



# EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 19-05-2021

### EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Common crane was recently spotted in Ireland. It had disappeared more than three centuries ago from Ireland. The bird is part of its folklore and was a popular pet during medieval times. A pair of cranes was spotted last year on a restored peat bog. Peat bog is a type of wetland that is mostly found in northern latitude countries. The birds are in Ireland's Midlands region, but their exact location has been kept secret to protect them. Cranes stand at 4 feet tall with a wingspan of over 7 feet, and used to be the largest birds in Ireland. Although they were once common, the destruction of their habitat caused them to disappear around the 16th and 17th century. Why is bog restoration important Bogs (also called quagmires) are soft, spongy wetlands that accumulate peat. Peat is a fossil fuel that is used for heating homes and businesses in northern Europe. They are formed in northern climates, and take thousands of years to develop. Bogs also act as carbon sinks, sequestering around 200 million tons of carbon from the environment in Siberia and Scandinavia. For centuries, however, bogs have been drained for extracting peat or for development, leading to the destruction of their delicate ecosystems, including damage to species such as cranes that breed here.

2. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

Recently, 18 elephants died on a hilltop in Assam. The preliminary post-mortem report indicates they had been struck by lightning. The Indian elephant One of three extant recognised subspecies of the Asian elephant and native to mainland Asia IUCN Red List: Endangered The wild population has declined by at least 50% since the 1930s Threats: by loss, degradation and fragmentation of its habitat It is included in Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972 How does lightning kill animals Lightning may injure or kill animals in a number of ways such as:

Direct Flash: An animal in an open field may be struck directly by lightning if part of its body protrudes over other objects in the vicinity. Taller animals are more vulnerable. Side Flash: When lightning strikes a tall object such as a tree, it may generate a side flash that can strike an animal standing underneath the tree. Touch Potential: If one part of a tall animal's body is in contact with the ground while another part, at a higher elevation, comes in contact with a lightning-struck object, a partial current may pass through its body. Step Potential: The most common lightning hazard among four-legged animals. When an animal's front and hind feet are far enough apart, a partial current may pass through the body in certain

circumstances. Since an elephant's front and hind feet are wide apart, it would appear to make it more vulnerable than a smaller animal, such as a rat. The Bamuni Hill in Assam, where the elephants died, has no tall trees that could have taken the brunt of the lightning strike.

3. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

The Indian Government has reviewed the existing procedure for approval of global manufacturers for importing oxygen cylinders by Petroleum and Explosive Safety Organization (PESO). Petroleum & Explosives Safety Organization (PESO) It is an organization under Department of industrial policy and promotion (DIPP), Ministry of commerce & Industry. It administers the usage of explosives & petrol stations in India. Headquarters: Nagpur, Maharashtra.

4. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

Fighting between the Taliban and Afghan government forces resumed in the restive southern province of Helmand. It is located in Southern Afghanistan. It is the largest province by area. Lashkargah serves as the provincial capital. The Helmand River flows through the mainly desert region of the province, providing water used for irrigation. The Kajaki Dam, which is one of Afghanistan's major reservoirs, is located in the Kajaki district. Helmand is believed to be one of the world's largest opium-producing regions, responsible for around 42% of the world's total production. It has been considered to be Afghanistan's "most dangerous" province.

5. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

The Uttarakhand Police has launched a drive called "Mission Hausla" to help people get oxygen, beds and plasma for COVID-19 patients.

6. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

China will become the world's first country to ban all synthetic cannabinoid substances. The ban is likely to come into effect on July 1.

7. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

The West Bengal government will set up a Legislative Council (Vidhan Parishad), as per a decision taken up at the recent Cabinet meeting. What next? For setting up the Council, a Bill has to be introduced in the

Assembly and then a nod from the Governor is required. The Upper House existed till 1969. What are the Legislative Councils, and why are they important? India has a bicameral system i.e., two Houses of Parliament. At the state level, the equivalent of the Lok Sabha is the Vidhan Sabha or Legislative Assembly; that of the Rajya Sabha is the Vidhan Parishad or Legislative Council. How is a legislative council created? Under Article 169 of the constitution, Parliament may by law create or abolish the second chamber in a state if the Legislative Assembly of that state passes a resolution to that effect by a special majority.

Strength of the house:

As per article 171 clause (1) of the Indian Constitution, the total number of members in the legislative council of a state shall not exceed one third of the total number of the members in the legislative Assembly of that state and the total number of members in the legislative council of a state shall in no case be less than 40. How are members of the Council elected? 1/3rd of members are elected by members of the Assembly. 1/3rd by electorates consisting of members of municipalities, district boards and other local authorities in the state. 1/12th by an electorate consisting of teachers. 1/12th by registered graduates. The remaining members are nominated by the Governor from among those who have distinguished themselves in literature, science, art, the cooperative movement, and social service.

8. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

A petition was filed in the Supreme Court seeking the constitution of an independent collegium to appoint members of the Election Commission of India (ECI). The petition was filed by the Association for Democratic Reforms.

Need for an independent collegium:

The petition states that the present process of appointing members to the Election Commission, solely by the executive, is incompatible with Article 324(2) of the Constitution. The appointment of members of Election Commission on the “pick and choose” of the executive violates the very foundation for which it was created, thus, making the Commission a branch of executive.

Need of the hour:

Democracy is a facet of the basic structure of the constitution and in order to ensure free and fair elections and to maintain healthy democracy in our country, the Election Commission should be insulated from political and/or executive interference.

Recommendations given by various expert committees:

255th Law Commission Report recommended that the appointment of all the Election Commissioner should be made by the President in consultation with a three-member collegium or selection committee, consisting of the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition of the Lok Sabha and the Chief Justice of India. 4th Report submitted by the Second Administrative Reform Commission in January 2007 also

recommended for the constitution of a neutral and independent collegium headed by the Prime Minister with the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, the Law Minister and the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha as its members. Dr. Dinesh Goswami Committee in its Report of May 1990 recommended for the effective consultation with neutral authorities like Chief Justice of India and the Leader of the Opposition for the appointment in Election Commission. Justice Tarkunde Committee in its Report of 1975 recommended that the members of Election Commission should be appointed by the President on the advice of a Committee consisting of the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and the Chief Justice of India. Present System of Appointment Constitutional versus Executive Power of Appointment:

There is no prescribed procedure for appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners as per the constitution. At present, the President shall appoint the CEC and EC based on the recommendations made by the Prime Minister. Therefore, it is the executive power of the President to appoint CEC and ECs. However, according to Article 324(5), the Parliament has the power to regulate the terms of conditions of service and tenure of ECs.

9. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

Malerkotla recently became the 23rd district in Punjab. How are new districts carved? The power to create new districts or alter or abolish existing districts rests with the State governments. This can either be done through an executive order or by passing a law in the State Assembly. Many States prefer the executive route by simply issuing a notification in the official gazette.

How does it help?

States argue that smaller districts lead to better administration and governance. For example, in 2016, the Assam government issued a notification to upgrade the Majuli sub-division to Majuli district for “administrative expediency”. Does the Central government have a role to play here? The Centre has no role to play in the alteration of districts or creation of new ones. States are free to decide. The Home Ministry comes into the picture when a State wants to change the name of a district or a railway station.

The State government’s request is sent to other departments and agencies such as the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Intelligence Bureau, Department of Posts, Geographical Survey of India Sciences and the Railway Ministry seeking clearance. A no-objection certificate may be issued after examining their replies.

10. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

India is facing shortages of the two monoclonal antibody therapies — Itolizumab and Tocilizumab. In this article, we shall understand what are antibodies and monoclonal antibodies. What are Monoclonal

antibodies?

They are artificially created antibodies that aim to aid the body's natural immune system. They target a specific antigen — a protein from the pathogen that induces immune response. How are they created?

Monoclonal antibodies can be created in the lab by exposing white blood cells to a particular antigen.

To increase the quantity of antibodies produced, a single white blood cell is cloned, which in turn is used to create identical copies of the antibodies. In the case of Covid-19, scientists usually work with the spike protein of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which facilitates the entry of the virus into the host cell. Need for monoclonal antibodies:

In a healthy body, the immune system is able to create antibodies — tiny Y-shaped proteins in our blood that recognise microbial enemies and bind to them, signalling the immune system to then launch an attack on the pathogen. However, for people whose immune systems are unable to make sufficient amounts of these antibodies, scientists provide a helping hand- using monoclonal antibodies.

History:

The idea of delivering antibodies to treat a disease dates as far back as the 1900s, when Nobel-prize winning German immunologist Paul Ehrlich proposed the idea of a 'Zauberkegel' (magic bullet), a compound which selectively targets a pathogen. From then, it took eight decades of research to finally arrive at Muromonab-CD3, the world's first monoclonal antibody to be approved for clinical use in humans. Muromonab-CD3 is an immunosuppressant drug given to reduce acute rejection in patients with organ transplants. Applications: Monoclonal antibodies are now relatively common. They are used in treating Ebola, HIV, psoriasis etc.