



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 31-12-2020

EXPLANATION

1. Ans:c

Explanation:

States are opting for laws on freedom of religion for marriage. Madhya Pradesh Cabinet has given its nod to an ordinance on the Bill, the Madhya Pradesh Dharmik Swatantrata (Freedom of Religion) Bill 2020.

Provisions of the bill:

Seeks to regulate inter-faith marriages in the state. Exempts reconversion to parental religion from its purview. Jail term of up to 10 years and a fine of ₹1 lakh for “conversion through marriage or other forcible means”. The bill seeks to prohibit religious conversions or an attempt of conversion by means of misrepresentation, allurements, threat, undue influence, coercion, marriage, and any other fraudulent means. The conspiracy and (the act of) abetting a person for conversion has also been prohibited. Forceful conversions and marriages will be a cognizable offence and be non-bailable. The law has come under sharp criticism from several legal scholars who had contended that the concept of ‘love jihad’ did not have any constitutional or legal basis. They have pointed to Article 21 of the constitution which guarantees individuals the right to marry a person of one’s choice. Also, under Article 25, freedom of conscience, the practice and conversion of religion of one’s choice including not following any religion, are also guaranteed.

2. Ans:c

Explanation:

Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan has been nominated by the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI) as a member on the GAVI Board. Dr. Harsh Vardhan will be representing the South East Area Regional Office (SEARO)/ Western Pacific Regional Office (WPRO) constituency on the GAVI Board. Created in 2000, Gavi is an international organisation – a global Vaccine Alliance, bringing together public and private sectors with the shared goal of creating equal access to new and underused vaccines for children living in the world’s poorest countries.

Members:

Gavi brings together developing country and donor governments, the World Health Organization, UNICEF, the World Bank, the vaccine industry in both industrialised and developing countries, research and technical agencies, civil society, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and other private philanthropists.

3. Ans:A

Explanation:

Islamist groups from Gaza fire rockets into sea to mark the anniversary of the start of the 2008 conflict with Israel. Gaza is a densely populated strip of land that is mostly surrounded by Israel and peopled almost exclusively by Palestinians. Israel used to have a military presence, but withdrew unilaterally in 2005. Gaza is governed by the Islamist group Hamas, which formed in 1987 as a militant “resistance” group against Israel.

4. Ans:B

Explanation:

Giant Rock Bee Honey is added to Tribes India Collection. It is a unique variant of honey, sourced from Malayali Tribes of Tamil Nadu. Malayali is a tribal group from the Eastern Ghats in North Tamil Nadu. With a population of around 3,58,000, they are the largest Scheduled Tribe in that region.

5. Ans:D

Explanation:

Meteorological centre at Leh is inaugurated recently. Located at a height of 3500m, MetCenterLeh will be the highest meteorological centre in India. It will provide forecast for important tourist places like Nubra, Changthang, Pangong Lake, Zaskar, Kargil, Drass, Dha-Baima (Aryan valley), Khalsi among others.

6. Ans:C

Explanation:

A68a is a giant iceberg that calved from the Antarctic in 2017 and has been floating off the coast of South Georgia island. This has generated fear about the impact the iceberg could have on the island's abundant wildlife. The US National Ice Center (USNIC) is the only organization that names and tracks Antarctic icebergs. They are named according to the Antarctic Quadrant in which they are spotted

7. Ans:D

Explanation:

Only two wetlands are registered under Montreux Record from India. The first is Loktak Lake and the second is Keoladeo National park. Chilka lake was earlier a part of it but was later removed.

8. Ans: B

Explanation:

Central Government launched the scheme's mobile application on 17 July 2020. Now, the Central Government will be launching 'Mai Bhi Digital (me too digital)' drive for the street vendors, enabling

them to accept and make payments digitally.

9. Ans:A

Explanation:

Ramsar Convention on Wetlands is an intergovernmental treaty adopted in 1971 in the Iranian city of Ramsar, on the southern shore of the Caspian Sea. It came into force for India on 1st February, 1982.

The Montreux Record is a register of wetland sites on the List of Wetlands of International Importance where changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring, or are likely to occur as a result of technological developments, pollution or other human interference.

10. Ans:A

Explanation:

National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) is the apex authority for maintaining a nationwide link of all the ATMs in India. NPCI exercises this role through its wing IDRBT (Institute for Development of Research in Banking Technology).