



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 08-05-2021

EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

Scientists have obtained new data about Venus by bouncing radio waves off Venus. The researchers transmitted radio waves toward Venus 21 times from 2006 to 2020 from NASA's Goldstone Antenna in the Mojave Desert of California and studied the radio echo, which provided information on certain planetary traits.

Latest findings:

The study measured the tilt of the Venusian axis and size of the planet's core. A single Venusian rotation takes 243.0226 Earth days. That means a day lasts longer than a year on Venus, which makes a complete orbit around the sun in 225 Earth days. The Venusian planetary core has a diameter of about 4,360 miles (7,000 km), comparable to Earth's core. The study calculated the Venusian tilt at about 2.64 degrees. Earth's is about 23.5 degrees.

About Venus:

Venus, the second planet from the sun, is similar in structure but slightly smaller than Earth. Above its foreboding landscape is a thick and toxic atmosphere that consists primarily of carbon dioxide, with clouds of sulfuric acid droplets. With a runaway greenhouse effect, its surface temperatures reach 880 degrees Fahrenheit (471 degrees Celsius), hot enough to melt lead. Venus is one of just two planets that rotate from east to west. Only Venus and Uranus have this "backwards" rotation. In another quirk, its day-night cycle – the time between sunrises as opposed to the length of a single axial spin – takes 117 Earth days because Venus rotates in the direction opposite of its orbital path around the sun.

2. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Saudi Arabia will join the United States, Canada, Norway, and Qatar in forming 'Net Zero Producers Forum' for oil and gas producers to discuss how they can support the implementation of the Paris Agreement on climate change.

3. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

SUTRA stands for Susceptible, Undetected, Tested (positive) and Removed Approach. National COVID 19 Supermodel Committee was formed by the Government of India to make projections about the spread

of COVID 19 in India and help in making short and long term plans to defend the country from the dangerous disease caused due to the virus. The committee, however, accepted that it was unable to predict the exact nature of the second Covid wave in the country.

4. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

Based on reports by CCMB-LaCONES, it has now been confirmed that eight Asiatic lions housed in Nehru Zoological Park (NZN), Hyderabad have tested positive for SARS-CoV2 virus.

Key takeaways:

LaCONES or Laboratory for the Conservation of Endangered Species, is a Council of Scientific and Industrial Research lab located in Hyderabad. It is a part of CCMB (centre for cellular and molecular biology). It was conceptualised by Lalji Singh. It is India's only research facility engaged in conservation and preservation of wildlife and its resources. This lab strives to promote excellence in conservation biotechnology and serve for conservation of endangered wildlife in India. It was established in 1998 with the help of Central Zoo Authority of India, CSIR and the government of Andhra Pradesh. It was dedicated to the nation in 2007 by then President of India APJ Abdul Kalam.

Asiatic Lion

It is a Panthera leo population in India.

Its current range is restricted to the Gir National Park and environs in the Indian state of Gujarat.

It is one of five pantherine cats inhabiting India. Others are:

- Bengal tiger
- Indian leopard
- Snow leopard
- Clouded leopard

It is also known as the "Indian lion" and the "Persian lion".

Status:

- Listed in Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972
- Appendix I of CITES
- Endangered on IUCN Red List.
- It is slightly smaller than African lions.
- The most striking morphological character is a longitudinal fold of skin running along the belly of Asiatic Lions.

5. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs and Asian Development Bank's (ADB) Governor for

India Nirmala Sitharaman participated in the Governor's Seminar on "Cooperation for a Resilient Future", held as part of ADB's annual meeting 2021. Asian Development Bank (ADB) It was conceived in the early 1960s when a resolution was passed at the first Ministerial Conference on Asian Economic Cooperation held by the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East in 1963. The institution was opened in 1966 at Manila, Philippines with 31 initial members. Headquarters: Manila, Philippines Members: It has 67 members—of which 48 are from within Asia and the Pacific and 19 outside. India is one of the founding members. Objective: A financial institution that would be Asian in character and foster economic growth and cooperation in one of the poorest regions in the world. ADB provides loans, technical assistance and grants. Working: The ADB was modelled closely on the World Bank, and has a similar weighted voting system where votes are distributed in proportion with members' capital subscriptions. As of 31 December 2016, Japan and USA hold the largest proportion of shares (15.607%), China holds 6.444%, India holds 6.331%, and Australia holds 5.786% ADB is an official United Nations Observer.

6. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has refused to ban cryptocurrency transactions. Further, it has put the onus on banks whether to ban transactions of cryptocurrency trades or not. It told banks to take a decision based on the advice of their legal and compliance departments. What is NPCI?

The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) serves as an umbrella body for the operation of retail payment in India. This organization was established by the Reserve Bank of India along with the Indian Bank's Association under the provisions of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007. Presently, NPCI is promoted by ten major promoter banks. NPCI can operate the following payment systems:

National Financial Switch (NFS).

Immediate Payment System (IMPS).

Affiliation of RuPay Cards (debit cards/ prepaid cards) issued by banks and co-branded credit cards issued by non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) or any other entity approved by the RBI.

National Automatic Clearing House (ACH).

Aadhaar Enabled Payments System (AEPS).

Operation of Cheque Truncation System.

Products of NPCI:

- RuPay.
- National Common Mobility Card.
- Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM).
- Unified Payments Interface (UPI).
- Bharat Bill Payment System.

7. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

The United States has announced support for waiving intellectual property protection for Covid-19 vaccines, saying extraordinary circumstances call for extraordinary measures. The US will pursue “text-based negotiations” on the waiver at the World Trade Organization (WTO). What are Text-based negotiations? They involve negotiators exchanging texts with their preferred wording and then thrashing out a consensus on the working — a fairly long-drawn affair. What are patents and IP rights? A patent represents a powerful intellectual property right, and is an exclusive monopoly granted by a government to an inventor for a limited, pre-specified time. It provides an enforceable legal right to prevent others from copying the invention. Patents can be either process patents or product patents: A product patent ensures that the rights to the final product is protected, and anyone other than the patent holder can be restrained from manufacturing it during a specified period, even if they were to use a different process. A process patent enables any person other than the patent holder to manufacture the patented product by modifying certain processes in the manufacturing exercise.

8. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

- It is Afghanistan’s second-biggest dam.
- The Taliban has captured it after months of fierce fighting.
- It is located in Kandahar Province in Afghanistan.
- The Dahla Dam is built on the Arghandab River.

9. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

USA will support an initiative at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) to waive Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) protection for COVID-19 vaccines. The Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) It is an international legal agreement between all the member nations of the World Trade Organization (WTO). It establishes minimum standards for the regulation by national governments of different forms of intellectual property (IP) as applied to nationals of other WTO member nations. TRIPS was negotiated at the end of the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) between 1989 and 1990 and is administered by the WTO.

10. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

India is home to 38 UNESCO World Heritage Sites, out of the 1121 such spots identified around the

world. So far, only China, Italy, Spain, Germany, and France have more locations on the list than India. ICOMOS in 1982 had decided to celebrate April 18 as the International Day for Monuments and Sites or World Heritage Day. Approved by UNESCO in 1983 during its 22nd General Conference, the day is dedicated to recognising sites of historical importance, raising awareness regarding them, and stressing the need to restore and preserve them. Currently, there are 38 World Heritage Sites located in India. Of these, 30 are 'cultural', such as the Ajanta Caves, Fatehpur Sikri, Hampi monuments and the Mountain Railways of India, and 7 are 'Natural', including Kaziranga, Manas and Nanda Devi National Parks. One is classified as 'Mixed', the Khangchendzonga National Park. In 2019, 'Jaipur City' became the 38th addition to the India list under Culture.