



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 21-05-2021

EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

The World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF) has released a report titled “Over 100 Years of Snow Leopard Research — A spatially explicit review of the state of knowledge in the snow leopard range”.

Key findings:

More than 70 per cent habitat of the snow leopard, over 12 Asian countries, remains unresearched.

Nepal, India and China had conducted the most snow leopard research, followed by Mongolia and Pakistan. Despite a major research focus on snow leopard population assessments, less than three per cent of the big cat’s range had robust data on abundance. Globally, there could be as few as 4,000 snow leopards left in Asia’s high mountains and this remaining population faces continued and emerging threats.

Threats include: Increased habitat loss and degradation, poaching and conflict with communities.

Snow Leopard conservation in India:

India has been conserving snow leopard and its habitat through the Project Snow Leopard (PSL). India is also party to the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection (GSLEP) Programme since 2013. For conservation, India has identified three large landscapes, namely, Hemis-Spiti across Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh; Nanda Devi – Gangotri in Uttarakhand; and Khangchendzonga – Tawang across Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh. Project Snow Leopard (PSL) was launched in 2009 to promote an inclusive and participatory approach to conserve snow leopards and their habitat. Snow Leopard is in the list of 21 critically endangered species for the recovery programme of the Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change.

Protection:

Snow leopards are categorized as ‘Vulnerable’ by IUCN and in the Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972. They are listed in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) and the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), revealing the need for the highest conservation status to the species, both globally and in India.

2. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

In 2014, Palestine started its efforts to include itself in the United Nations as the member state.

3. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

China's State Council has made laws that bar from teaching foreign curriculum in schools from kindergarten to grade nine.

4. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

Iran has unveiled a new supercomputer named 'Simorgh', which is 100 times more powerful than previous supercomputer of the country till date.

5. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

International Museum Day is globally observed on May 18, annually. 2021 marks this international event's 44th year.

6. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

Six sites have been added to India's tentative list of UNESCO world heritage sites.

These include:

- Maratha military architecture in Maharashtra.
- Hire Benkal megalithic site in Karnataka.
- Bhedaghat-Lametaghat of Narmada Valley in Madhya Pradesh.
- Ganga ghats in Varanasi.
- temples of Kancheepuram.
- Satpura Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh.
- With the addition of these six sites, the UNESCO has 48 proposals in tentative list of India.

What Next?

These proposals will remain in the tentative list for a year after which the government will decide which one of them to push for in their final dossier to UNESCO.

What is a World Heritage site?

A World Heritage site is classified as a natural or man-made area or a structure that is of international importance, and a space which requires special protection. These sites are officially recognised by the UN and the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation, also known as UNESCO.

UNESCO believes that the sites classified as World Heritage are important for humanity, and they hold cultural and physical significance.

Key facts:

The list is maintained by the international World Heritage Programme administered by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, composed of 21 UNESCO member states which are elected by the General Assembly. Each World Heritage Site remains part of the legal territory of the state wherein the site is located and UNESCO considers it in the interest of the international community to preserve each site.

To be selected, a World Heritage Site must be an already classified landmark, unique in some respect as a geographically and historically identifiable place having special cultural or physical significance.

7. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The Central government has approved setting up 22 new All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) so far under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) out of which six are already fully functional.

About PMSSY:

PMSSY was announced in 2003 with objectives of correcting regional imbalances in the availability of affordable/ reliable tertiary healthcare services and also to augment facilities for quality medical education in the country. The PMSSY is implemented by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

It has two components:

Setting up new AIIMS (All India Institute of Medical Sciences).

Upgradation of government medical colleges in various states.

The project cost for upgradation of each medical college institution is shared by the Centre and the state.

8. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

NASA and European Space Agency's spacecraft has captured the first solar eruption on the Sun's surface. These eruptions are also known as coronal mass ejections (CME).

If these eruptions on the Sun's surface are big enough, they can cause billions of tons of plasma and electrically charged particles to dash towards Earth.

About NASA-ESA Solar Orbiter Spacecraft:

Solar Orbiter is a space mission of international collaboration between ESA (European Space Agency) and NASA.

The spacecraft was launched from Cape Canaveral on a United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket in February 2020.

It was selected as the first medium-class mission of ESA's Cosmic Vision 2015-2025 Programme.

This is the first mission that will provide images of the sun's north and south poles using a suite of six

instruments on board that will capture the spacecraft's view.

It is a seven-year mission and will come within 26 million miles of the sun.

It will be able to brave the heat of the sun because it has a custom titanium heat shield coated in calcium phosphate so that it can endure temperatures up to 970 degrees Fahrenheit.

Solar Orbiter follows the Ulysses spacecraft, another collaboration between ESA and NASA that launched in 1990.

Solar Orbiter will set about answering four top-level science questions:

What drives the solar wind and where does the coronal magnetic field originate from?

How do solar transients drive heliospheric variability?

How do solar eruptions produce energetic particle radiation that fills the heliosphere?

How does the solar dynamo work and drive connections between the Sun and the heliosphere?

9. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

GI-certified Dahanu Gholvad Chikoo from Maharashtra begins UK journey. GI certification of Gholvad Sapota is held by Maharashtra Rajya Chikoo Utpadak Sangh and the fruit is known for its sweet and unique taste. It is believed that the unique taste is derived from calcium-rich soil of Gholvad village. Sapota is grown in many states- Karnataka, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh. Karnataka is known to be the highest grower of the fruit, followed by Maharashtra.

10. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

Amid the increasing instances of mucormycosis or black fungus, which is primarily affecting people recovering from COVID-19, the Rajasthan government has declared it an epidemic and a notifiable disease. The declaration of mucormycosis as an epidemic would ensure its "integrated and coordinated" treatment along with the treatment for COVID-19. The notification was issued under the Rajasthan Epidemic Act, 2020.