



PLUTUS IAS

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Current Affairs

[6th January 2021]

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Topic-1: University For the Disability Studies and Rehabilitation

Context -

- The Ministry of social justice and empowerment has opened for the public opinion the new draft bill on the university for the disabilities studies and Rehabilitation Sciences. The government has said that there is a shortage of professionals who are registered for the rehabilitation counsellor in India.

Plan of the University -

- It will be located in Kamrup district of Assam, which will be the first university of its kind.
- University will have a multi disciplinary institution for research and courses from bachelor level onwards.
- It has been proposed that the proposed university will have eight departments such as disability studies, audiology, speech language, Psychology etc.

Objective -

- To train and develop professionals, researchers and educators in the Disability studies and rehabilitation sciences.
- To conduct programme and courses in rehabilitation sciences and inclusive universal designs
- To grant affiliation to different universities and colleges in India to meet the benchmark standards set by the university.
- To take the adequate measures in the upcoming areas in disability sciences.

International Day of person with disabilities:

- It was celebrated on 3rd december to make people more compassionate towards disable people.



Identification of the people with Disabilities -

- Upto year 2011, there were seven types of disabilities in the questionnaire to identify disable people in India.
- It was expanded to 21 in 2016 when the Right of the People with Disability bill was introduced.
- In the year 2019 a report was introduced which included questionnaires for the people with temporary loss of disability as well as neurological and blood disorder.
- The current definition also encompasses deformities and acid attack victims as the disabled people.

Divyang -

- In 2015 the Prime minister of India proposed a word DIVYANG which means divine body for the people with disabilities.



Major Government Initiatives -

- Right of Person with Disabilities Act 2016 have included speech and language disabilities, victims of acid attacks and three blood disorder diseases such as sickle cell Anaemia and Hemophilia in the definition of disability.
- Government is providing additional reservation to them in higher education, government job etc
- With PM Access India Campaign, proper infrastructure is made in government as well as in private sector to provide accessibility to them
- India is also a signatory to the “ Declaration on the full participation and Equality of People with Disabilities in the Asia Pacific region.”
- India has ratified the UN convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities in 2008.

- With the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Rehabilitation scheme, the Government is providing equal opportunities and social justice to the people with disabilities.

Way forward -

- Society needs to be more acceptable for the people with disabilities.
- The Health and Education sector need to be reformed to be friendly with the people with disabilities.
- Media should have to play a vital role to make the voice of disable people reachable to the parliament.

Topic-2: Indian Pangolin

Context:

- The Odisha forest department has said that there is a need to check the poaching and trading of Pangolin with the help of social media platforms.

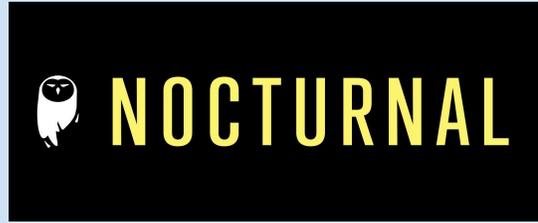


Pangolins -

- They are scaly and anteaters mammals.
- On their skin there are large protective keratin scales covering their whole skin.
- They are known as insectivores
- Pangolins are nocturnal and basically they consume ants and termites as their meals.

Nocturnal Animals -

- The animals who are active during the night and sleeping during the day. It is said that their senses such as smelling, hearing etc are highly developed.



Varieties -

There are eight species of Pangolin in the world. Out of that two are found in India -

1. The Indian Pangolin
2. The Chinese Pangolin

Habitat -

- **Indian Pangolin** - They are widely distributed in India except the arid regions of Himalayas and north east India.
- **Chinese Pangolin** - They are widely found in the foothills of Himalayas, in the eastern regions of Nepal, in the north-eastern Bangladesh and in the south China.

Status -

- **IUCN** - Endangered
- **Wildlife Protection Act** - Schedule 1
- **CITES** - Appendix 1

Threats -

- Their hunting and poaching is a matter of concern.
- Their meats are a good source of protein.
- Their meats are used in making some traditional medicines.
- They are hunted for their skin as well.

Topic-3: 7th Trade Policy Review of India at WTO

Context:

- The Seventh Trade Policy Review of India at the World Trade Organisation is happening from 6th to 8th January 2021. The last trade policy review for India took place in 2015.



About TPR:

- **The TPR is an important mechanism under the WTO's monitoring function**, and involves a comprehensive peer-review of the Member's national trade policies.
- This TPR is taking place at a time when the world is witnessing an unprecedented health and economic crisis. India has made far-reaching efforts to effectively address the health and economic challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, including the **Atma Nirbhar Bharat initiative**.

Economic Reforms:

- In the last 5 years, since India's previous TPR, the Government has worked diligently to reform and transform the entire economic eco-system to meet the socio-economic aspirations of a billion plus Indians.
- The introduction of the **Goods and Services Tax**, the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code**, path-breaking reforms in the labour sector, an enabling and investor friendly FDI Policy, and various national programmes like Make in India, Digital India, Startup India and Skill India to bring about rapid transformation across sectors in our manufacturing environment, were undertaken.
- The improvement in the economic and business environment, on account of the wide-ranging reforms, has enabled India to better its position in the **World Bank's Doing Business ranking** from 142 in 2015 to 63 in 2019.

- This improvement is also endorsed by investors who continue to view India as a desirable investment destination even during the testing time of the pandemic, with FDI inflow rising by more than 10 per cent year-on-year to reach USD 40 billion in the first six months of 2020-21. In 2019-20, India received the highest ever FDI inflow of USD 74.39 billion.

About WTO:

- **The World Trade Organization (WTO)** is the only global **international organization** dealing with the rules of trade between nations.
- **The WTO is run by its member governments.** All major decisions are made by the membership as a whole, either by ministers (who usually meet at least once every two years) or by their ambassadors or delegates (who meet regularly in Geneva).

Topic-4: Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019 needs to be debated thoroughly

Context:

- **The Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019** is currently under the consideration of a parliamentary committee.

Importance of privacy protection:

- In the **Puttaswamy vs Union of India (2017)**, the Supreme Court of India has emphasised that privacy is an important constituent of an individual's well being. This legislation is also known as Aadhar legislation in India.

Why does this bill need a debate?

- It has many provisions that need a relook since they have the potential to be misinterpreted and misused for commercial purposes.

- More than 80 countries globally have framed their own national data protection legislations. So, it will act as a standard setter in national data protection legislation in India.
- It is an intangible product that forms the basis for much of the world economy.
- According to Ernst & Young, emerging technologies in India will create \$1 trillion by 2025.

Salient Features of the Data Protection Bill:

What does it mean for consumers?

- Data can be processed or shared by any entity only after consent.
- Safeguards, including penalties, introduced to prevent misuse of personal data.
- All data to be categorised under three heads - general, sensitive or critical.

The government & regulatory role:

- Government will have the power to obtain any users' non-personal data from companies.
- The bill mandates that financial and critical data has to be stored in India.
- Sensitive data has to be stored in India but can be processed outside with consent.

What companies have to do?

- Social media firms to formulate a voluntary verification process for users.
- Sharing data without consent will entail a fine of Rs. 15 crore or 4% of global turnover.
- Data breach or inaction will entail a fine of Rs. 5 crore or 1% of global turnover.

Topic-5: Violence in US Capitol

Context: Violence erupted outside as well as inside the US Congress building by **Donald Trump** supporters.

US Capitol

- The United States Capitol, is the meeting place of the United States Congress and the seat of the legislative branch of the U.S. federal government.
- It is located on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.
- It is also known as the Capitol Building.



Recent Development:

- US quadrennial Presidential elections were held on 3rd November, 2020.
- The vote counts were showing the results in favour of Joe Biden (the Democrat candidate).
- Donald Trump kept on asserting that the results are not correct and he has raised the issue of rigged elections.
- Joe Biden and Kamala Harris are scheduled to take oath on 20th January.
- On 6th January, the new session of the Congress began, Trump supporters gathered in the US Capitol and became violent, they even entered inside the US Congress and broke many things.
- Police were unable to control the crowd.



- 4 people including a woman were shot dead by the US Police.
- Public Emergency for 15 days has been declared in Washington D.C.
- Social media crackdown on Donald Trump by Twitter and Facebook, to avoid provocative speeches and statements.
- 25th Amendment to be invoked in the USA.

25th Amendment of the US Constitution

- This amendment lays out how a US president and vice president may be succeeded or replaced.
- In case the president is unable to declare his/her incompetence, the vice president and the cabinet to jointly ascertain this and if they do so, then the vice president immediately assumes the position of acting president.
- Many are asking Vice President Pence to invoke against President Trump.

World Response:

- Many world leaders including the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India have expressed grief by this incident.
- Previous Presidents of the USA have also asked for the smooth transition of power.
- United Nations leadership has expressed concerns on the violence.