



# EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 21-10-2020

### EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

14 States have shown reduction in the Soil-Transmitted Helminthiases (STH) and 9 states have shown substantial reduction in STH follow up prevalence survey. Soil-Transmitted Helminthiases (STH), also known as parasitic intestinal worm infection, is known to have detrimental effects on children's physical growth and well-being and can cause anaemia and under-nutrition. Regular deworming as advised by the World Health Organization eliminates worm infestation among children and adolescents living in areas with high STH burden. As per WHO Report on STH published in 2012, in India there were an estimated 64% children in the age group (1-14 years) at risk of STH. The National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) completed the baseline STH mapping across the country by the end of 2016. The data showed varied prevalence ranging from 12.5 % in Madhya Pradesh to 85% in Tamil Nadu. Since its launch in 2015, the National Deworming Day (NDD), a flagship program of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare,, is implemented as a biannual single day programme implemented through the platforms of schools and anganwadis. Implementation of NDD is led by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, in collaboration with the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Education and technical assistance from WHO and the technical partners.

2. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The Union Minister for Science & Technology announced that the 6th edition of India International Science Festival (IISF) 2020 will be held from 22nd to 25th December, 2020 at virtual platform. The first and second IISF were held in New Delhi, the third in Chennai, the fourth in Lucknow, and the fifth IISF was held in Kolkata. IISF is an annual event organised jointly by science & technology-related Ministries and Departments of the Government of India and Vijnana Bharati (Vibha). IISF is a festival to celebrate the achievements of India's scientific and technological advancements with students, innovators, craftsmen, farmers, scientists and technocrats from India and abroad. Hence both statements are correct.

3. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

India successfully test-fired the Stand-off Anti-tank (SANT) Missile off the coast of Odisha. The SANT missile is being developed by the DRDO's research centre, Imarat, in collaboration with the Indian Air

Force. It will have both Lock-on After Launch and Lock-on Before Launch capability. It is, reportedly, an upgrade on India's Helina missile believed to have a range of 7 to 8km. The new missile is said to have a range of between 15 and 20km and comes equipped with a nose-mounted active radar seeker, enabling the launch platform to be located at a safe distance from the target area. Hence both statements are correct.

4. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Union Health and Science and Technology Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan launched CuRED. CuRED is a website that gives comprehensive info about the numerous COVID-19 clinical trials that the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) is engaged in partnership with industry, other government departments and ministries. CSIR Ushered Repurposed Drugs (CuRED) provides information about the drugs, diagnostics and devices including the current stage of the trials, partnering institutions and their role in the trials and other details.

5. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Union Minister for Shipping e-launched the development of Indigenous Software solution for Vessel traffic services (VTS) and Vessels Traffic Monitoring Systems (VTMS). VTS and VTMS is a software which determines vessel positions, position of other traffic or meteorological hazard warnings and extensive management of traffic within a port or waterway. Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) contribute to safety of life at sea, safety and efficiency of navigation and protection of the marine environment, adjacent shore areas, work sites and offshore installations from possible adverse effects of maritime traffic. VTMS is mandatory under IMO Convention SOLAS (Safety of Life at Sea). The VTMS traffic image is compiled and collected by means of advanced sensors such as radar, AIS, direction finding, CCTV and VHF or other co-operative systems and services. A modern VTMS integrates all of the information into a single operator working environment for ease of use and in order to allow for effective traffic organization and communication. Implementation of National Maritime Domain Awareness programme of Indian Navy and NCVTS by DGKL – a real time, interactive aids to navigation system for coastal shipping shall become feasible with Indian VTS software at low cost. Ministry of Shipping has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 10 Crore to IIT, Chennai for development of indigenous VTS software.

6. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

Peru's famous Nazca Lines grabbed the spotlight on social media recently after the discovery of a hitherto unknown massive carving — that of a resting cat on the slope of a steep hill. The Nazca Lines are a group

of very large geoglyphs made in the soil of the Nazca Desert in southern Peru. They were created between 500 BCE and 500 CE by people making depressions or shallow incisions in the desert floor, removing pebbles and leaving differently coloured dirt exposed. Most lines run straight across the landscape, but there are also figurative designs of animals and plants. The figures include pelicans (the largest ones sized around 935 feet long), Andean Condors (443 feet), monkeys (360 feet), hummingbirds (165 feet), and spiders (150 feet). There are also geometric shapes, such as triangles, trapezoids and spirals, and some have been associated with astronomical functions. The Lines were declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1994.

7. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Union Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas inaugurated IndianOil's compact reformer plant and launched the trial run of Delhi's buses on Hydrogen-blended CNG (HCNG). HCNG is a hydrogen-enriched compressed natural gas (CNG). In Delhi, instead of physically blending hydrogen with CNG, hydrogen spiked CNG will be produced using compact reforming process patented by Indian Oil Corporation. Benefits: H-CNG blends can be produced directly from CNG, bypassing the energy-intensive electrolysis process and high-pressure blending costs. The flexible and robust process allows the production of H-CNG on-site, in less severe conditions, and under low pressure. It provides a higher yield H-CNG mixture by up to 4% to 5% compared to CNG's input quantity. The cost of H-CNG production by the above process is about 22% cheaper than conventional physical blending. The Supreme Court had last year suggested looking at hydrogen-run vehicles as a solution for Delhi NCR's poor air quality and. It is believed that the HCNG could be a step in that direction. An SC directive in July 2018 had led to Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) and Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL) collaborating to put up this first semi-commercial plant. Mixing hydrogen with CNG physically is a difficult proposition and that is why IOCL came up with the compact reforming process, which reforms CNG and there is no need for mixing.

8. Ans) (d)

Explanation

Heeng is a herbaceous plant of the umbelliferae family. It is a perennial plant whose oleo gum resin is extracted from its thick roots and rhizome. The plant stores most of its nutrients inside its deep fleshy roots. It is endemic to Iran and Afghanistan, which are also the main global suppliers of it. Heeng is not cultivated in India. It thrives in dry and cold desert conditions. The plant can withstand a maximum temperature between 35 and 40 degree, whereas during winters, it can survive in temperatures up to minus 4 degree. Regions with sandy soil, very little moisture and annual rainfall of not more than 200mm are considered conducive for heeng cultivation.

During extreme weather, the plant can get dormant.

**9. Ans) (b)**

**Explanation**

The Malabar Exercise is an annual trilateral naval exercise between the navies of India, Japan, and the USA which is held alternately in the Indian and Pacific Oceans. Recently, Australia has agreed to join the Malabar Exercise on India's request. The exercise is scheduled to be held in November 2020. The 2020 Exercise is expected to be held in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea. In 2019, the exercise was conducted off the coast of Japan. Due to Covid-19 pandemic the exercise had been planned in a 'non-contact - at sea' format. Its objective is to enhance safety and security in the maritime domain.

**10. Ans) (b)**

**Explanation**

Under the Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) Scheme, the fertilizers are provided to the farmers at the subsidized rates based on the nutrients (N, P, K & S) contained in these fertilizers. Apart from this, fertilizers which are fortified with secondary and micronutrients such as molybdenum (Mo) and zinc are given additional subsidy. Urea is outside the scheme. The urea remains under price control and NBS has been implemented only in other fertilisers. Only the MRPs of non-urea fertilisers are decontrolled or fixed by the companies. However, the Centre pays a flat per-tonne subsidy on these nutrients to ensure reasonable prices. NBS policy intends to increase the consumption of P&K fertilizers so that optimum balance (N:P:K= 4:2:1) of NPK fertilization is achieved. This would improve soil health and as a result the yield from the crops would increase resulting in enhanced income to the farmers