



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 12-08-2021

EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Overcoming resistance from China, an unprecedented India-led UN Security Council session recently highlighted the primacy of the UNCLOS. A concept note incorporating the framework was also circulated in this regard.

Implications and significance of the move:

As per the UNSC Presidential statement, “UNCLOS is the legal framework applicable to activities in the oceans, including countering illicit activities at sea.” The framework highlights the importance of enhancing international and regional cooperation to counter threats to maritime safety and security. It also calls for efforts by regional and sub-regional organizations and individual countries in this regard. Also, this was the first ever standalone discussion on “Maritime Security” in the UN Security Council (UNSC).

About UNCLOS:

Adopted and signed in 1982. It became effective in the year 1994.

It replaced the four Geneva Conventions of April, 1958, which respectively concerned the territorial sea and the contiguous zone, the continental shelf, the high seas, fishing and conservation of living resources on the high seas.

The Convention has become the legal framework for marine and maritime activities. Also known as Law of the Sea, it divides marine areas into five main zones namely- Internal Waters, Territorial Sea, Contiguous Zone, Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and the High Seas. UNCLOS is the only international convention which stipulates a framework for state jurisdiction in maritime spaces. It provides a different legal status to different maritime zones.

2. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced this new national initiative on palm oil production to help increase farm incomes. The scheme involves investment of over Rs 11,000 crore.

Aims and Objectives of the scheme:

Achieve self-reliance in edible oil. Harness domestic edible oil prices that are dictated by expensive palm oil imports. To raise the domestic production of palm oil by three times to 11 lakh MT by 2025-

26.

Key features of the scheme:

The special emphasis of the scheme will be in India's north-eastern states and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands due to the conducive weather conditions in the regions. Under the scheme, oil palm farmers will be provided financial assistance and will get remuneration under a price and viability formula.

Benefits and significance of the scheme:

It is expected to incentivise production of palm oil to reduce dependence on imports and help farmers cash in on the huge market.

Need for such schemes:

India is the largest consumer of vegetable oil in the world. Of this, palm oil imports are almost 60% of its total vegetable oil imports. In 2016- 2017, the total domestic consumption of palm oil by India was 9.3 million MT, with 98.97 percent of it imported from Malaysia and Indonesia. This means India was producing only 1.027 per cent of its requirement. Also, in India, 94.1 per cent of its palm oil is used in food products, especially for cooking purposes. This makes palm oil extremely critical to India's edible oils economy.

Palm oil:

Palm oil is currently the world's most consumed vegetable oil. It is used extensively in the production of detergents, plastics, cosmetics, and biofuels. Top consumers of the commodity are India, China, and the European Union (EU).

3. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

August 10 marks World Biofuel Day, which is observed annually. The theme for World Biofuel Day 2021 is based on "the promotion of biofuels for a better environment".

4. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

In a world first, South Africa grants a patent to an artificial intelligence system. DABUS (which stands for "device for the autonomous bootstrapping of unified sentience") is an AI system created by Stephen Thaler, a pioneer in the field of AI and programming. The system simulates human brainstorming and creates new inventions.

5. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

In Gujarat, Chief Minister Vijay Rupani launched eNagar mobile application and portal, for providing online end to end citizen centric services.

6. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

The report Elderly in India 2021 is released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) which comes under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).

It sought to provide insights about the problems and status of elderly persons in the country, and help in policymaking.

Key findings:

According to the report, Kerala currently has the highest elderly population (16.5 per cent), followed by Tamil Nadu (13.6 per cent), Himachal Pradesh (13.1 per cent), Punjab (12.6 per cent) and Andhra Pradesh (12.4 per cent) in 2021.

Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Assam have the least proportion with 7.7 per cent, 8.1 per cent and 8.2 per cent, respectively.

There is likely to be an increase of nearly 34 million elderly persons in 2021 as compared to 2011 (104 million). This is projected to rise by around 56 million over the next decade. The percentage share of the elderly population in the total population is said to rise from 8.6 per cent in 2011 to 10.1 per cent in 2021 and projected to touch 13.1 per cent in 2031. The elderly female and male population is now projected to rise to 100.9 million and 92.9 million, respectively, in 2031. The report noted a significant increase in the old-age dependency ratio, which rose from 10.9 per cent in 1961 to 14.2 per cent in 2011 and is projected to increase to 15.7 per cent and 20.1 per cent in 2021 and 2031, respectively. The dependency ratio for female and male is expected to reach 14.8 per cent and 16.7 per cent, respectively, in 2021. The old-age dependency ratio is defined as the number of persons aged 60+ per 100 persons relative to the age group 15-59.

7. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The Atlantic meridional overturning circulation (AMOC) is the zonally integrated component of surface and deep currents in the Atlantic Ocean. It is characterized by a northward flow of warm, salty water in the upper layers of the Atlantic, and a southward flow of colder, deep waters that are part of the thermohaline circulation. These “limbs” are linked by regions of overturning in the Nordic and Labrador Seas and the Southern Ocean. The AMOC is an important component of the Earth’s climate system, and is a result of both atmospheric and thermohaline drivers. The net northward heat transport in the Atlantic is unique among global oceans, and is responsible for the relative warmth of the

Northern Hemisphere. AMOC carries up to 25% of the northward global atmosphere-ocean heat transport in the northern hemisphere. If the AMOC collapsed, it would increase cooling of the Northern Hemisphere, sea level rise in the Atlantic, an overall fall in precipitation over Europe and North America and a shift in monsoons in South America and Africa.

8. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

Recently, the UN General Assembly approved a resolution establishing a Permanent Forum of People of African Descent.

About the UN United Nations Permanent Forum of People of African Descent. It would serve as “a platform for improving the safety and quality of life and livelihoods of people of African descent” and ensure the full political, economic and social inclusion in the societies where they live. It would provide expert advice and recommendations, to Human Rights Council & UN agencies, on addressing the challenges of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance. Forum’s first session will take place in 2022. The forum will consist of 10 members — five elected by the General Assembly from all regions and five appointed by the Human Rights Council following consultations with regional groups and organizations of people of African descent. The resolution also calls for annual reports to the assembly and the council on the forum’s activities, and an evaluation of its operation by the General Assembly after four sessions, based on an evaluation by the Human Rights Council.

9. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

UK High Court has granted fugitive diamond merchant Nirav Modi permission to appeal against a magistrates’ court order, in favour of extradition to India to face charges of fraud and money laundering before the Indian courts, on mental health and human rights grounds.

Background:

The U.K.’s Home Department, in April 2020, approved the extradition of diamond merchant Nirav Modi to India in connection with the ₹13,758 crore Punjab National Bank (PNB) fraud. This came two months after the Westminster Magistrates’ Court in London ruled that a prima facie case was made out against him.

Fugitive economic offender:

A special court, in December 2019, declared diamond businessman Nirav Modi a fugitive economic offender, on a plea of the Enforcement Directorate. Definition- Fugitive Economic Offender:

A person can be named an offender under the law if there is an arrest warrant against him or her for involvement in economic offences involving at least Rs. 100 crore or more and has fled from India to

escape legal action.

The procedure:

The investigating agencies have to file an application in a Special Court under the Prevention of Money-Laundering Act containing details of the properties to be confiscated, and any information about the person's whereabouts.

The Special Court will issue a notice for the person to appear at a specified place and date at least six weeks from the issue of notice.

Proceedings will be terminated if the person appears. If not the person would be declared as a Fugitive Economic Offender based on the evidence filed by the investigating agencies. The person who is declared as a Fugitive Economic Offender can challenge the proclamation in the High Court within 30 days of such declaration according to the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018.

10. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

Set up by the Sangeet Natak Akademi as one of its constituent units in 1959. In 1975, it became an independent entity and was registered as an autonomous organization under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860, fully financed by the Ministry of Culture. Bharat Rang Mahotsav, or the 'National Theatre Festival', established in 1999, is the annual theatre festival of National School of Drama (NSD), held in New Delhi, today it is acknowledged as the largest theatre festival of Asia, dedicated solely to theatre.