



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 07-04-2021

EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

U.S. President Joe Biden has lifted sanctions imposed by previous President Donald Trump on two top officials of the International Criminal Court (ICC). What's the issue? ICC was probing alleged crimes by U.S. troops in Afghanistan. But, the Trump administration was openly hostile to the tribunal for pursuing prosecutions of Americans for actions in Afghanistan and Israelis for actions against the Palestinians. About ICC: The International Criminal Court (ICC), located in The Hague, is the court of last resort for prosecution of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. It is the first permanent, treaty based, international criminal court established to help end impunity for the perpetrators of the most serious crimes of concern to the international community. Its founding treaty, the Rome Statute, entered into force on July 1, 2002. Funding: Although the Court's expenses are funded primarily by States Parties, it also receives voluntary contributions from governments, international organisations, individuals, corporations and other entities. Composition and voting power: The Court's management oversight and legislative body, the Assembly of States Parties, consists of one representative from each state party. Each state party has one vote and "every effort" has to be made to reach decisions by consensus. If consensus cannot be reached, decisions are made by vote. The Assembly is presided over by a president and two vice-presidents, who are elected by the members to three-year terms.

2. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

Five years ago the Stand Up India scheme was launched by the government to promote entrepreneurship among women, Scheduled Castes (SC) & Scheduled Tribes (ST). So far: Banks have sanctioned more than Rs. 25,000 crore to over 1.14 lakh accounts. Women-led enterprises have dominated the sanctions so far under the scheme, which has now been extended till 2025. About the Stand Up India Scheme: Stand Up India Scheme was launched on 5 April 2016 to promote entrepreneurship at the grass-root level of economic empowerment and job creation. This scheme seeks to leverage the institutional credit structure to reach out to the underserved sector of people such as SCs, STs and Women Entrepreneurs. The objective of this scheme is to facilitate bank loans between Rs.10 lakh and Rs.1 crore to at least one SC or ST borrower and at least one woman borrower per bank branch for setting up a Greenfield enterprise. The offices of SIDBI and NABARD shall be designated Stand-Up Connect Centres (SUCC).

Eligibility under Stand Up India Scheme:

SC/ST and/or women entrepreneurs; above 18 years of age.

Loans under the scheme are available for only Greenfield project.

Borrower should not be in default to any bank or financial institution.

In case of non-individual enterprises at least 51% of the shareholding and controlling stake should be held by either an SC/ST or Woman entrepreneur.

3. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

ANTARES (Astronomy with a Neutrino Telescope and Abyss Environmental RESearch) is the first operational Cherenkov neutrino telescope in the Mediterranean Sea.

4. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The annual IP Index is released by the US Chamber of Commerce Global Innovation Policy Centre (GIPC). With a score of 38.40%, India ranks 40 among 53 countries globally.

5. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

The labour ministry has set up expert committees to review the standards under the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions (OSH&WC) Code, 2020.

6. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

The External Affairs Minister of India, Dr S Jaishankar participated in the 17th Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Ministerial Meeting.

7. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has proposed several amendments to the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 (FCA). Draft amendments: They propose to grant exemptions to railways, roads, tree plantations, oil exploration, wildlife tourism and 'strategic' projects in forests. They seek to empower state governments to lease forest land to private individuals and corporations. Amendments seek to complete the process of forest identification in a time-bound manner. They also propose to enable the creation of 'no-go' areas, where specific projects would not be allowed. What's the issue and concern? If the proposed amendments come into force, they would dilute the provisions of the landmark 1996 decision of the Supreme Court in Godavarman case (TN Godavarman Thirumulkpad vs

Union Of India & Ors). The case had started off as a petition to stop illegal felling of timber in the Nilgiri hills, but ended up expanding the coverage of the FCA. The proposed amendment purportedly seeks to reduce the scope of this judgment by limiting the applicability of the FCA to only such land that has been: Declared or notified as forest under the Indian Forest Act, 1927. Recorded as forest land in the government record prior to 25 October 1980, with the exception of such land if its use has been changed from forest to non-forest purpose prior to 12 December 1996. Identified as “forest” by a state government expert committee up to one year from the date of the amendment.

8. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

The Chilika lake in Odisha, Asia’s largest brackish water lake, was once part of the Bay of Bengal, a study by the marine archaeology department of the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO), Goa, has found. How it was formed? The process of the formation of the Chilika might have begun in the later part of the Pleistocene epoch, around 20,000 years ago. India’s peninsular river Mahanadi carried a heavy load of silt and dumped part of it at its delta. As the sediment-laden river met the Bay of Bengal, sand bars were formed near its mouth. These created a backflow of the sea water into the sluggish fresh water at the estuary, resulting in the huge brackish water lake.

About Chilika:

Chilika is 64 kilometres long in the north-south direction and 13.5 km wide in the east-west direction. The sea connected with the lake near Satapada through a shallow and narrow channel. The connecting channel was obstructed by shoals, sand spits and sandbars, thus restricting the outflow of water and also checking the tidal flow into the lake. Chilika is Asia’s largest and world’s second largest lagoon. It is the largest wintering ground for migratory birds on the Indian sub-continent and is home to a number of threatened species of plants and animals. In 1981, Chilika Lake was designated the first Indian wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention. Major attraction at Chilika is Irrawaddy dolphins which are often spotted off Satpada Island. The large Nalabana Island (Forest of Reeds) covering about 16 sq km in the lagoon area was declared a bird sanctuary in 1987. Kalijai Temple – Located on an island in the Chilika Lake.

9. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The Odisha government has proposed a second biosphere reserve in the southern part of the state at Mahendragiri, a hill ecosystem having rich biodiversity. The 5,569-square kilometre Similipal Biosphere Reserve is Odisha’s first such reserve and was notified May 20, 1996.

About the proposed Mahendragiri Biosphere Reserve: It is around 470,955 hectares and is spread over Gajapati and Ganjam districts in the Eastern Ghats. The hill ecosystem acts as a transitional zone between

the flora and fauna of southern India and the Himalayas, making the region an ecological estuary of genetic diversities. Mahendragiri is inhabited by the Soura people, a particularly vulnerable tribal group as well as the Kandha tribe. What are biosphere reserves? Biosphere Reserve (BR) is an international designation by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) for representative parts of natural and cultural landscapes extending over large areas of terrestrial or coastal/marine ecosystems or a combination of both. Biosphere Reserves tries to balance economic and social development and maintenance of associated cultural values along with the preservation of nature. The concept of Biosphere Reserves was launched in 1971 as a part of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)'s 'Man and Biosphere Programme'. Criteria for Designation of Biosphere Reserve:

A site must contain a protected and minimally disturbed core area of value of nature conservation. Core area must be a bio-geographical unit and should be large enough to sustain a viable populations representing all trophic levels. The involvement of local communities and use of their knowledge in biodiversity preservation. Areas potential for preservation of traditional tribal or rural modes of living for harmonious use of the environment.

10. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

TRIFED under Ministry of Tribal Affairs has launched "Sankalp se Siddhi" – Village and Digital Connect Drive.