

CONSTITUTION AND POLITY**Lok Sabha passes Bill to set up single tribunal to settle inter-state water disputes**

Lok Sabha has passed the Inter-State River Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2019.

Highlights of the bill

- The bill seeks to amend the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956. The Act provides for the adjudication of disputes relating to waters of inter-state rivers and river valleys.
- The Bill requires the central government to set up a dispute Resolution Committee (DRC) for resolving any inter-state water dispute amicably. The DRC will get a period of one year extendable by six months to submit its report to the central government.
- The Bill proposes to set up an Inter-State River Water Disputes Tribunal for adjudication of water disputes if a dispute is not resolved through the DRC.
- This tribunal can have multiple benches. All existing tribunals will be dissolved and the water disputes pending adjudication before such existing tribunals will be transferred to this newly formed tribunal.
- The Tribunal will consist of a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, three judicial members and three expert members.
- Under the Act, the central government maintains a data bank and information system at the national level for each river basin. The Bill provides that the central government will appoint or authorise an agency to maintain such data bank.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS- BILATERAL, GROUPINGS, ORGANISATIONS**Consular Access: Kulbhushan Jadhav Case**

India has asked Pakistan to grant full consular access to Kulbhushan Jadhav at the earliest in "full compliance and conformity" with the International Court of Justice's verdict on Kulbhushan Jadhav case. The ICJ in its verdict has ordered Pakistan to make an "effective review and reconsideration" of Jadhav's conviction and death sentence and also grant consular access.

Consular Access

- India had demanded consular access to Jadhav under the rules of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations of 1963.
- The Vienna Convention on Consular Relations is an international treaty that defines consular relations between independent states.
- A consul, (who is not a diplomat) is a representative of a foreign state in a host country, who works for the interests of his countrymen.
- Article 36 of the Vienna Convention states that foreign nationals who are arrested or detained in the host country must be given notice without delay of their right to have their embassy or consulate notified of that arrest.
- If the detained foreign national so requests, the police must fax that notice to the embassy or consulate, which can then verify the person.
- The notice to the consulate can be as simple as a fax, giving the person's name, the place of arrest, and, if possible, something about the reason for the arrest or detention.

Importance of consular access for India in Jadhav case

- Jadhav was awarded death sentence after a secret trial hence there are chances of trial being fake or sham.
- If India gets consular access to Jadhav, it can demolish the Pakistani case by advising Jadhav on the various aspects of the case and can get access to Jadhav's real version of events leading to his arrest.

5G, data localisation to dominate BRICS meeting

- The two-day BRICS foreign ministers is set to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. This meeting is being held in preparation for the 11th BRICS summit in November, 2019. The meeting is expected to call for a united stand on issues surrounding 5G networks and data storage.
- The BRICS countries may also search for common ground on data localisation after the Reserve Bank of India had passed guidelines ensuring that financial data pertaining to Indians is stored only in Indian servers.

- The meeting will also make a special mention of the U.S. opposition to Chinese telecom major Huawei.
- India is yet to clarify whether it will include Huawei in its trials of 5G equipment due to start in September, 2019. The issue had been raised on the sidelines of the Osaka G-20 summit but no decision has been announced.

BRICS:

- BRICS is an association of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, the five fastest emerging nations. The BRICS Leaders Summit is convened annually.
- Together, BRICS accounts for about 40% of the world's population and about 30% of the GDP (Gross Domestic Product) making it a critical economic engine.
- The 10th BRICS summit was held in Johannesburg, South Africa. The theme of 10th BRICS Summit was "BRICS in Africa: Collaboration for Inclusive Growth and Shared Prosperity in the 4th Industrial Revolution".

INDIAN ECONOMY**Sahamati**

Sahamati is a new platform developed by Aadhar architect Nandan Nilekani which aims to make bank account operations paperless. Sahamati is a Collective of Account Aggregator (AA) ecosystem being set up as a non-Government, private limited company. AA is a process by which information from all of an individual's or household's accounts are collected in one place. The architecture of AA is based on the Data Empowerment and Protection Architecture (DEPA) framework.

Data Empowerment and Protection Architecture (DEPA) Framework

- Data Empowerment and Protection Architecture (DEPA) is a new approach, a paradigm shift in personal data management and processing that transforms the current organization centric system to human-centric system.
- By giving people the power to decide how their data can be used, DEPA enables the collection and use of personal data in ways that empower people to access better financial, healthcare, and other socio-economically important services in real-time while preserving the safety, security and privacy of the user.

Background

- The RBI in 2016 approved Account Aggregator as a new class of NBFC, whose primary responsibility is to facilitate the transfer of user's financial data with their explicit consent.
- However, currently no such mechanism exists, even if the user wishes to share data.
- Therefore this AA ecosystem will allow for the seamless sharing of data between financial bodies of all kinds centered around user consent (i.e 'Sahamati').
- The main responsibilities of the account aggregator is to provide services based on the explicit consent of individual clients.
- Account Aggregator (AA) is the construct/ framework that provides a digital platform for easy sharing and consumption of data from various entities with user consent. This primarily includes transfer, but not storing, of a client's data.
- An AA is 'data-blind' as the data that flows through an AA is encrypted. Also, an AA does not and cannot store any user's data – thus, the potential for leakage and misuse of user's data is prevented.
- RBI and other Financial Services Regulators (FSRs) are providing the required regulatory support and guidance for the rollout of AA.
- The scope of Shamati can be expanded to accommodate other domains such as healthcare and telecom in future.

Need

- Currently, an individual's data is spread across silos and islands in banks, telcos, healthcare institutions with no framework in place for them to share with their benefactors. This data is essential to help build better products for the individual/entity.
- An individual/entity has to collect, collate and share data themselves either physically or electronically. This is slow, and an expensive exercise.

- There is no framework available to integrate and aggregate them that can provide a full view of an individual/entity's data.
- Also, there is no framework available that can let an entity access users' data even with users' permissions.
- As a result, there is still friction in accessing data and a large amount of data is not effectively leveraged.
- Hence, the transition of 'data rich society' to an 'economic rich society' is still not happening.

ISSUES RELATED TO INTERNAL SECURITY AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Securitypedia

- The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has launched an online encyclopedia called Securitypedia.
- Securitypedia is a website which incorporates a wide range of security related issues, best practices and latest technologies (in the domain of security) available across the world.
- It is not just a static website containing data archives but is more of a dynamic platform where a force member can contribute by writing blogs on relevant security related professional issues.
- Just like Wikipedia, any member could post information or edit articles after citing authentic and verifiable sources.
- As a supplement to Securitypedia, CISF has also developed CISF Tube which is an online video database of all videos relevant to CISF.
- The videos available on CISF Tube enables CISF personnel to learn on various subjects related to their area of functioning.

ENVIRONMENT- CONSERVATION, BIO-DIVERSITY AND ISSUES

Earth is warming at faster pace than in last 2,000 years: study

- According to studies published in the journals Nature and Nature Geoscience, world temperatures rose faster in the late 20th century than at any other time in the last 2,000 years.
- The paper published in Nature examined regional temperature trends over time. While, the paper published in Nature Geoscience examined rates of surface warming, averaged over sub-periods each a few decades long.
- The researchers had used data compiled from nearly 700 temperature indicators such as tree rings, sediment cores, coral reefs, modern thermometer readings etc.
- The findings of the study suggest that in modern human history temperatures rose the fastest and most consistently in the late 20th century marked by unprecedented anthropogenic emissions of CO₂ and other greenhouse gases. The study also found that pre-industrial temperature fluctuations were largely driven by volcanic activity.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY- EVERYDAY SCIENCE, SPACE, NUCLEAR, DEFENCE ETC

China's First Commercial Rocket

- Chinese startup Interstellar Glory Space Technology also known as iSpace has successfully launched the country's first commercial rocket capable of carrying satellites into orbit.
- The 20-metre (66-foot) rocket designed by iSpace named Hyperbola-1 reached an altitude of 300 kilometres (186 miles).
- Two other private Chinese rocket builders, LandSpace and OneSpace, have both failed to launch their rockets into orbit in 2018.
- Once dominated by state research agencies and the military, China allowed private companies to enter the space industry to build and launch satellites in 2014.
- Dozens of Chinese companies are competing for a share in the global space industry which according to Morgan Stanley, is estimated to be worth about \$1 trillion by 2040.
- The sector is currently dominated by SpaceX and Blue Origin in the US.
- Chinese startups are mostly focused on building technology to launch microsatellites instead of space tourism like their US counterparts.

DEFENCE**Kargil Vijay Diwas**

The 20th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas was observed on the 26th of July 2019. The theme of the 20th anniversary of the Kargil Vijay Diwas - 'Remember, Rejoice and Renew'. The theme reflects the emotion of the countrymen that we remember our martyrs by revisiting their sacrifices, we 'rejoice' by celebrating the victory in Kargil and we renew our resolve to safeguard the honour of the Tricolour.

History of Kargil War

- In the year 1999, India and Pakistan signed the Lahore Agreement to mutually resolve the Kashmir issue in a peaceful manner.
- However, the Pakistani troops began infiltrating toward Indian side of the Line of Control (LoC) under Operation Badr, hoping to cut off Indian Troops in Siachen. Indian Army responded by launching Operation Vijay.
- Indian Army released a book titled "Fire and Fury Corps-Saga of Valour, Fortitude and Sacrifice" which documents the courage and bravery warriors and portrays the rich heritage and ethos of the Indian Army to mark the 20th anniversary of Kargil War.

EDITORIALS**The terrorist tag: on the latest Amendments to the NIA Act**

The idea of designating an individual as a terrorist, as the latest amendments to the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act propose to do, may appear innocuous.

Questions regarding amendment

- However, designating an individual as a terrorist raises serious constitutional questions and has the potential for misuse.
- The practice of designating individuals under anti-terrorism laws, prevalent in several countries, is seen as being necessary because banned groups tend to change their names and continue to operate.
- However, there is no set procedure for designating an individual a terrorist.

Need for precautions

- Parliament must consider whether an individual can be called a 'terrorist' prior to conviction in a court of law.
- The absence of a judicial determination may render the provision vulnerable to invalidation.
- There ought to be a distinction between an individual and an organisation, as the former enjoys the right to life and liberty.

Consequences

- The likely adverse consequences of a terrorist tag may be worse for individuals than for organisations.
- Further, individuals may be subjected to arrest and detention; even after obtaining bail from the courts, they may have their travel and movements restricted, besides carrying the taint.
- This makes it vital that individuals have a faster means of redress than groups.
- Unfortunately, there is no change in the process of getting an entity removed from the list.
- Just as any organisation getting the tag, individuals, too, will have to apply to the Centre to get their names removed.

Human rights' violations

- A wrongful designation will cause irreparable damage to a person's reputation, career and livelihood.
- Union Home Minister's warning that his government would not spare terrorists or their sympathisers, and his reference to 'urban Maoists', are portentous about the possibility of misuse.
- It has been argued by some members in Parliament that the Bill contains anti-federal features.

Against Federalism

- The provision to empower the head of the National Investigation Agency to approve the forfeiture of property of those involved in terrorism cases obviously overrides a function of the State government.
- At present, the approval has to be given by the State police head.
- Also, there will be a section allowing NIA Inspectors to investigate terrorism cases, as against a Deputy Superintendent of Police or an Assistant Commissioner.
- This significantly enhances the scope for misuse.

Conclusion

- The 2004 amendments to the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, made it a comprehensive anti-terror law that provided for punishing acts of terrorism, as well as for designating groups as 'terrorist organisations'.
- Parliament further amended it in 2008 and 2013 to strengthen the legal framework to combat terror.
- While none will question the need for stringent laws that show 'zero tolerance' towards terrorism, the government should be mindful of its obligations to preserve fundamental rights while enacting legislation on the subject.

ODISHA DEVELOPMENT**Pradhan seeks inclusion of Srimandir, Konark Temple in Iconic Tourist destinations**

After a single heritage site from Odisha was not included in the list of 17 sites to be developed as 'Iconic Tourist Destinations' as announced by the Centre in the Union Budget 2019-20, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has stressed on inclusion of Sun Temple and Puri Jagannath temple in the ambitious scheme.

Importance of these temples:

- The social fabric of Odisha is held together by seams of rich cultural history and devotion to Lord Jagannath.
- The Jagannath Temple at Puri is the ceremonial home of Odisha's most revered deity, Lord Jagannath, and one of the four holiest dhams for Hindus.
- Host of the iconic Rath Yatra, the Puri Jagannath Temple is unifying beacon of Odisha's quintessential Jagannath cult.
- The Konark Sun Temple, the 13th century marvel is acknowledged as the zenith of Odishan architecture and recognized globally as UNESCO world heritage site.

Iconic Tourist Destinations:

- Earlier, the Union Ministry of Tourism had identified several sites in 11 States under the Iconic Tourist Sites Development Project.
- The sites include- Taj Mahal and Fatehpur Sikri in Uttar Pradesh, Ajanta and Ellora in Maharashtra, Humayun's Tomb, Red Fort and Qutub Minar in New Delhi.
- Other sites are Colva beach in Goa, Amer Fort in Rajasthan, Somnath and Dholavira in Gujarat, Khajuraho in Madhya Pradesh, Hampi in Karnataka, Mahabalipuram in Tamil Nadu, Kaziranga in Assam, Kumarakom in Kerala and Mahabodhi in Bihar.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Mistakes are the proof that you are trying.

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

Qns: While there are ongoing efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and restrict global warming to below 2°C or even below 1.5°C, there are also efforts to help us live in a world where average global temperatures are rising. Examine.

Ans: Weather patterns are changing, sea levels are rising, weather events are becoming more extreme and greenhouse gas emissions are now at their highest levels in history. Recent IPCC report has warned on the harmful impacts of rise in temperature beyond 2°C and need to limit it within 1.5°C for better chance of survivability. Climate change mitigation generally involves reductions in human (anthropogenic) emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs). Adaptation to global warming are actions taken to manage the eventual (or unavoidable) impacts of global warming, e.g., by building dikes in response to sea level rise.

Efforts to reduce emissions

- Adoption of Paris Agreement at the COP21 in Paris in which all countries agreed to work to limit global temperature rise to well below 2 degrees centigrade.
- Increasing the capacity of carbon sinks, e.g., through reforestation to remove greater amounts of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.
- Switching to low-carbon energy sources, such as renewable and nuclear energy.
- Improving energy efficiency for example by improving the insulation of buildings.
- Another approach to climate change mitigation is geoengineering
- Reducing sources of the gases (for example, the burning of fossil fuels for electricity, heat or transport) or enhancing the sinks that accumulate and store these gases (such as the oceans, forests and soil).

Significance of Mitigation Measures

- To avoid significant human interference with the climate system and ensure sustainability
- To stabilize greenhouse gas levels in a sufficient time frame
- To allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change
- To ensure that food production is not threatened
- To enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner.

Efforts for Adaptation

- Large-scale infrastructure changes: Building flood defenses against sea-level rise and installing water-permeable pavements to better deal with floods and stormwater and improve water storage and use.
- Plan for heatwaves and higher temperatures: Improving the quality of road surfaces to withstand hotter temperatures
- Building global consensus to address the issue of refugee migrations due to climate change.
- Understanding, identifying and moving towards more climate resilient agriculture. Making the most of any potential beneficial opportunities associated with climate change for example, longer growing seasons or increased yields in some regions.
- Behavioural shifts such as individuals using less water, farmers planting different crops and more households and businesses buying flood insurance.

Significance of Adaptation: Adaptation can help manage the effects of-

- Droughts on land, and flooding at the coasts,
- The loss of marine species due to acidification of the oceans
- The disruption of long-term weather patterns around which the world's agriculture has been shaped
- Can help reduce vulnerability by lowering sensitivity or building adaptive capacity
- Can allow populations to benefit from opportunities of climatic changes, such as growing new crops in areas that were previously unsuitable.

Conclusion: Mitigation addresses the root causes, by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, while adaptation seeks to lower the risks posed by the consequences of climatic changes like sea-level encroachment, more intense extreme weather events or food insecurity. Both the measures are equally important to address the issue of climate change holistically.

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS BASED MCQS

1. Consider the following statements:
 1. Account Aggregator is a process by which information collected in one place can disseminate to all individual accounts.
 2. 'Sahamati' is a collective of Account Aggregator (AA) ecosystem, which aims to make bank account operations paperless.
 3. The architecture of AA is based on the Data Empowerment and Protection Architecture (DEPA) framework.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only (b) 1 and 2
(c) 3 only (d) **2 and 3**
2. Consider the following pairs:
 1. Operation Vijay : Maldives
 2. Operation Polo : Princely state of Hyderabad
 3. Operation Meghdoot : Siachen

Which of the pairs given above is/are NOT correctly matched?

(a) **1 only** (b) 2 only
(c) 3 only (d) 1 and 2 only
3. Consider the following statements w.r.t the Inter-State River Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2019.
 1. It proposes to set up a Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC) for resolving any inter-state water dispute amicably
 2. It proposes to set up an Inter-State River Water Disputes Tribunal for adjudication of water disputes if a dispute is not resolved through the DRC
 3. The Tribunal will consist of a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, three non-judicial members and three expert members.

Which of the statements given is/are correct?

(a) **1 and 2** (b) 1 and 3
(c) 2 and 3 (d) 1, 2 and 3
4. Consider the following statements w.r.t Vienna Convention for Consular Relations.
 1. It's an international treaty signed in 1963.
 2. Under this treaty Immunity given to consular is similar to that of a diplomat.

Which of the given statements is/are NOT correct?

(a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) **Neither 1 nor 2**
5. Consider the following statements w.r.t the BRICS
 1. The 10th BRICS summit was held in Brazil
 2. The 11th BRICS summit will be held in South Africa.

Which of the given statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) **Neither 1 nor 2**
6. What is the first BRICS declaration that named terrorist groups LeT and JeM?

(a) Heart of Asia declaration
(b) **Xiamen declaration**
(c) Dunhuang declaration
(d) Shenzhen declaration
7. An encyclopedia related to security issues, namely Securitypedia has been developed by which of the following security Groups?

(a) CRPF (b) **CISF**
(c) BSF (d) ITBP
8. Which of the following is the most visually striking evidence of global warming ?

(a) The increased precipitation along the Gulf coast states
(b) Highly varying temperature fluctuations felt during the winter months
(c) **Rapid melting of glacial ice on nearly every continent**
(d) All of the above
9. Which of the following evidences support the theory of gradual rise in air temperature and consequent global warming?
 1. spreading of tropical diseases towards temperate regions.
 2. downward shifting of snow lines of tropical mountains.
 3. freezing of permafrost areas.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

(a) **1 only** (b) 1 and 2
(c) 2 and 3 (d) 1 and 3
10. Which of the following private Space Agencies belong to the USA?
 1. SpaceX
 2. Blue Origin
 3. iSpace
 4. OneSpace

Select the correct answer from the codes given below

(a) 1 only (b) **1 and 2**
(c) 1, 2 and 3 (d) 1, 3 and 4