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Daily current affairs (2025)

1.Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary is located in which state?

- [A] Kerala
- [B] Tamil Nadu
- [C] Maharashtra
- [D] Karnataka

Correct Answer: A [Kerala]

A four-day faunal survey at Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary enriched its biodiversity records. Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary is located in Kollam, Kerala, in the southern Western Ghats. It covers 172 sq. km and is part of the Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve. The terrain is mostly hilly with ravines, featuring rich biodiversity. The sanctuary's rivers, Shendurney, Kazhuthuruthy, and Kulathupuzha, merge to form the Kallada River. The sanctuary plays a key role in conserving the unique flora and fauna of the Western Ghats.

2.Which union ministry is associated with the nutrient-based subsidy (NBS) scheme?

- [A] Ministry of Science and Technology
- [B] Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
- [C] Ministry of Agriculture
- [D] Ministry of Rural Development

Correct Answer: B [Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers]

The Union Cabinet extended a one-time special package for Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) under the Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) scheme. DAP is the second most-used fertilizer in India after urea and is rich in nitrogen (N) and phosphorus (P). Phosphorus in DAP promotes root development and accelerates plant growth. It dissolves quickly in soil, releasing essential nutrients for plants. The NBS scheme provides subsidies based on nutrient content to ensure affordable fertilizers for farmers. The scheme promotes balanced fertilization, soil health, and sustainable agriculture. The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers oversees the NBS scheme.

3.Which state is the host of National SARAS mela 2025?

- [A] Karnataka
- [B] Kerala
- [C] Maharashtra
- [D] Gujarat

Correct Answer: B [Kerala]

The National Saras Mela will be held at Chengannur, Kerala, from January 20 to 31, at the Chengannur municipal stadium. Organized by the Kudumbashree Mission, it will promote rural products on a unified platform. The mela features 300 stalls from 28 States, including 200 from Kerala, showcasing handcrafted items, jewellery, textiles, and home decor. It provides self-help groups, neighborhood groups, and artisans a platform to reach urban markets.

4.What is “INS Surat” that was recently seen in news?

- [A] Fleet tanker
- [B] Kamorta-class corvettes

- [C] Nuclear powered aircraft carrier
- [D] Stealth Destroyer

Correct Answer: D [Stealth Destroyer]

On 15 January 2025, the Indian Navy will commission three major combatants: INS Nilgiri, INS Surat, and INS Vagsheer. INS Surat is the fourth and final ship of the Project-15B Vishakhapatnam Class stealth destroyer. It is designed by the Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau and built by Mazagaon Dock Limited. It has 72% indigenous content and is India's first AI-enabled warship. The ship has a displacement of 7,400 tons, is 163 meters long, and can reach speeds up to 60 km/h. It has a range of 15,000 km and is equipped with BrahMos missiles, Barak-8 missiles, and advanced anti-submarine weapons.

5. Scrub Typhus, that was recently seen in news, is caused by which agent?

- [A] Virus
- [B] Fungus
- [C] Bacteria
- [D] Protozoa

Correct Answer: C [Bacteria]

Scrub typhus cases have been reported in several districts including Chennai, Tiruvallur, and Vellore, with 5,000 cases in 2024. The disease is caused by the bacteria *Orientia tsutsugamushi* and transmitted through infected mites. Symptoms include fever, headache, body ache, and sometimes a rash. Severe cases can lead to respiratory distress, organ failure, and death. Factors like vector abundance, climate, farming, and sanitation impact its spread. The Elisa test is used for detection. Control measures include cold fogging, clearing bushes, and reducing rodent populations.

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