



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 15-07-2021

EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Recently, the Ministry of External Affairs rejected the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation's (OIC) proposal to assist a dialogue between India and Pakistan.

What was OIC's Offer?

OIC offered to arrange a meeting between India and Pakistan and proposed to send a delegation to Jammu & Kashmir. Pakistan has repeatedly sought to raise the Kashmir issue at the OIC.

What was India's Response?

The OIC should be watchful that their platform is not subverted by "vested interests" such as Pakistan to interfere in internal affairs of India or for anti-India propaganda through biased and one-sided resolutions.

What is Organisation of Islamic Cooperation?

It is the second largest intergovernmental organization after the United Nations (UN) with a membership of 57 states. It is the collective voice of the Muslim world. It endeavours to safeguard and protect the interests of the Muslim world in the spirit of promoting international peace and harmony among various people of the world. India is not a member of the OIC. It was established upon a decision of the historical summit which took place in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco in September 1969. Headquarters: Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

2. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

NASA's Cassini spacecraft had detected an unusually high concentration of methane, along with carbon dioxide and dihydrogen, in the moons (Titan and Enceladus) of Saturn by flying through their plumes (in 2017). It found that Titan has methane in its atmosphere and Enceladus has a liquid ocean with erupting plumes of gas and water. An international research team has used new statistical methods to understand if methanogenesis or methane production by microbes could explain the molecular hydrogen and methane.

What are the Findings of Cassini?

Cassini found ice particles, salts, hydrogen and organic molecules in the plumes, tentative hints of an ocean that is similar to Earth's oceans in composition. There is also evidence for alkaline hydrothermal

vents on Enceladus' seafloor, similar to those that support methanogens in Earth's oceans.

What are Methanogens?

Most of the methane on Earth has a biological origin. Microorganisms called methanogens are capable of generating methane as a metabolic byproduct.

They do not require oxygen to live and are widely distributed in nature. They are found in swamps, dead organic matter, and even in the human gut. They are known to survive in high temperatures and simulation studies have shown that they can live in Martian conditions. Methanogens have been widely studied to understand if they can be a contributor to global warming.

Possibility of Methanogens on Enceladus:

Methane could be formed by the chemical breakdown of organic matter present in Enceladus' core. Hydrothermal processes could help the formation of carbon dioxide and methane. Enceladus' hydrothermal vents could be habitable to Earth-like microorganisms (Methanogens).

3. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

Recently, Zika Virus Disease (ZVD) was reported for the first time in Kerala.

What is a Zika Virus?

Zika virus is a mosquito-borne flavivirus that was first identified in Uganda in 1947 in monkeys. It was later identified in humans in 1952 in Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. ZVD is caused by a virus transmitted primarily by Aedes mosquitoes (AM), mainly Aedes aegypti. This is the same mosquito that transmits dengue, chikungunya and yellow fever. Transmission: From mother to fetus during pregnancy, through sexual contact, transfusion of blood and blood products, and organ transplantation.

Symptoms:

Fever, rash, conjunctivitis, muscle and joint pain, malaise or headache.

Most people with Zika virus infection do not develop symptoms.

Zika virus infection during pregnancy can cause infants to be born with microcephaly (smaller than normal head size) and other congenital malformations, known as congenital Zika syndrome.

Treatment:

There is no vaccine or medicine for Zika. The focus is on relieving symptoms and includes rest, rehydration and acetaminophen for fever and pain.

4. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The French military used a laser-powered canon to destroy a drone in a test of technology that the

government hopes will be used to protect the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

5. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

For the first time a reference-grade whole genome sequence of a highly salt-tolerant and salt-secreting true-mangrove species, *Avicennia marina*, was reported in India recently.

What are the mangroves?

Mangroves are a unique group of species found in marshy intertidal estuarine regions and survive a high degree of salinity through several adaptive mechanisms. Mangroves are important resources for the coastal region and are of great ecological and economic value such as:

production of woody trees provision of habitat, food, and spawning grounds for fin-fish and shellfish provision of habitat for birds and other valuable fauna protection of coastlines and accretion of sediment to form new land. They form a link between marine and terrestrial ecosystems, protect shorelines, and provide habitat for a diverse array of terrestrial organisms. According to the India State of Forest Report, 2017, India has nearly 3.3% of the world's mangrove vegetation.

6. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

A former naval officer who is an expert in soil-less agriculture has been carrying out campaign, 'Mission Turmeric 2021' It aims to begin an "orange revolution" by teaching people to cultivate turmeric in shade houses in grow bags (large porous containers made of high density polyethylene) packed with coco-peat (made from the pith of the coconut husk) instead of soil. The method resulted in better yield with higher Curcumin content. Curcumin is a bright yellow phenolic compound in Turmeric known for its potential to fight cancer.

What is soil-less agriculture?

In soil-less agriculture, such as hydroponics, micro and macro nutrients that have been pre-mixed into a water reservoir, along with high levels of oxygen, are delivered efficiently to the plant roots.

Advantages of Soilless Agriculture

Faster growth

Extreme decrease in water and nutrient use Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA): CEA is a method of agriculture that optimizes the temperature, humidity, airflow, and light within the growing environment of a farm. Location: The farm is closer to the consumer, decreasing the carbon footprint of delivery and increasing the freshness of the product. Requires less space to grow

7. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED).

About the MoU

Objective of the MoU: For harnessing exports potential of agricultural and processed food products of cooperatives and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) The key areas of cooperation include facilitating APEDA registered exporters getting assistance under all the schemes implemented through NAFED. The MoU shall ensure sustainability and growth of exports by Cooperatives by addressing issues such as technology, skill, quality products and market access. It will also facilitate participation of Farmers' Cooperatives in global trade What is Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)? It is an apex body under the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry responsible for the export promotion of agricultural products. It was established under the APEDA Act of 1985.

Functions

Promotion of exports of agricultural and processed food products. Promotion of export oriented production and development of the Scheduled products. To make Improvement in areas such as packaging Setting standards and specifications for the scheduled products Financial assistance, reliefs and subsidies to the related industries. Provide training in the related areas

8. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

Inflation remained above 6% in June at 6.3%. Growth impulses remained fragile with the second COVID-19 wave hurting the recovery momentum. Experts opine that lack of policy support from government (Ex: Cutting oil taxes) to bring down inflation could make RBI reverse its growth supporting approach (low interest rates) Consumer durables and capital goods stood out as the worst affected sectors in May. There are different indices in India like Wholesale Price Index(WPI), Consumer Price Index(CPI) etc which measure inflation rates in India. But what we generally find in headlines as inflation rate in India is Inflation rate based on CPI.

9. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

NASA has announced that it will launch its Volatiles Investigating Polar Exploration Rover (VIPER) in 2023

About the mission

VIPER stands for Volatiles Investigating Polar Exploration Rover. It is a mobile robot.

Objectives:

To explore the Moon's South Pole region. Help create lunar resource maps. Evaluate the concentration of water as well as other potential resources on its surface. To understand if it is possible for human life to sustain there, by using locally available resources. It is the first resource mapping mission on any other celestial body. NASA's Commercial Lunar Payload Services (CLPS) will be providing the launch vehicle and lander for what's going to be a 100-day mission.

Significance:

VIPER's findings will inform "future landing sites under the Artemis program by helping to determine locations where water and other resources can be harvested" to sustain humans over extended stays. About Artemis Program During the Artemis program, NASA will land the first woman and first person of color on the Moon, using innovative technologies to explore more of the lunar surface than ever before. NASA will collaborate with other commercial and international partners and establish sustainable exploration for the first time. Then, the learning from Moon exploration will enable NASA to take the next giant leap – sending astronauts to Mars.

10. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

The United States became the fourth-largest supplier of crude oil to India in 2020, according to BP's latest report. The US supplied 10.7 million tonnes of crude oil to India in 2020, behind Iraq's 47 million tonnes, Saudi Arabia's 38 million tonnes, and UAE's 22 million tonnes, said the BP's Statistical Review of World Energy.