



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 08-03-2021

EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

El Salvador has become the first country in central America and the third in all Americas to get the malaria-free certificate from the World Health Organization (WHO) in recent years. Malaria elimination certificate is awarded to a country when the chain of indigenous transmission of the disease has been disrupted nationwide for at least three consecutive years. The only other countries in the WHO Regions of Americas to have eliminated malaria in recent years are Paraguay (2018) and Argentina (2019).

2. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

With the participation of the Indian Air Force Chief and 23 aircraft in the three-day event in Colombo to mark the 70th anniversary of the Sri Lanka Air Force (SLAF), India sought to reaffirm its strong defence cooperation with Sri Lanka. The last time Indian aircraft took part in such an event was in 2001, on the occasion of the SLAF's 50th year. India Lanka Defence ties- a historical background: During Sri Lanka's over three decade-civil war, India has played a crucial role, politically and at times, using its military. The controversial Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) was present in Sri Lanka. India also launched 'Operation Poomalai' of 1987 — when the Indian Air Force dropped food supplies in Jaffna. In Sri Lanka's post-war era, Indo-Lanka military partnership has focused mostly on training and capacity building. About 1,200 Sri Lankan military personnel are trained in India every year. In 2020, Indian Navy and Coast Guard personnel helped the Sri Lankan Navy in a crucial fire-fighting operation, when an oil tanker went up in flames, off the island's east coast.

3. Ans) (d)

Explanation :

OPEC+ has agreed not to increase supply in April as they await a more substantial recovery in demand amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Crude prices rose after the announcement and are up 33% this year. Concerns for India: India is the world's third-biggest oil importer. India imports about 84% of its oil and relies on West Asian supplies to meet over three-fifths of its demand. As one of the largest crude-consuming countries, India is concerned that such actions by producing countries have the potential to undermine consumption-led recovery and more so hurt consumers, especially in our price-sensitive market. What is the Opec+? Opec+ refers to the alliance of crude producers, who have been undertaking

corrections in supply in the oil markets since 2017. OPEC plus countries include Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brunei, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Oman, Russia, South Sudan and Sudan.

4. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

FSSAI issued an order on February 8 setting the permissible limit for genetically modified organisms (GMO) in imported food crops at 1%. However, trade organisations have said that this threshold is unacceptably high. It amounts to an advocacy for zero presence of GMO in food and some other consumables. GMO regulation in India: The task of regulating GMO levels in imported consumables was initially with the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) under the Union environment ministry. Its role in this was diluted with the enactment of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and FSSAI was asked to take over approvals of imported goods. What are Genetically Modified Organism (Transgenic Organism)? In GMO, genetic material (DNA) is altered or artificially introduced using genetic engineering techniques. Genetic modification involves the mutation, insertion, or deletion of genes.

5. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The Forest Survey of India (FSI) has released a report on forest fires in the country. Key findings: At least 5,291 forest fires were recorded in Odisha between February 22 and March 1, 2021 — the highest in the country for the same period. Collection of mahua flowers and kendu leaves, practice of shifting cultivation and grazing in forest areas are some of the reasons for forest fires in Odisha. Telangana recorded the second-highest fires in the country at 1,527 during the same period, followed by Madhya Pradesh (1,507) and Andhra Pradesh (1,292), according to FSI data. Concerns: Forest fires have become an issue of global concern. In many countries, wildfires are burning larger areas, and fire seasons are growing longer due to global warming. Globally, forest fires release billions of tons of CO₂ into the atmosphere, while hundreds of thousands of people are believed to die due to illnesses caused by exposure to smoke from forest fires and other landscape fires. India's Initiative to Tackle Forest Fire: National Action Plan on Forest Fires (NAPFF): It was launched in 2018 to minimise forest fires by informing, enabling and empowering forest fringe communities and incentivising them to work with the State Forest Departments. The Forest Fire Prevention and Management Scheme (FPM) is the only centrally funded program specifically dedicated to assist the states in dealing with forest fires.

6. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

This year, the theme for International Women's Day (8 March), "Women in leadership: Achieving an

equal future in a COVID-19 world,” celebrates the tremendous efforts by women and girls around the world in shaping a more equal future and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and highlights the gaps that remain.

7. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Pochampally Ikat or resist dyeing involves a sequence of tying and dyeing sections of bundled yarn to a predetermined colour scheme before weaving. During the Nizam era, they were exported to Burma (Myanmar) and West Asia and east Africa, where they were known as Asia rumals. The term 'Ikat' stems from the Malay-Indonesian expression, mangikat, meaning to bind, knot or wind. It has now been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) status.

8. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

The whale shark is the largest living species of fish and is endangered, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature. It is protected under the Wildlife Protection Act. The whale shark has a lifespan of around 130 years and has a unique pattern of dots on its body. It can grow up to 10 metres in length and weigh around 20 tonnes. Habitat: Whale sharks are found in all the tropical oceans of the world. Whale sharks are found along the coast of India.

9. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The Indian Army will induct the first lot of new Light Machine Guns (LMG) from Israel. The contracted Negev 7.62X51 mm LMG is a combat proven weapon. It is currently used by several countries around the globe. This LMG will greatly enhance the lethality and range of a soldier.

10. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Recently, CSIR Floriculture Mission has been approved. It will be implemented in 21 States/UTs. Available knowledge base in CSIR Institutes will be utilized and leveraged to help Indian farmers and industry re-position itself to meet the import requirements. Floriculture, or flower farming, is a discipline of horticulture concerned with the cultivation of flowering and ornamental plants for gardens and for floristry. Implemented by: CSIR in collaboration with Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)- Directorate of Floriculture; KVIC; APEDA, TRIFED; Fragrance and Flavour Development Centre (FFDC), Kannauj, Ministry of MSME and Universities. Despite the fact that India has diverse agro-climatic and edaphic conditions, and rich plant diversity, it shares only 0.6% of global floriculture market.

At least 1200 million USD worth of floriculture products are being imported by India.