



INNOVATIVE IAS

Daily News Analysis

9th January 2020

General studies-2

Revised norms for Data Led probes:

Why in news

- The Ministry of Home Affairs has issued revised guidelines to streamline the process of seeking legal assistance from foreign countries in criminal matters. The revised guidelines will direct how data requests are processed in any criminal investigations.

Key points:

- The revised guidelines also include the process for issuing directives on drafting and processing letters of request, mutual legal assistance requests and service of summons, notices and other judicial documents.
- Most intermediaries and social media platforms such as Facebook, WhatsApp, Google, Yahoo!, Twitter and YouTube have their servers outside India. And thus Indian investigation agencies need to follow a particular procedure to access the data from these platforms.
- The revised norms have come in the backdrop of recently tabled Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019 in the parliament.

Key Points:

- Criteria to seek information from foreign countries:
Before seeking information about a person's e-mail account hosted on servers in foreign countries, investigating agencies will have to establish that it is linked to a crime.
- Data Preservation:
 - Data preservation is the key to the investigation of cyber-offences and those involving digital evidence.
 - Accessing the internet through an Internet Service Provider (ISP) creates important records and other information such as customer records, connection information and stored data.
 - These are very important evidence to prove the guilt intention of the accused.
 - Since this type of evidence can disappear quickly, it is important to get the data preserved through appropriate channels.

Place for Data Preservation:

- The G-8 24/7 Network allows law enforcement agencies to make urgent preservation requests of the digital data before it perishes.
 - The request for data may be sent to the service provider or to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) — the contact point for India with respect to G-8 24/7 Network.

Time Period:

- The requested country has to be informed about the time period for which the data is required.
- Such period shall be consented by the requested country.
- The transferred data shall be kept for no longer than the period required for the purpose for which it has been received and shall be returned to the requested country or deleted at the end of the period specified.

TOI 700 d

- The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has reported the discovery of an Earth-size planet, named TOI 700 d.
- The planet was found by NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) mission, which was launched in 2018. With TOI 700 d, TESS has discovered its first Earth-size planet in its star's habitable zone.
- In comparison to the Earth: TOI 700 d measures 20% larger than Earth. It orbits its star, TOI 700, once every 37 days.
- The star, TOI 700, is an "M dwarf" located just over 100 light-years away in the southern constellation Dorado. It is roughly 40% of the Sun's mass and size, and has about half its surface temperature.

Two other planets orbit the star:

- TOI 700 b, which is almost exactly Earth-size, probably rocky, and which completes an orbit every 10 days.
- TOI 700 c, the middle planet, which is 2.6 times larger than Earth, is probably gas-dominated, and orbits every 16 days.

Orbits in Habitable Zone: TOI 700 d is the outermost planet, and the only one in the TOI 700's habitable zone.

- A habitable zone, also called the "Goldilocks zone" is the area around a star where it is not too hot and not too cold for liquid water to exist on the surface of surrounding planets.
- Earth is in the Sun's Goldilocks zone. If Earth were where the dwarf planet Pluto is, all its water would freeze; on the other hand, if Earth were where Mercury is, all its water would boil off.
- Goldilock Zone is always defined with reference to a particular star. It can be different for different stars

Religion-neutral

- The Supreme Court will examine a plea related to Dalit Christians who demand the same quota benefits reserved for Scheduled Castes
- The plea also requests that reservation for government jobs and admissions in educational

institutions should be made "religion-neutral".

- Paragraph 3 of the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 restricts Christians of Scheduled Castes origin from availing the Scheduled Castes status.
Paragraph 3 of the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 states that no person who professes a religion different from Hinduism shall be deemed to be a member of a Scheduled Caste.

Arguments in favour of the reservation to be religion-neutral

- The change in religion does not change social exclusion.
- The social hierarchy and specifically caste hierarchy continues to remain within Christianity and Muslims even though the religion forbids it.
- Considering the above scenario, the reservation needs to be delinked from religion.

Operation sankalp

Why in news?

- Indian Navy continues to deploy one warship for Operation SANKALP in order to ensure the safe passage of Indian Flag Vessels transiting through the Strait of Hormuz amidst deteriorating US-Iran relations.
- Indian Navy launched Operation SANKALP in the Gulf Region on 19th June 2019.
- Indian Navy warships and aircraft are deployed to establish presence, provide a sense of reassurance to the Indian merchantmen, monitor the ongoing situation and respond to any emergent crises like deteriorating US-Iran relations in the recent times.

US-Iran

- 1979: US-backed Shah of Iran was overthrown and the country became an Islamic republic.
- Dozens of Americans were taken hostage inside the US embassy in the capital Tehran.
- 2015: Iran agreed on a landmark deal to limit its nuclear programme in return for the lifting of tough economic sanctions.
- This move improved Iran's diplomatic relations with other nations.
- 2018: The US President abandoned the Nuclear Accord and reinstated US sanctions to force Iran's leaders to agree to a new deal.
- Iran rejected it even the economy of the country was sent into recession.
- 2019: The pressure was stepped up in May by application of secondary sanctions on countries that continued to do business with Iran.
- Relations further deteriorated when oil tankers were sabotaged in the Gulf of Oman.
- Later, Tehran started suspending some of the commitments under the nuclear deal.
- It was followed by attacks and counter-attacks by both countries until January 2020.
- 2020: On 3 January, Qasem Soleimani was killed in a US drone strike at Baghdad airport.



INNOVATIVE IAS

Daily News Analysis

- Iran abandoned the last limit on its enrichment of uranium imposed by the nuclear accord as a way of revenge.
- These issues have led to turbulent situations in the Gulf region.

The Indian Constitution's unitary tilt

Why in News?

- The Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) and the National Register of Citizens (NRC) has revealed some of the most significant gaps of Indian federalism.
- State governments occupied by opposition parties have declared that they would not implement the law.
- The Legislative Assembly of Kerala went to the extent of passing a resolution, stating that the law “contradicts the basic values and principles of the Constitution”.

Constitutional Perspective

Article 256

- The executive power of every State shall be so exercised as to ensure compliance with the laws made by Parliament and any existing laws which apply in that State, and the executive power of the Union shall extend to the giving of such directions to a State as may appear to the Government of India to be necessary for that purpose.
- It compels the State government to ensure implementation of the laws made by Parliament.
- If the State government fails to do so, the Government of India is empowered to give “such directions to a State as may appear... to be necessary”.

Article 365

- Effect of failure to comply with, or to give effect to, directions given by the Union, where any State has failed to comply with or to give effect to any directions given in the exercise of the executive power of the Union under any directions given in the exercise of the executive power of the Union under any of the provisions of this Constitution, it shall be lawful for the President to hold that a situation has arisen in which the government of the State cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.
- The refusal to enforce the law even after the Centre issues directions would empower the President to impose President's Rule in those States under Articles 356 and 365.
- The Supreme Court of India has also confirmed this reading of the law in *S.R. Bommai v. Union of India*— arguably the most significant case on Indian federalism.

Anti-CAA ads in West Bengal

- Another controversy arose in West Bengal, where the State government put anti-CAA advertisements on its websites.
- In an interim order, the Calcutta High Court directed the State government to remove those advertisements.



INNOVATIVE IAS

Daily News Analysis

- The question — whether State governments are empowered to use public funds to campaign against a law made by Parliament — is open for final determination.

In its final judgment, the High Court could bar the State government from campaigning against a parliamentary law.

General studies-3

'Sea Guardians'

- The sixth joint naval exercise between China and Pakistan started on 6th January, 2019. It is being held in the Arabian Sea.
- For the first time, the exercise has been named as 'Sea Guardians'.
- 'Sea Guardians' is expected to become a series of naval exercises between China and Pakistan, similar to:
 - Warrior: Series of joint land exercises
 - Shaheen: Series of joint air exercises.

Seke language

- Seke means "golden language" which originated in the Mustang district of Nepal.
- It is an unwritten language.
- It is spoken in just five villages of Chuksang, Chaile, Gyakar, Tangbe, and Tetang, a region close to the border with Tibet.
- There are just 700 or so Seke speakers left in the world.
- The three reported dialects of Seke are Tangbe, Tetang, and Chuksang.
- It is one of the endangered languages in the world.
- According to the criteria adopted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), a language becomes extinct when nobody speaks or remembers the language. The UNESCO has categorized languages on basis of endangerment as follows:-
 - Vulnerable
 - Definitely Endangered
 - Severely Endangered
 - Critically Endangered
- UNESCO has recognised 42 Indian languages as Critically Endangered

Govt to provide Rs. 5,559 crore funding to northeast gas grid

Why in news?

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved a Rs. 5,559 crore viability gap funding for the proposed northeast gas grid.



INNOVATIVE IAS

Daily News Analysis

Details:

- A viability gap funding of 60% of the project cost has been approved. The quantum of viability gap funding (VGF) would be capped at 60 per cent of estimated project cost and would not be linked with upward capital cost variation.
- This is only the second instance of the government directly funding a gas pipeline.
- The funding support to the gas grid is a part of a broader goal of the government to raise the share of natural gas in the country's energy mix to 15% by 2030 from the current 6.2%.
- In 2016, the government provided a capital grant of 40% of the project cost of the 2,655-km Jagdishpur-Haldia and Bokaro-Dhamra (JHBDPL) gas pipeline project, which GAIL is currently executing.
- GAIL is also laying a 750-km line from Barauni to Guwahati as part of JHBDPL project, which is also known as the PradhanMantriUrja Ganga project. This is proposed to be connected to the North-East via the Indradhanush grid.
- All other pipelines in the country have been funded by public or private sector companies.

North-East Natural Gas Pipeline Grid:

- The 1,656-km North-East Natural Gas Pipeline Grid will connect Guwahati in Assam to major cities in the region such as Itanagar, Dimapur, Kohima, Imphal, Aizwal, Agartala, Shillong, Silchar, Gangtok, and Numaligarh.
- The gas pipeline grid will be developed in the eight states of the North-Eastern region — Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura.
- The North-East pipeline grid is to be implemented by Indradhanush Gas Grid, a joint venture of state-owned GAIL India, Indian Oil Corp (IOC), Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC), Oil India Ltd (OIL) and Numaligarh Refinery Ltd (NRL).
- The vision envisages the development of the region by leveraging its hydrocarbon potential, enhancing access to clean fuel and accelerating the growth.

Benefits:

- The pipeline will enable the supply of piped cooking gas to households and CNG to automobiles, besides fuel to industry.
- The pipeline grid would ensure reliability and uninterrupted natural gas supplies to the consumers which otherwise gets severely affected due to various reasons in this part of the country.
- The uninterrupted supply of LPG and other value-added products in the region will bring energy security to the people in the area.
- Availability of natural gas across the region is expected to boost industrial growth without impacting the environment and would offer better quality of life to the people in general due to use of cleaner and green fuel.



INNOVATIVE IAS

Daily News Analysis

- It would boost exploration and production of gas in the region and help in early monetisation of natural resources.
- Possibility of installing bottling plants for LPG is in the exploration stage, for reducing transportation cost.



Innovative IAS & KAS Coaching Centre

No. 37, 1st Floor, Next to SBI Bank, Ganganagar, RT Nagar, Bengaluru - 32

Mobile: 9880088777 / Ph: 080 - 40977456