



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 19-08-2021

EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

After reviewing over 8,000 suggestions from the public, the Uttar Pradesh State Law Commission has submitted a report and draft Bill of a new population control law (The Uttar Pradesh Population (Control, Stabilisation and Welfare) Bill, 2021) proposing two-child policy to the State government.

Key suggestions adopted by the commiss:

Special facilities to all families (irrespective of the BPL category) who have only one child and undertake voluntary sterilisation. A person who has more than two children after the law comes into force would be debarred from several benefits such as welfare schemes.

Background:

On World Population Day (11th July), the Uttar Pradesh government announced a new population policy for 2021-2030. The new policy has provisions to give incentives to those who help in population control.

Highlights of the draft bill on population control:

The new policy aims at:

Decreasing the total fertility rate from 2.7 to 2.1 by 2026 and 1.7 by 2030. Increase modern contraceptive prevalence rate from 31.7% to 45% by 2026 and 52% by 2030. Increase male methods of contraception use from 10.8% to 15.1% by 2026 and 16.4% by 2030. Decrease maternal mortality rate from 197 to 150 to 98, and infant mortality rate from 43 to 32 to 22, and under 5 infant mortality rate from 47 to 35 to 25.

2. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The Tribunal Reforms Act, 2021 was passed in both houses recently. The law has triggered a fresh stand-off between the legislature and the judiciary over the powers of and limitations on law making.

Controversial provisions:

As per the Bill, the minimum age criterion is 50 years for appointment of advocates as members of tribunals and the tenure is four-years.

The court found the caps arbitrary. But, the government has argued that the move will bring in a specialised talent pool of advocates to pick from. Section 3(1), Sections 3(7), 5 and 7(1) ultra-vires Articles 14, 21 and 50 of the Constitution. Section 3 (1) bars appointments to tribunals of persons

below 50 years of age. This undermines the length/security of tenure and violates both judicial independence and the principle of separation of powers. Section 3(7) of the impugned Act which mandates the recommendation of a panel of two names by the search-cum selection committee to the Central Government, violates the principles of separation of powers and judicial independence.

Highlights of Tribunals Reforms (Rationalisation and Conditions of Service) Act, 2021:

The Bill seeks to provide for uniform terms and conditions of the various members of the Tribunal and abolish certain tribunals, as a part of its bid to rationalize the tribunals.

Key changes:

It seeks to dissolve certain existing appellate bodies and transfer their functions to other existing judicial bodies. It seeks to empower the Central Government to make rules for qualifications, appointment, term of office, salaries and allowances, resignation, removal and other terms and conditions of service of Members of Tribunals. It provides that the Chairperson and Members of the Tribunals will be appointed by the Central Government on the recommendation of a Search-cum-Selection Committee. It also provides the composition of the Committee, to be headed by the Chief Justice of India or a Judge of Supreme Court nominated by him. For state tribunals, there will be a separate search committee. The Union government has to 'preferably' decide on the recommendations of the search-cum selection committee within 3 months of the date of the recommendation. Tenure: Chairperson of a Tribunal shall hold office for a term of 4 years or till he attains the age of 70 years, whichever is earlier. Other Members of a Tribunal shall hold office for a term of 4 years or till he attains the age of 67 years, whichever is earlier.

3. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

On July 22, 1947, the National flag of India was adopted in its present form (horizontal rectangular tricolour) during a meeting of the Constituent Assembly, 23 days before India's Independence, and became the official national flag of the Dominion of India on August 15, 1947. Present flag is based on the Swaraj flag, a flag of the Indian National Congress designed by Pingali Venkayya. After undergoing several changes, the Tricolour was adopted as our national flag at a Congress Committee meeting in Karachi in 1931. Constitutional & Statutory Provisions regarding National Flag of India:

Art 51A(a) – To abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag and the National Anthem. Statutes Governing Use of Flag: Emblems and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act, 1950. Prevention of Insults to National Honor Act, 1971.

4. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

In Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha unveiled a mobile application named PROOF, to bring more transparency and accountability in the governance system. PROOF stands for 'Photographic Record of On-site Facility'.

5. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

The Indian Naval Ship Tabar arrived at Portsmouth in England on August 12, 2021, to undertake the annual bilateral drill 'Exercise Konkan 2021' between the Indian Navy and Britain's Royal Navy.

6. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

SAMVAD (Support, Advocacy & Mental health interventions for children in Vulnerable circumstances And Distress) is a National Initiative and Integrated Resource that works in child protection, mental health and psychosocial care. The programme is aimed at mental health outreach for children who are abandoned and orphaned, child survivors of trafficking, or in conflict with law.

SAMVAD is an initiative of the Ministry of Women and Child Development. The National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences is in charge of the implementation body (NIMHANS). The NIMHANS is the world's leading centre for mental health and neuroscience research and teaching. It is run independently by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. With the recent launch of 2nd phase of SAMVAD, it will engage with functionaries in Panchayats thereby ushering in a silent revolution in addressing psychosocial challenges amongst vulnerable children. SAMVAD is slated to begin work with Panchayati Raj systems to integrate child protection and mental health in aspirational districts across the country to facilitate awareness generation and improve service delivery at the grassroot level.

7. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

The Project BOLD (Bamboo Oasis on Lands in Drought) of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has received the Indian Army's support in Leh. On August 15, Army planted 20 bamboo saplings at its compound in Leh. This is the first-ever attempt to grow bamboo trees in the high Himalayan terrains with the objective of preventing land degradation and developing green cover. While this will create sustainable income for the local tribal population; it will also contribute to the environment and land protection.

About Bamboo Oasis on Lands in Drought (BOLD): The initiative aims to create bamboo-based green patches of land in arid and semi-arid zones. It is launched by Khadi and Village Industries

Commission (KVIC) It is a statutory body established under KVIC Act, 1956 and functions under the Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises. It is charged with the planning, promotion, organisation and implementation of programmes for the development of Khadi and other village industries in the rural areas in coordination with other agencies engaged in rural development wherever necessary.

8. Ans) (d)

9. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

Four more Indian sites have been recognised as wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar Convention taking the number of such sites in the country to 46.

The new sites include:

Sultanpur National Park, Haryana: More than 10 globally threatened, including the critically endangered sociable lapwing, and the endangered Egyptian Vulture, Saker Falcon, Pallas's Fish Eagle and Black-bellied Tern birds are found here. Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary, Haryana: It is a human-made freshwater wetland. It is also the largest in Haryana. Thol, Gujarat: It is a Wildlife Sanctuary in Gujarat lies on the Central Asian Flyway and more than 320 bird species can be found here. It supports more than 30 threatened waterbird species, such as the critically endangered White-rumped Vulture and Sociable Lapwing, and the vulnerable Sarus Crane, Common Pochard and Lesser White-fronted Goose. Wadhvana, Gujarat: It is internationally important for its birdlife as it provides wintering ground to migratory waterbirds, including over 80 species that migrate on the Central Asian Flyway. Pallas's fish-Eagle, the vulnerable Common Pochard, and the near-threatened Dalmatian Pelican, Grey-headed Fish-eagle and Ferruginous Duck are some birds found here.

10. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

While addressing the nation on 75th Independence Day, Prime Minister announced that Rice under all scheme to be fortified by 2024 What is food fortification? According to the WHO, fortification is the process of increasing the content of an essential micronutrient, such as vitamins or minerals, in a food item to improve its nutritional value and provide public health benefits at minimal cost. It has minimal effects on taste and cooking properties while at the same time adding multiple nutrients to cure multiple deficiencies. It also has minimal behaviour change, unlike supplements. For example, milk is often fortified with vitamin D, and calcium may be added to fruit juices. Rice is the fifth item to get the government's fortification push after salt, edible oil, milk and wheat.

How to fortify rice? According to the norms of the Food and Safety Standards Authority of India, 1 kg of fortified rice must contain iron (28mg-42.5mg), folic acid (75-125 mg) and vitamin B-12 (0.75-1.25mg). Usual milled rice is low in micronutrient content because its nutrient-rich superficial layer is removed during rice milling and polishing operations. This makes the grain taste better and visually appealing but less nutritious. Rice can be fortified by adding a micronutrient powder containing iron, folic acid and other B-complex vitamins, vitamin A and zinc, which then sticks to the grains.