



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 12-05-2021

EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

An NGO has now moved the Delhi High Court seeking exemption from the Union Home Ministry's March 31 deadline to open an FCRA account with the SBI branch in New Delhi.

What's the issue?

The amendments to the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) enacted in 2020 made it compulsory for NGOs to open a bank account in Delhi. But, this has crippled the work of many organisations that are unable to receive foreign funds. Many NGOs are affected by the new regulations as they are hampering charitable work during the pandemic. Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment, 2020:

It seeks to prohibit 'public servants' from receiving any foreign funding. It proposes to reduce the use of foreign funds to meet administrative costs by NGOs from the existing 50 per cent to 20 per cent. It seeks to "prohibit any transfer of foreign contribution to any association/person". It proposes to make Aadhaar cards a mandatory identification document for all office-bearers, directors and other key functionaries of NGOs or associations eligible to receive foreign donations. It seeks to allow for the central government to hold a summary inquiry to direct bodies with FCRA approval to "not utilise the unutilised foreign contribution or receive the remaining portion of foreign contribution". And to limit the use of foreign funds for administrative purposes. This would impact research and advocacy organisations which use the funding to meet their administrative costs.

2. Ans:A

Explanation:

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has said that his coalition government favoured 20% reverification of the updated list of citizens in districts that shared a border with Bangladesh and 10% in the remaining districts.

Background:

The Supreme Court had monitored the exercise of updating the NRC of 1951 in Assam. About 19.06 lakh out of 3.3 crore applicants were excluded from the updated draft.

About NRC:

At its core, the NRC is an official record of those who are legal Indian citizens. It includes demographic

information about all those individuals who qualify as citizens of India as per the Citizenship Act, 1955. The register was first prepared after the 1951 Census of India and since then it has not been updated until recently. So far, such a database has only been maintained for the state of Assam. Why was NRC updated for Assam?

In 2014, the SC ordered the updation of the NRC, in accordance with Citizenship Act, 1955 and Citizenship Rules, 2003 in all parts of Assam. The process officially started in 2015.

3. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The 2-deoxy-D-glucose (2-DG) is to be consumed in its powdered form by dissolving it in water. It accumulates in the infected cells of the body and restrains viral growth by controlling its synthesis in the cells.

4. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

Elon Musk-owned SpaceX is set to launch the “DOGE-1 Mission to the Moon”, the first-ever commercial lunar payload, paid entirely in the cryptocurrency Dogecoin. The satellite is scheduled to be launched in the first quarter of 2022 on board the Falcon 9 rocket. The dogecoin-funded mission is led by Canadian company Geometric Energy Corporation (GEC). Under the mission, SpaceX will carry a 40 kilogram cube satellite dubbed as DOGE-1, as a rideshare on a Falcon 9 rocket.

5. Ans:D

Explanation:

Dogecoin features the face of the Shiba Inu dog from the “Doge” meme as its logo and namesake.

6. Ans:C

Explanation:

China has bluntly threatened Bangladesh with reprisals if it considered any sort of participation in the Quad, warning that this will lead to a degrading of bilateral ties. Beijing sees the Quad as an anti-China grouping.

Implications for India:

China’s tougher stand as regards India has only sharpened from 2020. The reference to Quad and the undiplomatic manner in which Bangladesh was warned indicate Beijing’s deep annoyance with a grouping that intends to curtail its influence in the Indo-Pacific and areas that China considers its zone of influence.

What is Quad grouping?

The quadrilateral security dialogue includes Japan, India, United States and Australia. All four nations find a common ground of being the democratic nations and common interests of unhindered maritime trade and security.

Genesis:

The grouping traces its genesis to 2004 when the four countries came together to coordinate relief operations in the aftermath of the tsunami. It then met for the first time in 2007 on the sidelines of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit. The intention was to enhance maritime cooperation between the four nations.

Significance of the grouping:

Quad is an opportunity for like-minded countries to share notes and collaborate on projects of mutual interest. Members share a vision of an open and free Indo-Pacific. Each is involved in development and economic projects as well as in promoting maritime domain awareness and maritime security. It is one of the many avenues for interaction among India, Australia, Japan and the US and should not be seen in an exclusive context.

7. Ans:A

Explanation:

Pakistan, in order to exit from the grey list of the FATF, is set to introduce new rules relating to money laundering and terror financing cases. Changes being made include the transfer of investigations and prosecution of anti-money laundering (AML) cases from police, provincial anti-corruption establishments (ACEs) and other similar agencies to specialised agencies.

About FATF:

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an inter-governmental body established in 1989 on the initiative of the G7. It is a “policy-making body” which works to generate the necessary political will to bring about national legislative and regulatory reforms in various areas. The FATF Secretariat is housed at the OECD headquarters in Paris. What is a blacklist and grey list?

Black List: Countries known as Non-Cooperative Countries or Territories (NCCTs) are put in the blacklist. These countries support terror funding and money laundering activities. The FATF revises the blacklist regularly, adding or deleting entries. **Grey List:** Countries that are considered safe haven for supporting terror funding and money laundering are put in the FATF grey list. This inclusion serves as a warning to the country that it may enter the blacklist.

Considered in the grey list may face:

Economic sanctions from IMF, World Bank, ADB.

Problem in getting loans from IMF, World Bank, ADB and other countries.

Reduction in international trade.

International boycott.

8. Ans:C

Explanation:

South Sudan's President Salva Kiir has dissolved Parliament. Lawmakers from opposing sides of the country's civil war shall now be appointed under a 2018 peace accord. The setting up of a new legislative body was part of an accord signed in September 2018 between Mr. Kiir and Vice-President Riek Machar. In accordance with the 2018 accord, the new assembly will number 550 lawmakers, the majority — 332 — from Mr. Kiir's governing SPLM party. The parliamentarians will be nominated by the different parties. Important value additions South Sudan is a landlocked country in east/central Africa. It is bordered to the east by Ethiopia, to the north by Sudan, to the west by the Central African Republic, to the south by Uganda. It gained independence from the Republic of the Sudan in 2011, making it the most recent sovereign country Its capital is Juba. It includes the vast swamp region of the Sudd, formed by the White Nile and known locally as the Bahr al Jabal meaning "Mountain River". The White Nile passes through the country, passing by Juba.

9. Ans:A

Explanation:

An unfamiliar lineament is among four factors behind frequent earthquakes in northern Assam's Sonitpur area. A lineament is a linear feature in a landscape dictated by an underlying geological structure such as a fault. According to the Geological Survey of India (GSI), Sonitpur district lies within a tectonically complex triangular area bounded by the east-west trending Atherkhet Fault, the northwest-southeast trending Kopili Fault and a north-south trending lineament. The two faults and the lineament, along with the convergence of the Indian plate, have caused frequent earthquakes. The National Centre of Seismology recorded 29 earthquakes of magnitude varying from 2.6 to 4.7 in Sonitpur after the 6.4 tremblor on April 28 that damaged several buildings, bridges and a river embankment. The north-east India is demarcated as Seismic Zone V, which indicates a zone with high vulnerability. The Indian plate is moving northeast toward the Eurasian plate in the Himalayan region, their slanting collision and release of stress and strain accumulated in the local tectonic or fault environments lead to earthquakes.

10. Ans:A

Explanation:

The Constitution permits the central and State governments to make laws when Parliament (or the State Legislature) is not in session. The Constitution states that the ordinance will lapse at the end of six weeks from the time Parliament (or the State Legislature) next meets. An ordinance can be re-promulgated only thrice. The governor of a state can also issue ordinances under Article 213 of the Constitution of India, when the state legislative assembly is not in session.