



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 17-07-2021

EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Cabinet approves Extension of term of the commission constituted under Article 340 of the constitution to examine the issue of Sub-categorization within other Backward Classes in the Central List.

Background:

National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) proposed the sub-categorisation of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) back in 2015. In October 2017, President Ram Nath Kovind, in exercise of the powers conferred by Article 340 of the Constitution, appointed a commission to examine the issue of sub-categorisation of OBCs, chaired by retired Justice G. Rohini, to ensure social justice in an efficient manner by prioritising the Extremely Backward Classes (EBCs).

What is Article 340?

It lays down conditions for the appointment of a Commission to investigate the conditions of the backward classes. The President may by order appoint a Commission consisting of such persons as he thinks fit to investigate the conditions of socially and educationally backward classes within the territory of India.

Constitutional basis:

Article 14 of the Constitution guarantees equality before the law. That means un-equals cannot be treated equally. Measures are required to be taken for the upliftment of un-equals to bring them on par with the advanced classes. Article 16 (4) provides that the State can make any provision for the reservation of appointments or posts in favour of any backward class of citizens who, in the opinion of the state, are not adequately represented in the services under the State.

2. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

The annual UN-FAO report titled “The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021” states that between 720 and 811 million people in the world faced hunger in 2020, which is around 161 million more than in 2019. The report was jointly produced by UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

3. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The Indian Navy has received the 10th anti-submarine warfare aircraft P-8I from the US-based aerospace company Boeing.

4. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

Two decades after the Kargil Group of Ministers' recommendation, the Central government shall create and appoint a National Maritime Security Coordinator (NMSC) with the objective of enhancing security architecture and energy security of India.

What will be the role of NMSC?

Interface between the civilian and military maritime domain NMSC will work under Indian National Security Advisor. It will be the principal advisor to the government on maritime security domain.

What is the significance of NMSC? The appointment fills the need of the hour as the Navy, Coast Guard and state maritime boards all tend to work with overlapping jurisdictions. It is part of Act East Policy vision that includes SAGAR (Security and Growth of All in the Region), Deep Ocean Mission and the Sagarmala project to make India's 12 major ports into world class standard. Over 70% of Indian trade including vital crude oil is transported through sea and protection of sea shipping lanes is vital to India's security. Having NMSC will provide better security to our trade.

Who is the National Security Advisor?

The NSA is the senior official on the National Security Council (NSC) of India. S/he is the chief adviser to PM on national and international security policy. He also advises the Prime Minister on all matters relating to internal and external threats and opportunities to India. He oversees strategic and sensitive issues on behalf of the Prime Minister. He also serves as the Prime Minister's Special Interlocutor with China as well as the envoy to Pakistan and Israel on security affairs. NSA is assisted by the Deputy National Security Advisers

5. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

A new Global Biodiversity Framework by The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was recently released.

What is the framework?

It is a new framework that will guide actions worldwide through 2030, to preserve and protect nature and its essential services to people.

Aim: To spur urgent and transformative action by Governments and all of society to contribute to the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, its Protocols, and other biodiversity related

multilateral agreements, processes and instruments.

The framework is built around a theory of change which recognizes that urgent policy action globally, regionally and nationally is required to transform economic, social and financial models.

The trends that have exacerbated biodiversity loss will stabilize in the next 10 years (by 2030) and allow for the recovery of natural ecosystems in the following 20 years, with net improvements by 2050 to achieve the Convention's vision of "living in harmony with nature by 2050".

What are the four goals of the new framework (to be achieved by 2050)?

To halt the extinction and decline of biodiversity.

The rate of extinctions should reduce at least tenfold The risk of species extinctions across all taxonomic and functional groups should reduce by half Genetic diversity of wild and domesticated species should be maintained by at least 90% To enhance and retain nature's services to humans by conservation. To ensure fair and equitable benefits to all from use of genetic resources. To close the gap between available financial and other means of implementation

6. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Ultraviolet-C or UV-C Disinfection Technology will soon be installed in Parliament for the "mitigation of airborne transmission of SARS-COV-2". About the UV-C air duct disinfection system:

Developed by CSIR-CSIO (Central Scientific Instruments Organisation). The system is designed to fit into any existing air-ducts and the virucidal dosages using UV-C intensity and residence time can be optimised according to the existing space. The virus is deactivated in any aerosol particles by the calibrated levels of UV-C light. It can be used in auditoriums, malls, educational Institutions, AC buses, and in railways.

What is UV radiation?

UV radiation is the portion of the Electromagnetic spectrum between X-rays and visible light.

The most common form of UV radiation is sunlight, which produces three main types of UV rays:

UVA, UVB, UVC.

Key facts:

UVA rays have the longest wavelengths, followed by UVB, and UVC rays which have the shortest wavelengths. While UVA and UVB rays are transmitted through the atmosphere, all UVC and some UVB rays are absorbed by the Earth's ozone layer. So, most of the UV rays you come in contact with are UVA with a small amount of UVB.

How is it being used?

UV radiations are normally used to kill microorganisms. Particularly, UV-C, also known as Ultraviolet germicidal irradiation (UVGI) is a disinfection method that uses short-wavelength ultraviolet light to kill or inactivate microorganisms by destroying their nucleic acids and disrupting their DNA, leaving them

unable to perform vital cellular functions and stops their replication. UVGI is used in a variety of applications, such as food, air, and water disinfection. Is it safe for humans? Researchers noted that the device was specifically developed to disinfect non-living things. Therefore, UV-C radiation used in this device could be harmful to the skin and eyes of the living beings.

7. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

Karnataka Government is planning to recruit 206 'scene of crime officers' (SoC officers) across the state.

Who are they?

Scene of Crime officers will have a rank equivalent to police sub-inspector and will be part of the Directorate of Forensic Science Laboratories. The SoC officers will specialise in forensic science as well in identification, collection and preservation of evidence at the scene of the crime. These officers will be trained investigators, who will undergo training at National Forensic Sciences University in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, and Central Forensic Science Laboratory in Hyderabad. According to the initial plans by the police department, all districts will have one SoC unit with four to five SoC officials.

Significance:

According to the Karnataka police, this is the first time in the country that dedicated officials will be deployed for evidence collection, a system that exists in advanced countries. In 1961 in London, the first crime scene officer post was created.

8. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

It is a pilgrimage organised in the Hindu calendar month of Shravana (Saavan). Saffron-clad Shiva devotees generally walk barefoot with pitchers of holy water from the Ganga or other holy rivers. The water is used by the pilgrims to worship Shiva lingas at shrines of importance. Devotees carry the pitchers of holy water on their shoulders, balanced on decorated slings known as

In the Gangetic plains, the water is taken from pilgrimage sites such as Haridwar, Gaumukh and Gangotri in Uttarakhand, Sultanganj in Bihar, and Prayagraj, Ayodhya or Varanasi from Uttar Pradesh. An important festival with similarities to the Kanwar yatra in North India, called the Kavadi festival, is celebrated in Tamil Nadu, in which Lord Muruga is worshipped.

9. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

The Union Home Ministry has asked the States and the Union Territories to withdraw immediately the cases registered under the repealed Section 66A of the Information Technology Act, 2000. Recently, The Supreme Court (SC) has expressed shock that the provision was still being used to book people, though

SC held it as unconstitutional and a violation of free speech in the Shreya Singhal judgment, 2015. About Shreya Singhal judgment Section 66(A) of the Act criminalizes the sending of offensive messages through a computer or other communication device. Section 66A gives arbitrary powers to the police to make arrests for any “offensive” message – an entirely subjective term. This has the potential for being abused by authorities for curbing dissent. Over the past few years, incidents related to comments, sharing of information, or thoughts expressed by an individual on the Internet have attracted criminal penalties under Section 66(A). Aseem Trivedi, a cartoonist, was arrested invoking the same provision for making a sketch on the state of parliamentary conduct of the politicians and was charged with sedition. In Shreya Singhal v. Union of India case, the entire provision was struck down by the Supreme Court, which is considered a watershed moment for online free speech in India. The judgment had found that Section 66A was contrary to both Articles 19 (free speech) and Article 21 (right to life) of the Constitution. Describing the law as “vague in its entirety,” the Supreme Court said, it encroaches upon the public’s right to know. Further, the mere causing of annoyance, inconvenience, danger, etc., or being grossly offensive or having a menacing character are not offences under the Indian Penal Code at all. After that the government had appointed an expert committee (T.K. Viswanathan committee) which proposed legislation to meet the challenge of hate speech online.

10. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Recently, thirty people were killed in separate incidents of lightning in various parts of India. Lightning is the biggest contributor to accidental deaths due to natural causes.

What is lightning?

It is the process of occurrence of a natural ‘electrical discharge of very short duration and high voltage between a cloud and the ground or within a cloud’, accompanied by a bright flash and sound, and sometimes thunderstorms.

How does lightning occur?

It is a result of the difference in electrical charge between the top and bottom of a cloud. As water vapour moves upwards in the cloud, it condenses into water due to decreasing temperatures. A huge amount of heat is generated in the process, pushing the water molecules further up. As they move to temperatures below zero, droplets change into small ice crystals. As they continue upwards, they gather mass, until they become so heavy that they start descending. It leads to a system where smaller ice crystals move upwards while larger ones come down. The resulting collisions trigger the release of electrons, in a process very similar to the generation of electric sparks. The moving free electrons cause more collisions and more electrons leading to a chain reaction. The process results in a situation in which the top layer of the cloud gets positively charged while the middle layer is negatively charged. In little time, a huge current, of the order of lakhs to millions of amperes, starts to flow between the layers. It produces heat, leading to

the heating of the air column between the two layers of cloud. It is because of this heat that the air column looks red during lightning. The heated air column expands and produces shock waves that result in thunder sounds. The Earth is a good conductor of electricity. While electrically neutral, it is relatively positively charged compared to the middle layer of the cloud. As a result, an estimated 20-25% of the current flow is directed towards the Earth. It is this current flow that results in damage to life and property.