



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 27-06-2020

EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (b)

Explanation

The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, formerly known as the Millennium Dam is a gravity dam on the Blue Nile River in Ethiopia that has been under construction since 2011.

The dam will be the largest hydroelectric power plant in Africa when completed.

2. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

At the COP meeting in Johannesburg in 2016, the entire genus of Dalbergia, including Dalbergiasissoo was placed under Appendix II, following complaints from a number of South American and African countries that a rise in interest in the wood of Dalbergia in international markets, primarily in China was fuelling an illegal trade, which was decimating Dalbergia populations.

Once an item is listed in Appendix II, exporters need to obtain a certificate from CITES or an equivalent certificate from an authorised local body (Vriksh Shipment Certificate issued by EPCH in case of rosewood), which is a time-consuming and intricate process beyond the reach of small-scale artisans and farmers.

Unnecessary trade restrictions on rosewood had affected the future of over 30,000 artisans in India who are directly engaged with manufacturing of rosewood.

3. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

CITES is an international agreement to which States and regional economic integration organizations adhere voluntarily.

It regulates the international trade of wildlife and wildlife products—everything from live animals and plants to food, leather goods, and trinkets. It came into force in 1975 with the goal of ensuring that international trade does not threaten the survival of wild plants and animals.

If a party violates the convention, CITES can respond with sanctions, which prevent a country from trading in CITES-listed species. But countries are rarely sanctioned and the process can become highly politicized. What's more, because CITES membership is voluntary, a country could simply leave CITES rather than accept sanctions.

4. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

The Nippon Foundation-GEBCO Seabed 2030 Project, which is coordinating efforts to complete the mapping of the entire ocean floor by 2030, said on World Hydrography Day (June 21) that it had added 1.45 crore square kilometres of new bathymetric data to its latest grid.

The knowledge of bathymetry — the measurement of the shape and depth of the ocean floor — is instrumental in understanding several natural phenomena, including ocean circulation, tides, and biological hotspots. It also provides key inputs for navigation, forecasting tsunamis, exploration for oil and gas projects, building offshore wind turbines, fishing resources, and for laying cables and pipelines.

The global initiative is a collaboration between Japan's non-profit Nippon Foundation and the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO). As per its website, GEBCO is the only intergovernmental organisation with a mandate to map the entire ocean floor.

The Project was launched at the United Nations Ocean Conference in 2017, and coordinates and oversees the sourcing and compilation of bathymetric data from different parts of the world's ocean through its five centres into the freely-available GEBCO Grid.

5. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Loktak Lake is the largest freshwater lake in Northeast India and is famous for the phumdis

Located on this phumdi, Keibullamjao National Park is the only floating national park in the world.

The park is the last natural refuge of the endangered Sangai (state animal), or Manipur brown-antlered deer, one of three subspecies of Eld's deer.

6. Ans: (c)

Explanation:

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has relaxed the preferential allotment pricing norms for companies while tightening the insider trading regulations as part of its attempts to minimise instances of unpublished, price-sensitive information getting leaked.

Preferential Allotment Pricing Norms

It also amended the settlement proceeding norms to enable a faster disposal of cases while tweaking the Takeover Regulations as well.

Companies with frequently traded shares can take into account the average of the weekly high and low over the past 12 weeks or two weeks, whichever is higher, and price the preferential allotment above that mark.

7. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

The latest data from Zurich-based Swiss National Bank (SNB) released for the year 2019 shows that the Money parked by Indians in Swiss Banks fell for the second straight year — this time by CHF 55 million, or 5.8 per cent, to CHF 899 million (Rs 7,100 crore) — in 2019.

The SNB data comes after the first set of details of bank accounts held by Indian nationals were shared under the new framework for Automatic Exchange of Information (AEOI) between Switzerland and India to help check the black money menace last September.

8. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

UNESCO has released the 2020 Global Education Monitoring Report.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated inequalities in education systems across the world.

About 40% of low- and lower-middle-income countries have not supported learners at risk of exclusion during this crisis, such as the poor, linguistic minorities and learners with disabilities.

As substitutes for classroom instruction, while many poorer countries opted for radio and television lessons, 55% of low-income, 73% of lower-middle-income and 93% of upper-middle-income countries adopted for online learning platforms for primary and secondary education.

In order to combat the situation, 17% of low and middle-income countries are planning to recruit more teachers, 22% to increase class time and 68% to introduce remedial classes when schools reopen, said the report.

9. Ans (a)

Explanation:

Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas inaugurated a Product Application & Development Centre (PADC) setup by Indian Oil at Paradip. PADC has been setup by Indian Oil at Paradip, adjacent to its Refinery and Petrochemicals complex. There are 4 laboratories in PADC namely Polymer Processing Lab, Analytical Testing Lab, Chemical Analysis Lab and Characterisation Lab.

10. Ans (c)

Explanation:

Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) has come out with a consolidated notification in the form of guidelines for classification and registration of MSMEs.

This notification supersedes all earlier notifications issued with regard to classification or registration of MSMEs. Now, the entrepreneurs, enterprises and the MSMEs have to refer to just this notification for matters relating with classification or registration.

As per the notification, an MSME will be known as Udyam, as this is more closer to the word Enterprise and accordingly, the registration process will be known as Udyam Registration.

Investment in 'Plant and Machinery or Equipment' and 'Turnover' are the basic criteria for classification of MSMEs now.

Exports of goods or services or both shall be excluded while calculating the turnover of any enterprise whether Micro, Small or Medium.

In another first, the Ministry of MSME has established a strong facilitation mechanism for the MSMEs. This process is in the form of Single Window Systems at the district level and regional level.