

Current Affairs of the Day

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2. Social Security Code, 2020 passed
3. Indian Institutes of Information Technology Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2020 passed
4. Rashtriya Raksha University, Bill 2020 passed
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Land acquisition order gifted govt. laxity: CJI

- Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sharad A. Bobde on Monday questioned the infallibility of a land acquisition judgment delivered by a Constitution Bench, led by his former colleague, Justice Arun Mishra, saying the verdict had left things “unsaid”.

SC observations:

- The CJI, heading a three-judge Bench, said the order gifted the government “laxity” in several aspects, which even Parliament did not bother to provide under the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act of 2013.
- For one, the verdict did not specify for how long the government could possess a land acquired without paying compensation. “When does the acquisition lapse?” The verdict made it look as if the acquisition did not lapse “forever”, the CJI said.
- “The government takes possession [of a property] but has not paid compensation. The acquisition does not lapse. But for how long will the acquisition not lapse? Five years is the time given under the parliamentary law... but if the compensation is not paid, then how long will the acquisition continue? Forever?” he stated.
- “The judgment has given the government laxity, which Parliament did not want the government to have. Parliament had said the government cannot do this, the law said the compensation should not be kept pending... the government cannot just take over land and not pay compensation,” the CJI voiced the court’s apprehensions.
- His expressions of doubt about the March judgment came as soon as Solicitor General Tushar Mehta pointed out that about 600 cases were pending in the court and in various High Courts. Mr. Mehta had suggested these cases may now be dealt with in accordance with the law laid down by the Constitution Bench judgment.
- The 319-page judgment of the Constitution Bench was interpreting Section 24 (2) of the 2013 Act, which dealt with payment of compensation for land acquired by the government. It said acquisition would not lapse as long as the



government earmarked the compensation money by paying it into the treasury. In short, the money need not actually reach the farmer or the landowner. Acquisition would also not lapse just because the farmer refused the compensation and claimed higher.

- Similarly, there was no lapse in acquisition if the compensation had been paid but possession not taken of the land.
- The judgment had declared that acquisition would only lapse if the government had neither taken possession nor paid the compensation due to the landowner for five or more years prior to January 1, 2014.

MHA extends ban on NSCN-K

- The Ministry of Home Affairs has extended the ban on the National Socialist Council of Nagaland-Khaplang (NSCN-K) by notifying it as an “unlawful association” under the **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act**.
- The Naga insurgent group, since it was first banned in 2015, has been involved in 104 violent incidents, the MHA said.

DAC approves deals worth ₹2,300 crore

- The **Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)** which met on Monday approved proposals for capital acquisitions worth approximately ₹2,290 crore which include 72,400 SIG-716 assault rifles for the Army and Smart Anti Airfield Weapon for the Navy and Air Force.
- Under the Buy Indian (IDDM) category, the DAC approved procurement of trans-receiver sets and Smart Anti-Airfield Weapon.
- The HF radio sets will enable seamless communication for the field units of Army and Air Force and are being procured at an approximate cost of ₹540 crore.

Value Added Information

About Defence Acquisition Council (DAC):

- As an overarching structure, the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), under the Defence Minister is constituted for overall guidance of the defence procurement planning process.



- DAC is the highest decision-making body in the Defence Ministry for deciding on new policies and capital acquisitions for the three services (Army, Navy and Air Force) and the Indian Coast Guard.
- The objective of the Defence Acquisition Council is to ensure expeditious procurement of the approved requirements of the Armed Forces in terms of capabilities sought, and time frame prescribed, by optimally utilizing the allocated budgetary resources.
- It was formed, after the Group of Ministers recommendations on 'Reforming the National Security System', in 2001, post Kargil War (1999).

Composition of Defence Acquisition Council

- Defence Minister: Chairman
- Minister of State for Defence: Member
- Chief of Army Staff: Member
- Chief of Naval Staff: Member
- Chief of Air Staff: Member
- Defence Secretary: Member
- Secretary Defence Research & Development: Member
- Secretary Defence Production: Member
- Chief of Integrated Staff Committees HQ IDS: Member
- Director General (Acquisition): Member
- Dy. Chief of Integrated Defence: Staff Member Secretary

What is Defence Procurement Process (DPP)?

- DPP is a national policy to purchase defence equipment.
- The Defence Procurement Procedure mainly contains processes that needs to be followed to streamline and simplify defence procurement procedures and ultimately achieve the objective of self-reliance in meeting all the security needs of the Indian Armed Forces by promoting indigenous design, development and manufacture of Defence weapon systems and, platforms in a time-bound manner without any delays.



Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Bill, 2020 passed

- Parliament passed the Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Bill, 2020 recently.

Key takeaways:

- The bill amends the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897.
- The bill repeals the Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Ordinance that was promulgated in April this year.
- It shall include protections for health care service personnel combating epidemic diseases.
- It expands the powers of the Central Government to prevent the spread of such diseases.
- The legislation makes harm, injury, hurt or danger to the life of health care service personnel as a cognizable and non-bailable offence.
- It has provisions of imprisonment from 3 months to 5 years and a fine between Rs. 50,000 to 2 lakh rupees.
- Persons convicted of offences under the bill will also be liable to pay compensation to the health care service personnel whom they have hurt.

Social Security Code, 2020 passed

- Lok Sabha passed the Social Security Code, 2020 recently.

Extending the reach of Employees' State Insurance Corporation:

- Efforts have been made to provide right to health security under ESIC to maximum possible workers
- The facility of ESIC would now be provided in all 740 districts. At present, this facility is being given in 566 districts only.
- Establishments working in hazardous sectors would mandatorily be linked with ESIC, even if there is only one worker working in it.
- Provision for linking unorganised sector and Gig workers with ESIC.

Extending the reach of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO):

- EPFO's coverage would be applicable on all establishments having 20 workers.



- At present, it was applicable only on establishments included in the Schedule.
- Option to join EPFO is also being given to establishments having less than 20 workers.
- Schemes would be formulated for workers coming under the category of 'Self-employed' or falling under any other category under the aegis of EPFO.

Other key takeaways

- Provision has been made to formulate various schemes for providing comprehensive social security to workers in unorganised sector.
- A "Social Security Fund" will be created in order to implement these schemes.
- Provision for Gratuity has been made for Fixed Term Employee and there would not be any condition for minimum service period for this.

Indian Institutes of Information Technology Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2020 passed

- Rajya Sabha passed the Indian Institutes of Information Technology Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2020.
- It has been already passed by Lok Sabha.

Key takeaways:

- The Bill seeks amendment to the Indian Institutes of Information Technology Act, 2014 and the Indian Institutes of Information Technology (Public-private Partnership) Act, 2017.
- The Bill seeks to declare five IIITs set up under the PPP mode in Surat, Bhopal, Bhagalpur, Agartala, and Raichur as institutions of national importance.
- Currently, these institutes are registered as Societies under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 and do not have the power to grant degrees or diplomas.
- On being declared institutions of national importance, the five institutes will be granted the power to grant degrees.
- The central government will contribute 50% towards the expenses of institutes functioning under the PPP mode.



- 35% will be borne by the states and 15% by the industries.
- As a special impetus to North Eastern states, the central government will bear over 57% of the expenses whereas industries will contribute around 7% to the Institutes there.

Rashtriya Raksha University, Bill 2020 passed

- Parliament has passed the Rashtriya Raksha University Bill 2020.

Key takeaways:

- The Bill establishes the Raksha Shakti University, Gujarat established under the Raksha Shakti University Act, 2009.
- The Bill declares the University to be an institution of national importance.
- The Bill also repeals the 2009 Act.
- The Bill provides for several authorities under the University.
- These include: (1) The Governing Body to frame the broad policies and programmes of the University; (2) The Executive Council will be the principal executive body (3) The Academic Council will specify the academic policies of the University.
- The functions of the University include: (1) Providing instructions and research in police sciences, including coastal policing and cyber security (2) establishing and maintaining colleges (3) Prescribing courses, holding exams, and granting degrees and other distinctions.

Industrial Relations Code, 2020 passed

- Lok Sabha passed the Industrial Relations Code, 2020.

Efforts made by the Government under the code for quickly resolving disputes:

- Provision for two members instead of one member in the Industrial Tribunal.
- Provision for taking the matter straight to the Tribunal in case the dispute is not resolved at conciliation stage.
- Implementation of award in 30 days after Tribunal award.



- After recognition of Fixed Term Employment, workers will get the option of Fixed Term Employment instead of contract labour.
- Under this, they would get benefits of hours of work, salary, social security and other welfare benefits like a Regular Employee.
- A provision for “Negotiating Union” and “Negotiating Council” has been made for undertaking negotiation on any dispute.

Code On Occupational Safety, Health & Working Conditions Code, 2020 passed

- Lok Sabha passed the Code on Occupational Safety, Health & Working Conditions Code, 2020.

Key takeaways:

- Free health check-up once a year by the employer for workers who are older than a certain age.
- Legal right for getting Appointment Letter to workers.
- Cine Workers have been designated as Audio Visual Worker, so that more and more workers get covered under the OSH code.

National Forensic Sciences University Bill 2020 passed

- Parliament has passed the National Forensic Sciences University Bill, 2020 recently.

Key takeaways:

- The Bill shall establish the Gujarat Forensic Sciences University (Gandhinagar) and the Lok Nayak Jayaprakash Narayan National Institute of Criminology and Forensic Sciences (New Delhi) as a National Forensic Sciences University in Gujarat.
- The Bill declares the University to be an Institution Of National Importance.
- This university will work for the capacity building in the field of forensic science and promote research.