



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 27-04-2021

EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The session was recently inaugurated by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

CCSCH has been established under Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC). About the Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH):

Formed in 2013.

Its main function is to elaborate worldwide standards for spices and culinary herbs in their dried and dehydrated state in whole, ground, and cracked or crushed form. It will also consult, as necessary, with other international organizations in the standards development process to avoid duplication. India is the host country and Spices Board (Ministry of Commerce and Industry) is the Secretariat for organising the sessions of the committee. About the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC):

It is an intergovernmental body established jointly by the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the World Health Organisation (WHO) in 1963, within the framework of the Joint Food Standards Programme. The Secretariat of the CAC is hosted at FAO headquarters in Rome. It was established to protect the health of consumers and ensure fair practices in the food trade. It meets in regular session once a year alternating between Geneva and Rome. Currently, it has 189 Codex Members. Codex Alimentarius:

It is a collection of international food standards that have been adopted by the CAC. The Standards cover all the main foods, whether processed, semi-processed or raw, materials used in the further processing of food products. Codex provisions concern the hygienic and nutritional quality of food, including microbiological norms, food additives, pesticide and veterinary drug residues.

2. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

A device aboard the rover was able to produce oxygen from the thin Martian atmosphere for the first time. It promises hope for future crewed missions that can rely on this technology for astronauts to breathe and return to Earth.

Composition of Martian Atmosphere:

On Mars, carbon dioxide makes up ~96% of the gas in the planet's atmosphere. Oxygen is only 0.13%, compared to 21% in Earth's atmosphere.

How did Perseverance produce oxygen on Mars?

The Mars Oxygen In-Situ Resource Utilization Experiment (MOXIE) produced 5 grams of oxygen from carbon dioxide in the Martian atmosphere, enough for an astronaut to breathe for 10 minutes. Like a tree on Earth, MOXIE inhales carbon dioxide and exhales oxygen. To produce oxygen, MOXIE separates oxygen atoms from carbon dioxide molecules. It does so by using heat at a temperature of around 800 degrees Celsius. In the process, it also produces carbon monoxide as a waste product, which it releases in the Martian atmosphere. Why is producing oxygen on the Red Planet so important?

Oxygen supply on Mars is essential for crewed missions to Mars— not just for astronauts to breathe but for rockets to use as fuel while coming back to Earth. As per NASA, for four astronauts to take off from Mars, a future mission would require around 7 metric tons of rocket fuel and 25 metric tons of oxygen— around the weight of an entire space shuttle. In contrast, astronauts living and working on Mars would require far less oxygen to breathe, maybe around one metric ton. Thus, it will be an enormous challenge to haul the 25 metric tons of oxygen from Earth to Mars for the return journey, and that their job would become significantly easier if the liquified oxygen can be produced on the Red Planet.

3. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

It is observed on April 22 every year. The year 2021 marks the 51st anniversary of the annual celebrations. This year's theme for Earth Day is 'Restore Our Earth'. About the Earth Day:

First observed in 1970. The event was triggered by the 1969 Santa Barbara oil spill, as well as other issues such as smog and polluted rivers. In 2009, the United Nations designated 22nd April as 'International Mother Earth Day'. Earth Day is now globally coordinated by ORG, which is a non profit organisation. The Paris Agreement was also signed on Earth Day 2016.

4. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The Delhi High Court has dismissed plea of instant messaging app WhatsApp challenging a decision of the Competition Commission of India (CCI) calling for an investigation into its controversial new privacy policy.

What's the issue?

WhatsApp had contended that since the issue of its privacy policy was before the Supreme Court, the CCI did not need to order the probe. Facebook, which owns Whatsapp, had also filed a similar petition challenging decision.

What has the CCI said?

The CCI had argued the probe order was made to gauge whether access to data would lead to abuse of dominant position. The commission had said it was dealing with Whatsapp's new privacy policy that could lead to "excessive data collection" of consumers, the use and sharing of the data in anti-competitive

context.

Key Features of the Privacy Policy:

Information Sharing with Third Party Services: When users rely on third-party services or other Facebook Company Products that are integrated with our Services, those third-party services may receive information about what you or others share with them. **Hardware Information:** WhatsApp collects information from devices such as battery level, signal strength, app version, browser information, mobile network, connection information (including phone number, mobile operator or ISP) among others. **Deleting the Account:** If someone only deletes the WhatsApp app from their device without using the in-app delete my account feature, then that user's information will remain stored with the platform. **Data Storage:** WhatsApp mentions that it uses Facebook's global infrastructure and data centers including those in the United States to store user data. It also states that the data in some cases will be transferred to the United States or other parts where Facebook's affiliate companies are based. **Location:** Even if a user does not use their location-relation features, Whatsapp collects IP addresses and other information like phone number area codes to estimate your general location (city, country). **Payment Services:** WhatsApp says that if anyone uses their payments services they will process additional information about you, including payment account and transaction information.

5. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

It is an Indonesian submarine which went missing recently. The submarine was reportedly exercising in a location 25 miles north of Bali. The Indian Navy has dispatched its deep submergence rescue vessel (DSRV) from Visakhapatnam to support the Indonesian Navy in the search and rescue efforts.

6. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

The Indian and French Navy bilateral exercise 'VARUNA-2021' will be conducted in the Arabian Sea.

7. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

About vivad se vishwas scheme:

1.Simple and speedy resolution of pending tax disputes related to direct taxes such as corporate tax and income tax is offered in this bill. 2.Presently in the courts, there is 4.83 lakh pending direct tax cases worth Rs.9 lakh crore which the Government wants to recover swiftly through this income tax Vivad se Vishwas scheme. 3.One of the main objectives behind this bill was to address the revenue shortfall the government is witnessing. The government received lower than the budget target direct tax collection in September 2019 as one of the effects of the economic slowdown.

8. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the distribution of e-property cards under the SWAMITVA scheme through video conferencing. The scheme has been extended to all states. Earlier, it was launched only for 9 states.

9. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

Russian Space Agency 'Roscosmos' is all set with its mission to launch its spacecraft 'Luna 25' on October 1, 2021, towards the icy South pole of the Moon. After 45 years since their last landing on the Moon, Russian scientists are taking up the project to study the water beneath the surface at the South pole of the Moon.

10. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

IIT, Delhi said that the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has announced that it will support eight joint research projects mooted by the Space Technology Cell (STC), IIT-Delhi. The ISRO will support the projects under its RESPOND programme with varying duration of 1-3 years. STC was set up at IIT, Delhi under an MoU signed between the ISRO and IIT-D in November 2019. Aim of STC: To strengthen the research collaboration between the two organisations and to carry out focused research projects in the space technology domain with specific deliverables. Since then, eight collaborative research projects have been announced. Some of the projects include developing a system for drought and flood forecasting and understanding land-atmosphere interactions. Main objectives of the RESPOND Programme: To establish strong links with premiere academic institutions in India to carry out research and developmental projects which are of relevance to Space and derive useful outputs of such R&D to support ISRO programmes.