

NEWS TODAY

DIGITAL PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION BILL, 2023 INTRODUCED IN LOK SABHA

- Bill aims to **regulate personal digital data processing while protecting individual's privacy and recognising need to process it for lawful purposes.**
- **Key Provisions**
 - **Applicability:** applies to the **processing of data** within India where such data is: (i) collected online (ii) collected offline and is digitised.
 - **Cross-border data** transfer is allowed except for countries restricted through notification.
 - **Central government will have power** to block **access to any digital information**, in public interest (no such provision existed in earlier version of bill.)
 - **Data fiduciaries** must ensure **data accuracy, prevent breaches, and erase data** when no longer needed.
 - **For the appellate mechanism a tiered approach** introduced where grievance redressal now requires approaching **data fiduciary first**, instead of Data Protection Board.
 - **Consent:** Data processing requires individual consent which can be **withdrawn at any point;** except in certain cases e.g., medical emergencies etc.
 - **Penalties: up to Rs 200 crore** for not **fulfilling obligations for children and Rs 250 crore in case of data breaches.**
 - **Immunity: government** officers now have immunity from legal proceedings, earlier only Data Protection Board had this immunity.
- **Significance of the bill:** strengthens the **Data Privacy regime**, addresses lacunae in **current framework**, introduces **transparency**, creates an **easier compliance regime** for business entities etc.
- **Terms**
 - **Personal data** pertains to characteristics, traits, or attributes of identity, which can be used to identify an individual.
 - **Data Fiduciary:** Entity (can be an individual, company, firm, state etc), which decides purpose and means of processing of an individual's personal data.

TWO CPSE'S UPGRADED TO MAHARATNA AND NAVRATNA CATEGORY

- Two **Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSE's)** are Oil India, which was earlier a Navratna company (now Maharatna), and ONGC Videsh, which was a Miniratna CPSE (now Navratna).
 - CPSEs are majorly classified into **Maharatna, Navratna, Miniratna I, Miniratna II** status.
 - **Department of Public Enterprises** is the **nodal department** for all the Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs)

| Status | Maharatna | Navratna | Miniratna |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|
| Eligibility Criteria | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Navratna status 2. Listed on Indian stock exchange 3. Annual turnover for 3years: Rs. 25,000 crore 4. Annual net worth for 3 years: Rs. 15,000 crore 5. Annual net profit for 3years: Rs. 5,000 crore 6. Significant global presence | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CPSEs which are Miniratna I, Schedule 'A'. 2. Obtained 'excellent' or 'very good' rating in 3 out of last 5 years 3. Composite score of 60 or above in following 6 performance indicators including Net Profit to Net worth, Cost of Services, Earning per share, etc. | <p>Miniratna Category-I status: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Made profit in the last 3 years continuously • Pre-tax profit is Rs.30 crores or more in at least 1 of the 3 years • Having Positive net worth status <p>Miniratna Category-II status: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Made profit for the last 3 years continuously • Having positive net worth status. • Not defaulted in the repayment of loans/interest payment on any loans due to the Government. • Not dependent upon budgetary support or Government guarantees. |

PHARMACY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2023 INTRODUCED IN LOK SABHA

• The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare tabled the bill to **extend the Pharmacy act, 1948** to the **UT of J&K**.

• About Pharmacy Act 1948

➤ The act provides provisions for regulating **the profession and practice of pharmacy**.

It mandated establishment of the **Pharmacy Council of India and State Pharmacy Councils**.

➤ **Section 42** of the act made **registration under the act mandatory to practice pharmacy** in India.

▪ **Rule 65** of the **Drugs & Cosmetics Rules, 1945** and **Section 18(c)** in the **Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940** also mandated presence of a **registered pharmacist with license** to supervise the dispensing of drugs.

➤ The violation of these summons punishment of

▪ **Two years imprisonment and a fine of Rs 20,000** under section 27(d) of **Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940** (Penalty for manufacture, sale, etc., of adulterated or spurious drugs)

▪ **Imprisonment of upto 6 months or with fine of Rs 1000** under **Section 42** in **The Pharmacy Act, 1948**.

➤ However, **Jan Vishwas Bill 2023** proposes the **decriminalisation** of both **Section 42** of the **Pharmacy Act, 1948**, and **Section 27(d)** of the **Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940**.

INDIA'S FIRST CAPTIVE BREEDING OF THE HIMALAYAN VULTURE (GYPS HIMALAYENSIS) SUCCESSFULLY CONDUCTED AT GUWAHATI ZOO

• **Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS)** and the **Assam forest department** conducted the project.

➤ Captive-breeding programme aims to **conserve healthy populations of animals** in captivity while safeguarding the **genetic health of the animals**.

➤ The Himalayan vulture is a common **winter migrant to the Indian plains**.

➤ As Himalayan Vulture is a **high-altitude bird**, it is not usual for the species to breed in the **low land with tropical and humid climates**.

➤ **France** was the first country where the species was bred in captivity.

• **Vultures, also known as condors**, are large birds of prey with over 20 species in world.

➤ **9 species of vultures** are found in north side of Indian subcontinent (Refer Image for species & their IUCN status).

▪ Out of 9, **3 species are migratory** (cinereous vulture, griffon vulture and Himalayan vulture).

➤ They **prevent spread of diseases** from rotting corpse.

• **Threats:** Population decline due to **exposure to drug diclofenac; Electrocutation**, etc.

• Vulture Conservation Initiatives:

➤ Ban on Veterinary use of **Diclofenac (in 2006)**, **Ketoprofen** and **Aceclofenac (2023)**.

➤ **Action Plan for Vulture Conservation in India 2020-25**.



GOVERNMENT RESTRICTS IMPORT OF LAPTOP, COMPUTERS, TABLETS

• Changes have been made in the **import** rules under the **Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act, 1992** and **Foreign Trade Policy, 2023**.

➤ Presently, **electronics imports** range between **7% to 10%** of the country's total merchandise imports.

• Key provisions

➤ Import of laptops, tablets, etc., under **Harmonized System of Nomenclature (HSN) 8471** shall be '**restricted**' and would be **allowed against a valid license from DGFT** from '**trusted**' sources.

➤ **Exemption** for imports under Baggage Rules, R&D, testing, benchmarking, repair, etc.

➤ The government was **unable to check the import of electronic goods** due to its commitment to **zero-duty imports under WTO's Information Technology Agreement (ITA 1)**, hence imposed import restrictions.

• Significance of the restrictions

➤ Boost to **indigenous electronics manufacturing**.

➤ Protection of **Critical Information Infrastructure and its security concerns**.

➤ Achievement of the **Make-in-India vision**.

• Information Technology Agreement (ITA 1)

➤ It was **agreed in 1996** by 29 members as part of the Singapore Ministerial declaration, India joined it in March 1997.

➤ It requires **participants to eliminate customs duties on specified IT products** in the agreement.

• **HSN code** is a **classification system for identifying products for taxation**. Data processing machines such as Laptop, computers, tab etc are **classified under HSN code 8471**.

➤ HSN is a **multipurpose international product nomenclature** developed by the **World Customs Organization (WCO)**.

DGFT AMENDED EXPORT POLICY OF RED SANDERS WOOD SOURCED FROM PRIVATE CULTIVATED LAND

- **Recent amendments allows an annual export quota** of 900 MT for Tamilnadu(TN) for artificially propagated red sanders and zero export quota for wild specimens of red sanders.
 - **Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)**, under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, issued amendment under power conferred by **Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act,1992 and Foreign Trade Policy 2023**.
- Under the foreign trade policy **import** of Red Sanders is **prohibited**, while its **export** is **restricted**.
 - **Earlier DGFT in 2019** had revised its export policy to **permit export of Red Sanders**, in **log form and roots**, if it is **exclusively obtained from private cultivated land (including pattaland)**.
- **About Red Sanders**
 - Flora endemic to a distinct tract of forests in **Eastern Ghats**.
 - **Very slow-growing tree species** that attains maturity after 25 – 40 years.
 - **Resistant to droughts**.
 - Locally known as Yerra Chandanam, Rakta Chandanam.
 - **Its therapeutic properties** are responsible for its **high demand across Asia, particularly China**, for use in cosmetics, medicinal products, and high-end furniture/woodcraft.

CONSERVATION STATUS

- **IUCN Status:** Endangered
- **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, India:** Schedule IV
- **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Status:** Appendix II

ALSO IN NEWS

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|  Rajya Sabha passed Advocates (Amendment) Bill, 2023. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The bill seeks to make the act of 'Tout' punishable and repeal certain provisions of Legal Practitioners Act, 1879 which have become obsolete. ● Provisions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Bill provides that every high court and district judge can frame and publish lists of touts. ➢ Such persons named in the list of touts will be excluded from entering the court premises. ● Tout refers to a person who either proposes to procure or procures the employment of a legal practitioner in return of any payment. |
|  Cabinet Secretary (CS) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cabinet Secretary was granted extension for another year. ● About CS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Appointed by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) on seniority-cum-merit basis ➢ CS is responsible for administration of the Gol (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961 and Gol (Transaction of Business) Rules, 1961 ➢ CS is also the head of Civil Services Board (CSB) ● Issues with the office of CS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Short tenure ● No authority over working departments, as CS is regarded as primus inter pares among secretaries of union government. |
|  Morgan Stanley (Brokerage firm) Upgrades India's Ratings | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It has upgraded India's markets to overweight from equal weight. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ An overweight rating means that the firm expects India's economy to perform better in the future. ➢ It acknowledges reforms, macro stability, strong capex and added that India's economy is on track to achieve the GDP forecast of 6.2%. ➢ Back in 2013, it identified India as one of the "Fragile Five" which termed India as risky for foreign investments. |
|  Yellow-bellied Sea snake (Pelamis Platurus) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Recently Yellow-bellied Sea snake, a highly venomous species of snake was seen on the coast of Bay of Bengal, which is usually found in Arabian Sea. ● Habitat distribution: tropical parts of the Pacific and Indian Oceans. ● Features <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ It has a distinctive bicolor pattern with a yellow underbelly and brown back with a flattened yellow tail with large black spots ➢ It can swim by lateral undulation of the body, and can move both forwards and backwards. |

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|  <p>Holistic Development of Great Nicobar Island at Andaman & Nicobar Islands Project</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● About the project<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ It has 4 components: International Transshipment Port, Greenfield International Airport, a power plant, and a new township that could constitute a Special Economic Zone.➤ It will be implemented over a period of 30 years.● Issues with the project: Loss of tree cover and mangroves, adverse impact on biodiversity and marine life, encroachment into tribal areas.● Great Nicobar Island<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ It is southernmost island of the Nicobar Islands archipelago.➤ It has tropical evergreen forest ecosystem.● It is also a part of UNESCO's Man and Biosphere Programme (MAB). |
|  <p>Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Odisha government has set up a joint task force of armed police and forest personnel to protect STR.● About STR<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Location: Mayurbhanj district (Odisha)➤ Declared as biosphere reserve in 1994➤ Added to UNESCO's Man and Biosphere Program in 2009.➤ Flora: Northern Tropical Moist Deciduous with some evergreen patches (Sal is dominant tree species)➤ Fauna: Tiger, Elephant, Hill Mynah, Leopard, Sambar, wild boar, giant squirrel, etc.● Rivers: Budhabalanga, Salandi and many tributaries of Baitarani river. |
|  <p>Earth Overshoot Day</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● August 2, is obvious as the Earth Overshoot Day for year 2023.● Earth Overshoot Day is marked as the date when humanity's demand for ecological resources and services each year exceeds what Earth can regenerate in that year.<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ It is measure by Global Footprint Network (international research organization) each year since 1971.● It is calculated by multiplying the planet's biocapacity (the quantity of ecological resources Earth can generate each year) by humanity's Ecological Footprint (humanity's demand for that year) by 365. |
|  <p>Lunar Codex</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● The Lunar Codex is a digitized (or miniaturized) collection of contemporary art, poetry, magazines, music, film, podcasts and books by 30,000 artists, writers, musicians and filmmakers in 157 countries.● It is made up of 4 different time capsules to be launched on Moon.<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The Orion Collection (Launched & Returned to Earth in 2022 via NASA Artemis 1, Orion spacecraft)➤ The Nova Collection➤ The Peregrine Collection➤ The Polaris Collection● Launched via NASA Artemis / Commercial Lunar Payload Services (CLPS) program partners to the Moon. |
|  <p>Places in News</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Iberian Peninsula● Political Features<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Located in Southwestern Europe.➤ Mainly occupied by Spain & Portugal, also comprises Andorra, Gibraltar (British overseas territory) and part of Southern France (part of the French department of Pyrénées-Orientales).➤ Pyrenees mountain range in northeast separate it from rest of the Europe; Strait of Gibraltar in South separates it from Africa.➤ Peninsula lies between the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean.● Geographical Features<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Highest Peak: Mulhacén Peak.● Major River: Tagus(longest), Douro, Ebro, and Guadiana.  |