DAILY NEWS DIARY

Of

23.11.2021

FOR PRELIMS AND MAINS
Warm Greetings.

➢ DnD aims to provide every day news analysis in sync with the UPSC pattern.
➢ It is targeted at UPSC – Prelims & Mains.
➢ Daily articles are provided in the form of Question and Answers
   • To have a bank of mains questions.
   • And interesting to read.
   • Providing precise information that can be carried straight to the exam, rather than over dumping.

Enjoy reading.

THE HINDU - TH
INDIAN EXPRESS - IE
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TIMES OF INDIA - TOI
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Essay Paper

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ESSAY PAPER

Editorial

Q- Critically analysis the recent adoption of the Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019 by the Joint Parliamentary Committee and suggest a way forward?

INTRODUCTION = It has been more than three years since a draft Bill on personal data protection was crafted by the Justice Srikrishna Committee of experts and submitted to the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology in 2018. Two years since a Joint Parliamentary Committee was set up to scrutinise another version — the Personal Data Protection Bill (PDPB), 2019 — it was finally adopted recently.

<table>
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<th>Decoding the data protection bill</th>
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<td><strong>WHAT IT MEANS FOR CONSUMERS</strong></td>
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<td>● <strong>DATA</strong> can be processed or shared by any entity only after consent.</td>
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<td>● <strong>SAFEGUARDS</strong>, including penalties, introduced to prevent misuse of personal data.</td>
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<td>● <strong>ALL</strong> data to be categorized under three heads—general, sensitive and critical.</td>
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<td><strong>THE GOVERNMENT &amp; REGULATORY ROLE</strong></td>
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<td>● <strong>GOVT</strong> will have the power to obtain any user's non-personal data from companies.</td>
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<td>● <strong>THE</strong> bill mandates that all financial and critical data has to be stored in India.</td>
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<tr>
<td>● <strong>SENSITIVE</strong> data has to be stored in India but can be processed outside with consent.</td>
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<td><strong>WHAT COMPANIES HAVE TO DO</strong></td>
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<td>● <strong>SOCIAL</strong> media firms to formulate a voluntary verification process for users.</td>
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<td>● <strong>SHARING</strong> data without consent will entail a fine of ₹15 crore or 4% of global turnover.</td>
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<td>● <strong>DATA</strong> breach or inaction will entail a fine of ₹5 crore or 2% of global turnover.</td>
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1. But as dissent notes submitted by some panel members from the Opposition point out, the draft falls short of the standards set by the Justice Srikrishna Committee to build a legal framework based on the landmark judgment, Justice K.S. Puttaswamy vs Union of India, on privacy.

2. The key divergences from the Justice Srikrishna Committee’s draft Bill are in the selection of the chairperson and members of the Data Protection Authority (DPA) which shall
protect the interests of data principals and the leeway provided to the Union government
to exempt its agencies from the application of the Act.

a. While the 2018 draft Bill allowed for judicial oversight, the 2019 Bill relies entirely on
members of the executive government in the selection process for the DPA.

b. In contrast to the 2018 Bill that allowed for exemptions to be granted to state
institutions from acquiring informed consent from data principals or to process data
in the case of matters relating only to the “security of the state” and also called for a
law to provide for “parliamentary oversight and judicial approval of non-consensual
access to personal data”, the 2019 Bill adds “public order” as a reason to exempt an
agency of the Government from the Act, besides only providing for those reasons to
be recorded in writing.

Problems with the above divergences -
A note points out to the dangers of exemption on the grounds of “public order” as it is susceptible
to misuse and not limited to “security of the state” which is recognised by other data regulations
such as Europe’s General Data Protection Regulation as a viable reason for exemption.

In October 2021, the Global Privacy Assembly, featuring Privacy Commissioners from over 19
countries including those from the European Union, Japan and the U.K., came up with a clear
resolution on principles for government access to personal data. In its resolution, the Assembly
asked for a set of principles on legal basis, the need for clear and precise rules, proportionality
and transparency, data subject rights, independent oversight, and effective remedies and redress
to the individuals affected.
Way Forward
As the JPC’s adoption of the draft Bill and the dissent notes appended to it suggest, it has fallen short of standards protecting privacy rights of individuals against blanket misuse by the state. It is now the task of Parliament to tighten the provisions further and bring them in conformance with the 2018 Bill.

GS 2

❖ Governance

Q- Another cautionary tale of MSP model’s perverse incentives in Telangana. Is there a way out?

BACKGROUND = A political war is underway in Telangana between the TRS government and BJP, with CM K Chandrashekar Rao recently staging a public dharna in Hyderabad. The proximate cause for it is a dispute between the state and GoI over the procurement policy for the rabi agricultural season. Details aside, the development is important because it encapsulates the political economy underpinning the latest trends in India’s gargantuan MSP-driven cereal procurement exercise. The spotlight has been on protesting farmers at Delhi’s periphery, largely from Punjab, Haryana and UP. However, it is developments in other states that explain the challenge better.

Telangana and MP are the states with the largest number of beneficiary farmers in the paddy and wheat procurement drives respectively. Along with others such as UP, Odisha and Chhattisgarh, they are locations of a significant chunk of incremental procurement over the last five years.

State wise paddy production in 2019-20 (in million tonnes)
Two overarching trends are driving it –
1. Operational risks in farming have increased with higher frequency of extreme climate events, nudging farmers towards MSP crops to de-risk.
2. Concurrently, it influences political incentives of CMs, irrespective of party affiliation. GoI data brings it out.

What is the Problem -
- Between 2015-16 and 2019-20, in rice procurement the top performers in terms of growth were Telangana at 243% and UP with 72.6%.
- In 2020-21, about 95% of MSP beneficiaries in Telangana were small and marginal farmers.
- In wheat, MP topped in beneficiaries at 1.7 million last season, followed by UP. A staggering 99.1% of MP’s marketed surplus of wheat was procured at MSP, 15 percentage points higher than Punjab. MP’s wheat market is effectively nationalised.

There’s clearly a misalignment of political incentives between states and GoI, which foots the food subsidy bill and has to take a long-term view of Indian agriculture. The problem, therefore, is not of cynical choice but of political economy incentives.

Economic reforms have two features –
1. Typically, costs are borne upfront and benefits follow.
2. Second, stakeholder buy-in requires an alignment of their incentives with a policy’s goals.

In simple terms, reforms cannot fulfil their potential without accounting for transition costs. Here, GST’s introduction holds lessons. Years of talks reached fruition when states were guaranteed compensation for a five-year transition. Agriculture reforms are doable because all the major parties understand the need. If that has to be translated into reality, reform design has to account for the costs that stakeholders need to bear during the transition. If GST’s grand bargain received support, so can reforms of agriculture.

Snippets
❖ International Relations

Q- What is the significance of a new Navy deal signed by the Australia-UK-US?

BACKGROUND = Australia formally embarked on a hotly contested programme to equip its Navy with nuclear-powered submarines in a new defence alliance with Britain and the United States, allowing the exchange of sensitive “naval nuclear propulsion information” between their nations.

- It is the first agreement on the technology to be publicly signed since the three countries announced in September the formation of a defence alliance, AUKUS, to confront strategic tensions in the Pacific where China-US rivalry is growing.
- The deal would improve the three countries’ “mutual defence posture”.
▪ The deal will help Australia to complete an 18-month study into the submarine procurement.
▪ With access to the information this agreement delivers, coupled with the decades of naval nuclear-powered experience our U.K. and U.S. partners have, Australia will also be positioned to be responsible and reliable stewards of this technology.
▪ Under the AUKUS deal, Australia would obtain eight state-of-the-art, nuclear-powered but conventionally armed submarines capable of stealthy, long-range missions.

GS 3

❖ Economic Development

Q- Comment on RBI’s move to merge the Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank with Unity Small Finance Bank Ltd. (USFB)?

BACKGROUND = The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) placed in public domain a draft scheme for amalgamation of the Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank with Unity Small Finance Bank Ltd. (USFB), a banking company incorporated in India under Companies Act, 2013, and having its registered office in New Delhi.

The draft scheme of amalgamation envisages takeover of the assets and liabilities of PMC Bank, including deposits, by USFB in terms of the provisions of the scheme, giving a greater degree of protection for the depositors.
What is Unity Small Finance Bank Ltd. (USFB)?
USFB commenced operations with effect from November 1, 2021.
“It may be seen that USFB is being set up with capital of about ₹1,100 crore as against the regulatory requirement of ₹200 crore for setting up of a small finance bank under the guidelines for on-tap licensing of small finance bank in private sector, with provision for further infusion of capital at a future date after amalgamation”.
Mumbai-based PMC Bank Limited, a multi-State urban cooperative bank, was placed under all-inclusive directions with effect from the close of business hours on September 23, 2019, on account of fraud, which led to a ‘steep deterioration’ in the net worth of the bank.

Q- Consider the following statements:
1. The National Register of Citizens (NRC) is the register containing names of Indian citizens, published only once in 1951.
2. Every individual, whose name does not figure in the final National Register of Citizens (NRC), can represent his/her case to the Foreigners Tribunals.
3. The Foreigners Tribunals are quasi-judicial bodies meant to furnish opinion on the question as to whether a person is or is not a foreigner within the meaning of the Foreigners Act, 1946.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a. 1 & 2 only  
b. 2 only  
c. 2 & 3 only  
d. 1, 2 & 3 only

Q- Which of the following rights come under the Right to Life and Liberty under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution as per the interpretations of the Supreme Court?
1. Right to livelihood  
2. Right to shelter  
3. Eradication of preventable diseases like polio  
4. Right to speedy trial  
5. Right to travel abroad  
6. Right to women to be treated with decency and dignity.

Select the correct answer using the codes below:
a. 4 and 6   
b. All of the above  
c. 1, 2, 3 and 4   
d. 1, 2, 3 and 6

Answer: b
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