



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 26-04-2021

EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

The J&K government has constituted a Special Task Force (STF) for identifying and scrutinising the government employees who are involved in any cases related to posing threat to the security or anti-national activities. STF will scrutinise cases of employees suspected of activities requiring action under Article 311(2)(C) of the Constitution.

Under proviso (c) to Article 311 (2):

Where the President is satisfied that the retention of a person in public service is prejudicial to the security of the State, his services can be terminated without recourse to the normal procedure prescribed in Article 311 (2). The satisfaction referred to in the proviso is the subjective satisfaction of the President about the expediency of not giving an opportunity to the employee concerned in the interest of the security of the State. This clause does not require that reasons for the satisfaction should be recorded in writing. That indicates that the power given to the President is unfettered and cannot be made a justifiable issue, as that would amount to substituting the satisfaction of the court in place of the satisfaction of the President. Is suspension or compulsory retirement a form of punishment?

The Supreme court in case of Bansh singh Vs State of Punjab clearly held that suspension from service is neither dismissal nor removal nor reduction in rank, therefore, if a Government servant is suspended he cannot claim the constitutional guarantee of Article 311.

In Shyam Lal Vs State of U.P Supreme Court held that compulsory retirement differ from dismissal and removal as it involves no penal consequences and also a government servant who is compulsory retired does not loose any part of benefit earned during the service so it doesn't attract the provisions of Article 311. Safeguards to civil servants:

Article 311(1) : It says that a civil servant cannot be dismissed or removed by any authority subordinate to the authority by which he was appointed.

Article 311(2): It says that a civil servant cannot be removed or dismissed or reduced in rank unless he has been given a reasonable opportunity to show cause against action proposed to be taken against him.

2. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

Terming pendency of around 57 lakh cases in High Courts as “docket explosion”, the Supreme Court

activated Article 224A to pave way for appointment of retired High Court judges as ad-hoc ones for a period of two to three years to clear backlog and came out with guidelines to regulate appointments.

What is Article 224A?

Article 224A, used rarely, of the Constitution deals with appointment of ad-hoc judges in High Courts.

It says “the Chief Justice of a High Court for any State may at any time, with the previous consent of the President, request any person who has held the office of a Judge of that Court or of any other High Court to sit and act as a Judge of the High Court for that State”.

Reasons For huge Pendency:

The Government is the Biggest Litigant. Less Budgetary Allocation: The budget allocated to the judiciary is between 0.08 and 0.09% of the GDP. Practice of Seeking Adjournments. Delay in Judicial Appointment.

3. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Narasimham was known for being the chair of two high-powered committees on banking and financial sector reforms. Such is the importance of the two Narasimham Committees that some of their aspects are referred to and employed to this date. For instance, the idea of bank mergers and creating strong megabanks was first mooted by the Narasimham Committee. First Narasimham Committee Report:

Presented in 1991.

It recommended the creation of a four-tier banking structure with three large banks on top. It also introduced the concept of rural-focused banks such as local area banks. It proposed a phased reduction in banks' mandatory bond investment and cash reserve limits so that banks lend money for other productive needs of the economy. It introduced the concept of capital adequacy ratio and proposed the abolition of the branch licensing policy. The concepts of non-performing assets classification and full disclosure of accounts were also recommended by the first committee. By proposing to deregulate interest rates, it brought in gre-ater competition among banks. The committee introduced the concept of an asset reconstruction fund to take over bad debts. Narasimham Committee Report II – 1998:

In 1998 the government appointed yet another committee under the chairmanship of Mr Narsimham. It is better known as the Banking Sector Committee. It was told to review the banking reform progress and design a programme for further strengthening the financial system of India. The committee focused on various areas such as capital adequacy, bank mergers, bank legislation, etc.

4. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

Out of 115 countries, India has been ranked at 87th position in the Energy Transition Index- ETI. It tracks nations on the basis of the current performance of their energy systems across different aspects. The

World Economic Forum released the report. The top 10 nations in the global energy transition index are the Northern and Western European countries. Sweden is in the first position followed by Norway in second and Denmark in third.

Energy Transition Index:

The index has measured 115 countries on the current performances of their energy systems across three dimensions- environmental sustainability, economic development and growth, and energy security and access indicators. The countries are also benchmarked on the basis of their readiness to transition to sustainable, secure, inclusive, and affordable energy systems. The latest report by World Economic Forum is based on a revised ETI methodology that takes into consideration the recent changes in the global energy landscape as well as increasing the urgency of climate change action.

5. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

NASA's Mars Ingenuity helicopter made history when the small but intrepid drone became the first powered craft to fly on another world, space agency officials announced.

6. Ans) (a)

The Punjab government has approved a reward policy to encourage information and inputs leading to recovery of drugs under the Narcotic Drugs And Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. Highlights:

The policy will recognise government servants-informers-sources for their role in providing inputs leading to the recovery of substantial quantity of drugs and in successful implementation of various provisions of the NDPS Act, 1985 and PIT NDPS Act, 1988. The quantum of reward for successful investigation, prosecution, forfeiture of illegally acquired property, preventive detention and other significant anti-drug work shall be decided on case-to-case basis. Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985:

The Act is designed to fulfill India's treaty obligations under the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, Convention on Psychotropic Substances, and United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. The Act 1985 sets out the statutory framework for drug law enforcement in India. Under the Act, the cultivation, production, manufacture, possession, sale, purchase, transportation, warehousing, consumption, inter-State movement, transshipment and import and export of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances is prohibited, except for medical or scientific purposes and in accordance with the terms and conditions of any license, permit or authorization given by the Government. The Central Government is empowered to regulate the cultivation, production, manufacture, import, export, sale, consumption, use etc of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. State Governments are empowered to permit and regulate possession and inter-State movement of opium, poppy straw, the manufacture of medicinal opium and the cultivation of cannabis excluding hashish. The

Central Government is empowered to declare any substance, based on an assessment of its likely use in the manufacture of narcotics drugs and psychotropic substances as a controlled substance. Both the Central Government and State Governments are empowered to appoint officers for the purposes of the Act.

7. Ans:C

8. Ans:A

Explanation:

Using a new platform, scientists have developed a Covid-19 vaccine that could offer protection against existing and future strains of the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus and also other coronaviruses. The new vaccine-production platform was invented by Dr Steven L Zeichner of the University of Virginia Health System (UVA). It involves synthesising DNA that directs the production of a piece of the virus. This can instruct the immune system how to mount an immune response against the virus. The vaccine targets a part of the virus's spike protein called the fusion peptide. This compound is essentially universal among coronaviruses, and has not been observed to differ at all in the many genetic sequences of SARS-CoV-2 obtained from around the world. Most vaccines in development target either the entire spike protein, or just the receptor binding domain (RBD). While antibodies against the RBD can provide good neutralising activity, there can be mutations in the RBD that decrease the effectiveness of the antibodies.

9. Ans:C

Explanation:

The Union Cabinet has given its ex post facto approval to the MoU between India and Bangladesh on the establishment of a framework of cooperation in the area of trade remedial measures.

Objective: To promote cooperation in the area of Trade Remedies, covering the broad activities related to exchange of information, undertaking capacity building activities and activities in accordance with various provisions of World Trade Organization in the area of anti-dumping, countervailing and safeguard measures in bilateral trade between India and Bangladesh. The MOU seeks to foster better cooperation so as to discourage unfair trade practices and promote rule based bilateral trading between the two countries. Currently, India shares the longest land border with Bangladesh, stretching over 4,096.9 km. This boundary falls in five Indian states—West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura.

10. Ans:C

Explanation:

Certain areas in four districts of Mizoram have been declared as epicentres of the African swine fever (ASF) that has so far killed 1,119 pigs in a month.

About African Swine Fever (ASF):

ASF is a highly contagious and fatal animal disease that infects domestic and wild pigs, typically resulting in an acute form of hemorrhagic fever. It was first detected in Africa in the 1920s. The mortality is close to 100 per cent, and since the fever has no cure, the only way to stop it spreading is by culling the animals. ASF is not a threat to human beings since it only spreads from animals to other animals. According to the FAO, “its extremely high potential for transboundary spread has placed all the countries in the region in danger and has raised the spectre of ASF once more escaping from Africa. It is a disease of growing strategic importance for global food security and household income”.