



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 18-02-2021

EXPLANATION

1. Ans: C

Explanation: National Informatics Centre has launched the instant messaging App platform called Sandes. The National Informatics Centre is a branch of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. The shortcoming of the Sandes App is that there is no option of transferring chat history between the two platforms. The App can register people using their mobile number or email address.

2. Ans: C

Explanation: The Tibet Policy and Support Act is a federal law that outlines United States policy on Tibet. The Tibetan Policy and Support Act would make it official United States policy that the succession of Tibetan Buddhist leaders, including the succession of the Dalai Lama, be left solely to Tibetan Buddhists to decide, without interference from the Chinese government.

3. Ans: C

Explanation: The Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI), headquartered at Ballabgarh in Haryana state, is a statutory advisory body advising the Government of India's Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying. The Animal Welfare Board of India was established in 1962 under Section 4 of The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960. Well-known humanitarian Rukmini Devi Arundale was instrumental in setting up the board and was its first chair.

The Board consists of 28 Members, who serve for a period of 3 years. Its headquarters was in Chennai, which moved to Ballabgarh in Haryana state in early 2018.

The Board was initially within the jurisdiction of the Government of India's Ministry of Food and Agriculture. In 1990, the subject of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals was transferred to the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate change, where it now resides. Initially it was under jurisdiction of Ministry of Food and Agriculture, from where it was shifted to Ministry of Environment and from it shifted back to Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, where its current jurisdiction is.

4. Ans: D

Explanation: India joined Iran and Russia in the naval exercise dubbed as "Iran-Russia Maritime Security Belt 2021", which kicked-off in the northern part of the Indian Ocean on February 16, 2021. The Chinese navy will also join the exercise.

5. Ans: C

Explanation: Some conservationists are worried about the fate of the Giant Leatherback turtles.

NITI Aayog has laid down proposals for tourism and port development in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

NITI Aayog's tourism vision includes a proposal for a mega-shipment port at Galathea Bay on Great Nicobar Island.

Also, the Little Andaman plan proposes phased growth of tourism on this untouched island, which may lead to the de-reservation of over 200 sq km of rainforests and also of about 140 sq km of the Onge Tribal Reserve.

Leatherback sea turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*)

It is the largest of the seven species of sea turtles.

Other species are: Olive Ridley turtle, Green turtle, Hawksbill turtle, Loggerhead turtle, Leatherback turtle

Except the Loggerhead, the remaining four species nest along the Indian coast.

It is found in all oceans except the Arctic and the Antarctic.

Within the Indian Ocean, they nest only in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

It is the only living species in the genus *Dermochelys* and family *Dermochelyidae*.

It can easily be differentiated from other modern sea turtles by its lack of a bony shell.

They are listed in Schedule I of India's Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

6. Ans: A

Explanation: Devendra Kula Vellalar community was in news recently.

The media has reported about its delisting from Scheduled Castes which is misinformation according to the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.

The Ministry has stated that the Cabinet has approved for categorizing 7 SC communities into Devendra Kula Vellalar.

A Bill for categorizing these communities under the SC list is already introduced in the Lok Sabha.

The Pallar, who prefers to be called Mallar, is a Tamil sub-caste of Peasant found in Tamil Nadu.

Community members refer to themselves as Devendra Kula Vellalar (DKV), a name reflecting that they were created by the god Devendra.

7. Ans: A

Explanation: The International Criminal Court (ICC) said that the court has jurisdiction over war crimes committed in the Palestinian territories, a ruling that was welcomed by Palestinians and criticized by Israel.

About ICC

Governed by an international treaty called 'The Rome Statute', 2002 the ICC is the world's first permanent international criminal court.

It investigates and, where warranted, tries individuals charged with the gravest crimes of concern to the international community: genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and the crime of aggression.

Through international criminal justice, ICC aims to hold those responsible for their crimes and to help prevent these crimes from happening again.

The ICC is intended to complement, not to replace, national criminal systems; it prosecutes cases only when States do not are unwilling or unable to do so genuinely.

ICC is not a UN organization but is has a cooperation agreement with the United Nations.

When a situation is not within the Court's jurisdiction, the United Nations Security Council can refer the situation to the ICC granting it jurisdiction. This has been done in the situations in Darfur (Sudan) and Libya.

India is not a party to Rome Statute along with US and China.

8. Ans: B

Explanation: President Kovind removes Kiran Bedi as Puducherry Lieutenant Governor.

Puducherry is a union territory which is governed by Article 239A of the Constitution.

The Government of Union Territories Act, 1963 provides for a Legislative Assembly of Puducherry, with a Council of Ministers to govern the UT.

The same Act says that the UT will be administered by the President of India through a Lieutenant Governor.

Section 44 of the Act allows the LG to "act in his discretion" in the matter of lawmaking, even though the Council of Ministers has the task of aiding and advising him. In case of a difference of opinion between the LG and his Ministers on any matter, the Administrator is bound to refer it to the President for a decision and act according to the decision given by the President. However, the Administrator can also claim that the matter is urgent, and take immediate action as he deems necessary.

Under Section 22 of the Act, prior sanction of the Administrator is required for certain legislative proposals. These include Bills or amendments that the Council of Ministers intends to move in the Legislative Assembly, and which deal with the "constitution and organisation of the court of the Judicial Commissioner", and "jurisdiction and powers of the court of the Judicial Commissioner with respect to any of the matters in the State List or the Concurrent List".

9. Ans: C

Explanation: Industry body Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) has urged the government to bring over-the-top (OTT) service providers like WhatsApp, Google Duo etc. under licensing regime and defer net neutrality rules on telecom operators till the time 'same service same rules' are applied on the apps.

What's the issue?

Telecom operators have been demanding that the government should impose 'same service, same rules' to provide a level playing field in the sector. But, recently Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) had recommended that no regulations should be imposed on the calling and messaging apps till the time clarity emerges in the international jurisdictions.

What is Net Neutrality?

It means that governments and internet service providers treat all data on the internet equally and does not differentially charge consumers for higher-quality delivery or giving preferential treatment to certain websites. Network neutrality requires all Internet service providers (ISPs) to provide the same level of data access and speed to all traffic, and that traffic to one service or website cannot be blocked or degraded.

How net neutrality is treated/ regulated in India?

The net neutrality principles, approved by the telecom department in 2018, prohibit service providers from discriminating against internet content and services by blocking, throttling or according preferential higher speeds.

10. Ans: D

Explanation: It is a drinking water survey launched in 10 cities under Jal Jeevan Mission (Urban).

Launched by the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry.

As part of the survey, data will also be collected on wastewater management and condition of water bodies in the cities. The mission will be monitored through a technology-based platform on which beneficiary response will be monitored.

Initially, the survey is being launched as a pilot in ten cities namely, Agra, Badlapur, Bhubaneswar, Churu, Kochi, Madurai, Patiala, Rohtak, Surat and Tumkur.

Jal Jeevan Mission (Urban):

The Jal Jeevan Mission-Urban aims to create universal coverage of water supply in all 4,378 statutory towns as well as sewage management in 500 AMRUT cities.

The scheme will be implemented first through signing of MoUs between the Centre, states, and the urban local bodies. The cities will then prepare city water balance plans, recycle/reuse plans and aquifer management plans.

The state will vet and approve the development of the project with a baseline assessment.

Funding: For Union Territories, there will be 100% central funding. For North Eastern and Hill States, central funding for projects will be 90%. Central funding will be 50% for cities with less than 1 lakh population, one third for cities with 1 lakh to 10 lakh population and 25% for cities with million plus population.