

POLITY

Right to Be Forgotten

Recently, the Union Government informed the Delhi High Court that the international legal concept of the Right to Be Forgotten is evolving in India and it comes under the Right to Privacy. As per Supreme Court Judgement the Right to privacy includes the Right to Be Forgotten (RTBF) and the right to be left alone.

Key Points

- **Right to Privacy:** In Puttaswamy v. Union of India case, 2017, the Right to Privacy was declared a fundamental right by the Supreme Court. Right to privacy is protected as an intrinsic part of the right to life and personal liberty under Article 21 and as a part of the freedoms guaranteed by Part III of the Constitution.
- **Right to be Forgotten :** It is the right to have publicly available personal information removed from the internet, search, databases, websites or any other public platforms, once the personal information in question is no longer necessary, or relevant.
 1. The RTBF gained importance after the 2014 decision of the Court of Justice of the European Union ("CJEU") in the Google Spain case.
 2. In the Indian context, the Supreme Court in Puttaswamy v. Union of India, 2017 noted that the RTBF was a part of the broader right of privacy. The RTBF emerges from the right to privacy under Article 21 and partly from the right to dignity under Article 21.

Right to be Left Alone:

- It doesn't mean that one is withdrawing from society. It is an expectation that society will not interfere in the choices made by the person so long as they do not cause harm to others.

Issues Associated with RTBF:

- **Privacy vs. Information:** The existence of RTBF in a given situation depends on its balancing with other conflicting rights such as the right to free expression or other publication rights.
 1. For example, a person may want to de-link information about his criminal records and make it difficult for people to access certain journalistic reports when they google him.
 2. This brings the person's right to be left alone, derived from Article 21, directly in conflict with the rights of the media to report on issues, flowing from Article 19.
- **Enforceability Against Private Individuals:** The RTBF will normally be claimed against a private party (a media or news website).
 1. This raises the question of whether fundamental rights can be enforced against the private individual, which is generally enforceable against the state.
 2. Only Article 15(2), Article 17 and Article 23 provides protection against a private act of a private party that is challenged based on its violation of the Constitution.
- **Ambiguous Judgements:** In recent years, without a data protection law to codify RTBF, there are some inconsistent and peculiar adjudications of the right by various high courts. Courts in India have repeatedly either accepted or rejected the application of RTBF while completely ignoring the wider constitutional questions associated with it.

Government Steps to Protect Privacy

Personal Data Protection Bill 2019:

- To provide for protection of privacy of individuals relating to their Personal Data and to establish a Data Protection Authority of India for the said purposes and the matters concerning the personal data of an individual.
- Framed on the recommendations of B N Srikrishna Committee (2018).

Information Technology Act, 2000:

- Provides for safeguard against certain breaches in relation to data from computer systems. It contains provisions to prevent the unauthorised use of computers, computer systems and data stored therein.

Way Forward

- The Parliament and the Supreme Court should engage in a detailed analysis of RTBF and evolve a mechanism for balancing the conflicting rights of privacy and freedom of expression.
- In this digital age, data is a valuable resource that should not be left unregulated. In this context, the time is ripe for India to have a robust data protection regime. Thus, the government should expedite the enactment of the Personal Data Protection Bill 2019.

INTERNATIONAL RELATION**3rd India-Central Asia Dialogue**

Recently, the 3rd meeting of the India-Central Asia Dialogue was held in New Delhi. It is a ministerial-level dialogue between India and the Central Asian countries namely Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

India virtually hosted the second meeting of the India-Central Asia Dialogue in 2020.

Key Points**International North-South Transport Corridor:**

- Emphasis on optimum usage of the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) as well as Ashgabat Agreement on International Transport and Transit Corridor to enhance connectivity between India and the Central Asian countries.
 1. Stressed on including Chabahar Port within the framework of INSTC and expressed interest in cooperation on issues related to the development and strengthening of regional connectivity in Central and South Asia.
 2. Agreed to develop the transit and transport potential of their countries, improve the regional logistics network and promote joint initiatives to create new transport corridors.
 3. Agreed to explore the possibility of establishing joint working groups to address the free movements of goods and services between India and the Central Asian states.

Connectivity Projects:

- The connectivity initiatives (China's Belt and Road Initiative) should be based on the principles of transparency, broad participation, local priorities, financial sustainability and respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries.

Situation of Afghanistan:

- Discussed the current situation in Afghanistan and its impact on the region, following the Taliban's occupancy. Issues like current humanitarian situation, terrorism, territorial integrity, respect for sovereignty and unity were discussed too.
- Pushed for concerted action against all terror groups.
 1. The Afghanistan's soil must not be used for planning terror attacks, even as they pledged to provide immediate humanitarian aid to the Afghan people.
 2. Condemned all forms of terrorism and opposed "providing safe haven, using terrorist proxies for cross-border terrorism, terror financing, arms and drugs trafficking, dissemination of a radical ideology and abuse of cyber space to spread disinformation and incite violence."
- Supported a peaceful and stable Afghanistan and emphasised respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in its internal affairs.
- Pointed to the importance of UN Security Council Resolution 2593, which "unequivocally demands that Afghan territory not be used for sheltering, training, planning or financing terrorist acts and called for concerted action against all terrorist groups".

Counter Terrorism Efforts:

- Perpetrators, organisers, financiers and sponsors of terror acts must be brought to justice in accordance with principle of "extradite or prosecute".
- Called on the world community to implement relevant UN resolutions, global counter-terrorism strategy and Financial Action Task Force standards.

Line of Credit:

- All the countries are currently discussing the use of a USD 1 billion line of credit announced by India last year for infrastructure projects in Central Asia.
 1. A line of credit is a preset borrowing limit that can be tapped into at any time.
 2. The borrower can take money out as needed until the limit is reached, and as money is repaid, it can be borrowed again in the case of an open line of credit.

Post-pandemic Recovery:

- All the countries stressed the importance of extensive vaccination and called for cooperation through sharing of vaccine doses, transfer of technology, development of local production capacities, promotion of supply chains for medical products, and ensuring price transparency.

Restoration of Tourism:

- Backed the gradual restoration of tourism and business ties between India and the Central Asian countries.

- The foreign ministers of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan welcomed the mutual recognition of Covid-19 vaccination certificates between India and their countries, while the ministers of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan sought early mutual recognition of certificates.

Historical and Cultural Ties:

- Need to build on the historical and cultural ties of their region with India and highlight the potential for cooperation in areas such as connectivity, transport, transit and energy.

International Solar Alliance (ISA):

- India highlighted the role of "International Solar Alliance (ISA)" initiative in collective, rapid and massive deployment of solar energy for effective implementation of the Paris Agreement.

Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure:

- India also underlined the role of "Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)" in promoting disaster resilient infrastructure for reducing economic losses.

Permanent membership at UNSC:

- Reiterated support of their countries for permanent membership of India in an expanded and reformed UN Security Council (UNSC).
- Welcomed the ongoing non-permanent tenure of India in the UNSC and its priorities.

Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation:

- Appreciated the important role of the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme in capacity building and human resource development of their countries, especially in Information Technology and Communication Skills in the English language.

India-Central Asia Dialogue

- It is a ministerial-level dialogue between India and the Central Asian countries namely Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.
- All five nations became independent states after the collapse of the USSR in 1991, post-Cold war.
- All the countries participating in the dialogue, except for Turkmenistan, are also members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.
- The dialogue focuses on a number of issues including ways to improve connectivity and stabilise war-ravaged Afghanistan.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Agni-P Missile

Recently, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully test-fired the new generation nuclear-capable ballistic missile 'Agni Prime'. This is the second test of the missile, the first test took place in June 2021.

The Agni-P missile aims to further strengthen India's credible deterrence capabilities.

Key Points

About:

- Agni-P is a two-stage canisterised solid propellant missile with dual redundant navigation and guidance system.
- It has been termed as a new generation advanced variant of Agni class of missiles with improved parameters, including manoeuvring and accuracy. Canisterisation of missiles reduces the time required to launch the missile while improving the storage and ease of handling.
- The surface-to-surface ballistic missile has a range of 1,000 to 2,000 km.

Agni Class of Missiles:

- Agni class of missiles are the mainstay of India's nuclear launch capability, which also includes the Prithvi short-range ballistic missiles, submarine launched ballistic missiles and fighter aircraft. Agni-V, an Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) with a range of over 5,000 km, had been tested several times and validated for induction.
- The Agni-P and Agni-5 ballistic missiles trace their origins back to the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP), which was spearheaded by former DRDO chief and ex-Indian president Dr APJ Abdul Kalam in the early 1980s.

Other Ranges of Agni Missiles:

1. Agni I: Range of 700-800 km.
2. Agni II: Range more than 2000 km.
3. Agni III: Range of more than 2,500 Km
4. Agni IV: Range is more than 3,500 km and can fire from a road mobile launcher.

5. Agni-V: The longest of the Agni series, an Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) with a range of over 5,000 km.

Recently Tested Missile:

- BrahMos supersonic cruise missile (air version)
- Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile (VL-SRSAM)

IGMDP (Integrated Guided Missile Development Program)

- It was conceived by Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam to enable India attain self-sufficiency in the field of missile technology. It was approved by the Government of India in 1983 and completed in March 2012.
- The 5 missiles (P-A-T-N-A) developed under this program are:
 1. Prithvi: Short range surface to surface ballistic missile.
 2. Agni: Ballistic missiles with different ranges, i.e. Agni (1,2,3,4,5)
 3. Trishul: Short range low level surface to air missile.
 4. Nag: 3rd generation anti-tank missile.
 5. Akash: Medium range surface to air missile.

History of Missile Technology in India

About:

- Before Independence, several kingdoms in India were using rockets as part of their warfare technologies. Mysore ruler Hyder Ali started inducting iron-cased rockets in his army in the mid-18th century.
- At the time of Independence, India did not have any indigenous missile capabilities.
- The government created the Special Weapon Development Team in 1958. This was later expanded and called the Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL), which moved from Delhi to Hyderabad by 1962.
- In 1972, Project Devil, for the development of a medium range Surface-to-Surface Missile was initiated.
- By 1982, DRDL was working on several missile technologies under the Integrated Guided Missiles Development Programme (IGMDP).

Kind of Missiles India Have:

Surface-Launched Systems:

1. **Anti-Tank Guided Missile:** Nag
2. **Surface-to-Air Missile:** Akash
3. **Medium-Range Sam:** Production of MRSAM systems for the Navy is complete, and it is placing its order
4. **Short-Range Sam:** For the Navy, the first flight tests have been successfully conducted.

Several Air-Launched Systems:

1. **Air-To-Air:** Astra
2. **Air-to-Ground:** Rudram, BrahMos

Most Important India's Missile:

- **Agni (range around 5,000):**
 1. It is India's only contender for an Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile (ICBM), which is available with only a few countries.
- **Prithvi:**
 - 1) It is a short-range surface-to-surface missile with a 350 km range and has strategic uses.
 - 2) India also tested a anti-satellite system in April 2019.
 - 3) A modified anti-ballistic missile named Prithvi Defence Vehicle Mk 2 was used to hit a low-orbit satellite.
 - 4) It put India only behind the US, Russia and China in this capability.

Hypersonic Technology:

- India is just behind the US, Russia and China.
- DRDO successfully tested a Hypersonic Technology Demonstrated Vehicle (HSTDV) in September 2020, and demonstrated its hypersonic air-breathing scramjet technology.

Missile technology of India in Comparison to (Pakistan and China):

India:

- Under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMP) first came Prithvi, then Agni.
- BrahMos, at 2.5-3 times the speed of sound, was among the fastest in the world when developed.

- India is working on Agni VI and Agni VII, which should have a much longer range.

China and Pakistan:

- While China is ahead of India, a “lot of things about China are psychological”.
- China has given Pakistan the technology, “but getting a technology and really using it, and thereafter evolving and adopting a policy is totally different”.
- India does not call BrahMos nuclear, it can be used.
- India’s only nuclear missiles are Prithvi and Agni, but beyond those, tactical nuclear weapons can be fired from some Indian Air Force fighter jets or from Army guns, which have a low range, around 50 km.

PRELIMS FACT

PM Gets Bhutan’s Highest Civilian Award

Recently, the Prime Minister of India has been conferred by Bhutan’s highest civilian award, 'Order of the Druk Gyalpo' also known as “Ngadag Pel gi Khorlo”.

Key Points

About:

- The announcement of the award coincided with the occasion of the 114th National Day of Bhutan.
- This is the highest decoration of Bhutan and is awarded in recognition of a lifetime of service to the people and the Kingdom of Bhutan.
- Order of the Dragon King was founded on 7th November 2008, to reward those who devoted a lifetime of service to the nation and people of Bhutan.
- The honours exist in two categories. Order of the Dragon King is the pinnacle of the honour system in Bhutan and also takes precedence over all other orders, medals and decorations.

Other Awards Won by the Indian PM

- **Order of Abdulaziz Al Saud (2016):** The highest honour of Saudi Arabia awarded to non-muslim dignitaries.
- **State Order of Ghazi Amir Amanullah Khan (2016):** The highest civilian honour of Afghanistan.
- **Grand Collar of the State of Palestine Award (2018):** The highest honour of Palestine awarded to foreign dignitaries.
- **Order of Zayed Award (2019):** The highest civilian honour of the United Arab Emirates.
- **Order of St. Andrew award (2019):** The highest civilian honour of Russia
- **Order of the Distinguished Rule of Nishan Izzuddin (2019)** The highest honour of the Maldives awarded to foreign dignitaries.
- **King Hamad Order of the Renaissance - First Class (2019):** Bahrain's top honour.
- **Legion of Merit by the US Government (2020):** The United States Armed Forces award given for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services and achievements.
- **Seoul Peace Prize (2018):** Seoul Peace Prize Cultural Foundation's biennial award (South Korea) to those individuals who have made their mark through contributions to the harmony of mankind, reconciliation between nations and world peace.
- **Champions of The Earth Award (2018):** The United Nation’s highest environmental honour
- **First Philip Kotler Presidential award (2019):** Offered to the leader of a nation.
- **Global Goalkeeper Award:** Honour by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (2019)
- **Global Energy and Environment Leadership Award (2021):** Awarded by the Cambridge Energy Research Associates CERA for commitment of leadership towards the future of global energy and the environment.

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

Qns. Emphasis on rule of law and commitment to democratic processes, must be the long-term approach in dealing with Myanmar. Elaborate. (250 words)

Ans:

Introduction

The elected leaders of Myanmar were overthrown on February 1, 2021 in a coup by the army, which accused Aung Sang Suu Kyi’s ruling party of cheating in the November 2020 elections. The army’s

allegation has been rejected by the previous election commission and international monitors. A special court in Myanmar's capital sentenced the country's ousted leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, to four years in prison on Monday after finding her guilty of incitement and violating coronavirus restrictions.

Body

Background and Reasons for failure of democracy

- The Myanmar military seized power yet again after the military coups of 1962, 1988 and 1990, turning a partial democracy into a full-fledged military rule. The swift operation has wiped out a decade of the country's democratisation process.
- Between March 2016 and January 2021, the National League for Democracy (NLD) led by Aung San Suu Kyi shared power with the military. This was a bold experiment to govern an intensely complex nation in Southeast Asia. Myanmar thus became a car driven by two drivers.
- The newly elected National Assembly was due to meet in Naypyidaw on Monday, despite the Tatmadaw's (Army's) claims that the November general elections had several irregularities, and its contestation of the NLD's landslide victory.
- Suu Kyi had refused to bow to Gen. Hlaing's demand that the results, which also saw the military-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party with a reduced strength in Parliament, be set aside.
- the Army, which still nominates a fourth of the parliamentary seats and retains the important Defence, Borders and Interior portfolios, felt it was better to dismiss the NLD government before it increased its clout.

Impact of the recent coup

- The step is a setback for the international community's efforts to engage with Myanmar, after a strict sanctions regime.
- While not a fully globalized nation, the political crisis in Myanmar does threaten to impact a number of companies around the world, ranging from rare-earth miners in China to global oil and gas majors.
- Under the military government, it will be very difficult for investors to know, in the short term, whether they plan to revert to protectionist policies that had worked so well for the elite, even while promising to maintain some form of democracy

Impact on India:

- Strategic interests of the North East will be affected, leading to increased insurgency in the Myanmar border areas.
- The dream of North East India to be benefitted from the 'Act East Policy' may be a shattered dream
- India has all set for penetrating its market to the South East Asia by implementing the Act East Asia. India as of now is no member of the RCEP. Even though India managed to promote better relationship with Myanmar without being a member of RCEP, change of Military regime in Myanmar perhaps may be a hurdle.
- The geographically strategic location of Myanmar makes it a bridge between South Asia and Southeast Asia, and India needs a good working relationship with the Myanmar government for its diplomatic and strategic initiatives. This is especially due to China's nefarious designs in Myanmar, which wants to develop it as a geopolitical base against India.
- China has its own designs and wants to use Myanmar as another base in its 'string of pearl' strategy against India. Through the string of pearls approach, China intends to encircle India by developing military bases in India's neighbouring countries and Myanmar has long been on China's radar.
- The Myanmar Military is corrupt, it is quite possible that the Military junta Government may take loans from China, siphon it off, just like the Pakistan army and would push Myanmar to a Chinese debt trap.
- New Delhi will have to deal with the fallout of crackdowns on pro-democracy activists as well as these could prompt a flight of refugees into India.
- While its foreign policy concerns will direct New Delhi to avoid ruffling the feathers of Myanmar's generals, there are humanitarian concerns and democratic commitments that India must not ignore.

Response of India:

- India has shown commitment to build robust relationship with Myanmar over the past two decades which intensified after the democratic process began in 2011.

- Whenever democracy suffers, India feels concerned, even anguished.
- However, India is committed to the policy of non-interference in another state's internal affairs. It is also guided by the national interest.
- Therefore, in managing relations with Myanmar, India will astutely balance its principles, values, interests and geopolitical realities.
- It would be best to strike a middle ground, as Delhi has done, by calling for upholding the democratic process and urging the generals to release Suu Kyi at the earliest.

Conclusion

The military coup in Myanmar is a devastating setback to the country's efforts to build an inclusive democracy. The Indian government will need to craft its response taking into consideration the new geopolitical realities of the U.S. and China as well as its own standing as a South Asian power, and as a member of the UN Security Council. India must push for the restoration of democracy at the earliest.

DAILY QUIZ

Q1. Which one of the following objectives is not embodied in the Preamble to the Constitution of India?

- Liberty of thought
- Economic liberty**
- Liberty of expression
- Liberty of belief

Q2. Consider the following statements about the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI):

- It is an Indian government agency attached to the Ministry of Culture.
- It was founded in 1861 by William Jones who also became its first Director-General.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only**
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

Q3. Consider the following statements about Poshan Abhiyaan:

- The programme seeks to improve nutritional outcomes for children, pregnant women and lactating mothers.
- It was launched in 2018 with specific targets to be achieved by 2022.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2**
- Neither 1 nor 2

Q4. Consider the following statements about the Chocolate- bordered flitter:

- It is a newly discovered butterfly Species from Sikkim.
- Its closest relatives are in Western Ghats of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only**
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

Q5. Consider the following statements:

- Cyclones are formed over the cool oceanic water in the tropical region.
- A cyclone will dissipate once it moves over land or over warmer oceans.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2**