DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 09-01-2025

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Draft Digital Personal Data Protection Rules

Syllabus: GS-2: Laws and Policies

Context:

➢ The government floated draft Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Rules 2025 last week for public consultation till February 18, 2025.

Draft Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Rules 2025

Overview:

➢ Drafted to implement the **Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023**.

➢ Aimed at operationalizing the Act passed by Parliament.

➢ Public consultation open till **February 18, 2025**.

➢ Citizens can submit comments on the **MyGov website**.

Key Provisions of Draft Rules:

➢ **Data Protection Board (DPB):**

  o To be set up under the DPDP Act 2023.

  o Will function in digital mode.

➢ **Children's Data Processing:**

  o Entities must ensure **verifiable parental consent** for processing children's personal data.

  o Requires adoption of **technical and organizational measures**.

➢ **Cross-Border Data Transfer:**

  o Personal data can be transferred outside India.

  o Transfers restricted to countries approved by the government.

  o **Significant Data Fiduciaries (SDFs)** may face additional restrictions based on committee recommendations.

About the DPDP Act 2023:

➢ **Introduction and Passage:**

  o **Introduced in Lok Sabha:** August 3, 2023.

  o **Passed by Lok Sabha:** August 7, 2023.

  o **Passed by Rajya Sabha:** August 9, 2023.

  o **Presidential Assent:** August 11, 2023.

- ➢ **Need for the Act:**
  - o Addresses risks of **misuse of personal data** in digitized services.
  - o Ensures **accountability** of data fiduciaries.
  - o Limits data collection to what is necessary for services.

How the DPDP Act 2023 Helps:

- ➢ **Consent-Based Processing:**
  - o Platforms must obtain **informed consent** in any of the **22 Indian languages**.
  - o Users have rights to:
    - ▪ **Withdraw consent**.
    - ▪ **Request information** on data processing.
    - ▪ **Update/erase data**.
    - ▪ **File grievances**.
    - ▪ **Nominate representatives**.
- ➢ **Consent Managers:**
  - o Independent platforms managing consent (e.g., **Finvu, OneMoney**).
  - o Approved by DPB to manage personal data exchange.

Key Terms:

- ➢ **Data Fiduciaries:**
  - o Entities collecting and processing personal data (e.g., social media, e-commerce platforms).
  - o **Significant Data Fiduciaries (SDFs):** Platforms with large user bases (e.g., Facebook, Amazon).
- ➢ **Consent Managers:**
  - o Platforms facilitating **user consent management**.
  - o Operate under frameworks like the **RBI's account aggregator model**.

Anti-Spam and Complaint Mechanism:

- ➢ **Spam Calls:**
  - o Citizens can seek recourse under the DPDP Act.
  - o **DPB** can impose penalties for **processing data without consent**.
- ➢ **Filing Complaints:**

     o DPB operates **digitally** – complaints can be filed online.

Penalties and Enforcement:

- **Penalties:**
  - **Up to ₹250 crore** for violations.
  - Graded penalties based on:
    - Nature and gravity of the breach.
    - Duration and repetitiveness.
    - Efforts to mitigate breaches.
  - **Lower compliance burden for startups**.

- **Undertakings:**
  - Fiduciaries can voluntarily propose settlements to avoid prolonged proceedings.

Implementation Timeline:

- Final rules to be tabled in Parliament during the **monsoon session**.
- Full implementation may take **up to two years** post-approval.
- Entities to ensure **compliance** within this period.

Exemptions and Special Provisions:

- **Exemptions Include:**
  - Judicial and regulatory functions.
  - **Law enforcement** (investigation, prosecution).
  - **Research and startups**.

- **Non-Digital Users:**
  - **Equal protection** for users with limited/no digital access.

Important Notes:

- **No time limit** for filing complaints under the Act.
- DPDP Act applies to all citizens regardless of digital literacy or access.

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas

Syllabus: GS-2; Impact of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests; Overseas Indians.

Context

> ➢ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the 18th edition of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) convention, a key initiative of the government to connect and engage with the Indian diaspora, in Bhubaneswar on January 9 2024.
> ➢ President of Trinidad and Tobago, Christine Carla Kangaloo, the chief guest, will address the gathering virtually.

About

> ➢ Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) is an annual celebration organized by the Government of India to mark the contribution of the Indian diaspora towards the development of India.
> ➢ It serves as a platform to strengthen the connection between Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs), and the Indian government.

Key Facts:

> ➢ **Date of Observance:**

- o Celebrated every year on **January 9th** to commemorate Mahatma Gandhi's return to India from South Africa in **1915**, a pivotal moment in India's freedom struggle.

- ➢ **Significance:**
  - o Recognizes the achievements and contributions of the Indian diaspora.
  - o Promotes engagement of the diaspora in India's economic, cultural, and social progress.
  - o Strengthens India's soft power through its global diaspora.

- ➢ **Organizing Bodies:**
  - o Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) organizes PBD in collaboration with various state governments and other stakeholders.

- ➢ **Themes:**
  - o Each edition of PBD has a specific theme addressing current global and national priorities. For example:
    - ▪ **2023 Theme:** "Diaspora: Reliable partners for India's progress in Amrit Kaal."
    - ▪ Other themes have included economic growth, cultural exchange, and leveraging diaspora networks.

Historical Background:

- ➢ **First PBD Celebration:**
  - o Initiated in **2003** by then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
  - o Conceptualized based on the report by the High-Level Committee on Indian Diaspora headed by **L. M. Singhvi**.

- ➢ **Evolution:**
  - o Over the years, PBD has expanded to include various initiatives, such as the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards, diaspora business meets, and cultural events.

Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards (PBSA):

- ➢ **About:** The highest honor conferred on overseas Indians for their achievements in their respective fields and contributions to India or their community abroad.
- ➢ **Presented by:** The President of India during the PBD convention.
- ➢ **Eligibility:** NRIs, PIOs, and organizations/institutions established and run by them.

Key Initiatives for Diaspora Engagement:

- ➢ **Know India Programme (KIP):**

- o Aimed at engaging youth of Indian origin with their ancestral homeland through exposure visits.
- ➤ **Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) Card:**
  - o Provides lifelong visa-free travel and access to various privileges for PIOs.
- ➤ **Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF):**
  - o Helps Indians in distress abroad, including during emergencies or legal disputes.
- ➤ **Skill India International Projects:**
  - o Focus on skilling the diaspora to match global job requirements.

Importance of PBD for India:

- ➤ **Economic Contributions:**
  - o NRIs contribute significantly through **remittances**, which constitute a major portion of India's foreign exchange reserves.
- ➤ **Cultural Diplomacy:**
  - o Enhances India's global influence by fostering cultural exchanges and promoting Indian heritage abroad.
- ➤ **Soft Power and Strategic Partnership:**
  - o Diaspora networks help strengthen bilateral relations, especially in countries with a large Indian population.
- ➤ **Policy Advocacy:**
  - o NRIs often lobby for India's interests in their respective countries.

Conclusion:

- ➤ Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is a vital event for enhancing India's relationship with its diaspora.
- ➤ It showcases India's commitment to acknowledging their contributions while fostering collaborative efforts for national and global development.

Bharatpol

Syllabus: GS-2; Governance

Context

➢ Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the 'Bharatpol' portal on January 7 2025, which aims to streamline international cooperation for law investigating agencies.

About

➢ Bharatpol is a unified digital platform developed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to streamline and enhance international police cooperation. Acting as a broadcast hub for real-time action against transnational crimes, it integrates India's law enforcement agencies with Interpol's 195 member countries, facilitating faster and more effective criminal investigations.

Why was Bharatpol developed?

➢ The increasing prevalence of transnational crimes, including cybercrime, human trafficking, financial fraud, and online radicalization, has necessitated quicker international collaboration.
➢ Previously, Indian law enforcement agencies coordinated with Interpol through manual means like letters, emails, and faxes, leading to delays.
➢ Bharatpol eliminates these bottlenecks by creating a centralized and digitized platform for seamless communication and data sharing.

Key Features of Bharatpol:

➢ **Unified Platform:** Bharatpol connects the CBI as the Interpol (NCB-New Delhi) with police officers across India, enabling direct interaction with international law enforcement.
➢ **Simplified Request Mechanism:** Front-line officers can submit requests for international assistance through standard templates, expediting cross-border collaboration.
➢ **Rapid Information Dissemination:** The portal facilitates swift sharing of criminal intelligence and investigative inputs from Interpol's 195 member countries with Indian agencies.
➢ **Enhanced Use of Interpol Notices:** Officers can easily draft Red Corner Notices and other Interpol notices, aiding in the global tracking of criminals, crimes, and illicit proceeds.

➢ **Capacity Building and Training:** Bharatpol offers training modules, templates, and resources to enhance the skills of Indian officers in navigating international investigations.

Key Modules of Bharatpol:

➢ **Connect:** Integrates Indian law enforcement agencies with Interpol's operations, ensuring structured and secure information exchange.
➢ **INTERPOL Notices:** Facilitates streamlined requests and tracking of various Interpol notices, including Red, Blue, and Yellow notices.
➢ **References:** A repository of past cases, documentation, and best practices for officers to refer to during investigations.
➢ **Broadcast:** Enables real-time sharing of requests and criminal intelligence from Interpol's global network.
➢ **Resources:** Provides access to training materials, templates, and guides to enhance investigative effectiveness.

How Bharatpol Benefits Investigating Agencies:

➢ **Speed:** Expedites the process of seeking international assistance.
➢ **Transparency:** Centralized documentation ensures accountability and reduces procedural delays.
➢ **Capacity Building:** Empowers officers with the tools and knowledge needed for global investigations.
➢ **Enhanced Crime Tracking:** Improves coordination in tracking fugitives, assets, and crime syndicates worldwide.

Conclusion:

➢ Bharatpol marks a significant step in addressing the challenges posed by transnational crimes.
➢ By integrating modern technology and real-time communication with Interpol, it strengthens India's law enforcement agencies, making them better equipped to tackle crimes with a global dimension.

Homo Juluensis

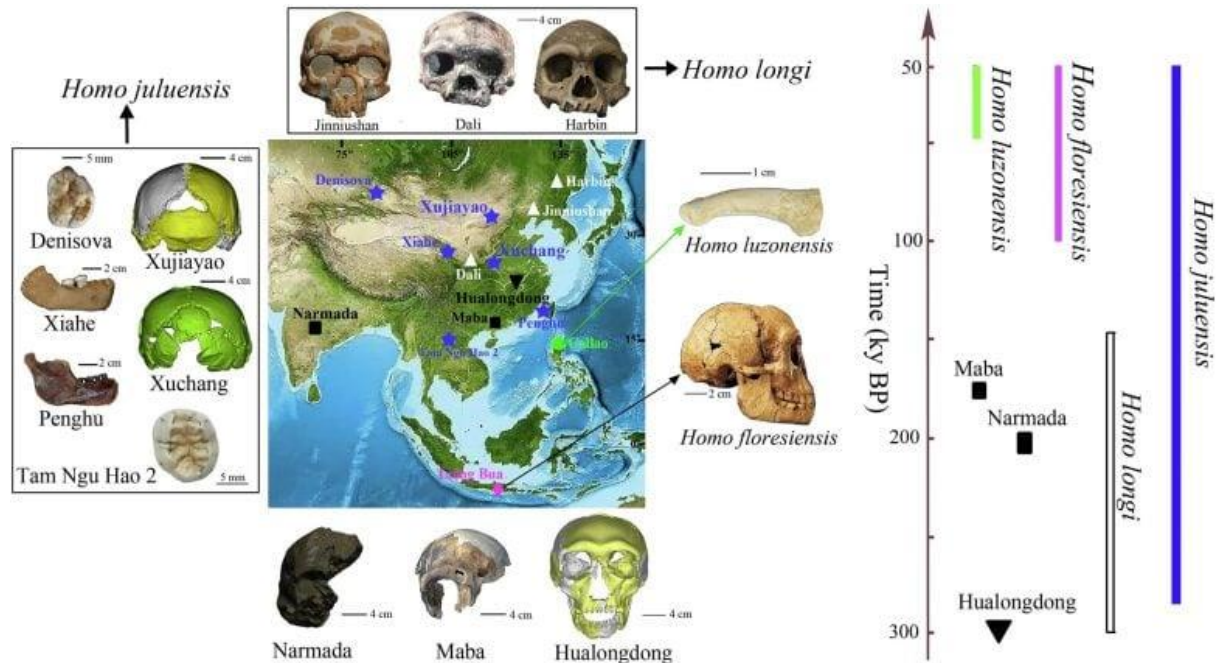**Syllabus: GS-3: General Science – Species.**

Context:

➢ A University of Hawai'i researcher may have identified a new human species, Homo juluensis, which could encompass enigmatic groups like the Denisovans—ancient human relatives whose stories are still being unraveled.

Researcher and Institution:

➢ **Christopher J. Bae** – Professor at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Department of Anthropology (College of Social Sciences).

➢ Over 30 years of research on human ancestors across Asia.

Discovery Highlights:

➢ **Species:** Homo juluensis (new human species).

➢ **Location:** Eastern Asia.

➢ **Time Period:** Late Middle to early Late Pleistocene (approx. 300,000 to 50,000 years ago).

➢ **Key Findings:**

    o Coexisted with Denisovans and possibly includes them.

    o Lived in small groups, hunted wild horses, made stone tools, and processed animal hides.

    o Disappeared around 50,000 years ago.

Importance of Discovery:

➢ Proposes that Homo juluensis may represent or include Denisovans.

➢ Addresses gaps in fossil records by organizing human fossils from China, Korea, Japan, and Southeast Asia.

Breakthrough in Fossil Organization:

➢ **Methodology:**

  o Developed a clearer system to classify ancient human fossils.

  o Compared to organizing a family photo album to distinguish hard-to-identify individuals.

➢ **Result:**

  o Better understanding of ancient hominin diversity in Asia.

  o Differentiates fossils previously unassigned to Homo erectus, Homo neanderthalensis, or Homo sapiens.

Significance for Human Evolution:

➢ Contributes to understanding human evolution in Asia.

➢ Helps refine evolutionary lineage and provides insights into ancient relatives.

Improvised Explosive Device (IED)

Syllabus: GS-3; Internal Security- Terrorism and technological advancements

Context

➢ A seven-year-old girl was killed in an bomb blast on January 7 2025 inside the Radhabeda forest in the West Singhbhum district of Chaibasa. Police said the improvised explosive device (IED) had been earlier planted by Naxalites.

About

➢ An **Improvised Explosive Device (IED)** is a homemade bomb designed and deployed in unconventional ways. It is typically constructed to cause harm, destruction, or disruption, often by non-state actors like terrorists or insurgent groups.

Components of an IED

IEDs generally consist of the following components:

➢ **Main Charge**: The explosive material, such as TNT, RDX, or homemade explosives like ammonium nitrate or potassium chlorate.
➢ **Detonator**: A triggering mechanism, such as blasting caps, used to initiate the explosion.
➢ **Power Source**: Batteries or other electrical devices.
➢ **Switch/Trigger Mechanism**: Includes remote controls, timers, pressure plates, or trip wires.
➢ **Container**: A casing that houses the components, such as pipes, bags, or vehicles.
➢ **Enhancements**: Materials like nails, ball bearings, or shrapnel to increase lethality.

Types of IEDs

- **Vehicle-Borne IED (VBIED)**: Placed inside vehicles, often used for large-scale attacks.
- **Person-Borne IED (PBIED)**: Carried by individuals, including suicide bombers.
- **Booby Traps**: Planted in concealed areas and triggered by victim actions.
- **Underwater IEDs**: Used for attacks in maritime environments.
- **Radio-Controlled IEDs (RCIED)**: Triggered remotely using wireless technology.

Methods of Deployment

- **Roadside Bombs**: Commonly used against military convoys and vehicles.
- **Drone-Borne IEDs**: Delivered using unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs).
- **Hidden Devices**: Concealed in everyday items like parcels or garbage cans.

Impact of IEDs

- **Human Loss**: High casualties among civilians and security forces.
- **Infrastructure Damage**: Severe damage to public and private property.
- **Psychological Impact**: Instills fear and disrupts normal life.
- **Economic Consequences**: Significant costs for countermeasures and reconstruction.

Counter-IED Measures

- **Detection Technologies**: Metal detectors, ground-penetrating radar, and bomb-sniffing dogs.
- **Electronic Countermeasures (ECM)**: Jamming devices to prevent remote detonation.
- **Surveillance**: Intelligence gathering to identify threats in advance.
- **Training**: Specialized training for security forces to recognize and neutralize IEDs.
- **Public Awareness**: Campaigns to educate people on suspicious activities or objects.

Case Studies and Examples

- **26/11 Mumbai Attacks (2008)**: Use of IEDs to create widespread panic.
- **Pulwama Attack (2019)**: A VBIED led to high casualties among CRPF personnel.
- **Anti-Naxal Operations**: Frequent use of IEDs by Naxalites against security forces.