



# EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 24-04-2021

### EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

Philippine is planning to deploy military ships to the South China Sea to assert the country's claim over oil deposits in a contested part of the waterway. Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has been facing growing domestic criticism for his reluctance to confront China over its activities in Philippine-claimed waters. Where is the South China Sea? South China Sea is an arm of western Pacific Ocean in Southeast Asia. It is south of China, east & south of Vietnam, west of the Philippines and north of the island of Borneo. It is connected by Taiwan Strait with the East China Sea and by Luzon Strait with the Philippine Sea. Bordering states & territories: the People's Republic of China, the Republic of China (Taiwan), the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei, Indonesia, Singapore and Vietnam. Contesting Claims Over Islands: The Paracel Islands are claimed by China, Taiwan and Vietnam. The Spratly Islands are claimed by China, Taiwan, Vietnam, Brunei and Philippines. The Scarborough Shoal is claimed by Philippines, China and Taiwan. Since 2010, China has been converting uninhabited islets into artificial islets to bring it under UNCLOS (For example, Haven Reef, Johnson South Reef and Fiery Cross Reef).

2. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The opening ceremony of the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2021 was held in Boao, south China's Hainan Province. This year's conference was attended by more than 2,600 guests from over 60 countries and regions. Theme: "A World in Change: Join Hands to Strengthen Global Governance and Advance Belt and Road Cooperation."

Key findings :

In terms of purchasing power parity, Asia's share in the global economic aggregate in 2020 reached 47.3 percent, up 0.9 percentage points from 2019, indicating the increasing role of Asia in the global economy. The economic integration of all Asian economies is accelerating. By February 2021, there had been 186 regional trade agreements in force inside and outside Asia, accounting for 54.9 percent of the total regional agreements around the world. In particular, the signing of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (RCEP) in November 2020 has been injecting strong momentum into regional and global economic growth, which is expected to give renewed impetus to further accelerate the negotiation of free trade agreements in Asia.

About the Bao Forum:

The Boao Forum for Asia was initiated in 2001 by 25 Asian countries and Australia (increased to 28 in 2006). It is a non-profit organisation. It has provided a high-end platform for political, business and academic leaders in Asia and the world. It is modelled on the World Economic Forum held annually in Davos, Switzerland. The Forum is committed to promoting regional economic integration and bringing Asian countries even closer to their development goals. It has made positive contributions to the promotion of regional economic integration, common development and the building of a more prosperous and harmonious Asia.

3. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

Russia's space agency is planning to launch its own orbital station in 2025.

Background:

Russia is considering withdrawing from the International Space Station programme to go it alone. Russia lost its monopoly for manned flights to the ISS last year after the first successful mission of U.S. company Space X.

About the International Space Station:

Launched in 1998 and involving Russia, the United States, Canada, Japan, and the European Space Agency, the ISS is one of the most ambitious international collaborations in human history. ISS is a modular space station (habitable artificial satellite) in low Earth orbit. The ISS serves as a microgravity and space environment research laboratory in which scientific experiments are conducted in astrobiology, astronomy, meteorology, physics, and other fields. The ISS circles the Earth in roughly 93 minutes, completing 15.5 orbits per day. ISS is the ninth space station to be inhabited by crews, following the Soviet and later Russian Salyut, Almaz, and Mir stations as well as Skylab from the US.

4. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

The Council of the European Union is the third of the seven Institutions of the European Union (EU) as listed in the Treaty on European Union. It is one of three legislative bodies and together with the European Parliament serves to amend and approve the proposals of the European Commission, which holds legislative initiative. It was founded on 1 July 1967. The primary purpose of the Council is to act as one of two vetoing bodies of the EU's legislative branch, the other being the European Parliament. Together they serve to amend, approve or disapprove the proposals of the European Commission, which has the sole power to propose laws. Jointly with the Parliament, the Council holds the budgetary power of the Union.

5. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

Earth Day is observed on 22nd April every year. The theme of Earth Day 2021 is 'Restore Our Earth'. Earth Day commenced on April 22, 1970 and today more than 1 billion people in 192 countries of the world celebrate it.

6. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

US Space agency NASA successfully flew its tiny robotic helicopter 'Ingenuity' on Mars on April 19, 2021, becoming the first human-made machine to take flight on another planet. Ingenuity Mars Helicopter successfully completed the first powered controlled flight by an aircraft on any planet besides Earth on 19 April 2021, taking off vertically, hovering and landing.

7. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

The Cholistan Desert, also locally known as Rohi, is a large desert in the southern part of Punjab, Pakistan. It forms part of the Greater Thar Desert, which extends to Sindh province and Rajasthan. It is one of two large deserts in Punjab, the other being Thal Desert. Derawar Fort is located in the Cholistan Desert.

8. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS) was recently launched. Ministry: Ministry of Commerce and Industry Aim: To provide financial assistance to startups for proof of concept, prototype development, product trials, market entry and commercialization. An amount of 945 crore rupees corpus will be divided over the next 4 years for providing seed funding to eligible startups through eligible incubators across India. The scheme is expected to support an estimated 3,600 startups through 300 incubators. The SISFS will Secure seed funding, Inspire innovation, Support transformative ideas, Facilitate implementation, and Start startup revolution. This Scheme will create a robust startup ecosystem, particularly in Tier 2 and Tier 3 towns of India, which are often deprived of adequate funding.

9. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Indian Naval Air Squadron (INAS) 323, the first unit of the indigenously built ALH Mk III aircraft, was commissioned into the Indian Navy. The squadron will operate three state-of-the-art ALH Mk III. It is a multirole helicopter with Shakti engine manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). The Mk III version of the ALH has an all glass cockpit and will be used for Search and Rescue, Special

Operations and Coastal Surveillance.

10. Ans) (d)