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Classroom Study Material

POLITY

JULY 2015 – APRIL 2016

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A. GOVERNANCE



A.1. SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS LAW ON CRIMINAL DEFAMATION

Why in news?

The Supreme Court recently upheld the validity of the criminal defamation law. The court pronounced its verdict on a batch of petitions challenging the constitutional validity of sections 499 and 500 of the Indian Penal Code providing for criminal defamation.

Sections 499 and 500 of IPC prescribes two years' imprisonment for a person found guilty of defamation.

Other issues

Section 199 of CrPC

- The court could have read down this section which allows public prosecutors to step into the shoes of allegedly defamed public servants.
- It is patently unfair to allow the State to use its legal machinery to suppress criticism without public servants concerned being required to testify in court

Constitutional bench

- This is a bigger issue and therefore, the bench could have referred this to a constitutional bench.
- Constitution bench is the name given to the benches of the Supreme Court of India which consist of at least five judges of the court which sit to decide any case "involving a substantial question of law as to the interpretation" of the Constitution of India.

A.2. SPECIAL CATEGORY DENIED TO ANDHRA PRADESH

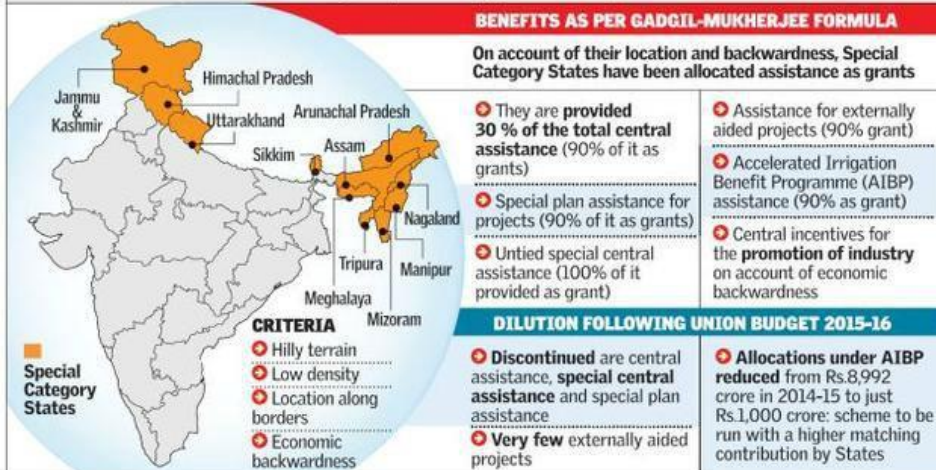
- The centre denied granting Special Category Status to Andhra Pradesh by announcing in Parliament that there is no policy anymore for according special category status to any State. Instead, states could be provided special economic packages.

Special Category states in India:

- The concept of special category state was introduced with **5th Finance Commission** recommendation to provide certain disadvantaged states with preferential treatment in the form of central assistance and tax breaks.

NOT SO SPECIAL ANYMORE

The Centre claims that following the increase in tax devolution to States from 32% to 42% of divisible pool of central taxes, there is no further need to give 'Special Category' status to any State



A.3. SEDITION CIRCULAR BY MAHARASHTRA GOVERNMENT

- The circular asks police to bear in mind that the sedition clause of IPC can be invoked against whoever, by "words, either spoken or written, or by signs or by visible representation or otherwise, brings or attempts to bring into hatred or contempt, dissatisfaction and provoking violence" against the central or state government.
- However, the section 124-A will not be invoked against those trying to bring change in government through legal means without hatred and contempt.
- It came under severe criticism that it is an attempt to curb free speech.

Section 124A

- The section 124A of Indian Penal Code is a pre-independence provision which covers sedition charges against government.
- In 1962, the Supreme Court upheld Section 124A and held that it struck a "correct balance" between fundamental rights and the need for public order.
- Human rights activists and supporters of free speech argued that this section is draconian and should be got rid of.

Freedom of Speech and Expression

The Constitution of India provides Freedom of Speech and Expression as Fundamental Right under article 19(1) (a). However, it is not an absolute right. The state can impose reasonable restrictions on its exercise on the grounds of sovereignty and integrity of India, security of the state, friendly relations with foreign states, public order, decency or morality, contempt of court, defamation, and incitement to an offence.

A.4. FOREIGN FUNDING OF NGOS AND FCRA

Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) recently cancelled the registration of Greenpeace India. The government took this measure under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA).



Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA)

- The act seeks to regulate the acceptance and utilization of foreign contribution or foreign hospitality.
- It prohibits "organization of political nature" among others to accept foreign contributions
- The central government has the power to prohibit from accepting foreign contribution or hospitality for activities detrimental to the national interest or national security.
- Implementation of **FCRA is overseen by Ministry of Home Affairs.**

Recent reforms taken by Government

- Government replaced old rules with Foreign Contribution Regulation Rules 2015 to govern foreign contributions received by NGOs
- The Home Ministry had proposed making all dealings with NGOs online.
- The government has decided to host a website for such NGOs lacking wherewithal to create a website of their own.
- Banks have to inform Home Ministry about all foreign funds coming to an NGO account within 48 hours. This is to enable monitoring use or misuse of foreign funds.
- The ministry has reduced the number of forms to be filled in by the NGOs and now the registration, renewal and prior permission forms have been combined into one single form
- The government plans to streamline the audit and registration of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) receiving foreign funding to ensure greater disintermediation of processes so that there is minimal contact with the bureaucracy.
- NGOs that do not receive any foreign funding in a particular fiscal year will not be required to file a certified copy of the auditors' report with the ministry's foreigners division.

FCRA ACT: to regulate the acceptance and utilization of foreign contribution or foreign hospitality by certain individuals or associations or companies and to prohibit acceptance and utilization of foreign contribution or foreign hospitality for any activities detrimental to the national interest and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto

No foreign contribution shall be accepted by any-

(a) candidate for election; (b) correspondent, columnist, cartoonist, editor, owner, printer or publisher of a registered newspaper; (c) Judge, Government servant or employee of any corporation or any other body controlled or owned by the Government; (d) member of any Legislature; (e) political party or office-bearer.

A.5. REVISION OF NATIONAL REGISTER OF CITIZEN (1951) IN ASSAM

What is NRC, 1951 updation?

- National Register of Citizens, 1951 is a register prepared after the conduct of the Census of

Why in News?

- It is first time being revised since 1951 and only in state of Assam.
- It is expected to be completed by March 2016
- Entire process is overseen by Registrar General of India and monitored by three-member monitoring committee by Supreme Court.

1951. **These registers covered each and every person enumerated during the Census of 1951.**



- National Register of Citizens (NRC) updation means the process of enlisting the names of citizens (or their descendants) based on **Electoral Rolls up to 1971**, 1951 NRC, or in any one of the other admissible documents issued up to 1971, which would prove their presence in Assam on or before 1971.
- An Indian citizen from another state also who moved to Assam after the specified date is not eligible for inclusion in the NRC though he can continue to vote.
- NRC is **subset of** National Population Register.

Need of NRC updation

- To comply with the demands in Assam Accord signed in 1985.
- Assam has witnessed series of violence since 1970s on the issue of illegal migrants, mostly from Bangladesh. There are demands to send back those who came after 1971. NRC updation is expected to help in solving this issue.
- It is the way to assimilate Bengali Muslims in Assamese society and only way to democratically solve this problem.
- It will provide proof of Indian citizenship to many people stereotyped as illegal migrants.
- The families which met with undue harassment by terming them illegal migrant can be stopped.
- It is being updated as per Supreme Court's order.

A.6. LAW COMMISSION

- Law Commission presented its 262nd Report, titled '**The death penalty**' where it recommended abolition of the death penalty for all crimes except terrorism-related offences and waging war against the state.

Law commission

- The Law Commission of India is a **non-statutory body** constituted by the Government of India from time to time. The Commission was originally constituted in 1955 and is re-constituted every three years. The tenure of the 20th Law Commission was upto 31st August, 2015.
- The various Law Commissions have been able to make important contribution towards the progressive development and codification of laws of the country. Law Commissions have so far submitted 262 reports.
- The Union has given its approval on the Constitution of the 21st Law Commission of India, for a period of three years w.e.f. 1st September, 2015 to 31st August, 2018.

A.7. E-COURTS MISSION MODE PROJECT

Why in news?

The Union Cabinet in July 2015 gave its approval for the second phase of eCourts Mission Mode Project at an estimated cost of Rs.1670 crore.



About the Project

- The eCourts project of the Government is aimed at providing necessary hardware and software applications to enable courts to deliver e-services to citizens, and to enable the judiciary to better monitor and manage the functioning of courts.
- In Phase I of the project more than 13000 District and Subordinate courts have been computerized and case information linked to the respective District court websites.
- These courts are now providing online eServices such as cause lists, case status and judgments, to litigants and public through the eCourts portal (<http://www.ecourts.gov.in>) also.
- The Phase II of the eCourts project would also help in the automation of workflow management in courts thereby contributing to better court and case management.
- This project would also focus on Digital Infrastructure as a core utility to every citizen providing Governance and Services on demand eventually making the citizens digitally empowered.

A.8. SC PORTAL ON PENDENCY OF CASES

The Supreme Court of India recently inaugurated the public access portal of **National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)**.

About Portal

- The webpage ecourts.gov.in/services will give consolidated figures of pending cases in District Judiciary across the country.
- It will also disseminate national and State, district and court wise information.
- It would also separately provide data and details of cases filed by senior citizen and women.
- The pendency statistics would be updated by district court complexes on a daily basis.
- The initiative is to promote transparency and access of information for all the stakeholders of the justice delivery system.

About National Judicial Data Grid

- The National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) is a part of the **on-going e-Courts Integrated Mission Mode Project** to transform justice delivery by ICT enablement of courts.
- NJDG will work as a monitoring tool to identify, manage & reduce pendency of cases.
- It will also help in providing timely inputs for making policy decisions to reduce delay and arrears in the system
- It will facilitate better monitoring of court performance and systemic bottlenecks and thus it facilitate better resource management.
- The NJDG will cover all categories of cases, including those relating to juvenile justice system.

A.9. NJAC ACT AS UNCONSTITUTIONAL AND VOID



- The government moved **99th Constitutional Amendment Bill** to establish National Judicial Appointment Commission
- It was envisaged as an independent commission to appoint and transfer judges of High Court and appoint judges of Supreme Court of India.
- It was composed of three senior judges, two eminent outsiders and the Law Minister.
- The constitutional amendment was passed by Parliament and was ratified by 20 states.
- However, before it was notified, it was challenged in Supreme Court as an attempt by government to interfere with the independence of the judiciary.
- The motive behind creation of NJAC was to bring reforms in appointment process of Indian higher judiciary.

Supreme Court's verdict:

- The Court by a 4-1 majority struck down the **99th Amendment**.
- It concluded that NJAC “**did not provide an adequate representation, to the judicial component**”.
- The new provision in Constitution are insufficient to preserve the **primacy of the judiciary** in the matter of selection and appointment of Judges”
- It further held that “Article 124A (1) is **ultra vires** the provisions of the Constitution, because of the inclusion of the Union Minister in charge of Law and Justice as an ex officio Member of the NJAC.”
- The clause which provided for the inclusion of two “eminent persons” as Members of the NJAC was held ultra vires the provisions of the Constitution, for a variety of reasons.

Primacy of the judiciary is required as

- **Government is major litigant:** Since the government is a major litigant, giving it an edge in appointments would amount to fixing the courts.
- **Independence of Judiciary:** It has been regarded as basic structure of constitution and NJAC was termed as violating the independence of judiciary
- To enable **Separation of Powers** between executive and judiciary as directed by Constitution of India.

Appointment of Judges in India:

The judges of Supreme Court and High Court are appointed by the President on the recommendation of **Collegium**. The constitutional provisions related to their appointment are:

- **Article 124** says the President should appoint Supreme Court judges after consultation with such judges of High Courts and the Supreme Court as he/she may deem necessary. The Chief Justice of India is to be consulted in all appointments barring his/her own.
- **Article 217**, which deals with the appointment of High Court judges, says the President should consult the CJI, Governor, and Chief Justice of the High Court concerned.

Neither of them speaks about collegium system.

Evolution of Collegium System:

- **First Judges Case, 1981:** The Supreme Court ruled that the recommendation made by the CJI to the President can be refused for “**cogent reasons**”, thereby giving greater say to executive.
- **Second Judges Case, 1993:** It is also known as *Supreme Court Advocates-on Record Association vs Union of India*. It led to the **creation of the collegium system**. The Supreme Court said that the Chief Justice of India should be given the “**primal**” role in appointments.
- **Third Judges Case, 1998:** The President K R Narayanan issued a **Presidential Reference** to the Supreme Court over the meaning of the term “consultation” under article 124 and 217 of Indian Constitution. In response, the Supreme Court laid down **guidelines for the functioning collegium system**.



A.10. SEVENTH PAY COMMISSION

- The commission, headed by **Justice A. K. Mathur** was formed in February 2014. The committee's recommendations are scheduled to take effect in 2016. The Pay Commission submitted its report to Finance Minister who in turn submits to the Union cabinet of India headed by Prime Minister.
- The government constitutes the Pay Commission almost every 10 years to revise the pay scale of its employees and often these are adopted by states after some modifications.

Central Pay Commission:

- Central Pay Commissions are periodically constituted to go into various issues of emoluments' structure, retirement benefits and other service conditions of Central Government employees and to make recommendations on the changes required.

A.11. ARTICLE 370

Background:

- Jammu and Kashmir High Court (on 12 Oct 2015) has ruled that Article 370 has assumed place of permanence in the Constitution and **the feature is beyond amendment, repeal or abrogation**.
- The High Court also said that Article 35A gives "protection" to existing laws in force in the State. "Article 370 though titled as 'Temporary Provision' and included in Para XXI titled 'Temporary, Transitional and Special Provisions' **has assumed place of permanence** in the Constitution,"
- The Supreme Court on 31 Oct 2015 said that **only Parliament can take a call on scrapping** Article 370 that accords special autonomous status to Jammu and Kashmir.



About Article 370:

- Article 370 of the Indian Constitution is a 'temporary provision' which grants **special autonomous status** to Jammu and Kashmir.
- Except for **defence, foreign affairs, finance and communications**, the Parliament needs the state government's concurrence for applying all other laws.

Special Status to State:

- **Legislative powers:** The state's residents live under a separate set of laws, including those related to citizenship, ownership of property and fundamental rights as compared to other Indians.
- **Territory:** Indian Parliament cannot increase or reduce the borders of the state and Indian citizens from other states cannot purchase land or property in Jammu & Kashmir.
- **Emergency Provisions:**
 - The Union government cannot declare emergency on grounds of internal disturbance or imminent danger unless it is made at the request or with the concurrence of the state government.
 - Centre can declare emergency in the state only in case of war or external aggression.
 - The Center has no power to declare financial emergency under Article 360 in the state.
- **Constitutional Amendment:** A Constitution amendment becomes applicable to J&K only after the President issues an order.

A.12. PRIVILEGE MOTION

Why in News?

- Recently, opposition member in Lok Sabha has given a notice to move privilege motion against Human Resource Development minister.
- Notice contended that Human Resource Development minister has misled the House and the Nation on the issue of government intervention in Delhi's JNU and the Hyderabad Central University while intervening in a debate.

Privilege Motion

- It is moved by a member when he feels that a minister or any member has committed a breach of privilege of the House or one or more of its members by withholding facts of a case or by giving wrong or distorted facts.
- Privilege motion can be moved by any lawmaker/MP against anyone accused of breaching parliamentarians' privileges, their special rights and immunities.
- Its purpose is to censure the concerned minister or any other member.
- Each of the two houses, the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, has separate privilege committees, made up of their members.
- The presiding officers of the two Houses, the Speaker and the Chairperson respectively, can dismiss privilege notices, or refer them to the privilege committee, or get a sense of the House before taking a decision.



A.13. UNIFORM CIVIL CODE

Why in news

- In 2015 Supreme Court questioned the government about its mandate on framing the Uniform Civil Code so that unvarying standards are ushered in and all religions are regulated by the same yardsticks in matters of law.

What it is and present condition:

- **Article 44: Uniform Civil Code-** It essentially means a common set of laws governing personal matters for all citizens of the country, irrespective of religion.
- Currently, different laws regulate these aspects for adherents of different religions. For example: a Christian man has questioned a provision that requires a Christian couple to be judicially separated for two years before getting a divorce, whereas this period is one year for Hindus and other non-Christians.

The role of article 14 and 25 in Uniform Civil Code:

- Article 25, states that the State and its institutions should not interfere with religious practices, including in relation to various personal laws.
- The inconsistency in personal laws has been challenged on the touchstone of Article 14, which ensures the right to equality.

A.14. INDIAN SKILL DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

The Union Cabinet approved the formation of a Group 'A' service for skill development. It will be called the Indian Skill Development Service

Indian Skill Development Service

- It is a dedicated skill development cadre under Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship.
- The officers will be recruited by UPSC possibly by next year (2016 - 17).
- The new cadre of officers will run the skill development and entrepreneurship ministry, help implement various skill and apprenticeship schemes conducted by the ministry as well as those by the Directorate General of Training
- The new service will help formulate skill policies, devise a road map for improving the apprenticeship system, revamping ITIs and also help revamp course work for various schemes
- The officers need to be posted in rural India for a couple of years which will enable them to take decisions with enough subject knowledge

A.15. RIGHT TO PUBLIC SERVICE ACT

Maharashtra government enacted The Right to Public Services Act, 2015 (the RTS Act) which guarantee time bound delivery of notified services rendered by the government to the citizen and provides for the punishment of errant public servants. The Act replaces the earlier promulgated ordinance on the same issue.

Feature of the Bills

- Statutory guarantee for availing services in fixed time frame



- It will check corruption, red tape and will bring transparency.
- It provides for punishing errant public servants by putting a fine starting from Rs. 500 to Rs. 5000.
- It establishes a system of appeals with Right to Service Commission at top with other two tiers- first appellate and second appellate authorities being occupied by the government of officials- to deal with grievances under this Act.
- It provides for a State Public Service Delivery Committee which will recommend steps to be taken by government agencies for efficient delivery of notified services.

A.16. PROHIBITION OF SOCIAL BOYCOTT

Why in News?

- Recently, the Maharashtra cabinet approved a legislation (Prohibition of Social Boycott Act, 2015) to tackle social ostracism in the name of caste, creed, community and rituals.
- Maharashtra will be **the first state** in the country to enact a law against social boycott of individuals or families by caste panchayats.

A.17. CHILD RIGHTS

The world celebrated International Child Rights Week (ICRW) from November 14 to 20. Child Rights Day is celebrated on 20th November in India. It is also celebrated as the Universal Children Day (International Child Rights Day) across the world to make people aware about the rights of their children.

Government initiatives for child protection and development

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) - The commission's Mandate is to ensure that all Laws, Policies, Programmes, and Administrative Mechanisms are in consonance with the Child Rights perspective as enshrined in the Constitution of India and also the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

- **Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme**
 - ✓ To improve the nutritional and health status of children in the age-group 0-6 years.
 - ✓ To lay the foundation for proper psychological, physical and social development of the child.
 - ✓ To reduce the incidence of mortality, morbidity, malnutrition and school dropout.
- **General grant in aid scheme in the field of women and child development**
- **Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS)**
 - ✓ It aims at building a protective environment for children in difficult circumstances.
 - ✓ The scheme will set up a child protection data management system to formulate and implement effective strategies and monitor their outcomes.
- **Kishori Shakti Yojana**
- **Early Childhood Children Education Policy**
- **Beti Bacho, Beti Padhao initiative etc.**



Constitutional provisions to safeguard child rights in India:

Article 14- Equality before the law.

Article 15- The State shall not discriminate against any citizen. Nothing in this Article shall prevent the State from making any special provisions for women and children.

Article 21-Right to Life

Article 21A- (RTE) The State shall provide **free and compulsory education** to all children of the age of 6-14 years in such manner as the State may, by law, determine.

Article 23-Prohibition of traffic in human beings and forced labour.

Article 24-Prohibition of employment of children in factories.

The Constitution (86th Amendment) Act was notified on 13th December 2002, making free and compulsory education a Fundamental Right for all children in the age group of 6-14 years.

Article 39 (e) and 39(f) – to prevent child labour

Article 45- Provision for early childhood care and education to children below the age of 6 years.

Article 47- Provisions regarding raising the level of nutrition and standard of living.

A.18. CCI IMPOSES PENALTIES UPON AIRLINES:

Recently the **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** imposed penalties upon 3 airlines **for concerted action** in fixing and revising Fuel Surcharge (FSC) for transporting cargo.

Competition Commission of India (CCI)

- The Commission has been established as a statutory body entrusted with the responsibility to prevent practices having adverse effect on competition, to promote and sustain competition in markets, to protect interests of consumers and to ensure freedom of trade.
- CCI is responsible for enforcement of The Competition Act, 2002 throughout India.

A.19. REMISSION OF SENTENCES

Why in news?

- Recently Supreme Court struck down the Tamil Nadu Government's decision to release seven killers of the former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.
- Constitutional Bench rejected Tamil Nadu's argument that the seven prisoners should not be robbed of their hope to be freed on remission.



Remission of sentence

- It means reducing the period of sentence without changing its character.
- **Under article 72** of the Indian Constitution President can grant pardons to persons who are convicted for life terms or awarded death penalty.
- Under article 161 of the constitution, the governor possesses the pardoning power.

A.20. ARTICLE 142

- On December 16, the Supreme Court took the extraordinary step of appointing Justice (ret'd) Virendra Singh, a former judge of the Allahabad High Court, the new Lokayukta of Uttar Pradesh after its deadline to the government to make the appointment passed.
- Supreme Court said that it was compelled to invoke its powers **under Article 142** owing to failure of state government to comply with its orders since April 2014.

Article 142

The Supreme Court in the exercise of its jurisdiction may pass such decree or make such order as is necessary for doing complete justice in any cause or matter pending before it.

A.21. GRAM UDAY TO BHARAT UDAY ABHIYAN

Why in News?

- Central Government in collaboration with States and Panchayats has decided to organize a **'Gram Uday Se Bharat Uday Abhiyan'** (Village Self Governance Campaign) from 14th April to 24th April 2016.

Highlights of the Campaign

- The campaign aims to generate nation-wide efforts to increase social harmony across villages, strengthen Panchayati Raj, promote rural development, and foster farmers' progress.
- A **'Social Harmony Programme'** will be conducted in all gram panchayats, supported collaboratively by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- In this programme, villagers will honour Dr. Ambedkar and resolve to strengthen social harmony.
- Information regarding various government schemes to foster social justice will be provided.
- **'Village Farmer Assemblies'** will be organized where information regarding schemes of agriculture such as the Fasal Bima Yojna, Social Health Card etc. will be provided to farmers.
- Also a **national meeting of tribal women Gram Panchayat Presidents** from Fifth Schedule Areas of 10 States will be held at Vijayawada focusing on Panchayat and tribal development.

A.22. REPORT ON MEDICAL EDUCATION GOVERNANCE

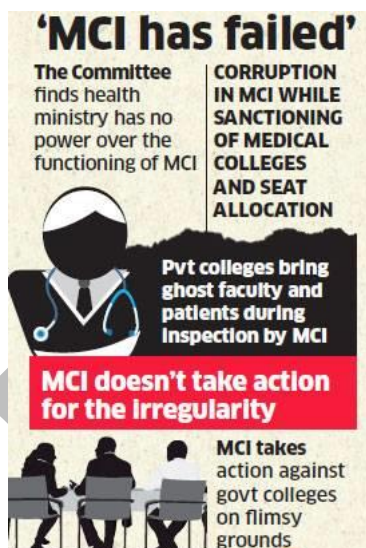


Why in News?

- Recently a Parliamentary Standing Committee (PSC) has submitted its report. It pointed out serious irregularities in Medical Council of India's (MCI) functioning and has called for changes of "transformational nature".

Important Observations from the Report

- The MCI's composition is opaque, and does not have diversified stakeholders and council has only medical doctors.
- The existing minimum standard requirements mandated by the MCI are "irrational and artificially rigid standards" that are an impediment to the establishment and expansion of medical colleges.
- High capitation fees for getting a medical seat that goes up to Rs.50 lakhs.
- In the current system of inspections there is no provision for constructive feedback and the whole procedure is oriented towards penalising rather than improving.



Medical Council of India (MCI):

- MCI is statutory body for establishing uniform and high standards of medical education in India.
- It registers doctors to practice in India, in order to protect and promote the health and safety of the public by ensuring proper standards in the practice of medicine.

A.23. MINORITY STATUS OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTES

Why in news?

- Recently, the central government reversed the stand of its predecessor Government and decided not to support minority status for Aligarh Muslim University or Jamia Millia Islamia.

Article 30, The Constitution Of India
Right of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions

Issue of Minority Institution

- While a number of minority educational institutions exist, there are issues with regard to minority universities.
- For incorporating any university, a statute is needed and thus it is done by the state.
- Those against minority status for universities say that since, university is established by law and not minorities, it is not a minority institution.



- But, those in support argue that establishment is different from incorporation and for incorporation of a university, law is needed irrespective of the fact that it was established by minorities.

Government stand

- The 2005 judgement of Allahabad High Court after hearing all the arguments ruled that it is not a minority institution.
- Centre stated that conferring minority status to AMU or any institution set up by a parliamentary enactment or state enactment would be contrary to Article 15 of the Constitution, which prohibits discrimination by state on grounds of religion.
- Centre also states that minority status to AMU and Jamia Millia Islamia universities is “unconstitutional” and “illegal” since these two government-run institutions were discriminating against Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes by using the minority tag.

National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (NCMEI)

- National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions was established in 2005.
- It ensures rights of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice as provided in the Article 30 of the Constitution of India.
- The linguistic minorities are outside the purview of the NCMEI Act.
- This Commission is a quasi-judicial body and has been endowed with the powers of a Civil Court.
- It is headed by a Chairman who has been a Judge of the Delhi High Court and two members to be nominated by Central Government.
- The Commission has 3 roles namely adjudicatory function, advisory function and recommendatory powers.

A.24. AMENDMENT IN "MOTION OF THANKS" BY RAJYA SABHA

Why in News?

- This is the second time in two years that the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address has been amended.
- The amendment was focused on legislation passed **by Rajasthan and Haryana governments in limiting the rights of citizens to contest panchayats elections.**
- Before 2015, there were just three occasions on which the President's Address was amended in the Rajya Sabha, once each during the tenures of Indira Gandhi, V.P. Singh and Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Significance of these amendments

- The adoption of an amendment to the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address is of **vital importance for the credibility of the Government.**
- It **enforces moral accountability on the ruling party against their inaction, mal administration and inefficiencies.**



- It signifies **the importance and relevance of the Rajya Sabha in our body politic**, and its meaningful role in holding the Government to account.
- It clearly brings **out the dynamic of our Parliamentary democracy** which is dependent on a balance of strength of political parties and the composition of the House.
- Convey the dissatisfaction against the government policies, legislations and regulations.
- It highlights the issues of social importance which are not in the radar of government.

Motion of Thanks

- The **first session after each general election and the first session of every fiscal year are addressed by the president.**
- In this address, the president outlines the policies and programmes of the government in the preceding year and ensuing year.
- This address of the president which is **discussed in both the Houses of Parliament on a motion is called the 'Motion of Thanks'**.
- **At the end of the discussion, the motion is put to vote. This motion must be passed in Lower House. Otherwise, it amounts to the defeat of the government.**

A.25. FOOD SECTOR REGULATION

Why in news?

Recently the **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** had indicated that it would reintroduce the system of **pre-launch product approvals by issuing new regulations.**

About FSSAI

- It has been established under Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 which consolidates various acts & orders that have hitherto handled food related issues in various Ministries and Departments.
- FSSAI has been created for laying down science based standards for articles of food and to regulate their manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and import to ensure availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption.

Highlights of the Food Safety and Standard Act, 2006

- Various central Acts like Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 , Fruit Products Order , 1955, Meat Food Products Order , 1973, Vegetable Oil Products (Control) Order, 1947, Edible Oils Packaging (Regulation) Order 1988, Solvent Extracted Oil, De- Oiled Meal and Edible Flour (Control) Order, 1967, Milk and Milk Products Order, 1992 etc. will be repealed after commencement of FSS Act, 2006.
- The Act also aims to establish a single reference point for all matters relating to food safety and standards, by moving from multi- level, multi- departmental control to a single line of command.
- To this effect, the Act establishes an independent statutory Authority – the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India with head office at Delhi. Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and the State Food Safety Authorities shall enforce various provisions of the Act.



Establishment of the Authority

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India is the Administrative Ministry for the implementation of FSSAI. The Chairperson is in the rank of Secretary to Government of India.

FSSAI functions

- Framing of Regulations to lay down the Standards and guidelines in relation to articles of food and specifying appropriate system of enforcing various standards thus notified.
- Laying down mechanisms and guidelines for accreditation of certification bodies engaged in certification of food safety management system for food businesses.
- Laying down procedure and guidelines for accreditation of laboratories and notification of the accredited laboratories.
- To provide scientific advice and technical support to Central Government and State Governments in the matters of framing the policy and rules in areas which have a direct or indirect bearing of food safety and nutrition.
- Collect and collate data regarding food consumption, incidence and prevalence of biological risk, contaminants in food, residues of various, contaminants in foods products, identification of emerging risks and introduction of rapid alert system.
- Creating an information network across the country so that the public, consumers, Panchayats etc receive rapid, reliable and objective information about food safety and issues of concern.
- Provide training programmes for persons who are involved or intend to get involved in food businesses.
- Contribute to the development of international technical standards for food, sanitary and phyto-sanitary standards.
- Promote general awareness about food safety and food standards.

A.26. SUPREME COURT VERDICT ON HARYANA PANCHAYATI RAJ (AMENDMENT) ACT 2015

Why in news?

Recently Supreme Court upheld Haryana law on panchayat elections, by dismissing plea challenging Haryana Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Act, 2015.

Haryana Government Law on Panchayat Election

- In August 2015 Haryana government cleared five amendments to the Haryana Panchayati Raj Act, 1994.
- Amendments laid down **eligibility criteria to contest local body elections.**
- It set **minimum educational qualifications, having a functional toilet at home,** not having defaulted in cooperative loans or having outstanding dues on rural domestic electricity connections and
- Not charged by a court for a grave criminal offence as criteria to be eligible to contest local body elections.
- These are in addition to insolvency and being of unsound mind, disqualifications that are specified in the Constitution.
- The law fixes **matriculation as the essential qualification for general candidates** and **Class VIII for women in the general category** as well as scheduled caste candidates.

A.27. PRESIDENT'S RULE

Why in news

- Recent imposition of President's rule in Arunachal Pradesh has brought the focus back on Article 356 of the Constitution (referred as President's Rule).

President's rule

- President's rule can be imposed in a state if a situation has arisen in which the government of the state cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.
- Once President's rule is imposed, the assembly ceases to function and the state comes under the Central government's direct control. The assembly is generally kept in suspended animation.

THE MAKING OF A CRISIS

In five months, the Arunachal crisis blew into a national debate

Sept. 6, 2015: J.P. Rajkhowa sworn in as Governor of Arunachal Pradesh

Nov 5: 21 Congress MLAs rebel against CM Nabam Tuki

Dec 9: Governor seeks "removal" of Speaker Nabam Rebia in Assembly session on December 16

Dec. 14: Rebia cancels the Assembly session

Dec. 16: Deputy Speaker conducts a purported session



with rebel Congress leaders and 11 BJP MLAs, dismissing the Speaker

Jan. 24, 2016: Union Cabinet recommends President rule

Jan. 26: President approves the recommendation

Jan. 28: Tuki moves the SC

Governor's Role (Constitutional Provision):

If the chief minister has lost the majority support in the assembly, Governor has **three options**.

- Dismiss the government** under Article 164 (1) of the constitution.
- Send a report to the president** invoking Article 356.
- Call the session of the assembly** under Article 174(1).

Since **Article 174 (1)** is silent on whether the Governor should consult or not the State Cabinet before advancing dates of the Assembly session. Hence, Supreme Court bench has few questions (as mentioned in pic) to be decided.

Important Judgments

SR Bommai case 1994

- Courts can't question the Union Cabinet's advice to the President but they can question the material behind the satisfaction of the President regarding breakdown of constitutional machinery.
- Use of Article 356 is justified only when there was a breakdown of constitutional machinery and not that of administrative machinery.

Buta Singh, Bihar assembly dissolution case 2006

- Declared the dissolution of the Bihar assembly as null and void.
- Governor's report could not be taken at face value and must be verified by the council of ministers before being used as the basis for imposing President's rule.



A.28. JUDICIAL STANDARDS AND ACCOUNTABILITY



Why in news

- Recently the SC collegium had recommended transfer of Justice Karnan of Madras High Court to the Calcutta HC. However, he took up his own transfer case and **stayed the recommendation** of the SC.

Removal of Judges as per Constitution of India

- Under **A.124(4)** of the Constitution a Judge of SC can be removed only by the President on ground of **'proved misbehaviour' or 'incapacity'** only after a motion to this effect is passed by both the Houses of Parliament by special majority.
- Constitution requires that misbehaviour or incapacity shall be proved by an impartial Tribunal whose composition is decided under **Judges Enquiry Act 1968**.
- Similarly, Article 217 provides for removal of HC Judge.
- The Act has been invoked three times in the past but no judge could be successfully impeached till date.

A.29. APPOINTMENT OF NHRC CHAIRPERSON

Why in News?

The government chose former Chief Justice of India H L Dattu for appointment as the next chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

About NHRC

- The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of India is an autonomous public body constituted on 12 October 1993 under the Protection of Human Rights Ordinance in 1993.
- It was **given a statutory status by the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 (TPHRA)**.
- It is responsible for the protection and promotion of human rights.

Composition

- a Chairperson who has been a Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.
- one Member who is or has been, a Judge of the Supreme Court.
- one Member who is, or has been, the Chief Justice of a High Court.
- Two Members to be appointed from amongst persons having knowledge of, or practical experience in, matters relating to human rights.
- Apart from this The Chairperson of the National Commission for Minorities, [the National Commission for the Scheduled Castes, the National Commission for the Scheduled Tribes] and the National Commission for Women shall be deemed to be Members of the Commission.

Appointment of Chairperson

The Chairperson and [the Members] are appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal on the recommendation of a committee comprising:

- The Prime Minister (chairperson)



- The Home Minister
- The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha (House of the People)
- The Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha (Council of States)
- The Speaker of the Lok Sabha (House of the People)
- The Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha (Council of States)

The Act states that no sitting Judge of the Supreme Court or sitting Chief Justice of a High Court shall be appointed except after consultation with the Chief Justice of India.

A.30. MENACE OF STRAY DOGS

Recently the Supreme Court directed municipal authorities to stop indiscriminate killing of stray dogs even while ensuring that the canines do not become a threat to society.

Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1960 allows **Animal Welfare Board** to take all such steps as the Board may think fit to ensure that unwanted animals are eliminated by the local authorities. **Section 9(f)** empowers the Board to kill stray animals either instantaneously or after being rendered insensible to pain or suffering.

Section 11(3)(b)(c) provides for “destruction of stray dogs in lethal chambers” and “extermination or destruction of any animal under the authority of any law for the time being in force”.

A.31. REGIONAL BENCHES OF SC

Why in News?

- Recently, the Supreme Court admitted a Chennai lawyer’s petition for setting up a **National Court of Appeal with regional benches** (in Chennai, Mumbai and Kolkata) to act as the final courts of justice in criminal and civil cases.

Background:

- Previously, in Dec 2014, union government has rejected the proposal for a National Court of Appeal with regional Benches on **three grounds**:
 - a) The Supreme Court always sits in Delhi as per the Constitution.
 - b) The Chief Justices of India in the past have “consistently opposed” the idea of a National Court of Appeal or regional Benches to the Supreme Court.
 - c) And National Court of Appeal would completely change the structure of the Supreme Court.
- Later, group of Chennai lawyers has filed the petition against the decision of government.

A.32. SECTION 295A OF IPC

- Recently, comedian **Kiku Sharda** was arrested for acting out a spoof on godman Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh.

- In past also Section 295A has been used at various occasions. It was also used to issue arrest warrants to All India Bakchod, Karan Johar, Ranveer Singh and Arjun Kapoor in the 'AIB Roast controversy'.

S.295 of Indian Penal Code incriminates any act that outrages the religious feelings or sentiments of others.



A.33. SECTION 377

Why in news?

- The Supreme Court referred a batch of six curative petitions, which sought a review of a 2013 judgment upholding the 156-year-old law, to a five-judge constitution bench.
- The petitioners have argued that homosexuality was not a mental disorder, but a normal and natural variant of human sexuality.

Section 377 of Indian Penal Code

It prohibits "carnal intercourse against the order of nature with any man, woman or animal.

Background

- In 2009, Delhi High Court ruled that section 377 of IPC is unconstitutional.
- However, in 2013, a SC bench overturned a Delhi high court verdict that had set aside the 1860 law that criminalizes consensual sex among homosexual adults.

A.34. ELECTORAL TRUST

What is Electoral Trust?

- Electoral Trust is a company or a non-profit company created in India under Section 8 of the Companies Act for orderly receipt of the voluntary contributions from any person and for distributing the same to the respective political parties, registered under Section 29A of the Representation of People Act, 1951.

Election commission of India:

- Election Commission of India is a permanent Constitutional Body.
- Originally the commission had only a Chief Election Commissioner. It currently consists of Chief Election Commissioner and two Election Commissioners.
- It is responsible for administering election processes to Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, state legislatures, and the offices of the President and Vice President.

A.35. SPECIAL PURPOSE VEHICLE

An SPV is a legal entity created for a specific purpose, which can theoretically be shut down after the specified purpose has been achieved.

The major advantage of an SPV is that it allows investors to limit their risks and maximize profits, and bypass cumbersome legal and regulatory issues.

A.36. 10 YEARS OF RTI ACT

- The Right to Information (RTI) Act has completed 10 years of implementation. It has changed the thinking and the style of functioning of government machinery in the last 10 years.
- According to the Information Commission's annual reports, there are at least 50 lakh RTI applications filed in India every year.
- Over the last decade, at least 2 per cent of the Indian population has used the law.

About RTI

- The Right to Information Act (RTI) is an Act of the Parliament of India "to provide for setting out the practical regime of right to information for citizens" and replaces the erstwhile Freedom of information Act, 2002.
- Under the provisions of the Act, any citizen may request information from a "public authority which is required to reply expeditiously or within thirty days.
- The Act also requires every public authority to computerise their records for wide dissemination and to proactively certain categories of information so that the citizens need minimum recourse to request for information formally.
- This law was passed by Parliament on 15 June 2005 and came fully into force on 12 October 2005



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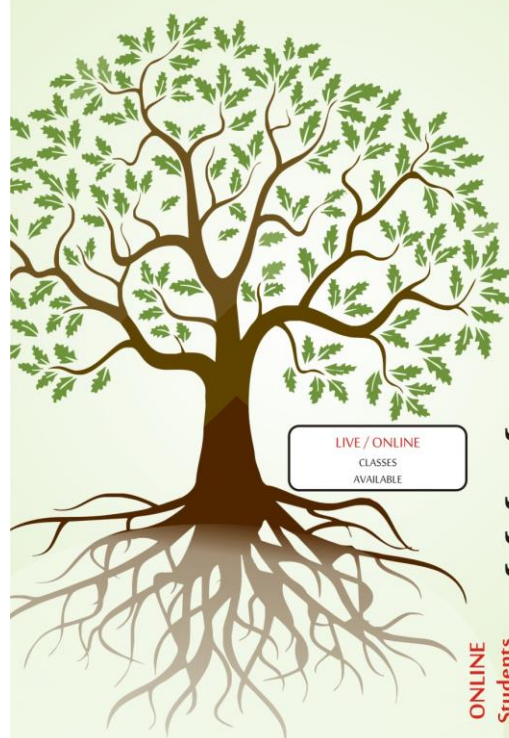
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B. ACTS/LEGISLATIONS

B.1. HUMAN DNA PROFILING BILL, 2015



What is DNA PROFILING?

- DNA Profiling is a technology that can be used to identify individuals. It is a very sensitive technique which only needs a few skin cells, a hair root or a tiny amount of blood or saliva.
- DNA profiling is especially useful for solving crimes but can also be used to confirm if people are related to each other, such as for paternity testing.

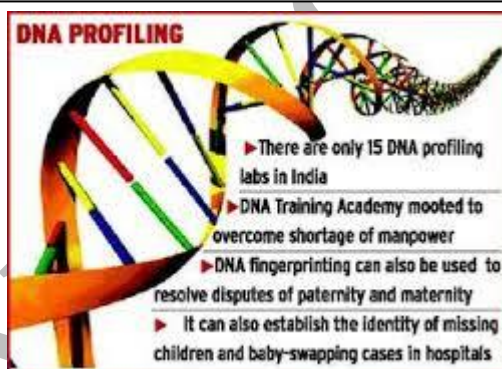
What is DNA?

DNA in an individual's chromosomes controls an array of visible characteristics (including race, colouring and sex) as well as invisible characteristics (such as blood groups and susceptibility to inherited diseases). The DNA is the same in all of the cells in the body of an individual. It is almost certainly true that each person's DNA is unique (unless he or she has an identical twin).

Salient feature of the Bill

A DNA profiling law is supposed to codify everything and set procedures for collection, safety, use and access of DNA samples and data.

- DNA data to become admissible as evidence in judicial proceedings
- Handling of DNA testing.
- Regulation of use of this information by law enforcement agencies and others.
- Two new bodies will be created — a DNA Profiling Board that will act as the regulator, and supervise all activities relating to testing, storage and matching of DNA samples, and a DNA Data Bank, both at the national level and in the states. All existing and new DNA labs will have to seek accreditation from the Board. DNA profiles will have to be stored in the data bank.
- Bill legalizes collection and analysis of the DNA samples for Repeat offenders, suspects, missing persons, unknown deceased persons, volunteers for forensic purposes.
- It also provides for deletion of DNA information in certain cases, for example, when a missing child has been found.
- It also makes provision for punishment for obtaining individual identifiable DNA information through unauthorized means.



B.2. THE ELECTION LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2016

- The Election Laws (Amendment) Bill seeks to amend Section 11 of the Delimitation Act, 2002 and Section 9 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950.
- It will enable Election Commission to carry out limited delimitation of Assembly and Parliamentary Constituencies in the Cooch Behar District of West Bengal consequent upon the exchange of 51 Bangladeshi enclaves and 111 Indian enclaves respectively between India and Bangladesh, with effect from 31st July, 2015.



Delimitation:

- Delimitation literally means the act or process of fixing limits or boundaries of territorial constituencies in a country or a province having a legislative body. The job of delimitation is assigned to a high power body. Such a body is known as Delimitation Commission or a Boundary Commission.
- Under Article 82 of the Constitution, the Parliament by law enacts a Delimitation Act after every census.
- In India, such Delimitation Commissions have been constituted 4 times – in 1952 under the Delimitation Commission Act, 1952, in 1963 under Delimitation Commission Act, 1962, in 1973 under Delimitation Act, 1972 and in 2002 under Delimitation Act, 2002.
- The present delimitation of constituencies has been done on the basis of 2001 census figures under the provisions of Delimitation Act, 2002.
- The Delimitation Commission in India is a high power body whose orders have the force of law and cannot be called in question before any court. These orders come into force on a date to be specified by the President of India in this behalf. The copies of its orders are laid before the House of the People and the State Legislative Assembly concerned, but no modifications are permissible therein by them.

B.3. CONSUMER PROTECTION BILL 2015

- The Consumer Protection Bill, 2015, was introduced in Lok Sabha on August 10, 2015 by the Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution to replace Consumer Protection Act 1986.
- The Parliamentary Standing Committee has recommended stringent provisions including jail term up to five years and hefty penalty of up to 50 lakh in order to protect consumer interest and to make celebrities accountable for misleading ads.
- The Consumer Protection Act, 1986 does not provide for product liability for manufacturers. But under the new bill manufacturer will be made liable for injury or death of a consumer due to defective service.

B.4. THE JUVENILE JUSTICE (CARE AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN) BILL, 2015

- The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Bill, 2015 that will replace the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 states that any person aged between 16 and 18 years and accused of a heinous offence - defined as a crime for which there is a sentence of seven years or more under the Indian Penal Code - may be tried under the IPC and not the JJ Act if, after a preliminary inquiry, the Juvenile Justice Board feels that the crime was committed with full knowledge and understanding of the consequences.
- Juvenile Justice Boards (JJB) and Child Welfare Committees (CWC) will be constituted in each district. The JJB will conduct a preliminary inquiry to determine whether a juvenile offender is to be sent for rehabilitation or be tried as an adult. The CWC will determine institutional care for children in need of care and protection.

B.5. BUREAU OF INDIA STANDARDS BILL 2015

The Union Cabinet gave its approval to introduce a new Bureau of Indian Standards Bill, 2015. The main objectives of the proposed legislation are:

- To establish the Bureau of Indian standards (BIS) as the **National Standards Body of India**.
- The Bureau to perform its functions through **a Governing Council**, which will consist of its President and other members.
- To include **goods, services and systems**, besides articles and processes under the standardization regime.
- To enable the Government to bring under the **mandatory certification regime** such article, process or service which it considers necessary from the point of view of health, safety, environment, prevention of deceptive practices, security etc. This will help consumers receive ISI certified products and will also help in prevention of import of sub-standard products;
- To allow multiple types of simplified conformity assessment schemes including **Self Declaration Of Conformity (SDOC)** against any standard which will give multiple simplified options to manufacturers to adhere to standards and get a certificate of conformity, thus improving the "ease of doing business";
- To enable the Central Government to appoint any authority, in addition to the Bureau of Indian Standards, to verify the conformity of products and services to a standard and issue certificate of conformity;
- To enable the Government to implement **mandatory hallmarking of precious metal articles**;
- To **strengthen penal provisions** for better and effective compliance and enable compounding of offences for violations;
- To provide recall, including product liability of products bearing the Standard Mark, but not conforming to relevant Indian Standards; and
- Repeal of the BIS Act, 1986.

Benefits of New Bill

- The proposed provisions in the new Bureau of Indian Standards Bill, 2015 will empower the Central Government and the Bureau of Indian Standards to **promote a culture of quality of products and services** through mandatory/voluntary compliance with Indian standards through the process of 'product certification' and 'Certificate of Conformity' with a broad objective of consumer's welfare.
- It is also expected to **improve enforcement of Indian standards**.

B.6. TRANSPORT AND ROAD SAFETY BILL, 2015

Why in news?

Recently government has drafted a **new TRANSPORT AND ROAD SAFETY BILL, 2015 to reduce road accidents by at least 50%**.

Salient features

- **Technology:** It proposes adoption of new technology and standards with improved vehicle design for safer travel. It also intends to make spare parts cheaper.





- **Funding:** It proposes innovative financing mechanism for funding safety programs which would save over 200,000 lives in first 5 years due to reduction in road traffic accident deaths.
- **Motor Vehicle Regulation & Road Safety Authority of India:** This Independent Agency will set regulations for motor vehicle and road safety. It will finance road/vehicle safety program and will be Accountable to Parliament.
- **Motor Vehicle Regulation:** The bill sets up appropriate regulation regarding vehicles.
- **Unified Driver Licensing System:** The bill proposed a simpler transparent, single window driver licensing system that is based on biometric to avoid duplication
- **Unified Vehicle Registration System:**
- **Road Safety & Traffic Management :**
 - ✓ Electronic enforcement in urban clusters using modern safety technologies with special emphasis for safety of vulnerable road users
 - ✓ Creation of Motor Accident Fund for immediate relief to accident victim special emphasis on safety of school children and security of women.
- **National Road Transport & Multimodal Coordination Authority:**
 - ✓ Creation of National Road Transport & Multimodal Coordination Authority for improving quality of road transportation,
 - ✓ Focus on developing integrated transport systems & multi-modal hubs and feeder system and last mile connectivity for people friendly mobility.
- **Public passenger Transport:**
 - ✓ Increasing the share of public passenger transportation,
 - ✓ Two-tier permit system: national and intrastate permit and
- **Goods Transport & National Freight Policy:**
 - ✓ Simplified permits and single portal clearances,
 - ✓ Identification and development of freight networks,
- **Infrastructure & Multimodal Facilitation:**
 - ✓ Infrastructure for efficient passenger and goods movement,
 - ✓ Specific provision of infrastructural needs for vulnerable road users,
 - ✓ Integration across various modes of transport.
- **Offences and Penalties:**
 - ✓ Graded penalty point system with enhanced fines will act as a deterrent and improve traffic condition by reducing road rage.
 - ✓ It also seeks to come down heavily on traffic offenders and proposes steep penalties of up to Rs. 3 lakh along with a minimum 7-year imprisonment for death of a child in certain circumstances, besides huge fines for driving violations.
- Highway Traffic Regulation and Protection Force: for the purpose of effective policing and enforcement of traffic regulations on highways.

B.7. ENEMY PROPERTY ORDINANCE, 2016

Why in news?

Recently, the President of India has promulgated **the Enemy Property (Amendment and Validation) Ordinance, 2016** to make amendments to the Enemy Property Act, 1968.

What constitutes Enemy Property?

- Under the Defence of India Rules framed under the Defence of India Act, the Government of India took over the properties and companies of such persons who had taken Pakistani nationality due to partition of India in 1947.
- These enemy properties were vested by the Central Government in the Custodian of Enemy Property for India.



Provisions of the Ordinance

- Once an enemy property is vested in the Custodian, it shall continue to be vested in custodian as enemy property irrespective of whether the enemy, enemy subject or enemy firm has ceased to be an enemy due to reasons such as death etc.
- Law of succession does not apply to enemy property.
- There cannot be transfer of any property vested in the Custodian by an enemy or enemy subject or enemy firm and that the Custodian shall preserve the enemy property till it is disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

B.8. ARBITRATION AND CONCILIATION ACT (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2015

Salient Features of amendment:

- It enables the parties to an international commercial arbitration with the seat of arbitration outside India, to also approach the Indian courts and seeking interim relief, unless the parties have agreed to the contrary.
- Arbitral Tribunal shall make its award within a period of 12 months. Parties may extend such period up to six months. Thereafter, it can only be extended by the Court, on sufficient cause.
- The Court while extending the period may also order reduction of fees of arbitrator(s) not exceeding five percent for each month of delay and it also provides for additional fees if arbitration procedure is completed within six months if both parties agree.
- There is a provision for fast track procedure for conducting arbitration. Award in such cases shall be given in six months period.
- The amendment puts a cap on the fee of an arbitrator.
- The bill empowers arbitration tribunals to grant all kinds of interim measures that a court would provide.
- It permits the court to set aside arbitral award if it is in conflict with public policy of India i.e.
 - ✓ In contravention with basic policy of Indian Law.
 - ✓ In conflict with notions of morality

What is arbitration?

It is a procedure in which a dispute is submitted, by agreement of the parties, to one or more arbitrators who make a binding decision on the dispute. In choosing arbitration, the parties opt for a private dispute resolution procedure instead of going to court.

B.9. NATIONAL WATERWAYS BILL, 2015

Why in news?

- The amendment proposes to declare **106 additional inland waterways** as national waterways taking total their total number to 111 from presently.

Regulatory provisions:

- The **Inland Waterways Authority of India Act, 1985** empowers the Government to declare waterways with potential for development of shipping and navigation

as National Waterways and develop such waterways for efficient shipping and navigation.

- For development and regulation of inland waterways in the country the Inland Waterways Authority of India was set up in October, 1986.

Advantages of Inland Water Transport:

- Inland Water Transport is considered as the most **cost effective** mode of transport from the point of view of fuel efficiency.
- Studies have shown that **emission** from container vessels range from **32-36 gCO₂** per ton-km while those of road transport vehicles (heavy duty vehicles) range from 51-91gCO₂ per ton-km.
- In India, **14,500 km of river channels are navigable**, of which 3,700 km are usable by mechanized boats. But actually, only 2000 km are used. Of the total canal length of 4,300 km in India, 900 km is navigable, but only 330 km is used.

Problems of Inland Water Transport:

- There is a **seasonal fall in water level** in rivers especially in the rain-fed rivers of the peninsula which become nearly dry during summer.
- Reduced flow due to **diversion of water** for irrigation, for instance, in the Ganga which makes it difficult even for steamers to ply.
- There is reduced navigability due to **siltation**, as in the Bhagirathi-Hooghly and in the Buckingham Canal.
- There are problems in smooth navigation because of **waterfalls and cataracts**, as in Narmada and Tapti.
- **Salinity**, especially in the coastal stretches, affects navigation.



Constitutional provisions

Below are some provisions of the Constitution related to national waterways and entries related to shipping and navigation:

LIST I – UNION LIST

ENTRY-24 Shipping and navigation on inland waterways, declared by Parliament by law to be national waterways, as regards mechanically propelled vessels; the rule of the road on such waterways.

ENTRY-30 Carriage of passengers and goods by railway, sea or air, or by national waterways in mechanically propelled vessels.

ENTRY-56 Regulation and development of inter-State rivers and river valleys to the extent to which such regulation and development under the control of the Union is declared by Parliament by law to be expedient in the public interest.

LIST II - STATE LIST

ENTRY-56 Communications, that is roads, bridges, ferries, and other means not specified in List I; municipal tramways; ropeways; inland waterways and traffic thereon subject to the provisions of List I and List III which regard to such waterways; vehicles other than mechanically propelled.

ENTRY-17 Water, that is to say, water supplies, irrigation and canals, drainage and embankments, water storage and water power subject to the provisions of entry 56 of List I.

LIST III – CONCURRENT LIST

ENTRY-32 Shipping & navigation on inland waterways as regards mechanically propelled vessels and the rule of the road on such waterways, and the carriage of passengers and goods on inland waterways subject to the provisions of List I.

ENTRY-30 Carriage of passengers and goods by rail, sea or air, or by national waterways in mechanically propelled vessels.

B.10. PROTECTION OF MANIPUR PEOPLE BILL, 2015

Issue

In Manipur violence has erupted in the tribal districts after the Manipur Legislative Assembly passed three bills – Protection of Manipur Peoples Bill, 2015, the Manipur Land Revenue & land Reforms (Seventh Amendment) Bill, 2015 and the Manipur Shop & Establishment (Second Amendment) Bill, 2015.

Background

- The bills are the result of two months of protest by several organizations demanding imposition of **Inner Line Permit (ILP)** in line with Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Nagaland where the system is prevalent.

- The dominant Miete community of Manipur have been demanding the implementation of the permit to restrict the entry of 'mainland Indians' for years.



Inner line Permit System (ILPS)

- The Inner Line Permit regulates the entry of non-domicile citizens into a restricted region.
- The British used this to safeguard their revenue-generating regions in the Northeast against raiding tribal communities from the hills.
- Today, ILP is seen as a way to protect the demographic, cultural, political and social integrity of the small tribal populations in the hill states.
- At present, it is imposed in Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Nagaland.

B.11. CHANGES IN PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION ACT, 1988

- It provides for more stringent punishment for the offences of bribery, both for the bribe giver and the bribe taker.
- The average trial period of cases under PC Act in the last 4 years has been above 8 years. It is proposed to ensure speedy trial by providing a trial completion within 2 years.
- Presently there is no requirement of prior sanction for prosecution of retired public servants. It is proposed to extend the protection of prior sanction for prosecution to public servants who cease to hold office due to retirement, resignation etc.

B.12. REAL ESTATE (REGULATION AND DEVELOPMENT) BILL 2015

- The Bill regulates transactions between buyers and promoters of real estate projects. Some of the key features of the Bill include:
 - ✓ The Bill mandates that all states and union territories establish state level Real Estate Regulatory Authorities (RERAs), and specify their composition.
 - ✓ Municipal bodies and government projects will not be covered by the bill and regulates both commercial and residential real estate projects.
 - ✓ The developer has to park 70% of the project funds in a bank account to be used only for construction of that project. This will ensure that developers are not able to invest in numerous new projects with the proceeds of the booking money for one project, thus delaying completion and handover to consumers. However, The state government can alter this amount to less than 70%.
 - ✓ It makes registration of real estate projects and real estate agents with the authority mandatory.
 - ✓ The current practice of selling on the basis of ambiguous super built-up area for a real estate project will come to a stop as this law makes it illegal. Carpet area has been clearly defined in the law.

B.13. CENTRE-STATE RELATIONS: NEW FRAMEWORK FOR GRANTS



Budget 2016–17 has made **three important** Provisions relating to central transfers to states.

Rationalization of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS)

• Background

- ✓ Government of India through NITI Aayog constituted a subgroup of chief ministers for rationalizing and restructuring the CSS.
- ✓ It recommended that focus of the CSS should be on the schemes that comprise the National Development Agenda.
- ✓ It further recommended that the schemes be divided into **“Core” and “Optional”** schemes and amongst the Core Schemes those for social protection and inclusion should be called **“Core of the Core”**.
- ✓ The subgroup further recommended that the investment levels in the Core Schemes should be maintained so as to ensure that the optimum size of the programme does not shrink.

• New Framework for Grants in Budget 2016-17

- ✓ The government on the recommendation of the subgroup of chief ministers restructured the grants.
- ✓ As per the decision of Government, the existing funding pattern of schemes defined as **'core of the core'** have been retained.
- ✓ The funding pattern of **'core' schemes**, which also form part of the National Development agenda, will be shared 60:40 between the Centre and the States (90:10 for the 8 North Eastern States and 3 Himalayan states).
- ✓ In case a scheme/sub-scheme in the above classification that has a Central Funding pattern of less than 60:40, the existing funding pattern will continue.
- ✓ The other **optional schemes** will be optional for the State Governments and their fund sharing pattern will be 50:50 between the Centre and the States (80:20 for the 8 North Eastern States and 3 Himalayan States). Examples of such schemes are Border Area Development Programme, National River Conservation Plan, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee RURBAN Mission etc.
- ✓ In Union Budget 2016–17 the total number of CSS has been brought down to 28.

Core of the Core (6 Schemes)	Core (18 Schemes)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA) ✓ National Social Assistance Programme ✓ Umbrella Scheme for the Development of Scheduled Castes ✓ Umbrella Programme for Development of Scheduled Tribes (Tribal Education and Van Bandhu Kalyan Yojana) ✓ Umbrella Programme for Development of Backward Classes and other vulnerable groups ✓ Umbrella Programme for Development of 	<p>For example</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Green Revolution (a) Krishi Unnati Yojana (b) Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana ✓ White Revolution - Rashtriya Pashudhan Vikas Yojna (Livestock Mission, Veterinary Services and Dairy Development) ✓ Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana ✓ Swachh Bharat Abhiyan ✓ National Health Mission (NHM) ✓ Integrated Child Development

Minorities (a) Multi Sectoral Development Programme for Minorities. (b) Education Scheme for Madaras and Minorities.

Services (Umbrella ICDS)
✓ Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme etc.



Devolution of taxes post the Fourteenth Finance Commission (FFC) award

- Tax devolution has witnessed a major jump in the total resource transfers to states due to the increase in tax devolution to 42% of the divisible pool.
- Aggregate transfer to states² in 2016–17 is ₹9, 18,093 crore as compared to ₹8, 18,034 crore in 2015–16.

Effective outcome-based monitoring of implementation of schemes and doing away with the plan and non-plan expenditure distinction in the budget after the completion of the Twelfth Five Year Plan.

- An exercise to rationalize Plan and Non Plan schemes of all Ministries and Departments had been undertaken.
- The existing programmes and schemes have been re-organized into outcome based Umbrella programmes and schemes to avoid thin spread of resources.

B.14. RIGHTS OF TRANSGENDER PERSONS BILL, 2015

Why in news?

- The ministry of social justice recently sent the **draft bill on the 'Rights of Transgender Persons Bill, 2015'** to the law ministry for finalization before it is sent to the cabinet for approval.

Background

- The legislation is modelled on the **private members' bill** moved by Rajya Sabha MP Tiruchi Siva and passed by the Upper House on April 24, 2015.
- The government then assured the House that it would bring its own law in Lok Sabha after "correcting infirmities" in Siva's Bill.

Salient Provisions

- It provide for the formulation and implementation of a comprehensive national policy for ensuring overall development of the Transgender Persons and for their welfare to be undertaken by the State.
- The Bill provides **recognition** of transgender people before law and gives them rights and entitlements including reservation in education and government jobs under the OBC quota(except SC/ST).
- **TRANSGENDER IDENTITY:**

A FIRST IN 45 YEARS

The bill to create a national commission for transgenders was just the 15th Private Members' Bill to have been passed by Parliament and the first since 1970



Private Member Bill

- Bills may be broadly classified into Government Bills and Private Members' Bills depending upon their initiation in the House by a Minister or a Private Member.
- Every member of the parliament who is not a minister is called a private member.
- In Lok Sabha, the last two and a half hours of a sitting on every Friday are generally allotted for transaction of Private Members' Business, i.e., Private Members' Bills and Private Members' Resolutions.



- ✓ Transgender should be declared as the third gender, and a Transgender Person should have the option to identify as 'man', 'woman' or 'transgender' as well as have the right to choose any of the options independent of surgery/hormones.
- ✓ Only the nomenclature 'transgender' should be used and nomenclatures like 'other' or 'others' should not be used.
- ✓ Certificate to be provided by a state level authority that a person is a transgender person.
- **RIGHTS AND ENTITLEMENTS:**
 - ✓ Government shall take all necessary steps to ensure that transgender persons enjoy the right and entitlements as given in Constitution of India on an equal basis with others.
 - ✓ No child who is a transgender shall be separated from his or her parents on grounds of being a transgender except on an order of competent Court, if required in the best interest of the child.
 - ✓ Government shall take all appropriate measures to prevent abuse, violence and exploitation against Transgender Persons.
 - ✓ The bill calls for necessary amendments in IPC to cover the cases of sexual assault on Transgender Persons.
- **Non discrimination**
 - ✓ The Bill also states that Government is duty bound to take appropriate steps in protecting rights of Transgenders and to ensure that they are not being discriminated against.
 - ✓ No establishment shall discriminate against any Transgender Person in any matter relating to employment including but not limited to recruitment, promotion and other related issues.
- The Bill also has provisions regarding social security, health, rehabilitation & recreation, Education, skill development & employment of Transgenders.

Need

- The community which has around **6 lakhs population** as per 2011 census had been neglected since a long time, will finally get its dues as citizens of our country.
- The Bill attempts to do cover all types of discrimination faced by the community and clearly lists them to avoid ambiguities. Provision for reservation and support through scholarships etc will help in their empowerment in true sense.
- Will create awareness among the people and sensitize them to be compassionate for the cause of the community and look at them with respect.

B.15. INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT AND REGULATION AMENDMENT BILL 2015

Why in News?

- During Budget session, The Rajya Sabha has passed the Industries (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2015. Lok Sabha has already passed the bill in December 2015.

Important Provisions

- The bill seeks to amend the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951.
- The Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 provides for development and regulation of certain industries including metallurgical,

telecommunications, transportation, fermentation (which includes production of alcohol) among others.

- The 1st schedule of the Act includes all industries that are regulated under the Act.
- The Bill amends the schedule to exclude production of alcohol for potable purposes from the ambit of the Act.
- It proposes to bring industries engaged in the manufacture of potable alcohol under the **exclusive control of States** in all respects.
- However, the Union Government will continue to be responsible for formulating policy and regulating foreign collaboration for all products of fermentation industries, including industrial and potable alcohol.



B.16. REGIONAL CENTRE FOR BIOTECHNOLOGY BILL, 2016

Why in News?

- The Lok Sabha passed The Regional Centre for Biotechnology Bill, 2016.
- The Bill seeks to **establish a Regional Centre for Biotechnology, an institution of education, training and research**, under the auspices of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in the National Capital Region.

Background

- ✓ In 2006, India had entered into an agreement with the UNESCO regarding establishment of the Regional Centre to serve the member countries of UNESCO.
- ✓ In this regard, the Union government through an executive order had established the Regional Centre for Biotechnology Training and Education in Faridabad, Haryana in 2009.

Provisions

- The Bill seeks to provide **legislative backing** to the Regional Centre.
- It also confers upon it the status of an **institute of national importance**.
- The Regional Centre for Biotechnology will take up research and innovation and impart education and training in the new areas of Biotechnology at the interface of multiple disciplines of science creating a hub of technology expertise.

Institute of National Importance

- An Institute of National Importance, in India is defined as one which serves as a pivotal player in developing highly skilled personnel within the specified region of the country/state.
- Only a chosen few institutes make it to this coveted list and are usually supported by the Government of India.
- In India, all of the IITs, NITs, AIIMS, NIPERs, ISI and some other institutes as Institutes of National Importance.

B.17. AMENDMENTS IN THE COMPENSATORY AFFORESTATION FUND BILL, 2015

Why in News?

- On the basis of recommendation of standing committee, the Union Cabinet gave its approval to move official amendments in the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Bill, 2015.



Proposed Amendments

- It will make the list of environmental services inclusive and will delete some of environmental services for which credible model to assess their monetary value do not exist.
- It will **provide for prior consultation with States Governments** for making rule under the new legislation.
- It will **also provide for establishment of State Fund of a Union territory** having no legislature under Public Account of the Union of India.
- It will provide for use of monies realized from the user agencies in lieu for forest land diverted in protected areas for voluntary relocation from protected areas.
- To **provide wider representation**, it will include Secretaries of Ministries dealing with Space and Earth Sciences as members of governing body of the National Authority.
- It will also **increase the number of expert members in governing body of National Authority from two to five.**
- It will also increase the number of expert members in executive committee of National Authority from two to three.
- It will also include an expert on tribal matters or representative of tribal community as a member in both steering committee and executive committee of a State Authority.
- Amendments have fixed time limit of three months for Executive Committee of National Authority to approve annual plan of operations of State Authorities.

Impact

- It will **ensure expeditious utilization of accumulated unspent amounts (approximately 40,000 rupees)** available with the ad hoc CAMPA in an efficient and transparent manner.
- It will also **facilitate timely execution of appropriate measures to mitigate impact** of diversion of forest land.
- Utilization of these amounts will result in **creation of productive assets and generation of huge employment opportunities in the rural areas**, especially the backward tribal areas.

B.18. NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS RANKING FRAMEWORK

- This is **the first time that an exercise of compiling** rankings of various institutions has been undertaken by the Union government.
- The **National Board of Accreditation (NBA)** has undertaken the task of doing the ranking exercise.
- There are ranking methods for 6 categories of institutions i.e. **Engineering, Management, Pharmacy, Architecture, Universities and Colleges.**
- It declared the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Madras the best institute for engineering and the Indian Institute of Management (IIM)-Bangalore the best for management.

This framework outlines a methodology to rank institutions across the country. The parameters broadly cover

- ✓ Teaching
- ✓ Learning and Resources
- ✓ Research and Professional Practices
- ✓ Graduation Outcomes
- ✓ Outreach and Inclusivity
- ✓ Perception

- In the category of universities, the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, is rated the top-ranked institute followed by the Institute of Chemical Technology (ICT), Mumbai.



B.19. AADHAAR BILL, 2016

Why in News?

- The Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Bill, 2016, got Parliament's approval.
- The Bill intends to provide statutory backing to Aadhaar for targeted delivery of subsidies and services to individuals residing in India.

To obtain an Aadhaar number, an individual has to submit his

- Biometric (photograph, finger print, iris scan)
- Demographic (name, date of birth, address) information.
- The Unique Identification Authority (UID) may specify other biometric and demographic information to be collected by regulations.

Features of the Bill

- Every resident is entitled to obtain an Aadhaar number. A resident is a person who has resided in India for 182 days, in the one year.
- To perform the functions related to Aadhaar card, **Unique Identification Authority (UID) will be formed.**
- **Composition of UID will be** chairperson, two part-time members and a chief executive officer. The chairperson and members should have experience of at least 10 years in matters like technology, governance, etc.
- **Important functions of the UID authority are:**

- ✓ Specifying demographic and biometric information to be collected during enrolment.
- ✓ Assigning Aadhaar numbers to individuals
- ✓ Authenticating Aadhaar numbers
- ✓ Specifying the usage of Aadhaar numbers for delivery of subsidies and services.

BYPASSING NORMS?

The Opposition is accusing the govt. of trying to avoid scrutiny over the Aadhaar Bill by categorising it as a Money Bill

What are Money Bills?

Bills that contain provisions related to taxation, borrowing of money by the government, expenditure from or receipt to the Consolidated Fund of India



What has the Opposition riled

Govt. does not have a majority in the Rajya Sabha, which cannot reject Money Bills

Also, as part of the Finance Bill, the govt. has mentioned the incorporation of the RBI monetary policy committee

In clause 57, it says one can also use the identification number for any other function...In this way, it does not meet the criteria of a money bill

- Biometric information (finger print, iris scan and other biological attributes) will be used only for Aadhaar enrolment and authentication purpose and will not be shared with anyone.
- Only in **cases pertaining** interest of national security and on the order of court information will be revealed.
- A person may be punished with imprisonment up to 3 years and minimum fine of Rs. 10 lakh for unauthorized access to centralized database, including revealing any information stored.

Issues surrounding the bill

- **Due to Introduction of the bill as money bill, it has bypassed Rajya Sabha**



Money Bills: Article 110 of the Constitution deals with the definition of money bills. It states that a bill is deemed to be a money bill if it contains 'only' provisions dealing with all or any of the following matters:

1. The imposition, abolition, remission, alteration or regulation of any tax,
2. The regulation of the borrowing of money by the Union government,
3. The custody of the Consolidated Fund of India or the contingency fund of India, the payment of moneys into or the withdrawal of money from any such fund,
4. The appropriation of money out of the Consolidated Fund of India,
5. Declaration of any expenditure charged on the Consolidated Fund of India or increasing the amount of any such expenditure,
6. The receipt of money on account of the Consolidated Fund of India or the public account of India or the custody or issue of such money, or the audit of the accounts of the Union or of a state,
7. Any matter incidental to any of the matters specified above.

Other provisions:

- If any question arises whether a bill is a money bill or not, the decision of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha is final.
- His decision in this regard cannot be questioned in any court of law or in the either House of Parliament or even the president.
- When a money bill is transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for recommendation and presented to the president for assent, the Speaker endorses it as a money bill.
- A money bill can only be introduced in the Lok Sabha and that too on the recommendation of the president.
- Every such bill is considered to be a government bill and can be introduced only by a minister.

B.20. FOOD SECURITY ACT

- **Jharkhand, Telangana and Uttarakhand** rolled out the National Food Security Act (NFSA).
- NFSA aims to provide subsidized food grains to nearly 67% of the country's population.

About NFSA

- The National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA 2013) converts into legal entitlements for existing food security programmes of the Government of India.
- It includes the Midday Meal Scheme, Integrated Child Development Services scheme and the Public Distribution System.
- NFSA 2013 also recognizes maternity entitlements.
- The Midday Meal Scheme and the Integrated Child Development Services Scheme are universal in nature whereas the PDS will reach about two-thirds of the population (75% in rural areas and 50% in urban areas).
- Pregnant women, lactating mothers, and certain categories of children are eligible for daily free meals.

C. POLICIES/SCHEMES



C.1. INTERLINKING OF RIVERS

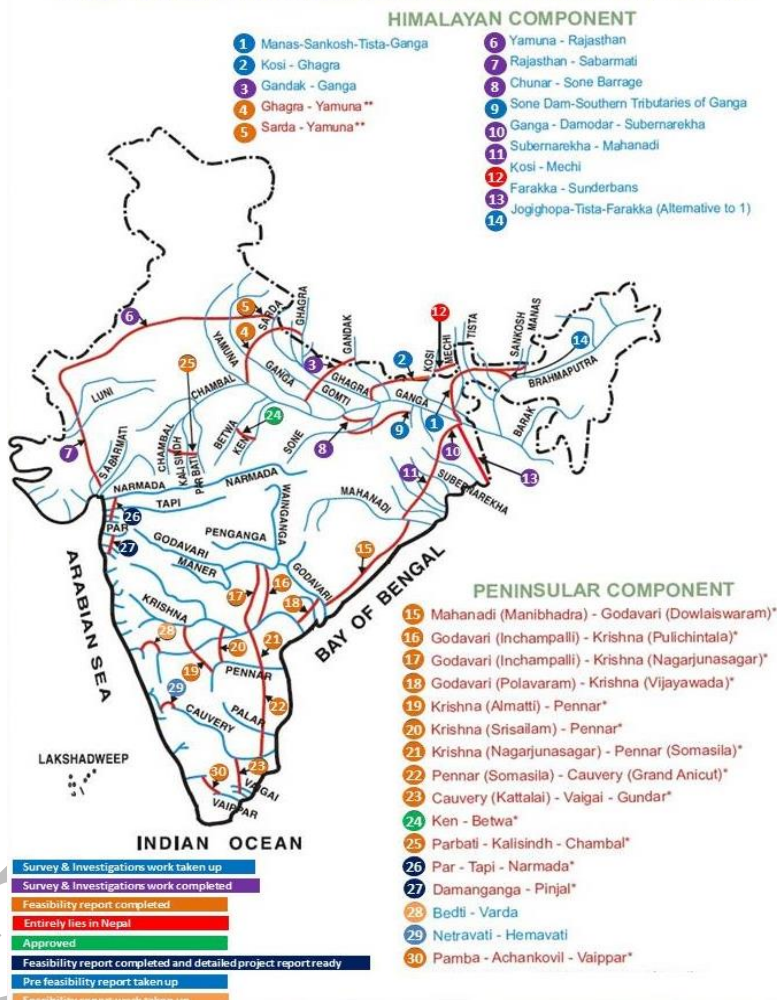
Why in news:

Government has taken up Interlinking of River (ILR) programme under National Perspective Plan (NPP) on a high priority and the Detailed Project Reports (DPR) of Ken – Betwa Link Project, Damanganga – Pinjal Link Project and Par-Tapi-Narmada link project have been completed.

National River Linking Project (NRLP)

- The National River Linking Project (NRLP) formally known as the **National Perspective Plan**, envisages the transfer of water from water 'surplus' basins where there is flooding to water 'deficit' basins where there is drought/scarcity, through inter-basin water transfer projects.
- It will comprise of 30 links to connect 37 rivers across the nation through a network of nearly 3000 storage dams to form a gigantic South Asian Water Grid. It includes two components - Himalayan and Peninsular.

PROPOSED INTER BASIN WATER TRANSFER LINKS



Benefits of the Project:

- Hydropower generation:** It claims to generate total power of 34 GW.
- Irrigation benefits:** To provide additional irrigation to 35 million hectares (m ha) in the water-scarce western and peninsular regions, which includes 25 m ha through surface irrigation and 10 m ha through groundwater.
- Flood prevention:** With network of rivers this problem can be greatly avoided by channeling excess water to areas that are facing drought.
- Navigation:** Newly created network of canals opens up new routes and ways and routes of water navigation, which is generally more efficient and cheaper compared to road transport.

C.2. DRAFT ENCRYPTION POLICY



- Under Section 84A of Information Technology Act, 2000 Rules are to be framed to prescribe modes or methods for encryption. In this regard, a draft National Encryption Policy was formulated by an Expert Group setup by Government.
- The aim was to enable information security environment and secure transactions in Cyber Space for individuals, businesses, Government including nationally critical information systems and networks.

What is encryption?

Encryption is the process of encoding messages or information in such a way that only authorized parties can read it.

For example: word "IAS" can become "JBT" in encrypted form, if every letter is replaced by next alphabet. Those who know how it is encoded can only be able to read "IAS" correctly.

Uses of Encryption

All messaging services like WhatsApp, Viber, Google Chat, Yahoo messenger use encrypted services. Banks and e-commerce sites also use encryption to protect financial and private data including passwords.

Why India needs Encryption Policy?

- To promote use of encryption for ensuring the security/confidentiality of internet communication and transactions
- To facilitate investigation of crimes and threats to national security in the age of sophisticated encryption technology
- To promote research in encryption technology as it is restricted and not available to India under Wassenaar agreement.
- To build consumer confidence in retail and e-governance, encouraging more Indians to go online and strengthening the country's underdeveloped cybersecurity sector.
- To check misuse of encryption.

C.3. DIGITAL INDIA PROGRAMME

- It is an umbrella programme that covers multiple Government Ministries and Departments, coordinated by the Department of Electronics & Information Technology (DeitY).
- The Digital India programme aims at transforming the country into a digitally-empowered knowledge economy.
- It aims to create participative and responsive government and to create safe and secure cyber space in the country

Nine Pillars of Digital India

1. Broadband Highways

- This covers three sub components, namely Broadband for All Rural, Broadband for All Urban and National Information Infrastructure.
 - Under **Broadband for All Rural**, 250000 village Panchayats would be covered by December' 2016.

- Under **Broadband for All Urban**, Virtual Network Operators would be leveraged for service delivery and communication infrastructure in new urban development and buildings would be mandated.
- **National Information Infrastructure** would integrate the networks like SWAN, NKN and NOFN along with cloud enabled National and State Data Centres.



2. Universal Access to Mobile Connectivity

3. Public Internet Access Programme

- The two sub components of Public Internet Access Programme are Common Service Centres and Post Offices as multi-service centres.
 - **Common Service Centres** would be strengthened and its number would be increased from approximately 135,000 operational at present to 250,000 i.e. one CSC in each Gram Panchayat. CSCs would be made viable, multi-functional end-points for delivery of government and business services.
 - A total of 150,000 **Post Offices** are proposed to be converted into multi service centres.

4. e-Governance – Reforming Government through Technology

- The guiding principles for reforming government through technology are- Form simplification and field reduction; Online applications and tracking of their status ; Mandatory use of online repositories e.g. school certificates, voter ID cards, etc.
- **Electronic Databases** – all databases and information should be electronic and not manual.
- **Workflow Automation Inside Government** – The workflow inside government agencies should be automated to enable efficient government processes and to allow visibility of these processes to the citizens.
- **Public Grievance Redressal** -IT should be used to automate, respond and analyze data to identify and resolve persistent problems. These would be largely process improvements.

5. e-Kranti (NeGP 2.0) – Electronic delivery of services

- There are 31 Mission Mode Projects under different stages of e-governance project lifecycle. Further, 10 new MMPs have been added to e-Kranti by the Apex Committee on NeGP.
- **Technology for Education – e-Education:** Free wifi will be provided in all secondary and higher secondary schools (totalling around 250,000 schools). A programme on digital literacy would be taken up at the national level. MOOCs –Massive Online Open Courses shall be leveraged for e-Education.
- **Technology for Health – e-Healthcare:** E-Healthcare would cover online medical consultation, online medical records, online medicine supply, pan-India exchange for patient information.
- **Technology for Farmers:** This would facilitate farmers to get real time price information, online ordering of inputs and online cash, loan and relief payment with mobile banking.
- **Technology for Security:** Mobile based emergency services and disaster related services would be provided to citizens on real time basis so as to take precautionary measures well in time.
- **Technology for Financial Inclusion** : Financial Inclusion shall be strengthened using Mobile Banking, Micro-ATM program and CSCs/ Post Offices.
- **Technology for Justice:** Interoperable Criminal Justice System shall be strengthened by leveraging e-Courts, e-Police, e-Jails and e-Prosecution.



- **Technology for Planning:** National GIS Mission Mode Project would be implemented to facilitate GIS based decision making for project planning, conceptualization, design and development.
- **Technology for Cyber Security:** National Cyber Security Co-ordination Center would be set up to ensure safe and secure cyber-space within the country.

6. Information for All

- Government to pro-actively engage via social media and web based platforms to inform citizens.
 - **MyGov.in** has already been launched as a medium to exchange ideas/ suggestions with Government. It will facilitate 2-way communication between citizens and government.

7. Electronics Manufacturing – Target NET ZERO Imports

8. IT for Jobs

- 1 Crore students from smaller towns & villages will be trained for IT sector jobs over 5 years.
- BPOs would be set up in every north-eastern state to facilitate ICT enabled growth in these states.
- **3 lakh service delivery agents** would be skill trained to run viable businesses delivering IT services.

9. Early Harvest Programmes

- **IT Platform for Messages:** A Mass Messaging Application has been developed by DeitY that will cover elected representatives and all Government employees.
- **Biometric attendance:** It will cover all Central Government. Offices in Delhi.
- **Wi-Fi in All Universities**
- **Public Wi-fi hotspots:** Cities with population of over 1 million and tourist centres would be provided with wi-fi hotspots to promote digital cities. The scheme would be implemented by DoT and MoUD.
- **National Portal for Lost & Found children:** This would facilitate real time information gathering and sharing on the lost and found children and would go a long way to check crime and improve timely response. Recently the Khoya Paya Portal was launched.

Digital Locker:

- Digital locker is a dedicated personal storage space for e-documents as well as Uniform Resource Identifier (URI) of e-documents issued by government departments. The system will have an e-sign facility, which can be used to sign stored documents. Each locker is linked to the resident's Aadhar number.
- The move is aimed at **minimising the use of physical documents** and provide authenticity to e-documents, thereby, giving secure access to documents issued by government. It will also reduce administrative overhead of government departments and agencies and make it easy for the residents to receive services.

National Scholarship Portal: The National Scholarships Portal is a one-stop solution for end-to-end scholarship process. From submission of student application, verification, sanction to disbursal to end beneficiary for all the scholarships provided by the government, this is an important tool of the Digital India initiative.



C.4. PORTALS FOR BRINGING TRANSPARENCY IN ROAD PROJECTS

- NHIDL will come up with two more portals 'Infracon' and 'ePace' that will provide all necessary details regarding highway projects.
- Centre also launched INAM-PRO platform for infrastructure and material providers.

INFRACON	INAM-PRO	e-PACE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It will have all the information about individual consultants and consultation firms • It would serve as a platform for infrastructure consultants where individual consultants as well as consulting firms could register themselves. • There credentials would be made available there and can be accessed by people • It will make available the largest pool of consultants in the field. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portal will enable central or state government agencies register and procure cement directly from suppliers on cheaper rates on "cash and carry basis" • Already 33 cement firms and 107 plants are registered with committing cement at cheaper rates for projects. 	<p>It will help people know about highway projects status, funding and other details.</p> <p>About NHIDL: NHIDCL, incorporated in July 2014 as a fully owned company of the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways to fast-track highways construction in border areas and tough terrains has been instrumental to develop Infracon web portal.</p>

C.5. SHYAMA PRASAD MUKHERJI RURBAN MISSION

Why in news?

- Prime Minister launched the National Rurban Mission from Kurubhat, in Rajnandgaon district of Chhattisgarh.
- The Rurban Mission would replace the previous government's Provision of Urban Amenities in Rural Areas (PURA) initiative.

Objectives

- These clusters would be developed **by provisioning of economic activities, developing skills & local entrepreneurship and providing infrastructure amenities.**
- The scheme through development of Rurban growth clusters aimed at catalyzing overall regional growth, which would benefit the rural as well as urban areas of the country.
- By achieving **twin objectives of strengthening rural areas and de burdening the urban areas** will lead to balanced regional development and growth of the country.



Features

- The Rurban Mission will develop a cluster of Smart Villages.
- State Governments would identify the clusters in accordance with the Framework for Implementation prepared by the Ministry of Rural Development.
- **300 clusters** would be developed with an investment of Rs 5,100 crore in three years. This year, **100 clusters** would be taken up under the project.
- Under this scheme village clusters will have **14 mandatory components** like Digital Literacy, Sanitation, Provision of piped water supply, Solid and liquid waste management, etc. Focus will be on **creating community assets and improving basic infrastructure such as roads, shelter, power and drinking water in rural belts.**
- The clusters will be geographically contiguous Gram Panchayats with a population of 25,000 to 50,000 in plain and coastal areas and a population of 5,000 to 15,000 in desert, hilly or tribal areas.
- The **funding** for Rurban Clusters will be through various schemes of the government converged into the cluster.
- The mission will provide an **additional funding support of up to 30 per cent of the project cost** per cluster as critical gap funding as central share to enable development of such 'rurban clusters'.
- The Mission envisages institutional arrangements both at the State and Center to ensure smooth implementation of the Mission.
- The Mission also has an Innovation budget towards facilitating research, development and capacity building.
- There would be a separate approach for selection of clusters in Tribal and Non-Tribal Districts.

C.6. DRUG PRICING POLICY

- The government had formed an **inter-ministerial committee** to look into the pricing of medicines, and especially in the market based pricing formula.
- The committee comprises of representatives from DIPP, Ministry of Health, National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) and department of pharmaceutical.
- The committee will review the Drug Price Control Order (DPCO) 2013.

Drug Price Control Order (DPCO) 2013

- **DPCO (2013)** came into force in May 2013, with an objective to improvise and endow with the basic health care and availability of basic medicines at affordable prices across the country. It was notified by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.
- It empowers the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) to regulate prices of 348 **essential drugs**.
- As per the order, all strengths and dosages specified in the **National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM)** will be under price control.
- The earlier DPCO order (1995) regulated drug prices based on the manufacturing costs but in this order ceiling price is linked to market price through market based pricing mechanism.

D. REPORTS/COMMITTEES

D.1. KATOCH COMMITTEE REPORT

Why in news?

Recently Union Chemicals and Fertilizers Ministry ensured that government will implement **Katoch panel recommendations to cut bulk drug imports from China.**

Bulk drugs or Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API) are the active raw materials used in a drug that

Salient features of the recommendations of the Katoch committee on Active Pharmaceuticals Ingredients (APIs):

- Establishment of Large Manufacturing Zones (LMZs)/ Mega Parks for APIs with common facilities at a concessional rate or free of cost maintained by a separate Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV).
- Mega Parks need to be provided with common facilities such common Effluent Treatment Plants (ETPs), Testing facilities, Assured power supply, Common Utilities/Services such as storage, testing laboratories, IPR management etc.
- There is an urgent need to start few large API intermediate clusters to transform the nation as one such cluster can bring around one billion dollar per year.
- Single window clearance and fiscal and Financial incentives such as tax breaks, soft loans etc. should be made available.

D.2. BIBEK DEBROY COMMITTEE REPORT ON RESTRUCTURING OF RAILWAYS

The Bibek Debroy committee report on the restructuring of Indian Railways lays down a five-year roadmap to evolve a statutory rail regulator, scrap the Rail Budget and make room for more players in an “open access” regime which turns the Railways into just another train-service provider in the country.

- Committee's recommendations are based on **three pillars**:
 - ✓ **commercial accounting,**
 - ✓ **changes in HR**
 - ✓ **An independent regulator.**
- The report envisages the creation of **a Railway Ministry eventually with at least three Secretary-level officers** (“not attached with the Railway Board”) to lay down policy for the rail sector, not just of Railways alone that “should ensure competition...encourage private entry and private investments.”
- The report makes the existence of an independent, quasi-judicial **Railway Regulatory Authority of India** a prerequisite for reforms like un-bundling and restructuring of Railways. It will be up to the Regulator to **decide technical standards, set freight rates and resolve disputes.** The Regulator can **recommend fare revisions** but these will not be binding on the Railway Ministry.
- The **Rail Budget should cease to exist after 5 years** and the government should take the entire burden of social cost borne by Railways by way of subsidy.
- It recommended separation of railway track construction, train operations, and rolling-stock production units under **different entities** to enable open access.





D.3. WORLD BANK REPORT ON URBANIZATION IN SOUTH ASIA

- South Asia's urbanization is "messy and hidden" in that an estimated 130 million South Asians live in informal settlements - i.e. slums and sprawl.
- Hidden urbanization is seen in the large share of India's population that lives in settlements that possess urban characteristics but do not satisfy the criteria required to be officially classified as urban.
- Urban population growth is not driven by rural to urban migration as is commonly thought. Report says that 44% of the urban population growth that India experienced between 2001 and 2011 was due to natural increase and 29.5% to the reclassification of rural settlements into census towns.
- The report called for initiatives at the policy and institutional level to tap the economic potential it offers.

Importance of Urbanization: Over 54% of the world's population now lives in urban areas, creating 80% of global GDP, consuming two-thirds of global energy and accounting for 70% of greenhouse gas emissions, according to World Bank data. Urbanization leads to concentration of economic activity, improves productivity and spurs job creation, specifically in manufacturing and services.

D.4. LODHA COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Background

- A sequence of events starting from the IPL 2013 spot-fixing scandal reached its logical conclusion when the three-member Lodha panel submitted its report on the functioning of the BCCI to the Supreme Court on January 4, 2016.

The committee's 'Report on Cricket Reforms' is **divided into four parts:**

- In the first, the objectives of the committee are outlined.
- In second report, the **problems associated with the BCCI**- its conflict of interest, corruption, lack of transparency, etc has been identified and its solution has been recommended.
- The third part of the Report on Cricket Reforms is **an appendix** containing the detailed questionnaire that was provided to the BCCI and stakeholders.
- The fourth part is **report on former IPL COO Sundar Raman** in which committee has cleared former IPL chief of wrongdoing in connection with the 2013 betting and spot-fixing scandal.

HOW THE 2013 IPL SPOT-FIXING CASE UNFOLDED

May 16, 2013: Rajasthan Royals players **S. Sreesanth, Ankeet Chavan, Ajit Chandila** held on spot-fixing charges

May 24: Gurusath Meiyappan of Chennai Super Kings **arrested on betting charges**

June 2: N. Srinivasan steps aside as BCCI President

Oct 8: Supreme Court appoints panel headed by Justice Mudgal

Feb. 10, 2014: Panel indicts Meiyappan for betting

April 22: Supreme Court asks panel to continue with probe

November 17: Panel says Srinivasan ignored violation of player's code of conduct

Jan 22, 2015: Supreme Court absolves Srinivasan of charge of cover-up and misleading the probe committee



Key Recommendations

- **Structure:** To resolve the issue of no proper representation of States the Committee proposed the solution in form of policy of 'One State – One Member - One Vote'.
- **Governance:** There are various issues like Concentration of power, Lack of competence, Overlap of diverse functions, Zonal considerations, No representation to players and women, No independent voice, unlimited terms and tenures and No disqualifications. To resolve this committee has recommended that governance of the BCCI must be decentralized.
- **Delinking IPL and BCCI:** One of the important recommendation is to separate the IPL from the other activities of the BCCI. The committee also proposed a revamp of the existing BCCI governing council (GC) and its membership.
- The committee also recommended the creation of **three new positions—an ombudsman, an ethics officer and an electoral officer.**
- **Bring BCCI under Right to Information Act** - People have the right to know the functions, facilities and other activities of BCCI and it will also help in bringing transparency and accountability in BCCI's functioning.
- **Legalized betting** – The committee also recommended legalizing betting with strong safeguards. And even if legalized for players and team officials, betting is a big no.
- **Player's Association-** It also recommended the establishment of players' associations, which would offer membership to all Indian international and most first-class cricketers who had retired not less than five years ago.

D.5. HURDLES IN INDIA'S DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION: WDR 2016

- India has had the remarkable achievement of being the largest exporter of IT services and skilled manpower among the developing countries. However, still it considerably falls behind China in digitally transforming its economy.
- **World Bank's recently released World Development Report (WDR) 'Digital Dividends'** sheds some light on this.

Problems with India's Digital Economy

- Unfortunately, not only does India have a higher **digital access gap**, it also has a bigger **digital capability gap**. The capability gap, according to the WDR, arises from two main sources:
 - Overall business climate.
 - Quality of human capital.
- India scores considerably below China in **doing business indicators**. It is important for India to create space for creativity and enterprise and to promote competition.
- The slow pace of improvement of the **quality of basic infrastructure** — expressways, logistics, storage, postal delivery system and reliable supply of electricity.
- The **excessively cautious approach of Indian regulators towards disruptive technological innovations** such as mobile money or ride-sharing services has made it difficult for digital start-ups to enter new markets and achieve scale.

- **Low level of skills and education** in a majority of population. Around 25 per cent of India's adult population cannot read and write compared to fewer than 5 per cent in China.
- Even the **quality of education** is poor. The latest Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) test scores in rural India show that 10 per cent of children aged 16 and below cannot identify single-digit numbers consistently.



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E. INDICES



E.1. ICT DEVELOPMENT INDEX (IDI):

- India has been ranked a low **131 out of 167 nations** on a global index that measures the level of information and communication technology access.
- India dropped six notches from the IDI rank in 2010.
- Despite the improved penetration of ICT in India, India's rank declined:
- The ICT access sub-index is used to capture ICT readiness and includes **five indicators** :
 - fixed telephone subscriptions,
 - mobile cellular telephone subscriptions,
 - international internet bandwidth per internet user,
 - percentage of households with a computer,
 - Percentage of households with internet access).

Facts about IDI:

- Published by the United Nations International Telecommunication Union
- Standard tool that governments, operators, development agencies, researchers and others can use to measure the digital divide and compare ICT performance within and across countries.
- The ICT Development Index is based on 11 ICT indicators, grouped in **three clusters: access, use and skills.**

E.2. GLOBAL RULE OF LAW INDEX

- The Rule of Law Index 2015, released by the U.S.-based **World Justice project**, has ranked 102 countries worldwide.
- According to the 2015 Index, India's overall rule of law performance places it in the third position out of six countries in the South Asian region. The top overall performer in the WJP Rule of Law Index 2015 was Denmark while in the South Asia region, the top performer was Nepal.
- India ranks low in accessibility to civil justice - National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) has been constituted under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 to provide free Legal Services to the weaker sections of the society and to organize Lok Adalats for amicable settlement of disputes.
- In every State, State Legal Services Authority has been constituted to give effect to the policies and directions of the NALSA and to give free legal services to the people and conduct Lok Adalats in the State. The State Legal Services Authority is headed by Hon'ble the Chief Justice of the respective High Court
- In every District, District Legal Services Authority has been constituted to implement Legal Services Programmes in the District. The District Legal Services Authority is situated in the District Courts Complex in every District and chaired by the District Judge of the respective district.

The World Justice Project (WJP)

The World Justice Project (WJP) is an independent, multidisciplinary organization working to advance the rule of law around the world.



Rule of Law Index

The World Justice Project Rule of Law Index is a quantitative assessment tool designed to offer a detailed and comprehensive picture of the extent to which countries adhere to the rule of law in practice. The Index provides new data on **eight dimensions** of the rule of law: (1) **limited government powers**; (2) **absence of corruption**; (3) **order and security**; (4) **fundamental rights**; (5) **open government**; (6) **regulatory enforcement**; (7) **civil justice**; and (8) **criminal justice**.

E.3. GLOBAL PEACE INDEX 2015

- The Global Peace Index for 2015, released by nonprofit **Institute for Economics and Peace**, ranked 162 nations around the globe based on **22 indicators** that includes **military spending, homicide rates and deaths from conflict, civil disobedience and terrorism** etc.
- **India ranks a lowly 143rd** on a global peace index, lagging way behind the likes of Bhutan (18), Nepal (62), Sri Lanka (114) and Bangladesh (84). Pakistan is ranked at 154, while Afghanistan at 160.

E.4. CPI 2015

- Berlin based Transparency International's has released Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2015.
- It shows that India has moved up in rank **from 85th position to 76th.**

What is corruption perceptions index?

- CPI, the most widely used indicator of public sector corruption worldwide, is a composite index that combines the results of surveys and assessments of corruption, collected by a variety of reputable institutions including the World Bank and the World Economic Forum.
- It looks at a range of factors like whether governmental leaders are held to account or go unpunished for corruption, the perceived prevalence of bribery, and whether public institutions respond to citizens' needs.
- As per the scoring system adopted, higher the score points on a scale of 0-100, lower is the corruption in that country.

- India's **score** in the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) for 2015 remained unchanged at 38 as it was in the previous year.
- India shares its rank along with six other countries: Brazil, Burkina Faso, Thailand, Tunisia and Zambia.
- The number of countries ranked in 2015 was 168 against 174 nations in 2014.

Observations of Transparency International:

- Top country performers share key characteristics such as:
 - high levels of press freedom;
 - access to budget information so the public knows where money comes from and how it is spent;
 - high levels of integrity among people in power;
 - Judiciaries that don't differentiate between rich and poor, and that are truly independent from other parts of government.



F. MISCELLANEOUS

F.1. NATIONAL AWARD ON E-GOVERNANCE

- The **Employees' Provident Fund Organisation** has won the National Award on e-Governance 2015-16 for launching the **Universal Account Number (UAN)**.
- The EPFO won the gold award in the 'innovative use of technology in e-governance' category.

Employees' Provident Fund Organisation

- The Employees' Provident Fund Organization is a statutory body, is one of the largest social security organizations in India in terms of volume of financial transactions undertaken and number of covered beneficiaries.
- **It works under the overall aegis of the Ministry of Labor and Employment.**
- It administers a compulsory contributory Provident Fund Scheme, Pension Scheme and an Insurance Scheme.
- These schemes cover Indian workers as well as International workers (for countries with which bilateral agreements have been signed).

UAN Scheme

- On 1 October 2014, Prime Minister of India launched universal account number for Employees covered by EPFO to enable PF number portability.
- Through UAN, active employees are provided a universal number which can be linked to various provident fund account numbers provided to them while working in different organizations.
- A single account number can be used through all of workers' employments with various organizations.
- The online portal allows a worker to view his provident fund balance on a real-time basis without going through the employer again and again.

F.2. JAL KRANTI ABHIYAN

- Under the nationwide campaign of Jal Kranti, a village with acute water scarcity on a pilot project will be selected as Jal Gram.
- In this identified village a comprehensive integrated development plan will be framed and several water conservation activities will be launched.
- Activities proposed under the campaign include rain water harvesting, recycling of waste water, micro irrigation for using water efficiently and mass awareness program.
- Along with it, a cadre of local water professional Jal Mitra will be created and they will be given training to create mass awareness.
- As pilot project, activities under this nation campaign will be run in one water stressed village in each 672 districts in the country.

F.3. NAMAMI GANGE

- The flagship "Namami Gange" Program which integrates the efforts to clean and protect the Ganga river in a comprehensive manner, and it will cover 12 rivers in 8 states.



- The program would be implemented by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), and its state counterpart organizations i.e., State Program Management Groups (SPMGs).
- It is a fully central sponsored program. The program focuses on involving the States and grassroot level institutions such as Urban Local Bodies and Panchayati Raj Institutions in implementation.

F.4. "GROW SAFE FOOD" CAMPAIGN

- Government has launched "Grow Safe Food" campaign to improve agriculture output without comprising on nutrition and quality of the produce.
- "Grow Safe food" Campaign has been initiated to create awareness about **the safe and judicious use of pesticides** among the various stakeholders.
- Government uses various steps for proper use of pesticides by farmers on crops for better growth.
- The Ministry of Agriculture has stated in a release that pesticide residue data generated under the "**Monitoring of Pesticide Residues at National Level**" are shared with State Governments and concerned ministries/organizations to initiate the corrective action for judicious and proper use of pesticides on crops with an integrated pest management approach and to generate awareness amongst farmers.
- The Department of Agriculture, Co-Operation & Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) emphasizes integrated pest management (IPM) which promotes biological, cultural and mechanical methods of pest and advocates need based, judicious use of pesticides.

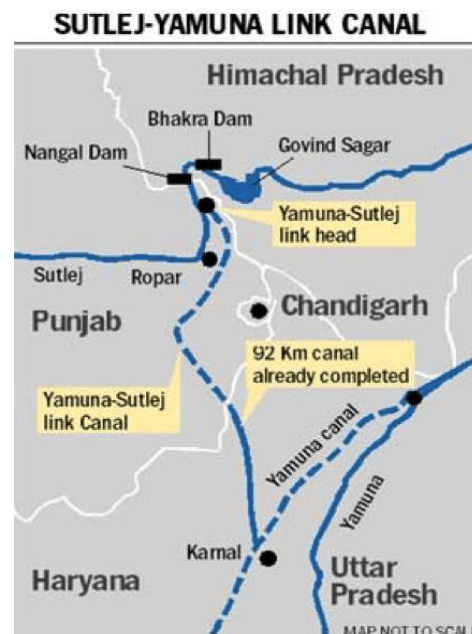
F.5. SUTLEJ-YAMUNA LINK (SYL) CANAL ISSUE

Why in news?

- Supreme Court has directed the Punjab government to maintain status quo on land marked for the construction of SYL canal.
- However, going against the SC directive, Punjab assembly passed **the Punjab Sulej-Yamuna Link Canal (Rehabilitation and Re-vesting of Proprietary Rights) Bill 2016**, which seeks to return land acquired for the canal's construction to the original owners free of cost.

Background:

- Central government in 1976, issued a notification allocating to Haryana 3.5 million acre feet (MAF) out of undivided Punjab's 7.2 MAF.
- A canal linking the Sutlej with the Yamuna, cutting across the state, was planned in order to **enable** Haryana to use its share of the waters of the Sutlej and its tributary Beas.





- **Total length of the canal** is supposed to be 214-km. 122 km of which was to be in Punjab, and 92 km in Haryana.
- The work on this canal was started in 1982.
- However, following the protests in Punjab, the Punjab Assembly passed The Punjab Termination of Agreements Act, 2004, terminating its water-sharing agreements.
- The above incident also affected the construction work on the canal.

Reasons of Conflict

- Punjab government argues that the SYL share of water to Haryana was based on 1920 data and now the situation has changed drastically so there is need to review it.
- Whereas Haryana government claims that it is a water deficit state and it has been deprived of its water share which has affected its agricultural output.

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G. PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTIONS



SC Portal on Pendency of Cases

1. With reference to Lok Adalats, consider the following statements:
1. An award made by a Lok Adalat is deemed to be a decree of a civil court and no appeal lies against thereto before any court.
 2. Matrimonial/Family disputes are not covered under Lok Adalat.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer – (a)

Law Commission recommended capital punishment abolition

2. Consider the following statements:
1. The highest criminal court of the district is the Court of District and Sessions Judge.
 2. The District Judges are appointed by the Governor in consultation with the High Courts.
 3. A person to be eligible for appointment as a District Judge should be an advocate or a pleader of seven years' standing or more, or an officer in judicial service of the Union or the State.
 4. When the Sessions Judge Awards death sentence, it must be confirmed by the High Court before it is carried out.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2
(b) 2, 3 and 4
(c) 3 and 4
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer – (d)

NJAC Act as Unconstitutional and Void

3. Consider the following statements:
1. The Judges (Inquiry) Bill 2006 contemplates to establish a Judicial Council which will receive complaints against Judges of the Supreme Court including the Chief Justice of India, High Court Chief Justices and Judges.
 2. Under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, a woman can file a petition before as 1st Class Judicial Magistrate.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer – (b)

Uniform Civil Code



4. Consider the following provisions under the Directive Principles of State Policy as enshrined in the Constitution of India:
1. Securing for citizens of India a uniform civil code.
 2. Organizing village panchayats.
 3. Promoting cottage industries in rural areas.
 4. Securing for all the workers reasonable leisure and cultural opportunities.

Which of the above are the Gandhian Principles that are reflected in the Directive Principles of State Policy?

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

Answer – (b)

Child Rights

5. Which Article of the Constitution of India says, 'No child below the age of fourteen years shall be employed to work in any factory or mine or engaged in any other hazardous employment'?
- (a) Article 24
 - (b) Article 45
 - (c) Article 330
 - (d) Article 368

Answer – (a)

Minority Status of Educational Institutes

6. Match List I (Article of Indian Constitution) with List II (Provision) and select the correct answer using the codes given below the lists:

List I	List II
A. Article 16(2)	1. No person shall be deprived of his property save by the authority of law
B. Article 29(2)	2. No person can be discriminated against in the matter of public appointment on the ground of race, religion or caste
C. Article 30(1)	3. All minorities whether based on religion or language shall have the fundamental right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice.
D. Article 31(1)	4. No citizen shall be denied admission into any education institution maintained by the State, or receiving State aid, on grounds of religion, race, caste, language or any of them.

- A B C D
- (a) 2 4 3 1
 - (b) 3 1 2 4
 - (c) 2 1 3 4
 - (d) 3 4 2 1



Answer – (a)

Supreme Court Verdict on Haryana Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Act 2015

7. If a Panchayat is dissolved, elections are to be held within:
- 1 month
 - 3 months
 - 6 months
 - 1 year

Answer – (c)

8. The Constitution (Seventy-Third Amendment) Act, 1992, which aims at promoting the Panchayati Raj Institutions in the country, provides for which of the following?
1. Constitution of District Planning Committees.
 2. State Election Commissions to conduct all panchayat elections.
 3. Establishment of state Finance Commissions.
- Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
- 1 only
 - 1 and 2 only
 - 2 and 3 only
 - 1, 2 and 3

Answer – (c)

9. In the areas covered under the Panchayat (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996, what is the role/power of Gram Sabha?
1. Gram Sabha has the power to prevent alienation of land in the Scheduled Areas.
 2. Gram Sabha has the ownership of minor forest produce.
 3. Recommendation of Gram Sabha is required for granting prospecting licence or mining lease for any mineral in the Scheduled Areas.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
 - 1 and 2 only
 - 2 and 3 only
 - 1, 2 and 3

Answer – (b)

10. According to the National Human Rights Commission Act, 1993, who amongst the following can be its Chairman?
- Any serving Judge of the Supreme Court
 - Any serving Judge of the High Court
 - Only a retired Chief Justice of India
 - Only a retired Chief Justice of a High Court

Answer – (c)

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CSE 2013



GAURAV AGRAWAL
AIR-1

CSE 2014



NIDHI GUPTA
AIR-3



VANDANA RAO
AIR-4



SUHARSHA BHAGAT
AIR-5

AIR-1
TINA DABI



AIR-6
ASHISH TIWARI



AIR-4
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AIR-9
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