educational Institutions are expected to be benefitted upon implementation of the recommendations of the Commission.