



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 15-04-2021

EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

The Supreme Court has agreed that a plan to appoint retired judges on an ad hoc basis to reduce pendency in the High Courts should not become an excuse to stop or further delay the appointment process of regular judges.

Need for:

As on April 1, the High Courts have a total vacancy of 411 regular judges against the sanctioned judicial strength of 1,080. The working strength in the High Courts is 669. Observations made by the Court:

The Chief Justices of the High Courts should opt for ad hoc judges only if their efforts to fill the judicial vacancies in their respective High Courts have hit a wall, even as pendency has reached the red zone. Ad hoc judges should not be appointed in lieu of regular recommendations.

Need of the hour:

A procedure should be adopted explaining when a Chief Justice can initiate the appointment of an ad hoc judge; what should be the threshold of pendency for such appointments; for how long should such ad hoc judges continue; what should be their allowances, etc.

Constitutional Provisions in this regard:

The appointment of ad-hoc judges was provided for in the Constitution under Article 224A. Procedure to be followed: Under the Article, the Chief Justice of a High Court for any State may at any time, with the previous consent of the President, request any person who has held the office of judge of that court or of any other High Court to sit and act as a judge of the High Court for that State. Such a judge is entitled to such allowances as the president may determine. He will also enjoy all the jurisdiction, powers and privileges of a judge of the Supreme Court. But, he will not otherwise be deemed to be a judge of the Supreme Court.

2. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

A tradition of a century and a half is set to be broken in Jammu and Kashmir, with only “sensitive records” being taken from Jammu to Srinagar this summer, unlike in previous years when the entire administration and records would be shifted during “Durbar Move”.

What is Darbar Move?

It is a century-old practice in which the government functioned for six months each in the two capitals of

the erstwhile State, Srinagar and Jammu. The practice was reportedly started in the late 19th century by Ranbir Singh, the Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir. The Durbar Move was started to take the administration to the doorstep of the people of Kashmir which is closer to Ladakh. The practice also enabled greater interaction and bonding among the people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh.

Criticisms surrounding:

The 'Darbar Move' results in wastage of tremendous amount of time, efforts and energy on inefficient and unnecessary activity. It is taxing for security forces too. It nurtures inefficiency and leads to lack of governance. The same negatively impacts justice dispensation and impedes judicial administration. It also causes delay in justice dispensation as government records are not available to the pleaders in one region for six months at a time. Valuable documents and resources of the Union Territory in the nature of important and sensitive government documents are put to tremendous risk in the process of their transportation as they are packed in trunks and carried in hired trucks over a distance of 300 km between Jammu and Srinagar and vice-versa twice a year.

3. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

Recently, the education minister released an indicative and suggestive implementation plan for school education called SARTHAQ. What is 'Students' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement through Quality Education or SARTHAQ? Launched in pursuance of the goals of NEP2020 and to assist States/UTs in this task. The programme aims at providing an all-around development for the students at the primary and secondary level. It will also establish a safe, secure, inclusive and conducive learning environment for students as well as teachers. The major focus is to define activities in such a manner which clearly delineate goals, outcomes and timeframe i.e., it links recommendation of NEP with 297 Tasks along with responsible agencies, timelines and 304 outputs of these tasks." The plan is being implemented to meet the following aims of NEP 2020: It will pave way for curriculum reforms including new national and state curriculum frameworks for school education as well as early childhood care and education. The programme will focus on the improvement of the enrollment ratio of children at all levels and a reduction in dropouts and out of school children. It will provide access to quality ECCE and Universal Acquisition of Foundational Literacy and Numeracy by Grade 3. It will implement vocational education, sports, arts, knowledge of India, 21st-century skills, values of citizenship, awareness of environment conservation in the curriculum. It will focus on experimental learning. It will also improve the quality of Teacher Education Programmes.

4. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

To help mitigate the impact of the pandemic and aid economic revival, the RBI said it would extend fresh

support of Rs. 50,000 crore to the All India Financial Institutions for new lending in FY22.

Details:

Accordingly, NABARD will be provided a special liquidity facility (SLF) of Rs. 25,000 crore for one year to support agriculture and allied activities, the rural non-farm sector and non-banking financial companies-micro finance institutions. An SLF of ₹10,000 crore will be extended to the National Housing Bank for one year to support the housing sector. SIDBI will be provided Rs. 15,000 crore under this facility for up to one year for funding of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). Important functions: It provides refinance support for building rural infrastructure. It prepares district level credit plans to guiding and motivating the banking industry in achieving these targets. It supervises Cooperative Banks and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and helping them develop sound banking practices and integrate them to the CBS (Core Banking Solution) platform. It provides training to handicraft artisans and helps them in developing a marketing platform for selling these articles.

5. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

The Delhi Police recently issued a statement, pointing out that civil defence personnel, also known as Delhi Civil Defence (DCD) volunteers, have no power to stop people using police barricades and prosecute them for violation of Covid-19 appropriate behaviour such as not wearing masks. What's the issue? From being lauded for their work during the pandemic to facing allegations of high-handedness, the role of the civil defence volunteers in the national capital has come under intense scrutiny in the recent past. One such incident recently turned into a full blown fist-fight between a group of civil defence personnel and general public near IIT-Delhi.

So, who are these civil defence volunteers?

In Delhi, these are men and women who work under the command of the district magistrates. The overall command lies with the divisional commissioner, to which the DMs report. These volunteers are governed by the Civil Defence Act, 1968. What is civil defence? According to the Civil Defence Act, 1968, civil defence is defined as any measure “not amounting to actual combat, that protects persons, property and places in India from hostile attack”. The 2010 amendment expanded the definition by including disaster management as one of the responsibilities.

6. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

A local court in Varanasi has directed the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to conduct a survey of the Gyanvapi Mosque, adjacent to the Kashi Vishwanath Temple, to find out whether it was a “superimposition, alteration or addition or if there is structural overlapping of any kind, with any other religious structure”.

What's the issue?

The order came on a petition demanding restoration of the land on which the Gyanvapi Mosque stands to the Hindus, claiming that Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb had pulled down parts of the old Kashi Vishwanath Temple to build the mosque.

7. Ans) (d)

Explanation :

India and the Netherlands have announced the launch of the strategic partnership in water sector to further intensify ongoing cooperation and better coherence in the area. Joint Secretary in the External Affairs Ministry Sandeep Chakravorty informed about this while addressing the media in New Delhi after the India – Netherlands Virtual Summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Netherlands counterpart Mark Rutte.

8. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Seychelles is central to India's vision of 'SAGAR' – 'Security and Growth for All in the Region'. During times of need, India was able to supply essential medicines and 50,000 doses of Made in India vaccines to Seychelles. Seychelles was the First African country to receive the Made in India COVID-19 vaccines. India has contributed towards the construction of the new Magistrates' Court Building in Seychelles. For strengthening the maritime security of Seychelles, India has handed over a Made-in-India Fast Patrol Vessel to the Seychelles Coast Guard. India handed over a One Mega Watt solar power plant in the Seychelles built with India's assistance. The virtual Summit between the two sides also saw the handing over of 10 High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDPs) implemented by the High Commission of India in collaboration with local bodies, educational and vocational institutions.

9. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) released the World Energy Transitions Outlook report. The report proposes energy transition solutions for the narrow pathway available to contain the rise of temperature to 1.5 degree Celsius. The COVID-19 crisis offers an unexpected opportunity for countries to decouple their economies from fossil fuels and accelerate the shift to renewable energy sources. It estimated that by 2050, 90% of total electricity needs would be supplied by renewables, followed by 6% from natural gas and the remaining from nuclear. The agency has identified 30 innovations for the integration of wind and solar PV in power systems.

10. Ans) (a)

