



# EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 15-03-2021

---

### EXPLANATION

1. Ans: B

Explanation: The Indian Naval Ship INS Jalashwa arrived at Port Anjouan, Comoros on 14 March 2021 to deliver 1,000 Metric Tonnes of rice, under Mission Sagar-IV. INS Jalashwa is the largest amphibious ship of Indian Navy.

2. Ans: A

Explanation: The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), the umbrella entity for digital payments in India, has launched a new application named “UPI-Help” on BHIM UPI, which will act as a grievance redressal mechanism for the users of the BHIM application.

3. Ans: A

Explanation: Overall, China has the largest reserves, followed by Japan and Switzerland, as on the International Monetary Fund table.

4. Ans: C

Explanation: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has flagged off the foot march to re-enact the historic Mahatma Gandhi-led Salt March, while launching the ‘Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav’, the government’s initiative to mark 75 years of India’s Independence. The march from Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad to Dandi in Navsari district, a distance of 386 km, will take 25 days.

It will mark the 91st anniversary of the historic march against the tax on salt imposed by the British in India.

About the Salt Satyagraha: On March 12, 1930, Mahatma Gandhi embarked a historic Salt March from Sabarmati Ashram in Gujarat’s Ahmedabad to the village of Dandi in the state’s coastal area to protest against the steep tax the British levied on salt.

The Salt March began on March 12, 1930 and continued till April 6, 1930. It was a 24-day Salt March, which was non-violent in nature, is historically significant as it led to the mass Civil Disobedience Movement. Upon reaching the seashore in Dandi, Mahatma Gandhi broke the law by producing illegal salt. Why Gandhi ji chose Salt Satyagraha to start the civil disobedience movement?

In every Indian household, salt was indispensable, yet people were forbidden from making salt even for domestic use, compelling them to buy it from shops at a high price. The state monopoly over salt was

deeply unpopular; by making it his target, Gandhiji hoped to mobilise a wider discontent against British rule. Salt was chosen to symbolize the start of civil disobedience movement because salt was deemed as something on which each Indian had the basic right.

5. Ans: C

Explanation: The Supreme Court has asked the government to respond to a plea to constitute district medical boards with expert gynaecologists and even paediatricians to help rape survivors. The court also said that if a woman is raped and is pregnant, she must be told about her legal rights.

What the law says?

Section 3 of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act 1971 prohibits termination of pregnancy after 20 weeks. An exception to the law is made if a registered medical practitioner certifies to a court that the continued pregnancy is life-threatening for the mother. Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2020 is passed by the Lok Sabha and it will be discussed in the Rajya Sabha. It seeks to extend the upper limit for permitting abortions from 20 weeks to 24 under special circumstances.

Abortion vs Fundamental Right: The “right to exercise reproductive choice is the right to choose whether to conceive and carry pregnancy to its full term or to terminate it. This choice is at the core of one’s privacy, dignity, personal autonomy, bodily integrity, self determination and right to health recognised by Article 21 of the Constitution.”

6. Ans: B

Explanation: The Supreme Court has held that independent persons and not bureaucrats should be appointed State Election Commissioners.

What’s the case?

An appeal was filed by the Goa government against an order of the Bombay High Court which had issued a stay on certain municipal election notifications issued by the Goa State Election Commission.

The Supreme court has now upheld the High Court order regarding municipal reservations and directed the state government to notify reservations for the municipalities of Mormugao, Margao, Mapusa, Quepem and Sanguem within the next 10 days. It also directed the State Election Commission to complete the election process by April 30. Supreme Court’s observations/judgement on independence of the state election commissioners: Independent persons and not bureaucrats should be appointed State Election Commissioners. This is necessary because giving government employees the additional charge of State Election Commissioners is a “mockery of the Constitution”. The States should appoint independent persons as Election Commissioners all along the length and breadth of the country.

Need for: The court said that it was “disturbing” to see government employees manning State Election Commissions as an add-on job. Besides, under the constitutional mandate, it is the duty of the State to not interfere with the functioning of the State Election Commission.

About the State Election Commission:

The Constitution of India vests in the State Election Commission, consisting of a State Election Commissioner, the superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of electoral rolls for, and the conduct of all elections to the Panchayats and the Municipalities (Articles 243K, 243ZA).

The State Election Commissioner is appointed by the Governor. As per article 243 the Governor, when so requested by the State Election Commission, make available to the State Election Commission such staff as may be necessary for the discharge of the functions conferred on the SEC by clause (1). Under the Constitution, establishment of local self-government institutions is the responsibility of the states (entry 5, List II, Seventh Schedule).

7. Ans: A

Explanation: The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has written to the Chief Secretaries of Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh to “take appropriate action as per law to check illegal influx from Myanmar into India.”

Background: The directive comes weeks after the military coup and subsequent crackdown in the neighbouring country led to several persons crossing over into India.

What has the Centre said?

The State governments had no powers to grant “refugee status to any foreigner” and India is not a signatory to the United Nations Refugee Convention of 1951 and its 1967 Protocol.

The Tatmadaw, or Myanmar military, had taken over the country after a coup on February 1.

India and Myanmar share 1,643-km border and people on either side have familial ties.

About the Refugee Convention 1951: It is a United Nations multilateral treaty that defines who is a refugee, and sets out the rights of individuals who are granted asylum and the responsibilities of nations that grant asylum. The Convention grants certain rights to people fleeing persecution because of race, religion, nationality, affiliation to a particular social group, or political opinion.

### **India not a member**

The Convention also sets out which people do not qualify as refugees, such as war criminals. The Convention also provides for some visa-free travel for holders of travel documents issued under the convention. The Convention builds on Article 14 of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which recognizes the right of persons to seek asylum from persecution in other countries. A refugee may enjoy rights and benefits in a state in addition to those provided for in the Convention

The 1967 Protocol included refugees from all countries as opposed to the 1951 Convention that only included refugees from Europe.

8. Ans: A

Explanation: Indian Railways ensures 100% compliance of payment of minimum wages to contract workers through e-application Shramik Kalyan Portal. Indian Railway Shramik Kalyan Developed and launched: 1st October, 2018. It ensures the compliance of provisions of Minimum Wages Act. The contractors are required to regularly upload wage payment data into e-application. It ensures that contractual workers of Indian Railways get their rightful dues.

9. Ans: C

Explanation: Iraq continued to be the top oil supplier to India despite a 23 percent decline in purchases to a five-month low of 867,500 bpd. The United States has overtaken Saudi Arabia as India's second biggest oil supplier. The overall import of India from the United States, rose 48 percent to a record 545,300 barrels per day (bpd).

10. Ans: C

Explanation: Participatory Notes, also called P-Notes or just PNs are instruments that are issued by registered FIIs to overseas investors who want to invest in the stock markets in India, without registering themselves with the market regulatory authority SEBI. PNs are not used within India but by investors abroad. Hence, they are also known as offshore derivative instruments. They are used by clients of FIIs who do not wish to directly participate in the stock market in India, but do it through the FIIs using PNs. The P-Note holder also does not enjoy any voting rights in relation to security/shares referenced by the P-Note.