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CURRENT AFFAIRS

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TOP STORY
2018

Aadhaar Verdict

Key takeaways from landmark judgement by constitution bench

Doing Business 2018



Reforming to Create Jobs



Hysis: India's first hyper-spectral imaging satellite



2018 World Ranking on Hunger



Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana



SATAT Initiative: For green transport fuel



Statue of Unity: World's tallest statue



Digi Yatra: New Digital Experience for air travellers



Train 18: First 'Make in India' engineless train



Hong Kong-Zhuhai Bridge: World's longest sea bridge

CURRENT AFFAIRS

**OCTOBER TO NOVEMBER
2018**



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CHAPTER

1

Polity Governance and Social Issues

AADHAR VERDICT

- ❖ The court ruled that the Aadhaar programme served the “larger public interest” in ensuring that the poor have access to resources. It found that the programme eliminated any chance of duplication and that enrolment was foolproof.
- ❖ The Supreme Court has upheld the Aadhaar scheme as constitutionally valid. The court also upheld the passage of the Aadhaar Act as a Money Bill.
- ❖ However, the apex court’s five-judge constitution bench also struck down several provisions in the Aadhaar Act.

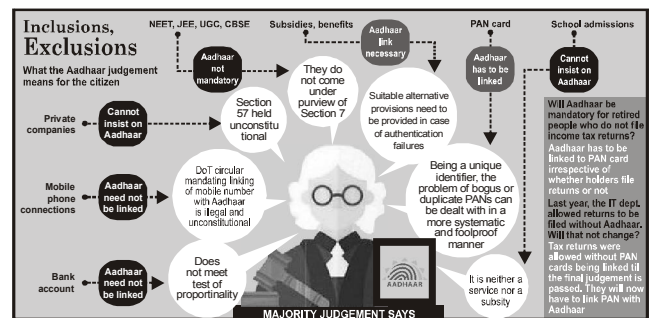
Aadhaar is not mandatory in following cases:

- ❖ Children cannot be denied any benefit due to not having Aadhaar. Hence, Aadhaar is not needed for school admissions.
- ❖ Compulsory linking of mobile phone numbers to Aadhaar.
- ❖ Aadhaar is not needed for opening a bank account and banking services.
- ❖ CBSE, NEET, UGC cannot make Aadhaar mandatory to appear in entrance examinations.
- ❖ No private entity can avail Aadhaar data which includes telecom companies and mobile wallets.

Aadhaar is mandatory in the following cases:

- ❖ Linking of PAN with Aadhaar.
- ❖ Mandatory for filing of IT returns and allotment of Permanent Account Number.
- ❖ Aadhaar must for availing facilities of welfare schemes and government subsidies.
- ❖ **Section 57 of the Aadhaar Act struck down** which was used by the government to compel private companies to demand Aadhaar verification

for services. It has further directed that the data collected shall be deleted within six months.



Note : *Constitution bench* is the name given to the benches of the Supreme Court of India which consist of at least five judges of the court which sit to decide any case “involving a substantial question of law as to the interpretation” of the Constitution of India. This provision has been mandated by Article 145(3) of the Constitution of India. The Chief Justice of India has the power to constitute a Constitution Bench and refer cases to it.

OPEN TRANSIT DATA PLATFORM

- ❖ It is an **online portal**, launched by the **transport department of the Delhi government** to **provide real-time datasets free of cost** such as **geo-coordinates of all bus stops, route maps, timetables and real time GPS feeds of bus locations** (updated every 10 seconds).
- ❖ It has been designed and developed by **Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) Delhi** with the main aim to **increase transparency and build transport solutions**.
- ❖ The real time data can be used by third party app developers and researchers to provide useful information.

- ❖ It will also motivate more people to switch to public transport, which will **reduce pollution**.

CONSTITUTION DAY OF INDIA

- ❖ It is also known as the **Samvidhan Divas** and is celebrated annually on **November 26**.
- ❖ Its main aim is **to mark the day on which the Constitution of India was adopted**.
- ❖ The Constitution was adopted on November 26, 1949 and **came into effect on Jan 26, 1950**.
- ❖ The constitution draft was prepared by the drafting committee under **B R Ambedkar**.



Note: The constitution will be made available in Braille for the first time due to collective efforts of Buddhist Association for the blind and the Saavi Foundation and Swagat Thorat. This will benefit the visually challenged individuals.

MATERNITY LEAVE LAW

- ❖ It is an incentive is proposed to be launched in near future by **Ministry of Labour and Employment**. Under this, the government would bear the cost of maternity leave wages for seven weeks of women workers with a wage ceiling up to Rs. 15,000 a month.
- ❖ Its main objective is to encourage employers to implement the extended 26-week maternity leave law (which was passed by the parliament in March 2017 to increase paid maternity leave from 12 to 26 weeks for all women workers in organizations employing > 10 people).

Note: The implementation of the law was very poor with private sector/contract jobs & women employees were made to quit or fired before they go on maternity leave.

SAURA JALNIDHI SCHEME

- ❖ It is a scheme launched by the **Odisha**

Government with the main aim **to increase the use of solar energy in irrigation by farmers**.

- ❖ The beneficiary of this scheme will be farmers who have valid farmer identity cards and have minimum 0.5 acres of agricultural land.
- ❖ Under this scheme, farmers will be given 90% subsidy and 5,000 solar pumps.
- ❖ In the first phase, this scheme will be available in those areas where electricity is not available for running the pump set.
- ❖ Under this scheme, **farmers will be provided with a well-equipped solar pump irrigation system in convergence mode to reduce burden of input cost on farmers and also increase agricultural income**.
- ❖ Its **main benefits** are: (a) generation of 1.52 lakh human day employments annually, (b) livelihood to around 5,000 families and (c) reduction of carbon footprints.

NATIONAL RIVER GANGA (REJUVENATION, CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT) BILL, 2018

Highlights of the Bill:

1. The bill proposes **to ban the construction of jetties, ports or “permanent hydraulic structures” in the Ganga, unless permitted by the National Ganga Rejuvenation Authority**.
2. It proposes to **create a management structure that will supervise the health of the 2,500-kilometre long Ganga which, the draft Bill defines, as ‘India’s national river.’**
3. The Bill lays down a host of restrictions to ensure the “uninterrupted, ecological flow” of the river. Currently, a host of dams in the upper stretches of the river lead to the river’s flow being obstructed.
4. The proposed legislation specifies that “unauthorized” activities that cause obstruction or discontinuity of water in the **River Ganga** due to engineered diversion of water or stoppage of water. Carrying out such activities are liable to a prison term of 3 years or fines upto Rs. 50 crore, or both.
5. The Armed Ganga Protection Corps (GPC) personnel will be provided by the Ministry of Home Affairs and will be deployed by the National Ganga Rejuvenation Authority.
6. The GPC personnel will have power to arrest those who pollute the river covering offences like obstructing the flow of the river to commercial fishing.

QUESTIONS

1. Consider the following statements related to Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana.
1. It has been launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Government of India.
 2. Its main aim is to provide quality medicines at affordable prices to the masses.
- Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2
2. Consider the following statements related to Centre of Excellence for Data Analytics.
1. It has been set up by National Informatics Centre (NIC) only.
 2. It will fast track the adoption of advanced analytics and machine learning capabilities.
- Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2
3. Consider the following statements related to e-Vidhan Project.
1. It is a Mission Mode Project of Digital India programme.
 2. Its main aim is to digitize & make functioning of State Legislatures paperless in North East states only.
- Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2
4. Consider the following statements related National Digital Communications Policy-2018.
1. To provide universal broadband connectivity at 50 Mbps to every citizen.
 2. To provide 1 Gbps connectivity to all Gram Panchayats by 2020 and 10 Gbps by 2022.
 3. To train one million manpower for building New Age Skill.
- Which of the above statement(s) is/are its objectives?
- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 2 (d) 1, 2 and 3
5. Recently, Section 497 of Indian Penal Code was made unconstitutional by the Supreme Court. This section is related to:
- (a) Rape (b) Dowry
(c) Adultery (d) None of the above
6. Consider the following statements related to Government of India's measures for Women Safety.
1. Cyber Crime Prevention against Women and Children portal is accessible only to law enforcement agencies and assist in effectively tracking and investigating sexual offences cases.
 2. National Database on Sexual Offenders is a central database of sexual offenders in the country which will be maintained by the National Crime Record Bureau.
- Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2
7. Consider the following statements related to Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana.
1. It has been launched by NITI Aayog in collaboration with Union Labour Ministry.
 2. It financially supports those who lost their jobs due to changing employment pattern.
- Which of the above statement(s) is/are NOT correct?
- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2
8. Digi Yatra is:
- (a) A website to book tickets and hotels across India.
 - (b) A new initiative by Govt. of India to provide luxury experience for tourists in Jammu & Kashmir.
 - (c) The longest cruise launched by the Government of India from Kolkata to Chennai.
 - (d) An initiative launched by Airports Authority of India to promote paperless and hassle-free air travel.
9. Consider the following about Impactful Policy Research in Social Sciences (IMPRESS) scheme.



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