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**CHANGES IN PMLA: WHAT, WHY, AND THE CONCERNS THEY RAISE**

**Context**

* In recent months the government has **brought a few changes** to money laundering law; **Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).**
* These changes **will incorporate more disclosures for non-governmental organisations** and plug loopholes ahead of **India’s proposed assessment later this year under the Financial Action Task Force (FATF);** the global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog.

**Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA)**

* The Act was formulated for the following **objectives**
	+ **Prevent money-laundering**.
	+ Combat/**prevent channelising of money into illegal activities**and economic crimes.
	+ Provide for the **confiscation of property**derived from, or involved/used in, money laundering.
	+ Provide for matters connected and incidental to the acts of money laundering.
* The **Enforcement Directorate (ED)**in the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, is **responsible for investigating the offences**of money laundering **under the PMLA**.
* **Financial Intelligence Unit – India (FIU-IND)**under the Department of Revenue is the **central national agency**responsible for receiving, processing, analysing, and disseminating information relating to suspect financial transactions.
* The Act was first enacted in **2002** and was amended in 2005, 2009, 2012, etc.

**Recent Amendments to the PMLA**

* **Inclusion of new entities into the ambit of PMLA**
	+ Practicing chartered accountants, company secretaries, and cost and works accountants carrying out financial transactions on behalf of their clients are now included in the amended law.
* **Financial transactions that will get covered under the PMLA:**
	+ Buying and selling of any immovable property;
	+ Managing client money,
	+ Securities or other assets;
	+ Management of bank,
	+ Savings or securities accounts;
	+ Organisation of contributions for the creation,
	+ Operation or management of companies;
	+ Creation, Operation, or management of companies,
	+ Limited liability partnerships or trusts,
	+ And buying and selling of business entities.
* **The amended law** will **allow 22 financial entities**including Amazon Pay (India) Pvt. Ltd, Aditya Birla Housing Finance Ltd and IIFL Finance Ltd **to verify the identity of their customers via Aadhaar.**
* **To provide the clarity on Definition of PEPs (Politically exposed Persons)** Individuals who have been “entrusted with prominent public functions by a foreign country, including the heads of States or Governments, military officers, etc”.
	+ The amendment was about **foreign PEPs and not domestic ones.**

**Exclusion of Lawyers and Legal professionals**

* Changes have been made applicable **only for transactions where they undertake financial transactions on behalf of their clients.**
* Regular functions like certification of accounts, and financial advice among others for a fee are not covered under this change in PMLA.

**TERRITORIAL ARMY**

**Raksha Mantri recently approved posting of Women Officers of the Territorial Army along the Line of Control.**



**About:**

* It aims to commemorate its raising by the first Governor General C Rajagopalachari on this day in 1949.

**History:**

* The Territorial Army (TA) was raised by the Britishers in 1920 through Indian Territorial Act of 1920 and it was org into two wings namely - 'The Auxiliary Force' for Europeans & Anglo-Indians and 'The Indian Territorial Force' for Indian Volunteers.
* After Independence Territorial Army Act was passed in 1948 and the Territorial Army was formally inaugurated by the first Indian Governor General Shri C Rajagopalachari on 09 Oct 1949.

**Role:**

* The Territorial Army is part of Regular Army and its present role is to relieve the Regular Army from static duties and assist civil administration in dealing with natural calamities and maintenance of essential services in situations where life of the communities is affected or the Security of the Country is threatened and to provide units for Regulars Army as and when required.

**Eligibility:**

* Any citizen between the age of 18-42 can be a part of the service.
* The pensionable age for a soldier below officer’s rank in the TA is the same as that of a regular soldier — 15 years.

**Operations:**

* The TA units were also actively involved in operations during the 1962, 1965 and 1971 wars.
* Since 2020, the Indian military has been recalibrating the TA for better operational and intelligence roles, especially in the Andaman Islands to keep an eye out for possible Chinese intrusions in the region.

**Motto:**

* The motto of the Territorial Army of India is ‘Savdhani Va Shoorta’ (Vigilance and Valour).

**BORDER ROADS ORGANISATION (BRO)**

**Border Roads Organisation (BRO) celebrated its 64th Raising Day on May 07, 2023 at all its detachments across the country.**



**About:**

* The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) is a road construction executive force in India that provides support to Indian Armed Forces.
* BRO develops and maintains road networks in India's border areas and friendly neighboring countries.
* This includes infrastructure operations in 19 states and three union territories (including Andaman and Nicobar Islands) and neighboring countries such as Afghanistan, Bhutan, Myanmar, Tajikistan and Sri Lanka.
* BRO is also tasked with maintaining this infrastructure including operations such as snow clearance. BRO is instrumental in significantly upgrading and building new India-China Border Roads.
* Officers and personnel from the General Reserve Engineer Force (GREF) form the parent cadre of the BRO.
* It is also staffed by Officers and Troops drawn from the Indian Army's Corps of Engineers on extra regimental employment (on deputation).
* BRO is also included in the Order of Battle of the Armed Forces, ensuring their support at any time.
* The BRO undertakes projects in India and friendly countries.
* These projects typically include developing roads, bridges, and airfields in hostile environments shunned by private enterprises, whether due to security concerns related to hostilities, or because of environmental challenges.
* BRO has been active during the 1962 war, the conflicts with Pakistan in 1965 and 1971, and has also been active in anti-insurgency operations in North East.

**Established:**

* The BRO was formed on 7 May 1960 to secure India's borders and develop infrastructure in remote areas of the north and north-east states of the country.
* In order to ensure coordination and expeditious execution of projects, the Government of India set up the Border Roads Development Board (BRDB) with the Prime Minister as Chairman of the Board and Defence Minister as Deputy Chairman.

**Motto:**

* The organisation motto is Shramena Sarvam Sadhyam  (everything is achievable through hardwork)

**WHAT IS CARTILAGE?**

**Scientists have recently discovered a new treatment strategy for damaged cartilage.**



**About Cartilage:**

* **What is it?** It is a **strong, flexible connective tissue that protects your joints and bones.**
* It **acts as a shock absorber** throughout your body.
* **Cartilage** **at the end of your bones** **reduces friction and prevents them from rubbing together** when you use your joints.
* It’s also the **main tissue in some parts of your body** and gives them their structure and shape.
* **Types**: There are **three types** of cartilage in the body,
	+ **Hyaline cartilage:**
		- It is the **most common type**of cartilage.
		- It **lines the joints and caps at the ends of your bones**. Hyaline cartilage at the ends of your bones is **sometimes referred to as articular cartilage**.
		- Hyaline cartilage is **slippery and smooth** which helps the bones move smoothly past each other in your joints.
	+ **Fibrocartilage**:
		- It is **tough cartilage made of thick fibers**.
		- It’s the **strongest and least flexible** of the three types. It’s tough enough to **hold parts of your body** in place and absorb impacts.
	+ **Elastic cartilage:**
		- It is the **most flexible cartilage**.
		- It **supports parts of your body** **that need to bend** and move to function.
		- Elastic cartilage **can bounce back to its original shape**, even after a strong force.

**WHAT IS THALASSAEMIA?**

**World Thalassaemia Day is celebrated on May 8, every year.**



**About Thalassaemia:**

* It is the name for a group of **inherited conditions that affect a substance in the blood called haemoglobin**.
* People with thalassaemia **produce either no or too little haemoglobin**, which is used by red blood cells to carry oxygen around the body.
* Thalassemia can **cause anaemia, leaving you fatigued**.
* It **mainly affects people of Mediterranean, south Asian, southeast Asian and Middle Eastern origin**.
* **Cause**:
	+ It is caused by **faulty genes that affect the production of haemoglobin**.
	+ A child can only be born with thalassaemia **if they inherit these faulty genes from both parents.**
	+ It's **also possible to be a "carrier"** of thalassaemia, also known as **having the thalassaemia trait.**
* **Symptoms**: The main health conditions associated with thalassaemia are,
	+ **Anaemia**– severe tiredness, weakness, shortness of breath, pounding, fluttering or irregular heartbeats (palpitations) and pale skin caused by the lack of haemoglobin.
	+ **Too much iron in the body**– this is caused by the regular blood transfusions used to treat anaemia and can cause problems with the heart, liver and hormone levels if untreated
	+ Some people may also have **delayed growth, weak and fragile bones**(osteoporosis), and reduced fertility.
* **Treatments**:
	+ **Blood transfusions**– regular blood transfusions treat and prevent anaemia; in severe cases these are needed around once a month.
	+ **Chelation therapy** – treatment with medicine to remove the excess iron from the body that builds up as a result of having regular blood transfusions
	+ The only possible cure for thalassaemia is **a stem cell or bone marrow transplant**, but this is not done very often because of the risks involved.

**ISRO TO START ONLINE TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR PG AND FINAL-YEAR UG STUDENTS**

**Why in news?**

* The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has announced a new introductory-level online training programme called Space Science and Technology Awareness Training (START).

**Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**

* **About**
	+ It is the space agency of India which is a major constituent of the Department of Space (DOS), Government of India.
	+ ISRO was previously the Indian National Committee for Space Research (INCOSPAR), set up by the Government of India in 1962.
	+ ISRO was formed on August 15, 1969 and superseded INCOSPAR with an expanded role to harness space technology.
		- DOS was set up and ISRO was brought under DOS in 1972.
* **Objective**
	+ The prime objective of ISRO is the development and application of space technology for various national needs.
* **Headquarter and various centres**
	+ ISRO has its headquarters in Bengaluru.
	+ Its activities are spread across various centres and units.
		- **Launch Vehicles** are built at Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), Thiruvananthapuram;
		- **Satellites** are designed and developed at U R Rao Satellite Centre (URSC), Bengalure;
		- **Integration and launching of satellites and launch vehicles** are carried out from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Sriharikota;
		- **Development of liquid stages including cryogenic stage** is carried out at Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC), Valiamala (Kerala) & LPSC Bengaluru;
		- **Sensors for Communication and Remote Sensing satellites** and application aspects of the space technology are taken up at **Space Applications Centre (SAC)**, Ahmedabad; and
		- **Remote Sensing satellite data** reception processing and dissemination is entrusted to National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), Hyderabad.

**Space Science and Technology Awareness Training (START)**

* **About**
	+ START program is aimed at post-graduate and final-year undergraduate students of physical sciences and technology.
	+ The programme will cover various domains of space science, including Astronomy & Astrophysics, Heliophysics & Sun-Earth interaction, Instrumentation, and Aeronomy.
	+ It will be delivered by the scientists from Indian academia and ISRO centres.
* **Aim**
	+ The programme is part of ISRO's efforts to enable Indian students to become professionals in space science and technology.
	+ It is intended to provide students with an introductory-level training in space science and technology, giving them an overview of different facets of the field, research opportunities, and career options.
	+ The training will also emphasize the cross-disciplinary nature of space science.
* **Benefits**
	+ The programme is expected to help build a human capacity that will lead space science and research in the future.
	+ The student community will receive:
		- an overview of the different facets of space science and technology,
		- exposure to the research ongoing in different Indian institutes,
		- insight into how their individual aptitude would suit some of the facets of space science and technology,
	+ Students will also get a chance to appreciate the cross-disciplinary nature of the subject, and accordingly choose their career path.

**NATIONAL CENTER FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE (NCGG)**

**The National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) recently completed its flagship capacity building programme (CBP) for the 58th batch of civil servants of Bangladesh.**



**About National Center for Good Governance (NCGG):**

* It was **set up in 2014** by the Government of India as **an apex–level autonomous institution under the Ministry of Personnel**, Public Grievances and Pensions.
* It has been set up **to assist in bringing about governance reforms through studies.**
* The Centre **traces its origin to the National Institute of Administrative Research (NIAR),** which was set up in 1995 by the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA), the Government of India's topmost training institute for civil services. NIAR was subsequently rechristened and **subsumed into NCGG.**
* NCGG **deals with a gamut of governance issues** from local, state to national levels, across all sectors.
* The Centre is **mandated to work in the areas of governance, policy reforms, capacity building and training of civil servants** and technocrats of India and other developing countries.
* It **curates training courses for civil servants from India and other developing countries.**
* It **provides a platform for sharing existing knowledge** and proactively seeking out and developing ideas for their implementation in the government, both at the National & International levels.
* NCGG has been **extensively working in areas such as primary and elementary education, decentralized planning at district and block levels**, capacity building of Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs), participatory models of learning and action, rural development, cooperatives, and public sector management, etc.
* NCGG is **governed by a Governing Body, under the Chairmanship of the Cabinet Secretary.**