



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 31-07-2020

1. Ans) (c)

Explanation :

India and Maldives signed a contract for setting up 'Neighbourhood Fish Processing Plants' at two of the islands in the neighbouring country. These fish-processing plants are the first in a series of High Impact Community Development (HICDP) projects that India and Maldives have committed to execute together under a total grant of USD 5.5 million. These Projects chosen by the Government of Maldives have a high-level of community impact and participation in the areas of livelihood and income generation, health, education, gender and child empowerment etc. HICDPs constitute an important dimension of the dynamic development partnership between India and the Maldives. They will be implemented by City and Local Councils. Recently, India and Maldives also signed an agreement for establishment of 'Emergency Medical Services' in capital Male. It is one of the several small and medium projects that are being financed by India under a grant assistance of around 20 million US dollars for Maldives.

2. Ans) (c)

Explanation :

According to a study by a Pune-based institute, the colour of water in Lonar lake in Maharashtra's Buldhana district turned pink in June 2020 due to a large presence of the salt-loving Haloarchaea microbes. Haloarchaea (or halophilic archaea) are a class of the Euryarchaeota, found in water saturated or nearly saturated with salt. Halobacteria are now recognized as archaea, rather than bacteria and are one of the largest groups. These microorganisms are members of the halophile community, in that they require high salt concentrations to grow. Their high densities in the water often lead to pink or red colourations of the water (the cells possessing high levels of carotenoid pigments, presumably for UV protection).

3. Ans) (b)

Explanation :

A recent study has suggested that the Kutch Mainland Fault (KMF), which has been dormant for the last 1,000-odd years, has been accumulating stress within and could trigger an earthquake. The Kutch Mainland Fault (KMF) is the major east-west trending fault. The fault line extends for over 150 km from Lakhpat to Bhachau. The study also gives evidence that there were four major earthquakes on KMF between 5600 and 1000 BP (before present), a time scale used by geologists to define events that happened before the origin of radiocarbon dating technology in the 1950s. The fragile crust of Kutch holds four major active faults which frequently liberate energy in the form of earthquakes. The devastating January 26, 2001 earthquake had occurred from the South Wagad fault system. Moreover, the recent earthquakes experienced in Rajkot on July 16 and Ahmedabad on June 15 have nothing to do with KMF.

4. Ans) (a)

Explanation :

According to Global cyber-security leader Avast, there was a 51 % increase in the use of spyware and stalkerware in India during the lockdown period from March to June in the backdrop of heightened domestic violence cases. Stalkerware is monitoring software or spyware that is used for stalking. The term was coined when people started to widely use commercial spyware to spy on their spouses or intimate partners.

A spyware app, which can also be installed remotely, accesses the data usage pattern of the device, gains access to photos and videos as well as other personal information of the user, and then passes it off to a central server. On the other hand, in most cases, a stalkerware app can be installed only when someone has physical access to the digitally connected device. Though the app works in a manner similar to spyware apps, it goes a step ahead and also gives out the location of the device to a master device which controls the stalkerware app.

5. Ans) (b)

Explanation :

India and European Union (EU) have renewed its Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation for the next five years (2020-2025). This will expand the cooperation in scientific and technological research for economic and social benefit. The Agreement was initially signed in 2001 and renewed two times in 2007 and 2015. In the last 5 years, the level of co-investment on India-EU Research Technology Development Projects for addressing societal challenges such as affordable healthcare, water, energy, food & nutrition has been stepped up. The cooperation has been focused on water, green transport, e-mobility, clean energy, bio-economy, health, and ICT.

6. Ans) (b)

Explanation :

Union Agriculture Minister held a meeting with World Bank representatives to bring large Bihad area of Gwalior-Chambal region under agriculture. More than three lakh hectares of rugged land is not cultivable and if this area is improved, then this will help in the integrated development of the Bihad area in Gwalior - Chambal region. The Chambal-Gwalior ravines that consist of sharp, steep, mud hillocks stretch across three States — Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. Bihad areas of Chambal-Gwalior belt is a unique geographical feature having gullies up to 15-20 feet deep. According to a study, about 3.97 million hectares of land in India form ravines. The States of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat account for 2.7 million hectares, or 70 per cent, of the country's ravines.

7. Ans) (b)

Explanation :

The Nagpur Bench of the Bombay High Court observed that Industrialisation and urbanisation has reduced Nag river to a cursed lady by heavily polluting it. The Nag River is a river flowing through the city of Nagpur in Maharashtra. Nagpur city derives its name from the Nag river. Forming a part of the Kanhan-Pench river system, the Nag River originates in Lava hills near wadi. The river serves as drainage for Nagpur and as a result its ecosystem is heavily polluted by urban waste from the city. The Nag River Rejuvenation was cleared by National River Conservation Directorate in November 2019.

8. Ans) (b)

Explanation :

Ever since cases of 'reinfection' — people who had tested negative for COVID-19 testing positive again after a while — emerged in early January, the question of latency of the SARS-CoV-2 virus is being hotly debated. A latent viral infection is an infection when the virus in the body is dormant and does not replicate within the host. It however possesses the capacity to be reactivated at some point, causing a

flare-up of the disease much later. As opposed to active infections, where a virus is actively replicating and potentially causing symptoms, latent infections are essentially static which last the life of the host and occur when the primary infection is not cleared by the adaptive immune response. Latent viral infections can be reactivated into a lytic form (the replication of a viral genome). The ability to move back and forth from latent to lytic infections helps the virus spread from infected individuals to uninfected individuals". Examples are Herpes simplex viruses type 1 and 2, varicella-zoster virus, HIV, Epstein-Barr virus (human herpesvirus 4), and cytomegalovirus. They are known to cause typical latent infections in humans.

9. Ans) (c)

Explanation :

Union IT Minister said that since 10th June, 2020 the Common Services Centre (CSC) Wi-Fi Choupal has provided 1 Lakh FTTH broadband connections in rural areas across 21 states, using the Bharat Net infrastructure. Government has set the target of 5 Lakh FTTH connections by September. Wi-Fi Choupal is a government initiative to provide Wi-Fi hotspots in rural areas where people can access the internet by subscribing to low-cost data plans. This will be achieved by leveraging BharatNet infrastructure for providing broadband services in Gram Panchayats (GPs) and villages. It is an Initiative of 'CSC e-Governance Services India Limited', a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) set up in 2016 by the Ministry of Electronics & IT under the Companies Act, 1956 to oversee implementation of the Common Service Centres (CSC) scheme. Fiber to the home (FTTH), also called "fiber to the premises" (FTTP), is the installation and use of optical fiber from a central point directly to individual buildings such as residences, apartment buildings and businesses to provide high-speed Internet access.

10. Ans) (c)

Explanation :

Union Environment Ministry launched the National Transit Pass System (NTPS), an online system for issuing transit permits for timber, bamboo and other forest produce. NTPS will bring ease of business and expedite issuance of transit permits for timber, bamboo and other minor forest produce without physically going to forest offices. Through mobile application e-pass will be issued for transit of forest produce. The pilot project will be functional in Madhya Pradesh and Telangana for now. The system will be will be operational in all states by Diwali. This will enhance seamless movement of forest produce. Transit of timber, bamboo and other forest produce is governed by various state specific acts and rules.