



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 31-05-2021

EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation are calling on the UN Human Rights Council to set up a permanent commission to report on human rights violations in Israel, Gaza and the West Bank. If passed, it would mark an unprecedented level of scrutiny authorised by the UN's top human rights body. The Council was created by the United Nations General Assembly in 2006. It replaced the former United Nations Commission on Human Rights. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) serves as the Secretariat of the Human Rights Council. OHCHR is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

Composition:

The UNHRC has 47 members serving at any time with elections held to fill up seats every year, based on allocations to regions across the world to ensure geographical representation. Each elected member serves for a term of three years. Countries are disallowed from occupying a seat for more than two consecutive terms. The Council's Membership is based on equitable geographical distribution. Seats are distributed as follows:

African States: 13 seats. Asia-Pacific States: 13 seats. Latin American and Caribbean States: 8 seats.

Western European and other States: 7 seats. Eastern European States: 6 seats.

Functions:

The UNHRC passes non-binding resolutions on human rights issues through a periodic review of all 193 UN member states called the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). It oversees expert investigation of violations in specific countries (Special Procedures).

Challenges to UNHRC and Need for reforms:

Despite the continued participation of several western countries in the UNHRC, they continue to harbour misgivings on the understanding of Human rights. Non-compliance has been a serious issue with respect to the UNHRC's functioning. Non-participation of powerful nations such as the US.

2. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

China's Consul General in Mumbai has described Quad as "an attempt for containment". Because, Quad advocates so-called democratic alliance, and targets certain specific countries in an attempt for

containment.”

Implications for India:

China’s tougher stand as regards India has only sharpened from 2020. The reference to Quad indicates 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. It is often dubbed as an “Asian” or “mini” NATO, and is viewed as a counterbalance to China’s military and economic clout in the Indo-Pacific region.

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.

Recent developments:

QUAD pledged to promote a free, open rules-based order, rooted in international law to advance security and prosperity and counter threats to both in the Indo-Pacific and beyond. Quad Vaccine Partnership: To ensure “equitable” access to vaccines to counter the pandemic. In 2020, all four QUAD Countries – Japan, India, Australia and the USA took part in the Malabar exercise. Malabar exercise is an annual trilateral naval exercise between the navies of India, Japan, and the USA which is held alternately in the Indian and Pacific Oceans.

3. Ans:A

Explanation:

Fugitive diamantaire Mehul Choksi, who had recently fled from Antigua and Barbuda, was captured in neighbouring Dominica after an Interpol Yellow Notice was issued against him. Choksi had been living in Antigua and Barbuda since 2018 after taking the citizenship. He is wanted in a ₹13,500-crore loan fraud in Punjab National Bank. (Note: we need to learn about Interpol and various notices issued by it from this article; nothing much).

What is Interpol?

The International Criminal Police Organisation, or Interpol, is a 194-member intergovernmental organisation. headquartered in Lyon, France. Formed in 1923 as the International Criminal Police Commission, and started calling itself Interpol in 1956. India joined the organisation in 1949, and is one of its oldest members.

Interpol's declared global policing goals include:

Countering terrorism, promoting border integrity worldwide, protection of vulnerable communities, providing a secure cyberspace for people and businesses, curbing illicit markets, supporting environment security, and promoting global integrity.

4. Ans:A

Explanation:

The World Health Organization (WHO) and the Swiss Confederation will launch the first facility to share rapidly virus and pathogen samples between laboratories worldwide, as the WHO BioHub Facility was approved through a Memorandum of Understanding.

5. Ans:D

Explanation:

As India prepares to tackle the upcoming Cyclone Yaas, disaster management has emerged as a critical part of the global agenda as climate change leads to increased cyclonic storms, wildfires and major forest fires.

6. Ans:C

Explanation:

Cheetah, the world's fastest land animal which was declared extinct in India in 1952, is expected to be re-introduced into the country in November this year at the Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh, state Forest Minister Vijay Shah said.

7. Ans:A

Explanation:

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad has been re-elected for the fourth straight 7-year term in a landslide victory, winning 95.1 percent of the total votes cast.

8. Ans:C

Explanation:

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has ordered the liquidation of Devas Multimedia Pvt. Ltd.

The National Company Law Tribunal is a quasi-judicial body in India adjudicating issues concerning companies in the country.

It was formed on June 1, 2016, as per the provisions of the Companies Act 2013.

Formed based on the recommendations of the Justice Eradi Committee that was related to insolvency and winding up of companies in India.

Appeals: Decisions taken by the NCLT can be appealed to the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT). The decisions of the NCLAT can be appealed to the Supreme Court on a point of law.

9. Ans:D

Explanation:

Methane is produced by the breakdown or decay of organic material and can be introduced into the atmosphere by either natural processes or man-made processes. Natural processes include the decay of plant material in wetlands, the seepage of gas from underground deposits or the digestion of food by cattle. Human activities such as oil and gas production, rice farming or waste management lead to methane emission in the atmosphere. Human-caused methane emissions are increasing faster currently than at any other time since record keeping began in the 1980s. In a UN report it was found that Oil and gas extraction, processing and distribution account for 23 per cent of methane emissions in the fossil fuel sector. Coal mining accounts for 12 per cent of emissions. Landfills and wastewater made up about 20 per cent of emissions in the waste sector. In the agricultural sector, livestock emissions from manure and enteric fermentation constitute for roughly 32 per cent and rice cultivation eight per cent of emissions.

10. Ans:C

Explanation:

Mayun Island is a volcanic island located in the Strait of Mandeb at the southern entrance into the Red Sea. Also known as the Prim Island, it comes under the jurisdiction of Yemen. Its strategic significance enhanced with the opening of Suez Canal, leading to major powers like UK and Russia controlling it at some point in recent history. Recently, a mysterious airbase has cropped up on this island. No country has claimed ownership to the new Mayun Island airbase.