

## 07 July 2021: UPSC Exam Comprehensive News Analysis

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

#### A. GS 1 Related

#### B. GS 2 Related

##### *POLITY AND GOVERNANCE*

1. [Bengal passes resolution to set up Council](#)
2. [‘Super censorship’: MPs’ panel grills Ministry](#)
3. [‘Tele-law services empowering voiceless’](#)

#### C. GS 3 Related

##### *INTERNAL SECURITY*

1. [Panel on Naga issue to meet on July 9](#)

#### D. GS 4 Related

#### E. Editorials

##### *POLITY AND GOVERNANCE*

1. [Vacancies send a wrong signal](#)
2. [Fresh stirrings on federalism as a new politics](#)

##### *DEFENCE AND SECURITY*

1. [Unpacking China’s game plan](#)

#### F. Prelims Facts

1. [Ethiopia resumes filling disputed dam](#)
2. [Venezuela’s reflections on the Carabobo](#)

#### G. Tidbits

1. [E-waste disposal: L-G seeks means to integrate unorganised sector](#)
2. [Tender for 10 counter-drone systems floated](#)
3. [Seeking a paradigm shift in mental health care](#)

#### H. UPSC Prelims Practice Questions

#### I. UPSC Mains Practice Questions

### A. GS 1 Related

*Nothing here for today!!!*

## B. GS 2 Related

### Category: POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

#### 1. Bengal passes resolution to set up Council

##### Context:

- The **West Bengal Assembly** has passed a resolution to set up a **Legislative Council** with a two-thirds majority.

##### Details:

- The resolution for the Legislative Council was moved **under Article 169**.

##### **Article 169:**

- Article 169 of the Indian Constitution deals with the abolition or creation of Legislative Councils in states.
- Clause (1) states that **Parliament may by law provide** for the abolition of the Legislative Council of a State having such a Council or for the creation of such a Council in a State having no such Council, if the **Legislative Assembly of the State passes a resolution** to that effect by a majority of the total membership of the Assembly and by **a majority of not less than two thirds of the members of the Assembly present and voting**.

For more information on legislative councils in the Indian system refer to the following link:

[Difference between Legislative Assembly \(Vidhan Sabha\) and Legislative Council \(Vidhan Parishad\)](#)

#### 2. 'Super censorship': MPs' panel grills Ministry

##### Context:

- The Standing Committee on Information and Technology has questioned the officials of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on the **draft Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill 2021**.

##### Background:

- The draft Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill 2021 proposes amendments aimed at tackling the menace of piracy and also introduces some **changes with respect to the process of certification**.
  - The amendment would grant **revisionary powers to the Government** on account of violation of Section 5B(1) of the Act.
    - **Section 5B(1)** states that a film shall not be certified for public exhibition if, in the opinion of the authority competent to grant the certificate, the film or any part of it is against the interests of the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States, public order, decency or morality, or

involves defamation or contempt of court or is likely to incite the commission of any offence.

- Also, the Central Government may, if it considers it necessary so to do, **direct the Chairman of the Board to re-examine the film.**
- The Bill has been placed in the public domain and called for public comments.

### Concerns:

#### **Super censorship:**

- Some prominent filmmakers have criticized the bill over the **provision that allows the government to order recertification of films already certified by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC)**. They have called it a kind of “super censorship”.

#### **Unnecessary concentration of power:**

- The government’s move to allow it the power to ask for recertification amounts to unnecessary concentration of such powers especially when there are already existing penal provisions in this regard.
  - If any person or group feels that a film or part of it hurts their sentiment or imperils the country, it can be challenged in the judiciary.

#### **Against Judicial orders:**

- The High Court of Karnataka in **KM Shankarappa Vs. Union of India** case stated that the Central Government **cannot exercise revisional powers in respect of films that are already certified by the Board**. This has also been upheld by the Supreme Court.
- The proposed amendments run contrary to the above judicial precedents.

### Counter arguments:

#### **Reasonable restriction upon freedom of speech and expression:**

- The government’s stand has been that the proposed amendments derive their standing from **Article 19(2) of the Constitution** which are non-negotiable.
- Article 19(2) of the Constitution imposes **reasonable restrictions upon the freedom of speech and expression** in the interests of the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States, public order, decency or morality or in relation to contempt of court, defamation or incitement of any offence.

#### **Help deal with violation of Section 5B(1):**

- Sometimes complaints are received against a film that allude to violation of Section 5B(1) of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 after a film is certified. The new amendments would help deal with such cases.

#### **Check on arbitrary use of powers:**

- The government's stand is that the **Ministry itself will have no powers to censor any film**, but it will only allow the Ministry to return the film for recertification.
- The government has also stated that such a **clause would be invoked only when the content of a film impinged on the security and integrity of the nation**, this would act as a restriction against the arbitrary use of such powers.

#### **Power of the legislature to legislate new laws:**

- The Legislature may, in certain cases, overrule or nullify the judicial or executive decision by enacting appropriate legislation.

### **3. 'Tele-law services empowering voiceless'**

#### **Context:**

- The recent event to mark the coverage of more than **nine lakh beneficiaries of the government's tele-law scheme**.

#### **Background:**

##### **Tele-law:**

- Through this initiative, the **Department of Justice has partnered with NALSA and CSC e-Governance Service India Limited** for mainstreaming legal aid to the marginalised communities through Common Services Center (CSC).
- Tele-Law means the **use of communications and information technology for the delivery of legal information and advice**. This e-interaction between lawyers and people would be through the video-conferencing infrastructure available at the CSCs.
- The concept of Tele-Law is to facilitate the delivery of legal advice through a panel of lawyers stationed at the State Legal Services Authorities (SALSA) and CSC. The project initiates to connect citizens with lawyers through telephone and video conferencing facilities by the **Para-Legal Volunteers** stationed at identified 50,000 CSCs.
- Presently, the tele-law programme is operational in 633 districts.

#### **Significance:**

- It will help provide **access to affordable and quality legal advice** across the country including those in the rural areas.
- By improving access to legal advice for women, the facility could also become a source of **gender justice and empowerment**.
- Tele-law has the potential to **foster inclusive justice delivery and strengthening rule of law across the country**.

For more related information refer to:

#### **Tele Law Initiative**

## **C. GS 3 Related**

## Category: INTERNAL SECURITY

### 1. Panel on Naga issue to meet on July 9

#### Background:

For comprehensive coverage of the Naga insurgency issue refer to:

[Naga Insurgency](#)

#### Details:

- In the light of the stalemate in the peace agreement talks between the Centre and the Naga extremist groups, the Nagaland state government had set up a parliamentary committee headed by the Chief Minister to pursue and resolve the long-pending Naga political issue.
- The core committee of this parliamentary panel is scheduled to meet soon.

## D. GS 4 Related

*Nothing here for today!!!*

## E. Editorials

## Category: POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

### 1. Vacancies send a wrong signal

#### Context:

- The article analyzes the various **concerns associated with the appointment process to important constitutional and administration posts.**

#### Concerns:

##### **Long delay in appointments:**

- The article expresses concerns over the long delays in appointing people to critical posts.
  - The post of the **Chairman of the National Human Rights Commission** and the post of the **Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** was kept vacant for a long time.
  - The **retirement of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC), amidst the ongoing elections** in West Bengal had resulted in a scenario where the Election Commission was left with only two members. Any disagreement on any issue between the two members would have led to a situation wherein a solution would have become difficult.
  - The National Council of Educational Research and Training, which is largely responsible for chalking out the education policy of the country has been functioning without a chief. Nearly half of the 40 Central universities are functioning without regular Vice-Chancellors.

##### **Apprehensions over the appointment process:**

- Apart from the concerns over avoidable delays in appointment to top posts, there are also concerns over the process of appointment to some of these posts.
  - One such example being **the appointment of Election Commissioners**. The Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) had filed a public interest litigation in the Supreme Court demanding the appointment of Election Commissioners by a committee rather than by the Union government.

#### **Assigning of additional charge of multiple departments:**

- Officials have been handed additional charges of multiple departments despite each being critical in their own respects.

For more related information refer to the following article:

[UPSC Comprehensive News Analysis of 10th Mar 2021](#)

#### **Negative fallout:**

##### **Impact on governance:**

- Leaving top posts in the government unoccupied **affects the organization's effectiveness and thus has a deleterious impact on governance in general.**

##### **Demoralizing effect on officials:**

- Delays in promotions and appointments also tend to demoralize the officials who await promotions after vacancies arise.

##### **Questions on the credibility of important institutions:**

- The lack of a consultative process in the appointment to Election Commission give rise to chances of potential executive interference in their functioning and thus **adversely impacts the perception of neutrality** of this important institution in a democracy like India.

##### **Impact on performance of the institutions:**

- The handing of additional charges of multiple departments to a single person will have an adverse impact on the efficiency of such departments given the lack of attention that such departments would receive from the appointed head.

#### **Recommendations:**

##### **Time bound process:**

- Appointments to higher echelons must be announced well in time. A time frame needs to be worked out to **announce top appointments at least a month in advance** and the nominee should be enabled to take charge soon after the retirement of the predecessor. This will help **avoid any interregnum.**

##### **Well laid guidelines:**



- Well laid guidelines for promotion will help keep out political considerations from the appointment process. This will help increase the transparency in the appointment process which will only augur more respect for the institutions involved.

#### **Broadbasing appointment process:**

- For appointment to top constitutional posts the process should be **made more consultative**.
- For example in the case of appointment of Election Commissioners, the recommendations of the Law Commission can act as a way forward. The Law Commission, its report of March 2015, held that it was “imperative” that the appointment became a “consultative process,” given the “importance of maintaining the neutrality” of the ECI and shielding the CEC and Election Commissioners “from executive interference.”
- The Law Commission had made two specific recommendations.
  - The **appointment of all the Election Commissioners (including the CEC) should be made by the President in consultation with a three-member collegium or selection committee**, consisting of Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition of the Lok Sabha (or the leader of the largest opposition party in the Lok Sabha in terms of numerical strength) and Chief Justice of India.
  - **The elevation of an Election Commissioner should be on the basis of seniority**, unless the collegium or the committee, for reasons to be recorded in writing, finds such Commissioner unfit.
- The article suggests further expanding the proposed high-powered committee given the limited powers that the Opposition leader has in the selection process.

#### **2. Fresh stirrings on federalism as a new politics**

One exam relevant topic that this article discusses is regarding Fiscal federalism in India and concerns associated with it. For information on this aspect refer to the following article:

[UPSC](#) [Comprehensive](#) [News](#) [Analysis](#) [of](#) [22nd](#) [June](#) [2021](#)

### **Category: DEFENCE AND SECURITY**

#### **1. Unpacking China’s game plan**

##### **Context:**

- Reports of **China upgrading its aviation defence infrastructure in the Tibetan plateau**

##### **Background:**

##### **India’s superiority in air power:**

- India exhibited firmness in their resolve to thwart Chinese attempts to violate the status Quo along the LAC. This firmness was backed by IAF superiority along the LAC.
- India enjoyed certain advantages vis-a-vis airpower as compared to the Chinese.
  - **India has a string of airfields all along the foothills of the Himalayas.** This offers the IAF higher strike potential. On the contrary Chinese airfields in Tibet were few, widely spaced out

and hence not mutually supportive. Also this led to **large gaps in their air defence structure** that could have been utilized by the IAF to interdict targets.

- **The Indian airfields are situated at lower altitudes. This permits the aircrafts taking off from these airfields to carry a full armament load.** On the contrary, most Tibetan airfields are at altitudes above 10,000 ft, severely restricting the payload of PLAAF aircraft.
- The positive asymmetry of IAF proved to be detrimental to China's plans to gain any territorial advantage.

#### Details:

- The recent high-resolution satellite photos have revealed rapid **upgradation of airfield and air defence infrastructure by China along the LAC.**
  - China has made rapid progress in construction of hardened aircraft shelters and new runways.
  - China has positioned **new air defence radars and missile systems** along the LAC thus providing itself the comfort of a layered air defence setting.

#### Concerns:

##### Chinese tactical attempt to buy time:

- The article also suggests the possibility of a link between the Chinese construction activities and the procrastination by China in the talks for reducing tensions in Eastern Ladakh. **The temporary offer of talks seems to be a tactical attempt by the Chinese to buy time to upgrade their air defence infrastructure.**

##### Strategy of denial:

- By strengthening their air defence architecture, the Chinese are trying to deter India through a **strategy of denial, i.e., to dissuade the IAF to attack China over fears of loss of aircrafts or personnel that could be caused by the missile systems of China.**

##### Nullify advantages enjoyed by India:

- This move by China could alter the current balance of air power between the Indian Air Force (IAF) and People's Liberation Army Air Force (PLAAF) in the medium to long term. This could nullify the advantage that India enjoys vis-a-vis airpower along the LAC. **India may lose the trump card of positive air power asymmetry** that it now holds which would reduce India's stand in future negotiations.

#### Way forward:

- India needs to closely **monitor the air defence upgradation drive of China** and make relevant changes to its own strategies.
- India's posture and demands at the talks must reflect its understanding of China's devious attempt to buy time in the name of talks

## F. Prelims Facts



## 1. Ethiopia resumes filling disputed dam

### Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam:

- It is a mega-dam on the upper **Blue Nile**.
- The dam is set to be Africa's largest hydroelectric project when completed.
- The project has led to an almost decade-long diplomatic stand-off between Ethiopia and **downstream nations Egypt and Sudan**. Egypt and Sudan have opposed the project over fears that it could restrict their water access.

### Context:

- Ethiopia has started the second phase of filling the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam.

## 2. Venezuela's reflections on the Carabobo

- The **Battle of Carabobo, 1821**, was fought between independence fighters, led by **Venezuelan General Simón Bolívar**, and the Spanish Army.
- Bolívar's decisive victory at Carabobo led to the independence of Venezuela and establishment of the Republic of Gran Colombia.

## G. Tidbits

### 1. E-waste disposal: L-G seeks means to integrate unorganised sector

#### Context:

- Delhi Lieutenant-Governor recently chaired a review meeting related to e-waste management in the city.

#### E-waste management:

- Need to ensure **scientific, efficient and environmentally safe disposal of all types of electronic waste**.
- Setting up of **e-waste processing units** should be prioritized.
- A suitable institutional mechanism should be devised to suitably **integrate the unorganised sector that includes traditional kabaadi walas, ragpickers and NGOs in e-waste collection and processing**.
- Closer coordination with the important stakeholder ministries and stakeholders could provide more effective outcomes.

### 2. Tender for 10 counter-drone systems floated

- The Indian Air Force has issued a tender for procurement of 10 counter-drone systems, **Counter Unmanned Aircraft System (CUAS)**, through indigenous route.
- The CUAS is intended to **detect, track, identify, designate and neutralize hostile UAS**. Laser Directed Energy Weapon (Laser-DEW) is mandated as a kill option.

### 3. Seeking a paradigm shift in mental health care

- The **Guidance on Community Mental Health Services** was recently launched by the **World Health Organization**.
- The Guidance focuses on **sharing of best practices** built around the key themes of crisis services, peer support, supported living, community outreach, hospital-based services and comprehensive mental health service networks.
- Drawn from 22 countries, these models **balance care and support with rights and participation**.
- Aimed at providing newer perspectives to governments and policymakers, approaches in the new WHO Guidance are designed to **make community inclusion a major feature of mental health treatment**.

## H. UPSC Prelims Practice Questions

**Q1. Which of the given statements with respect to Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) is/are correct?**

1. The dam when completed will be the largest hydroelectric dam in Africa.
2. It is being constructed on River Sobat, a tributary of River Nile.
3. It has become a matter of contention between Ethiopia and Egypt.

**Options:**

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 and 3 only
- c. 1 and 3 only
- d. 3 only

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) when completed will be the largest hydroelectric dam in Africa. The dam is under construction since 2011.
- It is being constructed on River Blue Nile, in Ethiopia.
- The GERD has been a matter of contention between Ethiopia, Egypt and Sudan.

**Q2. The term 'Safe harbour immunity' seen in news refers to:**

- a. Agreement between India-Sri Lanka providing immunity to fishermen entering into each other's territorial waters.
- b. Immunity offered to social media intermediaries from criminal liability.
- c. Immunity from quarantine rules in the EU countries for the holders of Green pass.
- d. Governmental immunity from taxation by state governments in the areas of overlapping tax jurisdiction.

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- 'Safe harbour immunity' is the immunity offered to social media intermediaries from criminal liability.
- The immunity of safe harbour is provided for under Section 79 (1) of the Information Technology Act.
  - Section 79 of the IT Act, states, "an intermediary shall not be liable for any third party information, data, or communication link made available or hosted by him," therefore providing Safe Harbour protection.
- So long as the platform acts just as the medium to carry out messages from users without interfering in any manner, it will be safe from criminal liability.

**Q3. "Mazar-e-Sharif", often in news is located in:**

- a. Israel
- b. Afghanistan
- c. Iran
- d. Syria

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

"Mazar-e-Sharif" is a city in northern Afghanistan.

**Q4. Which of the following Directive Principles of State Policy ensures Constitutional Privileges for women in India?**

- a. Article 42
- b. Article 48
- c. Article 49
- d. Article 50

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

Article 42 of the Indian Constitution states "The State shall make provision for securing just and humane conditions of work and for maternity relief".

**Read more on the [Directive Principle of State Policy \(DPSP\)](#).**

**Q5. The term 'Digital Single Market Strategy' seen in the news refers to (UPSC 2017)**

- a. ASEAN
- b. BRICS

- c. EU
- d. G20

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

The Digital Single Market strategy is a strategy of the European Union that aims to open up digital opportunities for people, business and enhance Europe's position as a world leader in the digital economy.

## I. UPSC Mains Practice Questions

1. Ironically, rather than deepen federalism, the contingencies of electoral politics have created significant impediments to creating a political consensus for genuine federalism. Examine the statement. (250 words; 15 marks) [GS-2, Polity]
2. There is a need for a paradigm shift in mental health care. Comment. (250 words; 15 marks) [GS-2, Governance]