



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 19-04-2021

EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

The Nagaland government has reportedly been trying to revive the RIIN exercise.

What is RIIN?

Launched in July 2019.

The objective is to prevent outsiders from obtaining fake indigenous certificates for seeking jobs and benefits of government schemes. The RIIN will be the master list of all indigenous inhabitants of the state. The RIIN list will be based on “an extensive survey”. It will involve official records of indigenous residents from rural and (urban) wards and would be prepared under the supervision of the district administration.

What’s the concern?

Locals are apprehensive of “dreadful consequences” if the “advocates of RIIN” implement the identification process with December 1, 1963 – the day Nagaland attained statehood – as the cut-off date for determining the “permanent residents” of the State. This date is likely to exclude Nagas who have come from beyond the boundaries of Nagaland. They also fear that the non-indigenous Nagas could be treated as “illegal immigrants” and their lands and property confiscated.

2. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

New Zealand becomes the first country to introduce a law that will require financial firms to explain how they would manage climate-related risks and opportunities.

3. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The World Health Organization, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) have called for a halt to the sale of live wild mammals in food markets to prevent the emergence of new diseases such as COVID-19.

Need for:

Because traditional markets play a central role in providing food and livelihoods for large populations, banning the sale of live wild mammals could protect the health of market workers and customers alike.

Animals, particularly wild animals, are the source of more than 70% of all emerging infectious diseases in

humans, many of which are caused by novel viruses. Wild mammals, in particular, pose a risk for the emergence of new diseases.

About the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE):

The need to fight animal diseases at global level led to the creation of the Office International des Epizooties through the international Agreement signed on January 25th 1924.

In May 2003 the Office became the World Organisation for Animal Health but kept its historical acronym OIE. The OIE is the intergovernmental organisation responsible for improving animal health worldwide.

It is recognised as a reference organisation by the World Trade Organization (WTO). The organisation is placed under the authority and control of a World Assembly of Delegates consisting of Delegates designated by the Governments of all Member Countries. The main objective of the OIE is to control epizootic diseases and thus to prevent their spread.

4. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

Two adult one-horned rhinos were recently translocated from Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary to Manas National Park, under the aegis of the Indian Rhino Vision 2020 (IRV 2020). With this last leg of wild-to-wild translocation under IRV2020, a total of 22 rhinos have been translocated from Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary (12) and Kaziranga National Park (10) to Manas National Park.

About the Indian Rhino Vision 2020 (IRV 2020):

Launched in 2005. IRV 2020 is an initiative led by the Forest Department, Government of Assam, in partnership with WWF India, International Rhino Foundation, and several other organizations. The goal of IRV2020 was to increase the rhino population in Assam to 3,000 by establishing populations in new areas. Rhinos are now found in four Protected Areas in Assam: Pabitora Wildlife Reserve, Rajiv Gandhi Orang National Park, Kaziranga National Park, and Manas National Park. About One- horned rhinos: Only the Great One-Horned Rhino is found in India. Also known as Indian rhino, it is the largest of the rhino species. It is identified by a single black horn and a grey-brown hide with skin folds. They primarily graze, with a diet consisting almost entirely of grasses as well as leaves, branches of shrubs and trees, fruit, and aquatic plants.

5. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

Uruka” marks the beginning of the Magh Bihu. ‘Uruka’ rituals are performed on the occasion of Rongali Bihu, marking the beginning of the Assamese New Year.

6. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

It is a tropical cyclone formed recently near western Australian coast. The name Seroja means lotus in Indonesian.

7. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

It is an electronic marketplace providing a platform to connect aqua farmers and the buyers. Launched by Union Commerce Ministry. It will enable the farmers to get a better price and the exporters to directly purchase quality products from the farmers enhancing traceability, a key factor in international trade. The term e-SANTA was coined for the web portal, meaning Electronic Solution for Augmenting NaCSA farmers' Trade in Aquaculture. e-SANTA will 'RAISE' the lives & income of farmers by: Reducing Risk, Awareness of Products & Markets, Increase in Income, Shielding Against Wrong Practice and Ease of Processes.

8. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

Singapore's Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan recently said that he hoped India would "reassess" its stand on regional trading agreements such as the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) pact that India withdrew from in 2019.

Need for India's presence in RCEP:

India had "a crucial role" to play in helping the region build an inclusive architecture at a time of increasing global instability. Such trade pacts will also give Indian companies a platform to showcase their strengths across even larger markets. Besides, Rising U.S.-China tensions were "deeply worrying" for the region with the pandemic resulting in "heightened tension".

What is RCEP? The RCEP came into force in November 2020 without India. The signatories of the agreement include 10 ASEAN countries – Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Brunei, Laos, Myanmar and the Philippines and 5 key partners (China, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand).

Aims and Objectives of RCEP:

To lower tariffs, open up trade in services and promote investment to help emerging economies catch up with the rest of the world. To help reduce costs and time for companies by allowing them to export a product anywhere within the bloc without meeting separate requirements for each country. It also touches on intellectual property, but will not cover environmental protections and labour rights.

Why India did not join?

India withdrew from the RCEP largely because of concerns it would open it up to Chinese goods amid an already wide trade imbalance with China, and the failure of the agreement to adequately open up to services.

9. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Russian Ambassador to India Nikolai Kudashev recently confirmed that both India and Russia are “committed” to completing their contract for the S-400 missile system, due to be delivered to India at the end of the year. He said both countries opposed U.S. sanctions on the issue.

What’s the issue?

The S-400 deal could attract sanctions under US’ CAATSA law. The US has already sanctioned China and Turkey over similar purchases. What is the S-400 air defence missile system? Why does India need it? The S-400 Triumf is a mobile, surface-to-air missile system (SAM) designed by Russia. It is the most dangerous operationally deployed modern long-range SAM (MLR SAM) in the world, considered much ahead of the US-developed Terminal High Altitude Area Defense system (THAAD).

What is CAATSA, and how did the S-400 deal fall foul of this Act? Countering America’s Adversaries through Sanctions Act (CAATSA)’s core objective is to counter Iran, Russia and North Korea through punitive measures. Enacted in 2017. Includes sanctions against countries that engage in significant transactions with Russia’s defence and intelligence sectors.

What sanctions will be imposed?

prohibition on loans to the sanctioned person.

prohibition of Export-Import bank assistance for exports to sanctioned persons.

prohibition on procurement by United States Government to procure goods or services from the sanctioned person. denial of visas to persons closely associated with the sanctioned person.

10. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

It is a flying reptile with the ‘oldest opposable thumbs’. The new pterosaur fossil was discovered in the Tiaojishan Formation of Liaoning, China, and is believed to be 160 million years old. It has been named *Kunpengopterus antipollicatus*, also dubbed “Monkeydactyl”. The pterosaur species were reptiles, close cousins of dinosaurs and the first animals after insects to evolve powered flight.

Background:

Opposability of the thumb is being able to “simultaneously flex, abduct and medially rotate the thumb” in a way that one is able to bring the tip of the thumb to touch the tips of the other fingers. Along with humans, some ancient monkeys and apes also had opposable thumbs.