



Current Affairs of the Day

PAPER 2:

➤ Polity & Governance:

1. 24% RS members face criminal cases
2. About Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR)

➤ International Relations:

1. India, China not to use UAVs at friction points
2. Will discuss all disputed areas with China: Bhutan

PAPER 3:

➤ Economy:

1. 'E-commerce sites must state country of origin'
2. 3.18 lakh new subscribers in May: EPFO
3. About Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)



‘E-commerce sites must state country of origin’

- The Centre told the Delhi High Court on Wednesday that all e-commerce entities, including Amazon, Flipkart and Snapdeal, have to ensure the mandatory declaration of country of origin of imported products sold on their respective sites.
- The Department of Consumer Affairs, in an affidavit, said the law relating to the issue was enacted under the **Legal Metrology Act, 2009** and the **Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011**.
- The department stated that the enforcement of the provisions of the Act and Rules rests with the State and Union Territory governments.
- Whenever violations are observed, action is taken by the legal metrology officials of the State/ UT governments in accordance with the law.

India, China not to use UAVs at friction points

- The Chinese and Indian armies have agreed to not use unmanned aerial vehicles at the friction points in eastern Ladakh along the **Line of Actual Control (LAC)**, other than for mutually agreed “short time periods”.
- The confidence-building measure has impacted real-time verification of the de-escalation process, as aerial objects cannot be used within 10 km of the face-off sites.
- Earlier, the two armies had agreed to a 30-day moratorium on foot patrolling at all the friction points while they pulled back from their positions.
- Now they were not engaged in an eyeball-to-eyeball confrontation at any of the points, but a continuous verification was required and they were prepared for the long haul.
- The Corps Commanders of both armies have held four rounds of talks so far — on June 6, 22, 30 and July 14 — to de-escalate from the build-up areas in **Galwan Valley, Gogra-Hot Springs and Finger area along the Pangong Tso (lake)**.
- India has demanded that status quo be restored along the unsettled boundary line.



‘Will discuss all disputed areas with China: Bhutan

- A day after China repeated its claims over Eastern Bhutan, Bhutan issued a rare statement, asserting that “all disputed areas” will be discussed when the Bhutan-China boundary talks, which have not been scheduled for four years, are held again.
- The boundary between Bhutan and China is under negotiation and has not been demarcated. Twenty-four rounds of ministerial level boundary talks have been held.
- The 25th round of boundary talks has been delayed by the coronavirus pandemic.
- All disputed areas will be discussed during the next round of boundary talks, which will be held as soon as it is mutually convenient.

Key statement:

- The statement is significant as Bhutan’s government rarely comments on foreign policy issues or gives details of its talks with China, that were started formally in 1984.
- It also indicates that despite China making new claims on Bhutan’s eastern boundary, and the **Sakteng forest sanctuary** on the border with Arunachal Pradesh, Bhutan is prepared to discuss these in the dialogue between them.

24% RS members face criminal cases

Key findings of ADR analysis:

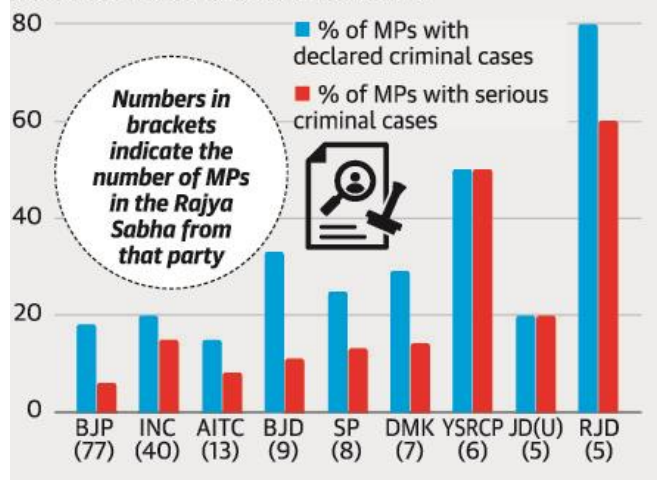
- About a quarter of the sitting Rajya Sabha members have declared criminal cases against themselves, according to an analysis of their self-sworn affidavits by the **Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR)** released on Wednesday.
- With three seats vacant and Kerala MP K.K. Ragesh’s affidavit being unavailable, the ADR report said that an analysis of 229 of the 233 Rajya Sabha seats that represent the States and the Union Territories showed that 54 MPs or 24% had declared criminal cases.



- Out of the 229 MPs, which included the newly-elected representatives taking the oath on Wednesday, 28 or 12% had declared serious criminal cases.
- The report stated that 14 of the 77 BJP MPs and eight of the 40 Congress MPs had declared criminal cases against themselves in their affidavits.
- The ADR analysis found that 203 of the 229 MPs, or 89% of those analysed, had declared assets over ₹1 crore, including 90% of the BJP MPs, 93% of the Congress MPs, 100% of the AIADMK MPs and 69% of the Trinamool Congress MPs.

Worrying numbers

14 of the 77 BJP MPs in the Rajya Sabha had criminal cases against them, according to an analysis by the Association for Democratic Reforms



Value Added Information

About Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR):

- The ADR is a non-partisan, non-governmental organization which works in the area of electoral and political reforms.
- ADR aims at bringing transparency and accountability in Indian politics and reducing the influence of money and muscle power in elections.
- National Election Watch (NEW) is a conglomeration of over 1200 organizations across the country.
- ADR has become the single data point for information/analysis of background details (criminal, financial and others) of politicians and of financial information of political parties.
- ADR has chosen to concentrate its efforts in the following areas pertaining to the political system of the country:
 - Corruption and Criminalization in the Political Process



- Empowerment of the electorate through greater dissemination of information relating to the candidates and the parties, for a better and informed choice
- Need for greater accountability of Indian Political Parties
- Need for inner-party democracy and transparency in party-functioning

3.18 lakh new subscribers in May: EPFO

- The **Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)** on Wednesday said it had registered a growth of 3.18 lakh new subscribers in May, indicating that "net new enrolments have started to make headway for most industry classifications".

Value Added Information

About Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO):

- EPFO is one of the World's largest Social Security Organisations in terms of clientele and the volume of financial transactions undertaken.
- Its a statutory body-. Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 and this law extends to the whole of India.
- EPFO comes under the purview of the Ministry of Labor and Employment and came into being in 1951.

Structure of EPFO:

- The Act and all its Schemes are administered by a tripartite Board called **Central Board of Trustees (EPF)**. It has representatives of Government (both Central and State), Employers and Employees.
- The Board is chaired by the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India. The Central Board of Trustees (EPF) operates 3 schemes:
- The Employees' Provident **Funds** Scheme 1952 (EPF)-Accumulation plus interest upon retirement, resignation, death.
- The Employees' **Pension** Scheme 1995 (EPS)-Monthly benefits for superannuation/ retirement, disability, survivor, widow (er), children.



- The Employees' Deposit Linked **Insurance** Scheme 1976 (EDLI)-The benefit provided in case of death of an employee who was a member of the scheme at the time of the death.
- As on date, the Act extends to 187 classes of establishments. Any establishment falling in any of the 187 categories mentioned above and employing more than 19 persons automatically comes under the purview of the EPF & MP Act 1952.

Functions Of EPFO:

- EPFO performs the **dual role** of being the administration and overseeing the implementation of the Act and also as a service provider for the covered beneficiaries which includes both employers and employees i.e., members.
- EPFO assists the Central Board of Trustees (EPF) in the administration of Provident Fund Scheme, a Pension Scheme and an Insurance Scheme for the registered establishments in India and includes employees of such establishments and international workers who are covered.
- EPFO's functioning includes enforcement of the Act across the country, maintenance of individual accounts, settlement of claims, investment of funds, ensuring prompt pension payment and updating records etc.
- EPF Organization is also the nodal agency for implementing Bilateral Social Security Agreements with other countries.