

- **Need for FCRA**

- The act aims at keeping a check on foreigners influencing the Indian electoral politics, journalists, public servants etc. For wrong purposes or activities detrimental to the public interest.
- Those violating the provisions of FCRA can be jailed up to a term of 5 years.

Salient features of FCRA 2010

- A provision was made for the cancellation of registrations of NGOs if the Home Ministry believes that the organisation is political and not neutral. The registration certificate granted to the NGOs under the 2010 act came with five-year validity.
- A separate account needs to be maintained by the organisations to deposit the Foreign Contributions received and no other funds except for Foreign Contributions shall be deposited in that account.

- **Who can accept Foreign Contributions?**

- Organizations working for definite cultural, social, economic, educational, or religious programs, if and only if they are
- Registered with the Home Ministry

- Maintaining a separate account listing the donations received from foreigners, getting it audited by a Chartered Accountant, and submitting it to the Home Ministry, every year.

Who are debarred from receiving Foreign Contribution?

- A candidate contesting an Election
Cartoonist, editor, or publisher of a registered newspaper

- **Judge**

- Government servants or employees of any corporation

- **Member of any legislature**

- Political parties
- Foreign Contribution (Regulation)

- **Amendment Bill 2020**

- The foreign inflow has almost doubled in the last decade, however, as per the government, the entities receiving the funds aren't using it for the declared purpose. In FCRA 2020, only 20% of the foreign funds can be used for administrative purposes, while the limit was 50% in FCRA 2010.
- The new provisions aim to enhance transparency and accountability in the matter of foreign funds inflow and utilization. The bill also makes

the Aadhaar number mandatory for recipients (a passport or OCI card will be used as the identification document in case of foreigners).

THE HINDU

BIOCOMPUTERS

- Scientists at Johns Hopkins University (JHU) recently outlined a plan for a potentially revolutionary new area of research called “organoid intelligence”, which aims to create “bio computers”.
- Here, brain cultures grown in the lab are coupled to real-world sensors and input/output devices.
- The scientists expect the technology to harness the processing power of the brain and understand the biological basis of human cognition, learning, and various neurological disorders. Scientists are building 3D cultures of brain tissue in the lab, called brain organoids.
- These “minibrains” (with a size of up to 4 mm) are built using human stem cells and capture many structural and functional features of a developing human brain.
- However, the human brain also requires various sensory inputs (touch, smell, vision, etc) to develop into the complex organ it is, and

brain organoids developed in the lab aren’t sophisticated enough.

- They also do not have blood circulation, which limits how they can grow

What is the new ‘bio-computer’?

- The JHU researchers’ scheme will combine brain organoids with modern computing methods to create “biocomputers”.
- They have announced plans to couple the organoids with machine learning by growing the organoids inside flexible structures affixed with multiple electrodes (similar to the ones used to take EEG readings from the brain).

Techniques

- These structures will be able to record the firing patterns of the neurons and also deliver electrical stimuli, to mimic sensory stimuli.
- The response pattern of the neurons and their effect on human behavior or biology will then be analyzed by machine learning
- Brain organoids can also be developed using stem cells from individuals with neurodegenerative or cognitive disorders.
- Comparing the data on brain structure, connections, and signalling between ‘healthy’ and

‘patient derived’ organoids can reveal the biological basis of human cognition, learning, and memory.

THE HINDU

TWITTER SLACK

What could this mean for Twitter?

- Slack is an enterprise-grade communication tool that allows employees all over the world to instantly communicate with others, take part in group chats, share media, create channels to streamline projects or teams, facilitate meetings, and easily locate resources through a secure and centralized portal.
- As more and more Twitter workers across the world such as employees in the now-closed Delhi and Mumbai offices were instructed to work from home, remote working tools like Slack are to likely become the workers’ critical link to their teams.
- Losing it would not only affect their productivity, but also their confidence in a company that has been on a turbulent journey since the \$44 billion takeover in October 2022.
- The interrupted functioning of communication services such as the company’s Slack could also affect

- Twitter’s ability to respond to emergencies, such as the non-going earthquake relief efforts in Turkey and Syria.

THE HINDU
