CURRENT AFFAIRS
FOR ESE AND OTHER COMPETITIVE EXAMS

TOP STORY
2018

377 IPC

PSLV-C42
ISRO launches two commercial satellites

FEATURED
2+2 Dialogue: 1st Indo-US Strategic conversational exchange
India Post Payment Bank: A major initiative towards financial inclusion
Swachhata Hi Seva: Movement for cleanliness across India
World's first hydrogen powered train: ilart

Asian Games 2018: XVIII Asiad in Indonesia
Gagan Yaan: 1st Indian Human Space mission
Institutions of Eminence: India’s world class teaching & research institutions
PM-AASHA: Umbrella Scheme for MSP assurance to farmers
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NATIONAL MISSION ON GOVERNMENT E-MARKETPLACE (GEM)

- It is a platform that was launched by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry which provides online, end to end procurement of commonly used goods and services for all Central and State Government Departments, Public Sector Units and affiliated bodies.
- It is developed by the Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals with technical support of National e-Governance Division of Ministry of Electronics and IT.
- Major tools provided are: (a) e-bidding, (b) reverse e-auction and (c) demand aggregation.
- The main objectives are to promote inclusiveness, transparency and efficiency in public procurement and achieve cashless, contactless and paperless transaction.

JAN DHAN YOJANA

- It is a flagship scheme of Ministry of Finance which was launched for 4 years between 2014 and 2018.
- Its main objective is to open bank accounts with zero balance for every household, so that every household can access to financial services in an affordable manner.
- There benefits for the Jan Dhan account holders are free accident insurance cover, over draft facility etc.
- The 1st phase focused on opening basic bank accounts and RuPay debit card with inbuilt accident insurance cover of Rs 1 lakh.

The 2nd phase (2015-2018) provided micro-insurance to people and pension schemes to unorganised sector workers through Business Correspondents.

Note: Union Finance Ministry has recently announced that it plans to make the scheme open ended with following additional incentives:
   (a) Facility of opening zero balance account has been changed from every household to every adult. (b) The free accident insurance under the scheme has been doubled to Rs 2 lakh from 1 lakh for all accounts opened after August 2018. (c) No conditions to be adhered for over-draft of till Rs 2,000. (d) The overdraft facility of the scheme has also been increased from Rs 5,000 to Rs 10,000. (e) The upper age limit for availing the benefits is increased to 65 from 60 years.

SECTION 377 OF INDIAN PENAL CODE

- A Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court has unanimously decriminalised homosexuality.
- Section 377 typecasts Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ) individuals as sex-offenders with imprisonment for life, or with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine.
- It categorised their consensual conduct on par with sexual offences like rape and child molestation.
- The Bench unanimously held that criminalisation of private consensual sexual conduct between adults of the same sex was clearly unconstitutional.
The court, however, held that the Section 377 would apply to "unnatural" sexual acts like bestiality and sexual act without consent would also continue to be a crime under Section 377.

We have to vanquish prejudice, embrace inclusion, and ensure equal rights – CHIEF JUSTICE DIPAK MISRA

Introduced during British rule, modelled on Buggery Act of 1533, defines gay sex as an unnatural offence – ‘carnal intercourse against the order of nature with any man, woman or animal’. Section decriminalises homosexuality through Sexual Offences Act.

Britain decriminalises homosexuality through Sexual Offences Act.

ATAL PENSION YOJANA (APY)

It is a pension scheme which focuses on the unorganized sector workers in India.

It provides guaranteed minimum pension of Rs. 1,000, 2,000, 3,000, 4,000 and 5,000 per month to people at the age of 60 years in turn for the contribution varying from Rs 42 to Rs 210 per month.

The nodal agency of this scheme is Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).

The minimum age of joining APY is 18 years and maximum age is 40 years.

The age limit of 60 years has been relaxed to 65 years for the guaranteed minimum pension.

DOORSTEP DELIVERY OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES

It has been launched by Delhi government to deliver public services at the doorstep of residents.

40 essential government documents such as driving licences, marriage certificates etc. will be delivered to the Delhi residents at a nominal fee of Rs. 50 per service.

The applicant would have to call 1076 to avail the service and fix an appointment with mobile sahayak.

Mobile sahayak will reach their home and assist in filling forms, fees payment & documents collection.

These documents will then be submitted by him at the concerned government office, which would post the issued certificate/ licence.

DOORSTEP DELIVERY OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES

Day 1 of Door Step Delivery of Services as of 6 p.m.

Some services offered:

What's on offer

Delhi residents can dial 1076 to place a request for doorstep delivery of services, which will be provided from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Some services offered:

- Driving Licence
- Marriage registration
- Ration card
- Birth certificate
- Voter connection

Cost of services:

- Rs. 50 for each service
- Rs. 2,726 for all services

MOVE: GLOBAL MOBILITY SUMMIT

It is India’s First Global Mobility Summit organized by NITI Aayog in collaboration with various ministries and industry partners, research organizations, academia, think tanks and civil society organizations in New Delhi.

Its main aims are:

- To assist in achieving the Government’s objectives for vehicle electrification, renewable energy integration and job growth
- To enhance India’s transition to a clean energy economy

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17th January, 2019
Weekend Batch
19th January, 2019

NOIDA
Weekend Batch
19th January, 2019
SAHI
- It stands for **Safe, Adequate, and Holistic Infrastructure** and was recommended by honorable Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi at **Global Mobility Summit** (held on 7-8 September 2018 in New Delhi).
- It is related to **efficient & convenient public transport** in order to solve issues of pollution & congestion.
- Prime minister also elaborated **7Cs** for the future of mobility which are: **common, connected, clean convenient, congestion-free, charged and cutting-edge**.
- Increasing use of Public transport will also **lower down rising fuel prices** as the demand will decrease.
- **Note:** The reason behind rise in private vehicle ownership is absence of good public transport system.

**NOTA (NONE OF THE ABOVE)**
- It is a **ballot option** designed to **register a protest vote** by the voter if he rejects all the candidates available due to any reason.
- During the counting of votes, **NOTA** votes are tallied and the candidate with the highest number of votes polled is declared elected irrespective of total **NOTA** votes.
- **Note:** Election Commission has withdrawn the **NOTA** option for Rajya Sabha and State Legislative Council elections on the lines of Supreme Court directive not to extend NOTA in Rajya Sabha elections.

**E-SAHAJ**
- It is an **online portal** launched by the **Ministry of Home Affairs**, which is the nodal authority for granting security clearances in certain sensitive sectors.
- Its main objective is to **assist individuals and private companies to submit application for security clearances**. The applications’ status can be viewed online also in this portal.

**TRIPLE TALAQ ORDINANCE**
- **Supreme Court** had struck down triple talaq, calling it as unconstitutional in August 2017.
- Then after, Lok Sabha passed **Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill 2017** in Dec 2017 to make instant triple talaq a criminal offence.
- Recently, the union government has approved an **ordinance** to make **instant triple talaq (talaq-e-biddat)** a punishable offence, after the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, 2017 was not passed in Rajya Sabha during 2018 monsoon session. It doesn't affect Jammu and Kashmir.
- **Major provisions of the ordinance:** (a) Triple talaq remains cognizable with a maximum of three years imprisonment and a fine. (b) Triple talaq will be recognised as a crime only when a woman or her blood relative files a complaint with the police. (c) A compromise can be achieved only when the woman is willing and communicates the same to a magistrate. (d) Magistrate can grant bail after wife’s consent. (e) The custody of children from the marriage will go to the woman and mother is entitled to maintenance determined by a magistrate.

**MINT QUICK READS**

**BILLS AGAINST TRIPLE TALAQ PENDING IN RAJYA SABHA**
- **The Union cabinet on Wednesday approved the latest triple talaq ordinance, making the practice a criminal act.**
- It provides for a **woman or her blood relative to make the offence cognizable.** A compromise can also be reached before a magistrate after the affected woman consents to it.

**Instant Triple Talaq**
- **Muslim Sharia (Islamic Law)** provides the ways to terminate marriage in the form of talaq, which are of three kinds:
  - (a) **Ahsan**, (b) **Hasan** and (c) **Talaq-e-Biddat** (triple or instant talaq)
- The first two are capable of being cancelled, but third one is irrevocable and is considered sinful (permissible in Islamic law).
- 23 countries across the world (including India) have banned triple talaq. Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka have banned the practice of instant triple talaq prevalent among Muslims.
1. Consider the following statements related to Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana.
   1. It is a small deposit scheme for the girl child and is part of the ‘Beti Bachao Beti Padhao’ campaign.
   2. Under the scheme, a parent or legal guardian can open an account in the name of the girl child until she attains the age of ten years.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(a) 1 only  (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2  (d) Neither 1 nor 2

2. Consider the following statements related to Padhe Bharat- Badhe Bharat.
   1. It has been jointly launched by the Ministry of Human Resource Development and NITI AAYOG.
   2. Under the scheme, an annual library grant to schools (Primary to Senior Secondary levels) will be provided by the government to enhance learning of students.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(a) 1 only  (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2  (d) Neither 1 nor 2

3. Which of the following were recently nominated as Member of Parliament to Rajya Sabha by President of India?
   (a) Shri Rakesh Sinha
   (b) Smt. Sonal Mansingh
   (c) Shri Raghunath Mohapatra
   (d) All of the above

4. Consider the following statements related to CVigil mobile app.
   1. It empowers the people of India to share directly with ECI the incidents of malpractice by political parties, their candidates and activists.
   2. It is launched by the Election Commission of India in collaboration with Ministry of Home Affairs.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(a) 1 only  (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2  (d) Neither 1 nor 2

5. Consider the following statements related to National Health Stack.
   1. It is centralized health record for all Indian citizens proposed by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.
   2. It will be India’s first nationally shared digital healthcare infrastructure accessed by the Central Government only.
   3. It will not use latest technology like: Big Data Analytics and Machine Learning Artificial Intelligence.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are NOT correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only  (b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3  (d) 1 and 3 only

6. Which of the following Institutions of Eminence have been shortlisted by the Union government?
   1. Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal
   2. Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay
   3. Birla Institute of Technology & Sciences, Pilani
   4. Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore

Correct answer codes:
(a) 1 and 4  (b) 1, 2, 3 and 4
(c) 1, 2 and 4  (d) 2, 3 and 4

7. Consider the following statements related to National Digital Library.
   1. It is repository of large number of academic books, built by Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur.
   2. It is launched by the Ministry of Human Resources and Development.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are NOT correct?
1. Which is the first Indian state to complete automation of State Crime Records Bureau?
(a) Andhra Pradesh  (b) Maharashtra  
(c) Uttar Pradesh  (d) Kerala

2. Delta Ranking of Aspirational Districts is launched by NITI Aayog. Consider the following statements.
1. Under this ranking, districts will have to provide real-time data points by filling up the Champions of Change Dashboard.
2. It looks into specific aspects of Sustainable Development Goals and analyses the performance of districts.
3. Dahod district (Gujarat) has been ranked first by it.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(a) 1 only  (b) 2 only  
(c) 1, 2 and 3  (d) All are incorrect

3. Which one of the following is the world’s sixth-biggest economy?
(a) United Kingdom  (b) France  
(c) Japan  (d) India

4. Which country was recently added to Grey List of Financial Action Task Force?
(a) Pakistan  (b) Afghanistan  
(c) Iraq  (d) North Korea

5. Which one of the following is the place where the 10th BRICS Summit was held in July 2018?
(a) Moscow, Russia  (b) Beijing, China  
(c) Johannesburg, South Africa  (d) Delhi, India

6. Eminent Persons Group comprises of four specialists each from which of the following countries?
(a) India and Bhutan  (b) India and Nepal  
(c) India and Maldives  (d) India and Bangladesh

7. Which is the second largest oil supplier to Indian state refiners between April and June 2018?
(a) Iraq  (b) Saudi Arabia  
(c) Kuwait  (d) Iran

8. The ‘world’s largest mobile factory’ was inaugurated by Samsung in:
(a) Noida, Uttar Pradesh  (b) Pune, Maharashtra  
(c) Hyderabad, Telangana  (d) Indore, Madhya Pradesh

9. Consider the following statements related to Swachh Survekshan Ranking - 2018.
1. It was released by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
2. Its main aim is to encourage citizen participation and create awareness amongst all sections of society about cleanliness in cities.
3. As per the 2018 rankings, Indore has been declared as India’s cleanest city.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(a) 1 only  (b) 3 only  
(c) 1, 2 and 3  (d) All are incorrect

10. Which of the following is/are the Benefits of ethanol blending?
1. Reduction in import dependency  
2. Support to agricultural sector  
3. More environmental friendly fuel  
Correct answer codes:
(a) 1 only  (b) 1, 2 and 3  
(c) 2 and 3  (d) 2 only
# OBJECTIVE QUESTIONS

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