



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 23-04-2021

EXPLANATION

1. .Ans) (b)

Explanation:

Minister of Commerce & Industry chaired the first meeting of National Startup Advisory Council (NSAC). National Startup Advisory Council Constituted by: Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) Objective: To advise the Government on measures needed to build a strong ecosystem for nurturing innovation and startups in the country to drive sustainable economic growth and generate large scale employment opportunities. The council has representations from various stakeholders such as founders of successful startups, veterans who have grown and scaled companies in India, persons capable of representing interest of investors into startups, and representatives from industry associations. Composition of the Council Chairman: Minister for Commerce & Industry. Convener of the Council: Joint Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade. Ex-officio Members: Nominees of the concerned Ministries/Departments/Organisations not below the rank of Joint Secretary.

Non-official members, to be nominated by the Central Government, from various categories like founders of successful startups, veterans who have grown and scaled companies in India, persons capable of representing the interests of investors into startups, etc. The term of the non-official members will be for a period of two years.

2. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

The Indian programme to study the Sun and the region between the Sun and the Earth from space – Aditya-L1 – is due to be launched next year. It will carry seven payloads which have been developed by various institutions across the country. Once the mission is launched, there will be a need for a ground support centre to monitor and coordinate the work on its various payloads. This role will be played by the ARIES facility (short for Aryabhata Research Institute for observational Sciences), situated near Nainital. The Aditya-L1 Support Centre (ASC) will provide training through regular workshops for the guest users. Apart from this, it will provide ready-to-use Python and Java apps for the satellite data and demos and handouts to facilitate the guest users.

3. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

ROPAX Jetty Project to come up on river Dhamra in Odisha. It will reduce the travel time from 6 hours to just 1 hour, facilitate the safe movement of passengers and vehicles, and will uplift the socio-economic status of the locals.

4. Ans) (a)

Explanation: Ministry of Rural Development launched the Gender Samvaad event to generate greater awareness on gender-related interventions under DAY-NRLM across the country and best practices, with a focus on hearing voices from the states and the field. It is a joint attempt between DAY-NRLM and the Initiative for What Works to Advance Women and Girls in the Economy (IWWAGE) to create a common platform to share experiences emerging from this effort.

5. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

The index is published every year by the international journalism not-for profit body, “Reporters Without Borders (RSF)”, to evaluate the press freedom situation in 180 countries and territories. India has been placed at 142nd position among 180 countries in the latest World Press Freedom Index 2021, released on April 20, 2021. India was at 142nd position in 2020 as well. Norway has retained its top spot for the fifth year running, followed by Finland and Denmark at second and third place respectively.

6. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

The Tiki Formation in Madhya Pradesh, a treasure trove of vertebrate fossils, has now yielded a new species and two genera of cynodonts, small rat-like animals that lived about 220 million years ago. Researchers from the IIT Kharagpur, used scanning electron microscopy to study about 10 teeth samples collected from Shahdol District, Madhya Pradesh. The results showed that they had found a new species, and they named it Rewaconodon indicus, indicating India, the country it was discovered from. The team also identified two new genera from the area. The first was named Inditherium floris, after India and the Latin word therium meaning beast. As the teeth had a flower-shaped crown, it earned the species name floris. The second was named Tikiodon cromptoni, after Tiki Formation and Greek word odon meaning tooth. The species name is after paleontologist A.W. Crompton. The Tiki Formation is a Late Triassic (Carnian to Norian) geologic formation in Madhya Pradesh.

7. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The Gāyatrī Mantra is also known as the Sāvitrī Mantra. It is a highly revered mantra from the Rig Veda, dedicated to Savitr also known as Vedmata. Maharshi Vishvamitra had created the Gayatri mantra. The mantra is an important part of the upanayana ceremony for young males in Hinduism, and

has long been recited by dvija men as part of their daily rituals. Modern Hindu reform movements spread the practice of the mantra to include women and all castes and its use is now very widespread. The Department of Science and Technology (DST) has funded a clinical trial at the AIIMS, Rishikesh, to determine if the chanting of the Gayatri Mantra and performing pranayama can aid the quality of recovery and cure COVID-19 quicker in a subset of patients.

8. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Meghalaya has yielded India's first bamboo-dwelling bat with sticky discs. The count of the bats in India has reached now to 130. The disc-footed bat (*Eudiscopus denticulus*) was recorded near the Nongkhylllem Wildlife Sanctuary. The extent of adaptation for bamboo habitat in this species is not seen in the others. The flattened skull and sticky pads enabled the bats to roost inside cramped spaces, clinging to smooth surfaces such as bamboo internodes. The disc-footed bat was also found to be genetically very different from all other known bats bearing disc-like pads. Scientists analysed the very high frequency echolocation calls of the disc-footed bat, which was suitable for orientation in a cluttered environment such as inside bamboo groves. It has raised Meghalaya's bat count to 66, the most for any State in India. It has also helped add a genus and species to the bat fauna of India.

9. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

Ministry of Tourism had recently organised webinar on "Khajuraho – Temples of Architectural Splendour" under Dekho Apna Desh. Dekho Apna Desh Webinar Series is an effort to showcase India's rich diversity under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat. About Khajuraho Temples:

Khajuraho Temples (in Madhya Pradesh) are among the most beautiful medieval monuments in the country. Built between 950-1050 AD by the Chandela Dynasty. The monuments include Hindu and Jain temples. The temple site is situated within Vindhya Mountain range. These Temples got the status of UNESCO's World Heritage Sites in 1986. The temples are famous for their Nagara-style architectural symbolism. Reported for the first time by Abu Rihan al Biruni in AD 1022 and the Arab traveller Ibn Battuta in AD 1335.

10. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

The RBI has set up a committee headed by Sudarshan Sen to undertake a comprehensive review of the working of asset reconstruction companies (ARCs) in the financial sector ecosystem and recommend suitable measures for enabling them to meet the growing requirements.

Terms of reference:

To review the existing legal and regulatory framework applicable to ARCs and recommend measures to improve efficacy of ARCs. To review the role of ARCs in the resolution of stressed assets, including under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), and give suggestions for improving liquidity in and trading of security receipts. What is an Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC)? It is a specialized financial institution that buys the Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) from banks and financial institutions so that they can clean up their balance sheets. This helps banks to concentrate in normal banking activities. Banks rather than going after the defaulters by wasting their time and effort, can sell the bad assets to the ARCs at a mutually agreed value. The asset reconstruction companies or ARCs are registered under the RBI.