UPSC Daily Current Affairs| Prelim Bits 21-02-2025

Advocates-on-Record (AoRs)

Why in News?

The Supreme Court (SC) has held that Advocates-on-Record (AoRs) bear full responsibility for the accuracy of petitions filed before the Court, even if the drafts are prepared by other advocates.

- It is a special category that involves special persons who have been officially sanctioned to practice and represent their clients in the Supreme Court of India.
- It is specified under Supreme Court Rules, 2013 under ***Article 145(1).***
- It states that the SC may, from time to time, make rules for regulating the practices and procedures in the court.
- Only such title holders can submit motions and other request petitions to the Supreme Court.
- The AORs serve as a liaison between the clients and the Court, ensuring that all procedural formalities are satisfied.
- **Qualifications -** The Advocate is required to be enrolled with any State Bar Council.
- The Advocate is required to have a prior experience of ***at least 4 years***.
- The Advocate has undergone a training under a senior AoR of 1 year.
- The Advocate has appeared for the SC examination.
- The Advocate is required to have ***an office in Delhi*** within a radius of 10 miles from the SC house.
    - Give an undertaking to employ a clerk, who shall be a registered clerk, within one month of being registered as an AoR.
- AOR is issued a ***unique identification number*** that must be used on all documents filed in the SC.
- **Roles and Responsibilities -** Only an AoR is authorised to file a Vakalatnama on behalf of a client in the SC.

  The Vakalatnama is a crucial document that grants the advocate the authority to represent the client.

- The AOR, with the help of a registered clerk, must complete all procedural aspects, including drafting and filing legal documents, and is personally liable for paying court fees and charges.
- Any SC notices are sent to the AoR.

Reference

Live Law | Advocate-on-Record

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj

Why in News?

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Jayanti is celebrated annually on February 19 to mark the birth anniversary of Chhatrapati Shivaji.

- Chhatrapati Shivaji was the ***founder of the Maratha Empire.***
- **Born on -** February 19, 1630, in Pune, Maharashtra.
- **Parents -** Shahaji Bhonsle and Jijabai.
- **Teachers -** Dadoji Kondadev and Jijabai.
- He is a great military administrator and tactician, fought and won several wars against the Mughals.
- He was crowned as the ***"Chhatrapati (Emperor)" in 1674*** at Raigad Fort.
- He established Hindavi Swarajya, declaring independence from Mughal and Deccan Sultanates.
- He developed ***Guerrilla Warfare tactics.***
- He established a robust naval force, recognizing the importance of naval supremacy in safeguarding the coastlines.
- His administrative reforms included the creation of a disciplined military structure, the introduction of revenue reforms, and the promotion of trade.
- He also emphasized religious tolerance and supported a diverse society, ensuring justice for all his subjects.
- He introduced ***Ashta Pradhan Mandal***, a Council of 8 Ministers for governance.
- Established revenue policies such as ***Kathi & Chauth system*** to ensure stable economy.
- Shivaji was in constant conflict with the Mughal Empire and other neighboring states.
- His escape from Agra in 1666 after being imprisoned by Aurangzeb showcased his ingenuity and determination. This daring escape solidified his reputation as a cunning and resilient leader.
- Shivaji Maharaj passed away on April 3, 1680, at Raigad Fort.

Reference

NDTV | Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Jayanti

Baboons

Why in News?

Recently, #JusticeForRaygun widely shared on social media due to encounters between baboons and people in Pretoria.

*A young male baboon named **Raygun** burned to death by the teenagers in Africa.*

- **Scientific name –** Papio.
- **Baboons** – They are ***world's largest monkeys***, and there are 5 different species of baboons.
    - **5 species** – Olive, Yellow, Chacma, Guinea, and Sacred baboon
- **Habitat** – Savanna, woodlands, bushlands, mountains, tropical forests and semi-arid regions.
- **Distribution** – Dry regions of *Africa and Arabia*.
- **Morphology** – Long bodies, not including substantial tails of varying lengths, large head, cheek pouches, dog-like noses and powerful jaws.
- Long snout, sharp canines, red (or black) backside, thick fur and its colour varies depending on the species.
- **Sexual Dimorphism**
    - **Males** – They are largest species, but females are only half this size.
    - They have a thick coat of fur, especially around their chest and head, where they have thick manes.
- **Uniqueness** – It doesn't have a prehensile (gripping) tail, meaning their tails are not used as a hand.
- **Behavior** – Highly social, intelligent, travel in large noisy troops, and communicating by calls
- **Diet** – They are *omnivorous* feed on fruits, grasses, seeds, eggs, insects, bark, roots, birds, rodents, antelopes and sheep.
- **Threats**:
    - Hunted for their skins
    - Overgrazing
    - Agricultural expansion
    - Irrigation projects
    - Overall human settlement growth.
- **Conservation status**
    - **IUCN status** – Least concern.
    - **CITES –** Appendix II.

References

1. Down to Earth| Baboons and Human Fear
2. National Geographic| Baboons
3. AFW| Baboons

One Liners 21-02-2025

Polity & Governance

Prime Minister Internship Scheme

• **Launched in** – *2024*.
• **Nodal Ministry** – Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
• **Aim** – To provide 1 crore young individuals with *12 month paid internships* in the country's top 500 companies.
• **Target groups** – *21-24 years*, who are currently not enrolled in any full-time academic program or employment.
• **Sectors covered –** 24.
• **Monthly stipend** - Rs.5,000.

National Consumer Helpline (NCH)

• **Launched in** – *2005*.
• **Launched by** – Department of Consumer Affairs.
• **NCH** – It is a web portal with an integrated Grievance Redress Mechanism (INGRAM) to bring all Stakeholders into a single platform.
• It witnesses remarkable growth in North-Eastern States.
• **Arunachal Pradesh** – It is a *top performer* in recording the consumer grievance registrations and resolutions.

National Fisheries Digital Platform (NFDP)

• **Launched in** – *2024*.
• **Umbrella scheme** – Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PM-MKSSY), a sub-scheme of *Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampda Yojana (PMMSY).*
• **Nodal Ministry** – Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying.
• **NFDP** – It is a centralized hub for real-time information sharing, access to government schemes, weather forecasts, market trends, and sustainable fishing practices.
• **Aim** – At formalization of these sectors through creation of a database of work-based identities for all fisheries' stakeholders.

Intensified Special Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) Screening Drive

• It is a campaign launched to prevent NCDs, *Diabetes, Hypertension, and 3 common cancers.*
• **3 common cancers** – Oral, Breast, and Cervical.
• **Launched by** – Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.
• **Under** – National Programme for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NP-NCD).
• **Aim** – To achieve *100% screening* of all individuals *aged 30 years and above.*

State Support Mission (SSM)

• **Launched in** – *2022.*
• **Launched by** – NITI Aayog.
• **Aim** – At fostering structured and institutionalized engagement with States and Union Territories.
• **Objectives** – To assist them in achieving their *socioeconomic goals by 2047.*
• To support States/UTs in developing a roadmap aligned with national priorities and their core strengths.

Electronic Personnel License (EPL) in Civil Aviation

India becomes ***2nd country*** to launch EPL in civil aviation globally.
• **EPL** – It is a digital version of a personnel license that will *replace traditional physical licenses for pilots.*
• **Approved by** – International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).
• **Launched by** – Ministry of Civil Aviation.
• **Objective** – To modernize and enhance the safety, security and efficiency of India's civil aviation sector.

Article 101(4)

• **Article 101(4)** – It is a constitutional provision of a *Member of Parliament (MP)* asked to vacate seat in case of prolonged absence from Parliament.
• **Constitutional provision** – If for a period of ***60 days*** a member of either House of Parliament is *absent without permission* of the House from all meetings and the House declare his seat vacant.
• **60 days** – It doesn't account for any period during which the House is prorogued or is adjourned for *more than 4 consecutive days.*

Agriculture

Millet

• India is the ***largest producer*** of millet in the world with a share of 41% in 2020, as per FAO.
• **Millet** – It is a species of cereal grasses, cultivated for their small edible seeds.
• **Leading producer states** – Rajasthan, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh.
• **MSP coverage:**
  - **3 millet crops** – Bajra (pearl millet), Jowar (sorghum) and Ragi (finger millet).

Environment

Myrmecia Pyriformis and Myrmecia Midas

Scientists found that 2 ant species find its way by polarised moonlight.
• These are *2 nocturnal bull ant species* which make their way at night with the help of polarised moonlight.
• **Nocturnal bull ant** – They are *active at night* and use polarized light to navigate.
• While being dimmer even than moonlight, contains unusual patterns that can point the way.
• They are known as an ***Australian ant***.

Myrmecia Pyriformis



Myrmecia Midas



Software Technology Parks of India (STPI)

STPI launched a new incubation facility at Salt Lake, Kolkata.
• **Established in** – *1989*.
• **Nodal Ministry** – Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
• **STPI** – It is a premier Science & Technology organization engaged in promoting IT Industry, innovation, R&D, start-ups, product creation in the field of emerging technologies.
• To become the largest technology startup ecosystem in the country envisaged in *National Policy on Software Products (NPSP), 2019*.
• **Objectives** – To promote the development and export of,
  - Software, software services, statutory & other promotional services, data communication services and micro, small & medium entrepreneurs.



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