



INNOVATIVE IAS

Daily News Analysis

14th December 2019

The International Financial Services Centre Authority bill

Why in News?

- The International Financial Services Centre Authority bill was passed by Rajya Sabha. It proposes to set up an authority to regulate financial services in the International Financial Services Centres in India.

Key points:

- According to the bill, the authority will comprise of nine members along with the chairperson. Among the nine members, two will be from Ministry of Finance and one each from SEBI, RBI, IRDAI and PRFDA. Two other officials are to be appointed on the recommendation of search committee. The members will have a term of three years.
- The authority will regulate financial products like contracts of insurance, financial institutions and services, deposits and securities that were previously approved by regulators such as SEBI, RBI and IFSC. It has power to regulate services offered by financial bodies as notified by the Union Government. This makes it independent from the government and to work autonomously.
- Under the law, the authority will constitute Performance Review Committee that will review the functioning of the authority. It will consolidate the findings of the authority and submit a report to the authority at least once a year. The committee will comprise of at least two members of the authority.
- The bill proposes setting up of International Financial Service Centre authority funds. The charges, fees collected will be received by the authority from different sources and will be credited to the fund. The fund will also be used to pay salaries and allowances of the employees and other expenses incurred by the authority.

Disha Bill

Why in news?

- The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet cleared the Disha Bill that proposed harsh punishment for crimes against women. Disha bill is also known as the Andhra Pradesh Criminal Law (Amendment) bill.

Key Features

- The act provides harsh punishments to those who did heinous crimes against women. The decision was taken to protect women and children in the state.
- The cabinet also approved establishment of special courts for offences against women and children under Women and Children Act, 2019. The courts will also deal with cases under



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POCSO (Protection of Children against Sexual Offence) act.

- The act specifies that judgement for every case registered should be pronounced within 21 days. Special attention should be given to cases such as rape, acid attacks.

Punishment:

- Under the act, those found guilty under the act will be tried under Section 354 of the Indian Penal Code. However, the punishment has been increased. Accused with proven charges of sexual attack on children will be imprisoned for 10 to 14 years.
- The act also includes strict actions against persons uploading degrading posts against women on social media. In this case, the first-time offenders will be punished with 2 years of jail term and the second term offenders will be punished with four years of jail term.
- The act proposes death sentence for heinous crimes against women.

6th Indian Ocean Dialogue (IOD) and Delhi Dialogue XI

Why in news?

Union Ministry of External Affairs will be hosting 6th Indian Ocean Dialogue (IOD) and Delhi Dialogue XI at PravasiBharatiya Kendra in New Delhi on 13 December 2019.

Key points:

- This is for the first time that these two dialogues, which are key elements of Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), and India-ASEAN calendars will be held consecutively and on similar Indo-Pacific themes.
- Theme for 2019 Indian Ocean Dialogue is- 'Indo-Pacific: Re-imagining the Indian Ocean through an Expanded Geography'. The 6th IOD which takes place on 13 December, is being organized with assistance of the Indian Council for World Affairs (ICWA).
- Theme for 2019 Delhi Dialogue is- 'Advancing Partnership in Indo-Pacific'. It is being organized with assistance of Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), a New Delhi-based autonomous policy research institute. The event will be held from 13-14 December.

Importance of Indian Ocean Rim Region

- Just like Asia-Pacific to east, this IOR region is among the world's most vital in terms of energy, global commerce, environmental and geopolitical stability. Almost 50% of world's container ships and two-thirds of world's oil shipments pass through this region, which is home to around 2.7 billion people.



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126th amendment bill

Why in news?

- Parliament recently passed a Constitution amendment bill to extend quota to SCs and STs in Lok Sabha and state assemblies by another 10 years.
- Govt also asserted that the Central government will never stop the reservation system
- Also Revoked the provision for nomination of Anglo-Indians to the Lok Sabha and 14 state Assemblies
- The bill would now be sent to the states for ratification by 50 per cent of the assemblies before it comes into force.

Key points:

- Reservation for members of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), given for the past 70 years in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies, is due to end on January 25, 2020.
- The reservation for Anglo-Indians in the form of “nomination” is set to expire on January 25 2020 as the bill does not extend the facility to the community.

Climate Ambition Alliance (CAA)

Why in News?

- Around 73 countries have joined the Climate Ambition Alliance (CAA) at the COP25. The alliance is led by Chile and was launched at the Climate Action Summit, New York in 2019.
- Both Chile and UK will work together to mobilize additional actors to join the alliance. They will also work towards COP26 that is to be held in November 2020 at Glasgow, UK.

Climate Ambition Alliance

- The CAA will focus on Nationally Determined Contributions in order to achieve Net Zero by 2050.
- It will focus in resilience in infrastructure, management of water and sustainability of cities. The main purpose of the alliance is to upscale 2020 targets of members of UN and to achieve Net Zero Carbon Emissions by 2050.
- The alliance is important to enhance the Nationally Determined Contributions of countries all over the world.
- The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in its Emissions Gap Report, 2019 warned that in order to achieve the goal of 1.5°C increase in temperatures over pre-industrial levels, it is essential to reduce the emissions by 7.6% between 2020 and 2030.

National Ganga Council

Why in news?

The National Ganga Council, headed by Prime Minister, is set to meet for first time at Kanpur on

Innovative IAS & KAS Coaching Centre

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

Mobile: 9880088777 / Ph: 080 - 40977456



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Saturday with a proposal to save and enhance the population of the Gangetic Dolphin, to discuss the concept of 'River Cities' and an action plan to provide sewer connection to every household in towns along the Ganga and its tributaries.

Key points:

- The National Ganga Council comprises the chief ministers of 5 states along the Ganga — Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Uttarakhand, Bihar and Jharkhand — along with nine Union ministers and the NITI Aayog vice-chairman.
- The council, which has been tasked with the “protection, prevention, control and abatement of environmental pollution in River Ganga and its rejuvenation to its natural and pristine condition and to ensure continuous adequate flow of water”, was to meet once a year, but not a single meeting has taken place since its inception.
- At the meet, a special programme called 'Project Dolphin', along the lines of Project Tiger, may be cleared to enhance the population of dolphins
- The dolphin was declared the national aquatic animal at the first meeting of the erstwhile National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) in 2009. According to an official report, the Gangetic dolphin is among the four freshwater dolphins found across the world.
- The council may ask states and the HRD Ministry to promote river conservation in school education and related activities in colleges.
- To effectively utilise the sewerage network constructed under the NamamiGange programme, an action plan may be approved at the meeting to provide the sewer connection to all households on priority basis in towns along Ganga and its tributaries, said the sources. A proposal to extend the programme beyond 2020, may also approved, they said.

SEAD initiative:

- The Super-efficient Equipment and Appliance Deployment (SEAD) Initiative is a voluntary collaboration among governments working to promote the manufacture, purchase, and use of energy-efficient appliances, lighting, and equipment worldwide.
- SEAD is an initiative under the Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM) and a task of the International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation (IPEEC).
- As part of “Energy Conservation Week”, being celebrated from 9th to 14th December 2019, Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), a statutory body under the Ministry of Power, conducted an International Workshop on 12-13th December 2019 on “Energy Efficient Cooling” at Scope Convention Centre, New Delhi.
- The two-day international workshop was organised in association with International Energy Agency (IEA) under SEAD initiative of Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM).