



# EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 22-05-2021

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### EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

The Taiwan Strait, also known as the Formosa Strait, is a 180 km wide strait separating Taiwan and mainland China. The strait is currently part of the South China Sea and connects to the East China Sea to the north. The narrowest part is 130 km wide. The entire strait is on Asia's continental shelf.

2. Ans) (c)

3. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

Scientists have warned that environmental degradation is killing one of the oldest and most precious pieces of the world's human heritage. Pleistocene-era rock paintings dating back to 45,000-20,000 years ago are weathering at an alarming rate. Location: Cave sites in Maros-Pangkep region, Southern Sulawesi, Indonesia The artwork includes what is believed to be the world's oldest hand stencil created by pressing the hand on a cave wall, and spraying wet red-mulberry pigments over it. A nearby cave features the world's oldest depiction of an animal, a warty pig painted on the wall 45,500 years ago.

The cave art of Sulawesi is much older than the prehistoric cave art of Europe.

4. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Microsoft have signed MoU on Joint initiative for Digital Transformation of Tribal Schools

Key takeaways

Aim: To skill educators and students in next-generation digital technologies including Artificial Intelligence.

Vision: To build an inclusive, skills-based economy, The MoU shall support digital transformation of schools such as Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) and Ashram Schools, which fall under the Ministry. Microsoft will make AI curriculum available to tribal students in both English and Hindi at all EMRS schools under the Ministry. This program will benefit students in terms of readiness, preparedness at various international forums. In the first phase, 250 EMRS schools have been adopted by Microsoft out of which 50 EMRS schools will be given intensive training and 500 master trainers would be trained.

Teachers across states in India will be trained in a phased manner.

5. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

American spacecraft launch service provider, United Launch Alliance, launched its Atlas V rocket into space, carrying a missile-warning satellite, SBIRS Geo-5, for the U.S. Space Force. The Space Based Infrared System Geosynchronous Earth Orbit Flight 5 (SBIRS Geo-5), is fifth in the series of a constellation of the US Space Force, that will eventually contain six satellites.

6. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

Atlas V is an expendable launch system and the fifth major version in the Atlas rocket family. It was originally designed by Lockheed Martin, now being operated by United Launch Alliance, a joint venture between Lockheed Martin and Boeing.

7. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

May 20 is observed as World Bee Day annually. It was on this day in 1734 that Anton Janša, the pioneer of beekeeping, was born. The United Nations proclaimed May 20 as World Bee Day in 2017. The proposal was put forth by 2021 theme: “Bee Engaged – Build Back Better for Bees”.

Efforts by the government:

Government is promoting Beekeeping as part of its aim to double farmers’ income. The Government has allocated 500 crores towards Beekeeping under the Atma Nirbhar Abhiyan. The National Bee Board has created four modules to impart training as part of the National Beekeeping and Honey Mission (NBHM) and 30 lakh farmers have been trained in beekeeping. They are also being financially supported by the Government. The Government has launched ‘Honey Mission’ as part of ‘Sweet Revolution’. India is among the world’s top five honey producers. Compared to 2005-06 honey production has risen by 242% and exports shot by 265%.

Significance of Beekeeping:

As per Food and Agricultural Organization database, in 2017-18, India ranked eighth in the world in terms of honey production (64.9 thousand tonnes) while China stood first with a production level of 551 thousand tonnes. Further, beekeeping can be an important contributor in achieving the 2022 target of doubling farmer incomes.

8. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

Manipur Chief Minister, N Biren Singh launched a mobile application named 'MOMA Market' for home delivery of fresh vegetables, for day to day consumption, amid COVID pandemic. Currently the application can be downloaded from [www.momamarket.com](http://www.momamarket.com) and will be available on Google Play Store soon.

9. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

It is India's first Covid-19 self-testing kit approved recently by the ICMR. This means anyone can collect their own nasal sample and test it for SARS-CoV-2. Such a self-test kit was first approved in the US last November. Similar kits have been approved in Europe and South Korea too.

About CoviSelf:

Developed by MyLab Discovery Solutions, a Pune-based molecular company. It uses a rapid antigen test, in which a nasal swab sample is tested for the virus and gives results within 15 minutes. Taking the test takes hardly two minutes.

10. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Scientific name: *Amorphophallus titanum*. The ultra-rare plant is known to bloom only once every seven to ten years. The flower is also considered to be one of the largest in the world. While the plant is native to Indonesia, its saplings have been cultivated in zoos, botanical gardens and greenhouses around the world over the years. The average corpse flower has a lifespan of about three-four decades. The flower is known for its pungent stench, which is said to be similar to rotting meat or a decaying cadaver. It was listed as an endangered plant in 2018 by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).