



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 15-02-2021

EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

The United States has extended the "New START" nuclear disarmament treaty with Russia for a period of five years. New START has replaced the 1991 START I treaty, which expired December 2009, and superseded the 2002 Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty (SORT), which terminated when New START entered into force. It is a successor to the START framework of 1991 (at the end of the Cold War) that limited both sides to 1,600 strategic delivery vehicles and 6,000 warheads. It continues the bipartisan process of verifiably reducing the USA and Russian strategic nuclear arsenals by limiting both sides to 700 strategic launchers and 1,550 operational warheads.

2. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

It is an exhibition of handicrafts and traditional products made by artisans from the minority communities. These are organised by the Ministry of Minority Affairs under USTTAD (Upgrading the Skills & Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development) scheme. It aims to provide market exposure and employment opportunities to artisans, craftsmen and traditional culinary experts.

3. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

It is China's first Mars mission Tianwen-1 is an all-in-one orbiter, lander and rover. It will search the Martian surface for water, ice, investigate soil characteristics, and study the atmosphere. The Tianwen-1 mission will lift off on a Long March 5 rocket. If the mission is successful, China will become the third country to achieve a Mars landing after the USSR and the United States. Around the same time in July, NASA will also launch its own Mars mission- 'Perseverance'. It aims to collect Martian samples and bring them back to Earth in a two-part campaign.

4. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Mizoram's Dampa reserve, West Bengal's Buxa reserve and Jharkhand's Palamau reserve are the three reserves with no tigers.

5. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

Owing to the large rice production area of the country, preferential soil, and climate conditions, India is the largest rice producing country in the world after China. Rice contributes more than 40 per cent of the country's total food grain production. According to the data released by the government of India, the total rice production in India stands at 104.32 million for the year 2015-2016. State-wise rice production in India can be accessed from the website of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. Rice is mainly produced in the regions, such as West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Andhra Pradesh.

6. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

The three-day famous "Mandu Festival" began at the historic town of Mandu in Dhar district of Madhya Pradesh from February 13, 2021. The festival will culminate on February 15, 2021. The festival is organised by the state government of Madhya Pradesh to showcase each and every aspect of the ancient Mandu city, ranging from food, music, history & heritage, art & craft etc.

7. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC) has launched a Seaweed Mission.

Objective: Commercial farming of seaweeds and its processing for value addition towards boosting national economy. The Mission shall undertake following activities:

Establishing model demonstration farms over one hectare for cultivation of economically important seaweeds in nearshore and onshore along the Indian coasts. Establishment of seaweed nurseries for supplying seed material for large scale farming Onshore cultivation for (i) Seedling supply facility (ii) Seaweed cultivation for processing Setting up of processing plant for production of plant growth stimulants (sap) and industrially important cell wall polysaccharides such as agar, agarose, carrageenan and alginates from fresh seaweeds

Advantages of the Mission:

By an estimate, if cultivation is done in 5% of the EEZ area of India, it can: (1) provide employment to ~ 50 million people; (2) set up new seaweed industry; (3) contribute to national GDP; (4) increase ocean productivity; (5) reduce algal blooms, (6) increase Carbon sequestration; (7) provide bio-ethanol of 6.6 billion litres. Do you know? Out of the global seaweed production of around 32 million tons, fresh

weight is valued around 12 billion USD. China produces ~57 %, Indonesia ~28%, whereas India is having a mere share of ~0.01-0.02%.

8. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and Australia's national science agency (CSIRO) kick started the India-Australia Circular Economy (I-ACE) Hackathon, 2021. Goal: To enable talented innovative students and start-ups from Australia and India to address common national issues through innovative technology solutions. A 'circular economy' model employs waste management and focuses on reusing, recycling and responsible manufacture. It can support the development of new industries and jobs, reducing emissions and increasing efficient use of natural resources.

9. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

For the first time, Tholpavakkoothu, the famous shadow leather puppets will tell stories of the epic Ramayana with the help of robots. Tholpavakoothu is a form of shadow puppetry. Practiced in: Kerala, India. It is performed using leather puppets as a ritual dedicated to Bhadrakali. It is performed in Devi temples in specially built theatres called koothumadams. It is believed to have originated in the ninth century AD. It uses Kamba Ramayana as its basic text.

10. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

Rescue operations resumed at the NTPC's Tapovan hydel project tunnel where many workers are trapped after a snow avalanche triggered flash floods. It is being constructed on Dhauliganga River in Chamoli District, Uttarakhand. The plant is expected to generate over 2.5 TWh of electricity annually.