



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 17-02-2021

EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

In the landlord port model, the publicly governed port authority acts as a regulatory body and as landlord while private companies carry out port operations—mainly cargo-handling activities. Here, the port authority maintains ownership of the port while the infrastructure is leased to private firms that provide and maintain their own superstructure and install own equipment to handle cargo. In return, the landlord port gets a share of the revenue from the private entity. The role of the landlord port authority would be to carry out all public sector services and operations such as the award of bids for cargo terminals and dredging. India's has acceded to the Hong Kong Convention on Hong Kong International Convention for Ship Recycling, which will help in providing boost to the ship- recycling industry in India. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) adopted the Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships in 2009. This is aimed at ensuring that ships being recycled after reaching the end of their operational lives do not pose any unnecessary risks to human health, safety and the environment.

2. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Under article 297 of the Constitution, all lands, minerals and other things of value underlying the ocean within the territorial waters or the continental shelf of India vest in the Union to be held for the purposes of the Union. India has sovereign rights over the resources of the exclusive economic zone and is entitled to exercise jurisdiction in respect of certain other matters.

3. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

Bhimbetka Rock shelters The Bhimbetka rock shelters are an archaeological site in central India that spans the prehistoric Palaeolithic and Mesolithic periods, as well as the historic period. It exhibits the earliest traces of human life in India and evidence of Stone Age starting at the site in Acheulian times.

It is located in Madhya Pradesh. It is inside the Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary, embedded in sandstone rocks, in the foothills of the Vindhya Range. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site that consists of seven hills and over 750 rock shelters distributed over 10 km (6.2 mi). At least some of the shelters were inhabited more than 100,000 years ago. The rock shelters and caves provide evidence of a “rare glimpse”

into human settlement and cultural evolution from hunter-gatherers, to agriculture, and expressions of prehistoric spirituality. Some of the Bhimbetka rock shelters feature prehistoric cave paintings and the earliest are about 10,000 years old (c. 8,000 BCE), corresponding to the Indian Mesolithic. These cave paintings show themes such as animals, early evidence of dance and hunting. The Bhimbetka site has the oldest-known rock art in India, as well as is one of the largest prehistoric complexes.

4. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

Sittwe –Kaladan Project:

The project was jointly initiated by India and Myanmar to create a multi-modal platform for cargo shipments from the eastern ports to Myanmar and to the North-eastern parts of the country through Myanmar. The Kaladan Road Project is a US\$484 million project connecting the eastern Indian seaport of Kolkata with Sittwe seaport in Rakhine State, Myanmar by sea. In Myanmar, it will then link Sittwe seaport to Paletwa in Chin State via the Kaladan river boat route, and then from Paletwa by road to Mizoram state in Northeast India. This project will reduce distance from Kolkata to Sittwe by approximately 1328 km and will reduce the need to transport good through the narrow Siliguri corridor.

5. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

India and Afghanistan on February 9 this year, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the construction of the Lalandar (Shatoot) Dam in Kabul.

6. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

The People's Republic of China has overtaken the United States (US) as the biggest trading partner of the European Union (EU) in 2020, according to the data by the European Union statistics agency, Eurostat. Britain, which left the European Union in 2020, was the third-largest trading partner for the bloc, behind China and the United States.

7. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

February 10 is a designated global event to recognize and emphasize the importance of pulses and legumes as a global food. The UN General Assembly adopted 2016 as the International Year of Pulses (IYP). World Pulses Day 2021 Theme: #LovePulses. Background: Burkina Faso (a landlocked country in West Africa) proposed the observance of World Pulses Day. In 2019, the General Assembly announced February 10 as the World Pulses Day. Key Points: India is the biggest producer and consumer of pulses in

the world and it has almost achieved self-sufficiency in pulses. India accounted for 62% of world's total pulses production in 2019-20. In the last five-six years, India has increased pulses production from 140 lakh tonnes to more than 240 lakh tonnes.

8. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The scheme is being implemented in 32 States and UTs. About the Scheme: Launched by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare on December 5, 2015. Under the scheme, village level Soil Testing Labs will be set up by youth having education in agriculture, Women Self Help Groups, FPOs etc. The scheme also focuses on enabling employment generation after appropriate skill development. What is the Soil Health Card (SHC)? SHC is a printed report that a farmer will be handed over for each of his holdings. Soil Health Card provides two sets of fertilizer recommendations for six crops including recommendations of organic manures. It will contain the status of his soil with respect to 12 parameters, namely: pH, Electrical Conductivity (EC), Organic Carbon (OC), Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P), Potassium (K), Sulphur (S), Zinc (Zn), Boron (B), Iron (Fe), Manganese (Mn), Copper (Cu) of farm holdings. Objectives of SHC:

A SHC is meant to give each farmer soil nutrient status of his/her holding. Advise him / her on the dosage of fertilizers and also the needed soil amendments that s/he should apply to maintain soil health in the long run.

Significance of SHC:

The scheme provides for the analysis of soil composition by the State Governments once in every two years so that remedial steps can be taken to improve soil nutrients. While the Soil Health Management Scheme has turned out to be a blessing for the farmers, it is also creating jobs for the agrarian youth.

9. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The Department of Space (DoS), under which ISRO comes, has signed an MoU with geospatial technology company CE Info Systems Pvt Ltd. The collaboration will enable them to jointly identify and build a holistic geospatial portal utilising earth observation datasets, 'NavIC', Web Services and APIs (application programming interface) available in MapmyIndia. The geospatial portals will be called 'Bhuvan', 'VEDAS' and 'MOSDAC'.

Key facts:

Bhuvan is the national geo-portal developed and hosted by ISRO comprising geospatial data, services, and tools for analysis. VEDAS (Visualisation of Earth observation Data and Archival System) is an online geoprocessing platform that uses optical, microwave, thermal, and hyperspectral EO data covering applications particularly meant for academia, research and problem solving. MOSDAC (Meteorological

and Oceanographic Satellite Data Archival Centre) is a data repository for all the meteorological missions of ISRO and deals with weather-related information, oceanography, and tropical water cycles. What is NAVIC? Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC) is an independent regional navigation satellite system designed to provide position information in the Indian region and 1500 km around the Indian mainland.

10. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Indian Prime Minister inaugurated various projects in Kochi, Kerala recently. Sagarika, the International Cruise Terminal in Kochi was inaugurated. It is India's first full-fledged international cruise terminal. Inauguration of the Marine Engineering Training Institute of Cochin Shipyard Ltd. will help those wanting to study marine engineering. South Coal Berth would bring down logistics costs and improve cargo capacities. Propylene Derivative Petrochemical Project (PDPP) will help strengthen India's journey towards being Aatmanirbhar as it will save foreign exchange. With Ro-Ro Vessels, a distance of almost 30 km on road will become 3.5 km through waterways leading to less congestion and more convenience, commerce and capacity-building.