



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 01-06-2021

EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

French President Emmanuel Macron has said he recognised his country's role in the Rwandan genocide and hoped for forgiveness. This comes after years of Rwandan accusations that France was complicit in the 1994 atrocities.

Where is Rwanda?

Rwanda is a landlocked country in central Africa. Its Capital is Kigali. Population composition: Hutus – majority, Tutsi –Minority.

What is Rwanda genocide?

The Rwandan genocide, also known as the genocide against the Tutsi, was a genocidal mass slaughter of Tutsi in Rwanda by members of the Hutu majority government. An estimated more than 800,000 Rwandans were killed during the 100-day period from April 7 to mid-July 1994.

Causes:

After World War 1, Rwanda came under the League of Nations mandate of Belgium during which the ruling Belgians favored the minority Tutsis over the Hutu majority. It led to widening communal rift between Tutsis and Hutus. Rise in oppression of minority Tutsi by Hutu, creating a legacy of tension and violence even before Rwanda gained its independence. The Hutu revolution in 1959 forced thousands of Tutsis to flee the country. Ethnically motivated violence continued against Tutsi even after independence in 1962. Immediate cause – signing of an Arusha agreement by Habyarimana and thereafter killing of moderate Hutu leader Habyarimana of the Rwandan government on Apr 6, 1994 in a plane crash.

2. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

MPs have written to Speaker Om Birla to restart the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS).

Background:

The Union government had resorted to Disaster Management Act to suspend the member of Parliament local area development (MPLAD) scheme in April 2020.

About MPLAD scheme:

Launched in December, 1993.

Seeks to provide a mechanism for the Members of Parliament to recommend works of developmental nature for creation of durable community assets and for provision of basic facilities including community infrastructure, based on locally felt needs. The MPLADS is a Plan Scheme fully funded by the Government of India. The annual MPLADS fund entitlement per MP constituency is Rs. 5 crore.

Special focus:

MPs are to recommend every year, works costing at least 15 percent of the MPLADS entitlement for the year for areas inhabited by Scheduled Caste population and 7.5 per cent for areas inhabited by S.T. population.

Release of Funds:

Funds are released in the form of grants in-aid directly to the district authorities. The funds released under the scheme are non-lapsable.

The liability of funds not released in a particular year is carried forward to the subsequent years, subject to eligibility. The MPs have a recommendatory role under the scheme. The district authority is empowered to examine the eligibility of works, sanction funds and select the implementing agencies, prioritise works, supervise overall execution, and monitor the scheme at the ground level. At least 10% of the projects under implementation in the district are to be inspected every year by the district authority.

Recommendation of works:

The Lok Sabha Members can recommend works in their respective constituencies. The elected members of the Rajya Sabha can recommend works anywhere in the state from which they are elected. Nominated members of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha may select works for implementation anywhere in the country.

3. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Bollywood actor Sanjay Dutt recently received his Golden visa from the UAE government.

What is it?

In 2019, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) implemented a new system for long-term residence visas, thereby enabling foreigners to live, work and study in the UAE without the need of a national sponsor and with 100 per cent ownership of their business.

So, what does the Golden Visa offer?

The Golden Visa system essentially offers long-term residency (5 and 10 years) to people belonging to the following groups:

investors, entrepreneurs, individuals with outstanding talents the likes of researchers, medical professionals and those within the scientific and knowledge fields, and remarkable students.

Eligibility requirements (Have a brief overview; need not mug up):

For investors:

A deposit of at least AED (United Arab Emirates Dirham) 10 million worth of public investment, either in the form of an investment fund or a company. 60% of the total investment must not be in the form of real estate. The invested amount must not be loaned, or in case of assets, investors must assume full ownership. The investor must be able to retain the investment for a minimum of three years. May be extended to include business partners, providing that each partner contributes AED 10 million. Can also include the holder's spouse and children, as well as one executive director and one advisor.

For individuals with specialized talents:

The category includes doctors, researchers, scientists, investors and artists. These individuals may be granted a 10-year visa following accreditations granted by their respective departments and fields. The visa also extends to their spouses and children.

Eligibility for a 5-year visa:

The investor must invest in a property of a gross value of not less than AED 5 million.

The amount invested in real estate must not be on a loan basis.

The property must be retained for at least three years.

Outstanding students:

Outstanding students with a minimum grade of 95% in public and private secondary schools.

University students within and outside the country having a distinction GPA of at least 3.75 upon graduation.

Reasons Behind the Move:

The UAE's economy has been hit hard by the Covid-19 pandemic and low oil prices, prompting many expatriates to leave.

The move intends to bring them back now and keep the "talented people and great minds" in the Gulf country and help in nation-building. It will attract talented professionals from various fields of expertise and further encourage innovation, creativity and applied research, adding to the appeal of a career in the UAE for the world's brightest minds.

4. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

The Department of Higher Education under Ministry of Education, has launched a new initiative called 'YUVA- Prime Minister's Scheme For Mentoring Young Authors'. YUVA stands for Young, Upcoming and Versatile Authors.

5. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

Acting suo motu based on a media report, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has appointed a joint committee to look into allegations of unauthorized construction activity taking place in Mokedatu, where

the Karnataka government had proposed to construct a dam across the Cauvery River.

Jurisdiction of NGT over such matters:

If any project is to be implemented without conducting any environmental impact assessment(EIA) study and without obtaining necessary clearance, if any required, then it will be an unauthorized act affecting the environment. In such matters, the NGT would get the jurisdiction of intervening on the issue.

Where is it located?

Mekedatu, meaning goat's leap, is a deep gorge situated at the confluence of the rivers Cauvery and its tributary Arkavathi.

Issues surrounding Mekedatu project:

The project aims to store and supply water for drinking purposes for the Bengaluru city. Around 400 megawatts (MW) of power is also proposed to be generated through the project. However, Tamil Nadu objected saying that the project would affect the flow of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu. Tamil Nadu also argues that the project is against the final order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) in which the SC held that no state can claim exclusive ownership or assert rights to deprive other states of the waters of inter-state rivers.

Cauvery River:

Origin: River rises on Brahmagiri Hill of the Western Ghats in south-western Karnataka state. The river basin covers three states and a Union Territory: Tamil Nadu, 43,868 square kilometres, Karnataka, 34,273 square kilometres, Kerala, 2,866 square kilometres and Puducherry. Key tributaries: Hemavati, Lakshman Tirtha, Kabini, Amaravati, Noyil, and Bhavani rivers. Falls along the way: Upon entering Tamil Nadu, the Kaveri continues through a series of twisted wild gorges until it reaches Hogenakkal Falls. Dams: There the Mettur Dam was constructed for irrigation and hydel power in Tamil Nadu.

6. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Art historian and curator Laurence des Cars has become the first woman to be appointed the president of Louvre – in its 228-year history. It is the world's largest art museum, based in Paris. It is also the world's most visited museum. It is home to the Mona Lisa, a classic that cultural organisations and art lovers across the world would love to exhibit.

7. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Bhitarkanika National Park, located in Odisha, is famous for its mangroves, migratory birds, turtles, estuarine crocodiles, and countless creeks. It is India's second-largest mangrove forest. The Bhitarkanika is represented by 3 Protected Areas, the Bhitarkanika National Park, the Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary and the Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary. Bhitarkanika is located in the estuary of Brahmani, Baitarani,

Dhamra, and Mahanadi river systems. It is said to house 70% of the country's estuarine or saltwater crocodiles, conservation of which was started way back in 1975. Bhitarkanika is home to a wide range of fauna, including 3,000 spotted deer, bird species and other species such as wild boars, jackal, hyenas, jungle cat, fishing cats, water monitor lizards, rhesus macaques, common langur, Indian civet cat and hare. The area was designated a national park in September 1998 and as a Ramsar site by UNESCO in August 2002.

Why in News?

Cyclone Yaas fells hundreds of trees in Bhitarkanika, hit on fauna being assessed.

8. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Odisha's blackbuck population has doubled in the last six years, according to figures from the latest population census released recently by the chief conservator of forest (wildlife). The antelopes numbered 7,358 — 4,196 females, 1,712 males and 1,450 young, according to census figures. Blackbucks are found only in the Ganjam district in the southern part of the state. Protection status: The blackbuck is a Schedule-1 animal according to the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 (amended in 1992) and is considered as 'Vulnerable' according to the Red Data Book.

The blackbuck is known in Odisha and Ganjam as Krushnasara Mruga.

Other related facts:

Bishnoi community of Rajasthan is known worldwide for their conservation efforts to blackbuck and Chinkara. State animal of Andhra Pradesh, Haryana & Punjab.

Protected Areas:

- Velavadar Blackbuck Sanctuary — Gujarat.
- Point Calimere Wildlife Sanctuary.
- Nilgiri biosphere reserve.
- Corbett national park.

9. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tributes to pioneering Hindutva ideologue Veer Savarkar on his birth anniversary- 28th May. About Savarkar and his contributions: Born on May 28, 1883 in Bhagur, a city in Maharashtra's Nashik. He was against foreign goods and propagated the idea of Swadeshi. In 1905, he burnt all the foreign goods in a bonfire on Dussehra.

Social reforms:

He championed atheism and rationality and also disapproved orthodox Hindu belief. In fact, he even dismissed cow worship as superstitious. He also Worked on abolishment of untouchability in Ratnagiri.

Organisations he was associated with:

Vinayak Savarkar was a president of Hindu Mahasabha from 1937 to 1943. When congress ministries offered resignation on 22nd oct 1939, Hindu mahasabha under his leadership cooperated with Muslim league to form government in provinces like Sindh, Bengal and NWFP. In Pune, Savarkar founded the “Abhinav Bharat Society”. He was also involved in the Swadeshi movement and later joined Tilak’s Swaraj Party. His instigating patriotic speeches and activities incensed the British Government. As a result, the British Government withdrew his B.A. degree. He founded the Free India Society. The Society celebrated important dates on the Indian calendar including festivals, freedom movement landmarks, and was dedicated to furthering discussion about Indian freedom. Vinayak Savarkar and Ganesh Savarkar started Mitra Mela, a revolutionary secret society in Nasik in 1899.

10. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

A reclining Buddha statue or image represents The Buddha during his last illness, about to enter Parinirvana, the stage of great salvation after death that can only be attained by enlightened souls. Statues and images of the Reclining Buddha show him lying on his right side, his head resting on a cushion or on his right elbow. It was first depicted in Gandhara art. The largest Reclining Buddha in the world is the 600-foot Winsein Tawya Buddha built in 1992 in Mawlamyine, Myanmar. Also, Cave No. 26 of the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Ajanta contains a 24-foot-long and nine-foot-tall sculpture of the Reclining Buddha, believed to have been carved in the 5th century AD.