



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 14-07-2021

EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

On World Population Day (11th July), Uttar Pradesh government announced a new population policy for 2021-2030. The new policy has provisions to give incentives to those who help in population control.

Highlights of the draft bill on population control:

The new policy aims at:

Decreasing the total fertility rate from 2.7 to 2.1 by 2026 and 1.7 by 2030. Increase modern contraceptive prevalence rate from 31.7% to 45% by 2026 and 52% by 2030. Increase male methods of contraception use from 10.8% to 15.1% by 2026 and 16.4% by 2030. Decrease maternal mortality rate from 197 to 150 to 98, and infant mortality rate from 43 to 32 to 22, and under 5 infant mortality rate from 47 to 35 to 25.

Focus areas:

To increase the accessibility of contraceptive measures issued under the Family Planning Programme and provide a proper system for safe abortion. To reduce the newborns' and maternal mortality rate. To provide for care of the elderly, and better management of education, health, and nutrition of adolescents between 11 to 19 years.

Incentives:

Promotions, increments, concessions in housing schemes and others perks to employees who adhere to population control norms, and have two or less children. Public servants who adopt the two-child norm will get two additional increments during the entire service, maternity or as the case may be, paternity leave of 12 months, with full salary and allowances and three percent increase in the employer's contribution fund under the National Pension Scheme. For those who are not government employees and still contribute towards keeping the population in check, will get benefits in like rebates in taxes on water, housing, home loans etc. If the parent of a child opts for vasectomy, he/she will be eligible for free medical facilities till the age of 20.

Applicability:

The provision of this legislation shall apply to a married couple where the boy is not less than 21 years of age and the girl is not less than 18. The policy will be voluntary – it will not be enforced upon anyone.

2. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Maharashtra has been without a Speaker since February. The sessions are now presided by Deputy

Speaker. Even Lok Sabha and several state Assemblies are without a Deputy Speaker.

How they are elected?

Article 93 for Lok Sabha and Article 178 for state Assemblies state that these Houses “shall, as soon as may be”, choose two of its members to be Speaker and Deputy Speaker. In Lok Sabha and state legislatures, the President/Governor sets a date for the election of the Speaker, and it is the Speaker who decides the date for the election of the Deputy Speaker. The legislators of the respective Houses vote to elect one among themselves to these offices.

Their roles and functions:

The Speaker is “the principal spokesman of the House, he represents its collective voice and is its sole representative to the outside world”. The Speaker presides over the House proceedings and joint sittings of the two Houses of Parliament. It is the Speaker’s decision that determines whether a Bill is a Money Bill and therefore outside of the purview of the other House. Usually, the Speaker comes from the ruling party. In the case of the Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha, the position has varied over the years. The constitution has tried to ensure the independence of Speaker by charging his salary on the consolidated Fund of India and the same is not subject to vote of Parliament. While debating or during general discussion on a bill, the members of the parliament have to address only to the Speaker.

3. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

The US continues to remain in number one position in the latest rankings of top countries in the world where All India Radio Live-streams on NewsOnAir App are most popular.

4. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

The Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Shri Nitin Gadkari, inaugurated India’s first private Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) facility plant at Nagpur in Maharashtra, on July 11, 2021. The plant has been set up on Kamptee Road near Nagpur Jabalpur Highway, by Baidyanath Ayurvedic Group, the makers of Ayurvedic medicines.

5. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

Central grant to Odisha under the Jal Jeevan Mission in the year 2021-22 has been increased to Rs. 3,323.42 Crore. With Four-Fold Increase in Allocation, Centre Supports Odisha to Become ‘Har Ghar Jal’ State by March, 2024.

What is Jal Jeevan Mission?

It is envisioned to provide safe and adequate drinking water through individual household tap connections

by 2024 to all households in rural India. It envisages supply of 55 litres of water per person per day to every rural household through Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC) by 2024. It also includes functional tap connection to Schools, Anganwadi centres, GP buildings, Health centres, wellness centres and community buildings. The programme will also implement source sustainability measures as mandatory elements, such as recharge and reuse through grey water management, water conservation, rain water harvesting. JJM focuses on integrated demand and supply-side management of water at the local level. The Mission is based on a community approach to water. It looks to create a jan andolan for water, thereby making it everyone's priority. It promotes and ensure voluntary ownership among local community by way of contribution in cash, kind and/ or labour and voluntary labour. Parent Ministry: Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti Funding Pattern: The fund sharing pattern between the Centre and states is 90:10 for Himalayan and North-Eastern States, 50:50 for other states, and 100% for Union Territories.

6. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

VSS Unity spaceship, with six people onboard, recently took off from New Mexico and reached an altitude of 85 km from Earth before returning. Such a trip is called a "suborbital flight".

What's suborbital?

Satellites need to reach a threshold speed in order to orbit Earth. If an object travels at a horizontal speed of about 28,000 km/hr or more, it goes into orbit once it is above the atmosphere. At such speed, a satellite prevents itself from accelerating toward the Earth due to gravity. Such a trip allows space travellers to experience a few minutes of "weightlessness".

Significance of such experiments:

Suborbital flights are helpful for microgravity research. They would be far less expensive than carrying experiments and people to the International Space Station. Suborbital flights could also be an alternative to parabolic flights in aeroplanes that space agencies currently use to simulate zero gravity.

About the Unity 22 mission:

As part of the mission, the crew flew to the edge of space on July 11 on board the 'Unity' rocket ship developed by Virgin Galactic.

This was the 22nd mission for VSS Unity. This was Virgin Galactic's fourth crewed spaceflight. It was also the first to carry a full crew of two pilots and four mission specialists in the cabin, including Virgin Group Founder Richard Branson, who will be testing out the private astronaut experience.

7. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

NASA has announced that it will launch its Volatiles Investigating Polar Exploration Rover, or VIPER, in

2023. NASA is undertaking the mission to understand if it is possible for human life to sustain there, by using locally available resources.

About the mission:

VIPER is a mobile robot.

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.

Objectives of the mission:

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.

Significance of the mission:

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.

8. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

To be located in Chattisgarh. Proposed in 2005 and got central approval in 2007. It is planned to prevent human-animal conflict in the region, with elephants moving into Chhattisgarh from Odisha and Jharkhand.

Why in the News?

It has run into controversy as the government is planning to decrease the area of the proposed reserve from 1,995 sq km to 450 sq km. It is because if the government doesn't reduce it then several coal mines would become unusable. The area proposed under the reserve is part of the Hasdeo Aranya forests, a very diverse biozone that is also rich in coal deposits.

9. Ans:C

Explanation:

Scientists in India have discovered a native moss species in Antarctica. It has been named Bryum bharatiensis – after India and India's Antarctic station Bharati. This is the first time a plant species has been discovered in the four decades of the Indian Antarctic mission.

10. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

In a recent publication by the Botanical Survey of India (BSI), it was reported that Sikkim, the smallest State with less than 1% of India's landmass, is home to 27% of all flowering plants found in the country. Sikkim is a part of the Kanchenjunga biosphere landscape About Kanchenjunga Biosphere

Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve which is located in Sikkim is one of the highest ecosystems in the world, reaching elevations of 1, 220 metres above sea-level. The biosphere has different altitudinal ecosystems, varying from sub-tropic to Arctic, as well as natural forests in different biomes, that support an immensely rich diversity of forest types and habitats. World's third highest peak, Mt. Khangchendzonga, is situated within the Park. Numerous lakes and glaciers, including the 26 km long Zemu Glacier are a part of the Biosphere reserve. Khangchendzonga National Park (KNP) was designated a World Heritage Site in 2016 under the 'mixed' category (Mixed heritage sites contain elements of both natural and cultural significance). The Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve in Sikkim, surrounding the world's third highest peak Mount Khangchendzonga, has been added to UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves, making it the 11th biosphere in India to be included in the network. Its location – bordering Nepal, Tibet (China) and in close proximity of Bhutan – offers unique opportunities for joint collaboration and conservation of biodiversity with neighbouring countries. Increasing unregulated tourism, lack of awareness about the landscape and shortage of staff are some of the key challenges in maintaining the reserve's sanctity.