KNOWLEDGE DAILY

24-11-21

"Reading is the gateway skill that makes all other learning possible, from complex word problems and the meaning of our history to scientific discovery and technological proficiency." — Barack Obama

Amazon deforestation in Brazil hits worst levels in 15 years

As per a report by Brazil's space agency (INPE), the deforestation (cutting down of forests) of the Amazon rainforest in Brazil has hit its highest level in over 15 years. INPE (Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas Espaciais in the Portuguese language) is Brazil's National Institute for Space Research.

The Amazon is the world's largest rainforest and around 60% of it is located in Brazil. The forest is home to about three million species of plants and animals as well as one million indigenous (native) people. Moreover, it also plays an important role in providing oxygen to the world and fighting climate change.

The report found that that deforestation increased by 22% between last year and this year. Around 13,235 sq km of forest was lost to deforestation during the 2020-21 period. This is the highest amount since 2006.

COP26 pledge

This report has come after Brazil was one of the countries that promised to end deforestation at this year's COP26 climate summit in Glasgow. Replying to the report, Brazil's Environment Minister Joaquim Leite said "We have to be more forceful in relation to these crimes".

People are cutting down the forest to create farms and to mine for minerals. Moreover, deforestation of the Amazon has increased under Brazil's current President Jair Bolsonaro. So, he has faced criticism for not stopping it.

What are the longest-living animals on Earth?

Earth's longest-living animals

How old are you? And how long do you think your life span will be? Science says that the limit of the human lifespan is about 150 years. While this seems like quite a long time, this is very short to how long some animals live. And there is something common to them all – they are usually found in water.

So, here are some of the longest-living animals in the world. The Bowhead whale can live more than 200 years and are the world's longest-living mammal. According to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the oldest one found was 280 years old. Among the fearsome sharks, the Greenland shark can live more than 275 years.

Some scientists even think that they can live up to 500 years. Sea creatures called tubeworms which live in the cold deep-sea can live for more than 300 years. The quahog clam can live more than 500 years. One was found in 2006 to be 507 years old.

Longest-living animals

The above, as amazing as they are, could not compare to black corals and glass sponges (image above). They live for more than 4000 and 10,000 years, respectively. But the ultimate on this list is the Turritopsis dohrnii also known as the immortal jellyfish. "Immortal" means never dying. And as the name says, these jellyfish can potentially live forever.

Indore is India's cleanest city for the fifth year in a row

India's cleanest city

On 20 November, the central government announced the winners of the Swachh Survekshan Awards, 2021. Through these awards, the government recognises the cleanest cities, towns and states in the country. The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs conducts the survey for the awards.

For the fifth year in a row, Indore in Madhya Pradesh has won the award of "India's cleanest city". The second and third place went to Surat (Gujarat) and Vijayawada (Andhra Pradesh), respectively.Chhattisgarh also retained the first position in the state category

Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh are the second and third cleanest states in the country. This is for the states with more than 100 urban local bodies.

In the category of smaller states with less than 100 urban local bodies, Jharkhand has been ranked first, followed by Haryana and Goa.

Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh is the "cleanest Ganga town" while Bihar's Munger and Patna have been ranked second and third in the category.India's cleanest city Navi Mumbai won India's 'cleanest big city' (in the category of 10-40 lakh population).

Noida emerged as the country's "cleanest medium city" (with a population of 3-10 lakhs). For cities with less than one lakh population, Vita city in Maharashtra has been ranked at the top followed by Lonavala and Sasvad (both also in Maharashtra). This year, the ministry said that the nationwide cleanliness survey covered 4,320 cities in 28 days. And they asked over 4.2 core people. President Ram Nath Kovind presented the awards at a ceremony in Delhi.

DID YOU KNOW

- Madhya means "central" and Pradesh means "region" or "state".

- Currently, one bitcoin is worth about 44 lakh rupees.

- Scientists have discovered jellyfish fossil snapshots in rocks believed to be more than 500 million years old. That makes them even older than dinosaurs!

- In 2007, a man named Martin Strel swam the entire length of the Amazon river! He swam in the water for up to ten hours a day for 66 days to complete the journey!

Today's Word of the Day is "ubiquitous " and it's ADJECTIVE meaning present, appearing, or found everywhere.

Pronunciation: /juːˈbɪkwɪtəs

Usage IN SENTENCE: "his ubiquitous influence was felt by all the family"

SYNONYMS

omnipresent, ever-present, present everywhere, everywhere, all-over, all over the place, pervasive, all-pervasive, universal, worldwide, global
rife, prevalent, predominant, very common, popular, extensive, wide-ranging, far-reaching, inescapable

ANTONYMS: rare, scarce

Origin :Late 18th century from ubiquity + -ous.

Hindi Meaning

UBIQUITOUS= सर्वव्यापी [pr. {sarvavyapi}](Adjective)

Usage : In our new Bollywood movies, group dances have become ubiquitous but we miss the solo performances that used to be popular in earlier times.

उदाहरण : हमारी नई बॉलीवुड फिल्मों में सामूहिक नाच गाने सर्वव्यापी हो गए हैं लेकिन हम पुरानी फिल्मों के लोकप्रिय एकल प्रदर्शनों को काफी याद करते हैं।

ENGLISH CLUB

Phrasal Verb- pick out

Meaning: If you pick out something, you choose or select it.

Usage: We're painting the office, so look at this chart and pick out a colour you like.

Today's Idiom
off the top of your head

Meaning: If you give someone information off the top of your head, you do so from memory, without checking beforehand.

Usage: I can't tell you Maxine's phone number off the top of my head. I'll have to check.

Science News

Date: November 4, 2021
Source: Université de Genève

Securing data transfers with relativity
New way to secure data transfers based on the physical principle of relativity

To counter hacking, researchers have developed a new system based on the concept of 'zero-knowledge proofs', the security of which is based on the physical principle of relativity: information cannot travel faster than the speed of light. Thus, one of the fundamental principles of modern physics allows for secure data transfer.

Logical Reasoning

1. Look at this series: 7, 10, 8, 11, 9, 12, …
What number should come next?
 Options : A. 7 B. 10 C. 12 D. 13

Explanation:

Ans : B .This is a simple alternating addition and subtraction series. In the first pattern, 3 is added; in the second, 2 is subtracted.

2. It was Sunday on Jan 1, 2006.
What was the day of the week Jan 1, 2010?

A. Sunday B. Saturday C. Friday D. Wednesday
Explanation: Ans : C
On 31st December, 2005 it was Saturday.
Number of odd days from the year 2006 to the year 2009 = (1 + 1 + 2 + 1) = 5 days. On 31st December 2009, it was Thursday. Thus, on 1st Jan, 2010 it is Friday.