December

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# SPACETECH INNOVATION NETWORK

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Sci & Tech)

# ISRO inks MoU to establish SpaceTech Innovation Network

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has signed an MoU with Social Alpha, a multistage innovation curation and venture development platform for science and technology start-ups, to launch SpaceTech Innovation Network (SpIN).

SpIN is India's first dedicated platform for innovation, curation, and venture development for the burgeoning space entrepreneurial ecosystem. The space agency said that the tie-up is one-of-a-kind public-private collaboration for start-ups and SMEs in the space industry.

"This novel partnership is a significant step forward in providing further stimulus to India's recent space reform policies and will work towards identifying and unleashing the market potential of the most promising space tech innovators and entrepreneurs in India," the space agency said. It added that SpIN will primarily focus on facilitating space tech entrepreneurs in three distinct innovation categories: Geospatial Technologies and Downstream Applications; Enabling Technologies for Space & Mobility; and Aerospace Materials, Sensors, and Avionics.



The partnership is a step forward in providing further stimulus to India's recent space reform policies, says ISRO.

"Innovative technologies are expected to bring a paradigm shift in utilising the space applications to maximise the economic, social, and environmental benefits for the larger society. I wish the SpIN platform would create a level playing field for various stakeholders to collaborate and contribute to the space ecosystem in the country," said S. Somanath, Chairman, ISRO.

**Context**: Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Social Alpha today signed an MoU to launch SpaceTech Innovation Network (SpIN).

**SpaceTech Innovation Network (SpIN):**

- **About:** It is India's first dedicated **platform for innovation curation and venture development** for the burgeoning space entrepreneurial ecosystem.
  - A one-of-its-kind public-private collaboration for start-ups and SMEs in the space industry.
  - It is a significant step forward in providing further stimulus to India's recent space reform policies and will work towards identifying and unleashing the market potential of the most promising space tech innovators and entrepreneurs in India.
- **Responsibility:** SpIN will primarily focus on facilitating space tech entrepreneurs in three distinct innovation categories: Geospatial Technologies and Downstream Applications; Enabling Technologies for Space & Mobility; and Aerospace Materials, Sensors, and Avionics.

**Private participation in space sector:** According to the Economic Survey Report 21-22, there are now over 100 active space start-ups in India - the number of start-ups in this sector has more than doubled in the last year alone.

**Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**

- **Established in:** August 1969.
- **Superseded:** Indian National Committee for Space Research (INCOSPAR) formed in 1962.
- **Brought under:** Department of Space (DOS) in 1972.
- **Prime objective:** The development and application of space technology for various national needs.
- **Headquarters in:** Bengaluru.

**Social Alpha:** It is a multistage innovation curation and venture development platform for science and technology start-ups that address the most critical social, economic, and environmental challenges through the power of entrepreneurship and market-creating innovations. Since its inception in 2016, Social Alpha has supported more 200 start-ups including 60+ seed investments.

BUSINESS STANDARD
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# NIIF
## (Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

# NIIF to invest ₹631 crore in GMR's Goa airport

ANEESH PHADNIS
Mumbai, 7 December

National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) will invest ₹631 crore in GMR group-run Mopa airport in Goa.

The investment was announced on Wednesday ahead of the airport inauguration by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday.

This is NIIF's first investment in an airport asset in the country and also its first in Goa. In 2019, it had unsuccessfully bid for development of three Airports Authority of India (AAI)-run airports under public-private partnership (PPP) model.

NIIF will invest in two other airports as a part of a financial partnership with the GMR group.

This includes the planned airport at Bhogapuram in Andhra Pradesh. The name of the third airport was not disclosed.

The investment will be made via compulsory convertible debentures in GMR Goa International Airport, the special purpose vehicle (SPV), which will operate the new airport in Goa.

In the first phase, Mopa airport will have a design capacity of handling up to 4.4 million passengers per annum. Its ultimate capacity will be 40 million passengers.

**Context:** National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) will invest Rs 631 crore in GMR group-run Mopa airport in Goa.

**National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF)**

- **About:** It is India's first infrastructure specific investment fund or a **sovereign wealth fund.**
- **Created in:** February 2015 during Budget 2015-2016.
- **Objective:** To maximize economic impact mainly through infrastructure investment in commercially viable projects, **both Greenfield and Brownfield.**
- **Established as**: An Alternative Investment Fund to provide long tenor capital for infrastructure projects with an inflow of ₹20,000 crore from the Government of India.
- **Registered as:** Category II Alternative Investment Fund with SEBI.
- **A Governing Council:** to be chaired by the Finance Minister and comprises of eminent members from corporates, investments, and policy sectors. The Governing Council meets annually and provides guidance on the overall strategy of NIIF.
- **NIIF manages three funds:** Master Fund, Fund of Funds and Strategic Fund. The funds were set up to make investments in India by raising capital from domestic and international institutional investors.
    - **Master Fund:** The Master Fund is an infrastructure fund with the objective of primarily investing in operating assets in the core infrastructure sectors such as roads, ports, airports, power etc.[21]
    - **Fund of Funds:** The Fund of Funds anchor and/or invest in funds managed by fund managers who have good track records in infrastructure and associated sectors in India. Some of the sectors of focus include Green Infrastructure, Mid-Income & Affordable Housing, Infrastructure services and allied sectors.
    - **Strategic Opportunities Fund:** Strategic Opportunities Fund is registered as an Alternative Investment Fund II under SEBI in India.[24] The objective of National Investment and Infrastructure Fund II ("Strategic Opportunities Fund") is to invest largely in equity and equity-linked instruments. The Strategic Opportunities Fund has been established with the objective to provide long-term capital to strategic and growth oriented sectors in the country with the aim to build domestic leaders.
- **Sovereign wealth fund:** It is a state-owned investment fund composed of money generated by the government, often derived from a country's surplus reserves.

| Brownfield project | Greenfield project |
|---|---|
| A brownfield project is one, where the development work is carried out in a place where prior work has been done. It refers to a project, where an existing one is rebuilt, modified or upgraded. | A greenfield project is one, where the land on which the project is developed, has never been used and there is no need to rebuild or demolish an existing structure. |

INDIAN EXPRESS

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# WILDLIFE PROTECTION AMENDMENT BILL

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Environment)

# Wildlife protection amendment Bill introduced in RS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 7

ENVIRONMENT AND Forest Minister Bhupender Yadav on Wednesday introduced in the Rajya Sabha a Bill to amend the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to strengthen protection for endangered species and enhance punishment for illegal trade in wildlife.

While moving the Wild Life (Protection) Amendment, 2022, which was passed by the Lok Sabha on August 2, Yadav said India was a signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) that required certain legislative actions. He said the UPA government had given assurances, but had not fulfilled them.

During the discussion on the Bill, Congress MP Vivek Tankha said the government had left out some aspects while drafting the amendment. He said the amendment allowed the transfer and transportation of elephants for religious "or any other purpose", which was not defined. This, he said, was vague and would lead to problems in the future.

MPs from Kerala raised concerns over the potential conflicts between humans and wildlife, given the issue of wild boar attacks in the state. CPI(M) MP John Brittas pointed out that 88 people had been killed by wild boars in Kerala in a single year, while Jose K Mani of Kerala Congress (M) said the Bill had "totally ignored" the human-wildlife conflict.

Ayodhya Rami Reddy Alla of the YSRCP said the amendment empowered the Central government to declare any species as "vermin", which would then not be protected under the Act and could become subject to hunting or culling.

"This specific change is projected to impact 41 species of mammals, 864 birds, 17 reptiles and amphibians and 58 insects as they may be declared vermin and will be subject to hunting and killing. Thus, a more scientific approach should be taken in declaring an animal as vermin," Reddy said. The discussion on the Bill would continue on Thursday.

**Context**: Environment and Forest minister recently introduced in the Rajya Sabha a Bill to amend the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to strengthen protection for endangered species and enhance punishment for illegal trade in wildlife.

**Wild Life (Protection) Amendment, 2022:** It was passed by the Lok Sabha on August 2.

**Major Amendment proposed:**

- **Present:** The Act has **six schedules** for specially protected plants (one), specially protected animals (four), and vermin species (one). Bill reduces it to **four.**
- **The Bill authorises central government to designate:** Management Authority, Scientific Authority ETC.
- **Invasive alien species:** It empowers the central government to regulate or prohibit the import, trade, possession or proliferation of invasive alien species.
- **Control of sanctuaries:** The Present Act entrusts **the Chief Wildlife Warden** to control, manage and maintain all sanctuaries in a state.
  - The Bill specifies that the actions of the Chief Warden must be in accordance with the management plans which is prepared as per guidelines of the central government, and as approved by the Chief Warden.
- **Conservation reserves:** Under the Act, state governments may declare areas adjacent to national parks and sanctuaries as a conservation reserve, for protecting flora and fauna, and their habitat.
  - The Bill also empowers the **central government** to notify a conservation reserve.
- **Surrender of captive animals:** The Bill provides for any person to voluntarily surrender any captive animals or animal products to the Chief Wildlife Warden. No compensation will be paid to the person for surrendering such items.
  - The surrendered items become property of the state government.
- **Penalties:** Bill has **increased the fine**s for violating the provisions of the Act.

**Convention On International Trade In Endangered Species Of Wild Fauna And Flora (CITES):**

- **Came into force:** In 1975. It was first conceived of at a 1963 meeting of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- **Goal:** Ensuring that international trade does not threaten the survival of wild plants and animals.
- **Classification:** Under CITES, plant and animal specimens are classified into **three categories (Appendices I, II, and III)** based on the threat to their extinction.

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# CBDC
## (Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

# RBI looks to tap tech to keep CBDC transactions secret

Shayan Ghosh
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MUMBAI



RBI launched on 1 December a pilot for retail digital rupee.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is looking at technological solutions and could use those to ensure India's central bank digital currency (CBDC) transactions are anonymous, a senior RBI official said on Wednesday.

"We are largely looking at a technological solution first. We understand there are technologies possible to do that and we can use any one of those. It is also possible to get a legal provision to ensure anonymity," said T. Rabi Sankar, deputy governor, RBI.

He noted that what exactly will happen on the issue eventually will depend on how things evolve, but anonymity is a basic feature of currency and to that extent, it is different from homegrown payments system UPI (unified payments interface).

"The fundamental feature of currency and cash is anonymity. One of the reasons it is still being used in many developed countries, to large extent, is because people love their privacy. How anonymity is to be ensured in the case of a digital currency, because the normal understanding is that anything digital leaves a footprint, can have various solutions," said Sankar.

RBI launched on 1 December a pilot for retail digital rupee (e₹R) with four banks in four cities, a month after testing the wholesale CBDC.

Governor Shaktikanta Das said the amendment in the RBI Act with regard to CBDC, says that currency will also include digital currency.

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman in February announced a proposal to amend the RBI Act to include CBDC alongside traditional banknotes.

The government had received a proposal from RBI in October 2021 to amend the Act and enhance the scope of the definition of 'bank note' to include currency in digital form.

**The govt received a proposal from RBI to amend the Act and enhance the scope of the definition of 'bank note'**

"That is the amendment which has been brought. Therefore, in all respect, there is no difference, in the eyes of law, in the treatment between paper currency and digital currency. The Income Tax department has certain limits for cash payments, beyond a certain limit, you have to give your Pan Card number. The same rules will apply in the case of CBDC also," said Das.

He said that it is early days for CBDC and the pilot on the retail segment has just started.

**Context**: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) proposed for collaboration in technological solutions and could use those to ensure India's central bank digital currency (CBDC) transactions are anonymous.

**Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC):**

- **Background:** It was **first announced** by Union Finance Minister in the **2022 Union Budget**
- **Meaning:** According to the RBI, "CBDC is the **legal tender** issued by a central bank in a digital form.
  - It is the same as **a fiat currency** and is exchangeable one-to-one with the fiat currency. Only its form is different."
  - The digital fiat currency or CBDC can be transacted using wallets backed by blockchain.
  - The idea of CBDCs **comes from crypto currencies** like Bitcoin or Ethereum.

- **Fiat Money:** It is a type of currency that is not backed by any commodity such as gold or silver. Ex.-Notes and Coins.
- **Legal Tender:** It is a form of money that is backed by the government (mostly by the central bank) and cannot be refused by any citizen of the country for settlement of any kind of transaction.

**CBDC VS. Crypto-currencies:** Although the idea of CBDCs comes from crypto-currencies like Bitcoin or Ethereum. However, there are differences.

- Cryptos are unregulated and decentralised. However, CBDCs' value is pegged to a country's currency and they are designed to be more stable and secure.
- CBDC **may not require blockchain technology or consensus mechanisms** which is an essential technology in crypto-currencies.
- Private virtual currencies don't represent any person's debt or liabilities as there is no issuer, however CBDC does.

**e-RUPI: The first step towards having a digital currency:**

- **Developed by:** The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the National Health Authority.
- **Working:** It is a **cashless and contactless digital payment medium**, which will be delivered to mobile phones of beneficiaries in form of an SMS-string or a QR code.
  - A one-time payment mechanism enables users to **redeem the voucher without a card, digital payments app or internet banking. access**.

# CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES
## (Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Polity)

## Bill to Amend Multi-State Co-operative Societies Introduced in Lok Sabha Amid Opposition Protest

**Our Political Bureau**

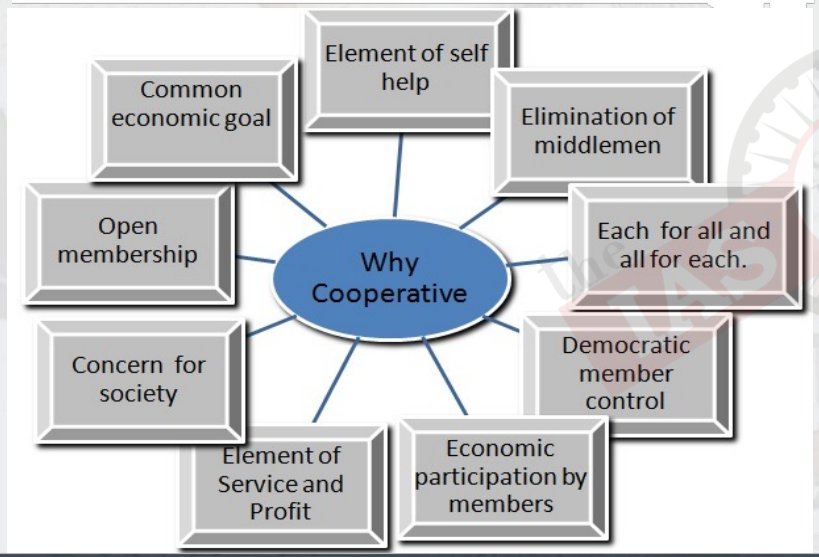
**New Delhi:** The contentious Multi-State Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2022, was introduced in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday, braving objections raised by many opposition parties. While the government maintained the bill, introduced by BL Verma, MoS for Cooperation would bring "transparency" and "accountability" in the cooperative sector, many Opposition MPs said the Bill was against the spirit of federalism and demanded it be referred to a standing committee.

Verma said the bill was well within the legislative competence of the House and rejected the charge that its provisions encroached upon the domain of states and state cooperatives. The bill will be taken up for discussion later.

Congress MPs Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury and Manish Tewari opposed the introduction by arguing that the cooperative sector is a state subject and that the Centre was trying to centralise the sector. Tewari called for the bill's withdrawal alleging certain provisions in it "strike at the heart of the autonomy of cooperative societies".

NK Premachandran of RSP said "the bill is against the spirit of the definition of cooperative societies as enshrined in the Constitution". Saugata Roy of Trinamool and TR Balu of DMK too opposed its introduction.

Speaker Om Birla asked MPs to limit their observation to the legislative competence of the House.




**Context:** The contentious Multi-State Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2022, was introduced in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday, braving objections raised by many opposition parties.

**Multi-State Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2022:** The Bill will incorporate provisions of the **97th Constitutional Amendment**.

- It amended the **Multi-state Cooperative Societies ACT, of 2002**.

**Key Provisions:**

- **Appointment of Cooperative Information Officer (CIO):** It makes provisions for the appointment of the CIO who will enhance transparency by providing members timely access to information.
- **Have provision to debar offenders for 3 years** and will bring in more electoral discipline.
- **Cooperative ombudsman** will set up a mechanism for the redress of member grievances.

**Significance of the bill:**

- Improve governance, Reform electoral processes, Strengthen monitoring mechanisms, Improve the composition of the Board, Enhance transparency and accountability, Improve ease of doing business, Increase financial discipline and enable the raising of funds in multi-state cooperative societies.

**About Cooperative Societies:**

- **Definition:** It is usually a voluntary organization formed by the underprivileged or the weaker sections, with the aim of the betterment of its members.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Co-operation.
- **Related Constitutional Provisions:**
- **97th Constitutional Amendment Act of 2011:** It gave constitutional status and protection to cooperative societies.
- **Article 19 (1) of Part III of the Constitution:** The word "cooperative societies" were inserted.
- **Part IX-B of the constitution:** It contains the following provisions with respect to the cooperative societies.

TIMES OF INDIA

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# REPORT ON HEAT WAVES

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Geography)

## India could soon see heat waves that break limit of survivability: WB report

**Thiruvananthapuram:** Severe heat waves, responsible for thousands of deaths across India over the last few decades, are increasing with alarming frequency and soon the country could become one of the first places in the world to experience heat waves that break the human survivability limit, according to a new report.

The World Bank report titled "Climate Investment Opportunities in India's Cooling Sector" said the country is experiencing higher temperatures that arrive earlier and stay far longer. "In April 2022, India was plunged into the grip of a punishing early spring heat wave that brought the country to a standstill, with temperatures in the capital, New Delhi, topping 46 degrees Celsius (oC) (114 degrees Fahrenheit). The month of March, which witnessed extraordinary spikes in temperatures, was the hottest ever recorded", it said.

The report will be released during the two-day "India Climate and Development Partners' Meet" being organised by World Bank in partnership with the Kerala government here. Predicting that heat waves situation in India could break the human survivability limit, it said the recent heat wave supports what many climate scientists have long cautioned about with reference to rising temperatures across South Asia. "In August 2021, the Sixth Assessment Report of the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warned that the Indian subcontinent would suffer more frequent and intense heat waves over the coming decade. "Up to 75 % of India's workforce, or 380 million people, depend on heat-exposed labor, at times working in potentially life-threatening temperatures. ...By 2030, India may account for 34 million of the projected 80 million global job losses from heat stress associated productivity decline," the report said.



FUTURE TENSE

It said India's long-term food security and public health security will depend on a reliable cold chain network. Transporting food and pharmaceutical goods across India requires a system of cold chain refrigeration that works every step of the way. AGENCIES

**Context**: Severe heat waves, responsible for thousands of deaths across India over the last few decades, are increasing with alarming frequency and soon the country could become one of the first places in the world to experience heat waves that break the human survivability limit, according to a new report.

### Climate Investment Opportunities in India's Cooling Sector Report:

- **Released by:** The World Bank.
- **Major finding:** India is experiencing higher temperatures that arrive earlier and stay far longer. In April 2022, India was plunged into the grip of a punishing early spring heat wave that brought the country to a standstill, with temperatures in the capital, New Delhi, topping 46 degrees Celsius.

### Key findings of the report:

- By 2037, the demand for cooling is likely to be eight times more than the current level.
- India needs to deploy alternative and innovative energy efficient technologies for keeping spaces cool.
- It could open an **investment opportunity of $1.6 trillion by 2040,** besides reducing greenhouse gas emissions significantly and creating 3.7 million jobs.
- It could lead to an **expected rise of 435% in annual greenhouse gas emissions** over the next two decades.

### About Heat Wave:

- **Meaning:** It is a period of abnormally high temperatures, more than the normal maximum temperature that occurs during the summer season.
- **Time period:** It typically occurs between March and June, and in some rare cases even extends till July.

### Criterion for declaring heat waves in India:

- When the maximum temperature of a station reaches at least **40°C** or more for Plains and **at least 30°C** or more for Hilly regions.
- When actual maximum temperature is more **than 45-degree C.**
- **Very Severe Heat Wave:** When actual maximum temperature is more than **47-degree** C.
- If the above criteria met at least **in 2 stations** in a Meteorological subdivision for at least two consecutive days and it was declared on the second day

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# NATIONAL JUDICIAL APPOINTMENT COMMISSION

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Polity)

# Dhankhar begins winter session turning NJAC heat on SC again

## 'Striking it down disregarded mandate...House should act'

MANOJ C G
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 7

PRESIDING OVER Rajya Sabha for the first time as Chairman on the opening day of the winter session of Parliament, Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar sent a strong message Wednesday to the Supreme Court, referring to its 2015 judgement striking down the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) Act and calling it a "glaring instance" of "severe compromise" of parliamentary sovereignty and disregard of the "mandate of the people".



**The Vice-President with Ministers Pralhad Joshi, Arjun Ram Meghwal and V Muraleedharan, Wednesday.** *Anil Sharma*

He said Parliament, being the custodian of the "ordainment of the people", was duty-bound to "address the issue" and expressed confidence that "it will do so".

Dhankhar also said it was time for "all constitutional institutions to reflect and give quietus to public display of adversarially challenging stance/trading or exchange of advisories emanating from these platforms".

The Opposition is planning to seek a discussion on alleged government interference in the functioning of constitutional bodies including the faceoff with the judiciary.

The Vice-President's remarks are a reiteration of what he said last week. Referring to the striking down of the NJAC Act,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

### COLLEGIUM SYSTEM

**Original provision**
Under Article 124(2) and Article 217(1) of the Constitution, SC/HC judges have to be appointed by the President after "consultation" with the CJI. Govt was not bound by the CJI's recommendation.

**Judicial takeover**
In 1993, SC introduced the collegium system taking over primacy in appointments of SC&HC judges.

**CJI's primacy**
In 1998, a nine-judge Constitution bench ruled that "consultation" must be effective and the CJI's opinion shall have primacy

**Composition**
Under the collegium system, a panel of top five SC judges appointed judges in secrecy

**Veto power**
Government could return collegium's recommendation. But if a recommendation was sent again, government was bound by it.

### NJAC SYSTEM

**Constitutional amendment**
NJAC was established by the Constitution (99th Amendment) Act, 2014, giving some say to executive in judges' appointment

**NJAC Act**
Parliament also passed the National Judicial Appointments Commission Act, 2014 to regulate procedure to be followed by NJAC that replaced collegium system

**Implementation**
The 99th Constitutional Amendment Act and NJAC came into force from April 13, 2015. But it could not take off as the CJI refused to join until petitions against the new system were decided

**Composition**
CJI, 2 seniormost SC judges, Union law minister, and two eminent persons

**Veto power**
NJAC not to recommend person if any two members did not agree.

**Context**: Presiding over Rajya Sabha for the first time as Chairman on the opening day of the winter session of Parliament, Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar sent a strong message to the Supreme Court, referring to its 2015 judgement on NJAC Act and calling it a "glaring instance" of "severe compromise" of parliamentary sovereignty and disregard of the "mandate of the people".

**National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC):**

- **Established by:** The 99th constitutional amendment Act, of 2014.
- **Responsibility:** The Commission was supposed to be responsible for the recruitment, appointment and transfer of judicial officers, legal officers and legal employees under the Union government and all state governments.
- **To replace:** The collegium system for the appointment of judges.

**Members (Six):**

- Chief Justice of India (Chairperson).
- Two other senior judges of the Supreme Court.
- The Union Minister of Law and Justice.
- **Two eminent persons:** These 2 eminent persons would have been nominated by a committee consisting of the;
  - Chief Justice of India
  - Prime Minister of India
  - Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha (or where there is no such Leader of Opposition, then, the Leader of the single largest Opposition Party in Lok Sabha).
- **Appointment of Chief Justice of India:** The NJAC shall recommend the senior most judge of the Supreme Court for appointment as Chief Justice of India.
- **Appointment of Supreme Court judges:** The NJAC shall recommend names of persons based on their ability, merit and other criteria specified in the regulations.

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**ODOP & DEH**

**(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)**

# One District One Product (ODOP) initiative operationally merged with 'Districts as Export Hub (DEH)' initiative

**Context:** ODOP initiative is operationally merged with 'Districts as Export Hub (DEH)' initiative of the DGFT, Department of Commerce, with the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) as a major stakeholder.

**One district one product scheme (ODOP)**

- **Initially launched by:** The Uttar Pradesh Government in 2018 and was later adopted by the Central Government.
- **The Districts as Exports Hub (DEH):** ODOP is carried out with DEH initiative by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), Department of Commerce, with the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) as a major stakeholder.
  - The Department is engaging with State and Central Government agencies to promote the initiative of ODOP, which is an on-going process.
- **Identification of project:** The ODOP product is identified by the state for a district.
- **Objectives:** A transformational step towards realizing the true potential of a district, fuelling economic growth, generating employment and rural entrepreneurship, to achieve Aatmanirbhar Bharat.
  - Fostering balanced regional development across all districts of the country, enabling holistic socio-economic growth across all regions.
- **District of the country as unit:** For converting into a manufacturing and export hub by identifying products with export potential in the district.

**Achievements of ODOP:**

- Over 200 product categories created on the platform to promote sales and procurement of ODOP products across the country.
- ODOP products are **showcased in various international forums** such as World Economic Forum, DAVOS in May 2022, at International Yoga Day (IYD) in New York, US in June 2022 etc.
- The ODOP initiative has been identified for the **prestigious Prime Minister's Award for Excellence** in Public Administration in Holistic Development through One District One Product (ODOP) category in April, 2022.

**Under DEH:**

- **State Export Promotion Committee (SEPC)** and **District Export Promotion Committee (DEPC)** has been constituted in all the 36, States/UTs.
- Products/services with export potential have been identified in 734 Districts across the country (Including Agricultural & Toy clusters and GI products in these Districts);
- State Export Strategy has been prepared in 28 States/UTs;
- **Draft District Action Plan** has been prepared for 570 Districts;
- A **web portal** to monitor the progress of District Export Action Plan in all the Districts has been developed by DGFT, to mention a few.

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# DATA PROTECTION BILL 2022

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – Polity & Governance)

## The Digital Personal Data Protection Bill 2022

**Context:** The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has prepared a draft Bill, titled the Digital Personal Data Protection Bill 2022 and has invited feedback from the public as part of its public consultation exercise.

**Data protection in India:** India presently does not have any express legislation governing data protection or privacy. However, the relevant laws in India dealing with data protection are: The Information Technology Act, 2000 and The (Indian) Contract Act, 1872.

The Digital Personal Data Protection Bill 2022 is based on the principles around the Data Economy. These principles are:

- **Lawful & transparent use:** Usage of personal data by organisations must be done in a manner that is lawful, fair to the individuals concerned and transparent to individuals.
- **Fair use:** Personal data must only be used for the purposes for which it was collected.
- **Data minimisation:** It means minimum and only necessary data should be collected to fulfil a purpose.
- **Emphasis on data accuracy:** Reasonable effort is made to ensure that the personal data of individual is accurate and kept up to date.
- **Storage limitation:** It ensures that the personal data is not stored perpetually by default. The storage should be limited to such duration as is necessary for the stated purpose for which personal data was collected.
- **Reasonable safeguards:** To ensure that there is no unauthorised collection or processing of personal data. This is intended to prevent personal data breach.
- **Accountability:** The person who decides the purpose and means of processing of personal data should be accountable for such processing.

**Key features of the bill:**

- **Data Principal and Data Fiduciary:** The bill uses the term **"Data Principal"** to denote the individual whose data is being collected.
- **Significant Data Fiduciaries:** Who deal with a high volume of personal data. **The Central government will define** who is designated under this category based on several factors ranging from the volume of personal data processed to the risk of harm to the potential impact on the sovereignty and integrity of India.
- **Personal data:** Any data by which or in relation to which an individual can be identified.
- **Individual consent:** The bill also makes it clear that **individual needs to give consent** before their data is processed.
  - Individuals also have the right to withdraw consent from a Data Fiduciary.
- **Right to erase data and right to nominate (Right to post-mortem):** Data principals will have the right to demand the erasure and correction of data collected by the data fiduciary.
  - They will also have the right to nominate an individual who will exercise these rights in the event of death or incapacity of the data principal.
- **Right to file a complaint:** The bill also gives consumers the right to file a complaint against a **'Data Fiduciary'** with the Data Protection Board in case they do not get a satisfactory response from the company.
- **Cross-border data transfer:** It allows for **cross-border storage and transfer of data** to certain notified countries and territories.
- **Financial penalties:** The draft also proposes to impose **significant penalties on businesses** that undergo data breaches or fail to notify users when breaches happen.
- **Exemption:** The government could also **exempt certain businesses** from adhering to provisions of the Bill based on the number of users and the volume of personal data processed by the entity.

DTE

Dec 08

# Jaguars

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Env & Eco)

WILDLIFE & BIODIVERSITY

## Male jaguars form ‘coalitions’ too like lions and cheetahs

Panthera study finds male jaguars form multi-year alliances to secure prey, mating opportunities and territories

**Context:** The jaguar, the great cat of the Americas, has till now been considered a solitary species. But a new study has challenged this commonly held assumption. There is now video and photographic evidence available which shows that wild male jaguars form coalitions, just like their cat cousins lions and cheetahs.



**Jaguar:** It is a large cat species and the only living member of the genus Panthera native to the Americas.

- It is also the **largest cat species** in the Americas and the **third largest** in the world.
- **Distribution:** Its present range extends from Mexico through Central America to South America.
- **Threats:** Habitat loss, Habitat fragmentation, Poaching for trade with its body parts, and Killings in human-wildlife conflict situations, particularly with ranchers in Central and South America.
- **Conservation:**
  - **IUCN Red List:** Near Threatened.
  - **CITES:** Appendix I.
- **International Jaguar Day:** The day was created to raise awareness about the increasing threats facing the jaguar and the critical conservation efforts ensuring its survival.
  - Observed **annually** on **November 29**, the Day celebrates **America’s largest wild cat** as an umbrella species for biodiversity conservation.

# THANK YOU!

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