



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 23-08-2021

Explanation

1. Ans) (b)

A new plant has been discovered in Ponmudi Hills, Kerala which is part of the Western Ghats, one of the eight hotspots of biological diversity in the world. The plant is named as *Symplocos Mohananii*. It carries white flowers that usually bloom in night. The tree is very endemic in nature. It looks like other plants of the genus *Symplocos*. The plant was spotted from a hill which was about 3000 feet above sea level. Plants of this family are commonly known as sweet leaf plants locally.

2. Ans) (a)

3. Ans) (d)

What are conjugal rights?

Section 9 of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 deals with restitution of conjugal rights. Conjugal rights are rights created by marriage, i.e. right of the husband or the wife to the society of the other spouse. The law recognises these rights— both in personal laws dealing with marriage, divorce etc, and in criminal law requiring payment of maintenance and alimony to a spouse. Section 9 of the Hindu Marriage Act recognises one aspect of conjugal rights — the right to consortium and protects it by allowing a spouse to move court to enforce the right.

Why has the law been challenged?

1. Main ground is that it is violative of the fundamental right to privacy.
2. It amounted to a “coercive act” on the part of the state, which violates one’s sexual and decisional autonomy, and right to privacy and dignity.
3. The provision disproportionately affects women. Women are often called back to marital homes under the provision, and given that marital rape is not a crime, leaves them susceptible to such coerced cohabitation.
4. Also in question is whether the state can have such a compelling interest in protecting the institution of marriage that it allows a legislation to enforce cohabitation of spouses.

4. Ans) (d)

Passed in 1967, the law aims at effective prevention of unlawful activities associations in India.

The Act assigns absolute power to the central government, by way of which if the Centre deems an activity as unlawful then it may, by way of an Official Gazette, declare it so. It has death penalty and life imprisonment as highest punishments. Under UAPA, both Indian and foreign nationals can be charged. It will be applicable to the offenders in the same manner, even if crime is committed on a foreign land, outside India. Under the UAPA, the investigating agency can file a charge sheet in maximum 180 days after the arrests and the duration can be extended further after intimating the court.

It was amended in 2019.

It also included the provision of designating an individual as a terrorist.

5. Ans) (c)

Oslo Accords are a series of agreements between Israel and the Palestinians signed in the 1990s.

1. Oslo I (1993) is formally known as the Declaration of Principles (DOP).
2. The accord was the result of secret negotiations facilitated by then-US president Bill Clinton, and later followed up in 1995 by the Oslo II Accord.

3. Oslo Accords were heralded by many as the closest to ever truly solving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
4. However, the Accords in reality had served as an interim agreement between Israel and the PLO that provided a framework by which both sides could operate together in the West Bank and Gaza, in lieu of Palestinian statehood.
5. It saw the transformation of the PLO into the Palestinian Authority, which was now seen as the legitimate governing body of the Palestinians.
6. The agreement also mandated that Israel recognize the PLO's new role as the representative of the Palestinian people, as well as mandating the Palestinian recognition of Israel's right to exist.
7. It created the most substantive changes to the West Bank and Gaza since Israel won control of the territory during the 1967 Six Day War.

About Oslo II:

Oslo II, officially called the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and Gaza, expanded on Oslo I. It included provisions for the complete withdrawal of Israeli troops from six West Bank cities and about 450 towns. Additionally, the pact set a timetable for elections for the Palestinian Legislative Council.

6. Ans) (b)

After nearly four decades, a new species of algae has been discovered on the Andaman and Nicobar islands. Researchers have named the species *Acetabulariajalakanyakae*. The plant consists of a single gigantic cell with a nucleus, which is its main characteristic. The species is the first of the genus *Acetabularia* to be discovered in India. Another feature of *Acetabularia* is their regenerative potential.

7. A) (d)

About JSS:

It is an initiative for skill development in rural areas. The Scheme of Jan ShikshanSansthan (JSS) was formerly known as ShramikVidyapeeth. It has been implemented through a network of NGOs in the country since March 1967. Objectives:

1. To improve the occupational skills and technical knowledge of the non/neo literates and persons having rudimentary level of education upto 8th standard and other school dropouts beyond 8th standard.
2. To create a pool of master trainers working across the department/agencies of skill development through training/orientation programmes.
3. To widen the range of knowledge and understanding of social, economic and political systems and create awareness about the environment.
4. To Promote national values and to align with national programmes.
5. To promote self-employment and facilitate financial support including loans for the target groups through linkage with credit and consortium membership.

8. A) (c)

Hazara is an ethnic group from Afghanistan. They are believed to be descendants of the founder of the Mongol empire, Genghis Khan, and his army that overran the entire region during the 13th century. Their distinct Asiatic features and use of a Persian dialect called Hazaragi also sets them apart from the rest of the country.

9. Ans) (a)

What has happened is that The Mental Healthcare Act (MHCA), 2017, which came into force in July 2018, has significantly reduced the scope for the use of Section 309 IPC — and made the attempt to commit suicide punishable only as an exception.

10. Ans) (c)

Delhi will get its 1st smog tower in Connaught Place that aims to help combat air pollution at hotspots. The smog tower is expected to clean the air around a 1-km radius. It will purify 1,000 cubic metres of air per second, helping reduce PM 2.5 and PM 10 levels in the locality. The smog tower will take the polluted air from the top and emit the purified air near the ground through fans fitted on sides. It has around 40 wings that emit purified air at 10 m above the ground. A control room has been set up at the site to monitor the operations of the smog tower. Another 25-metre-tall smog tower is being built by the central government at AnandVihar, Delhi.