

CRIMINALISATION OF POLITY

Election Commission of India issued revised guidelines for publishing details of criminal antecedents by candidates and the political parties regarding candidates nominated by them.



About:

As per the revised guidelines, the candidates as well as the political parties, regarding candidates nominated by them, will publish the details of criminal antecedents, if any, in newspapers and television.

The first publicity will be within the first four days of the last date of withdrawal of candidature. Second publicity will be within the 5th to 8th day of the last date of

withdrawal. The third publicity will be from 9th day till the last day of campaign which is two days prior to the date of poll.

The timeline will help the voters in exercising their choices in a more informed manner. The Commission clarified that uncontested winner candidates as well as the political parties who nominate them shall also publicise the criminal antecedents, if any, as prescribed for other contesting candidates and political parties. The modified instructions will apply with immediate effect.

RIGHT TO INFORMATION (RTI) ACT



The Uttarakhand government issued a notification to declare the state Vigilance Department as an “intelligence organisation”, which in effect will exclude it from the purview of the Right to Information (RTI) Act.

About:

- The government issued the notification stating that the

Governor has given assent to declare “vigilance department” and “vigilance establishment” as “Intelligence Organisation.”

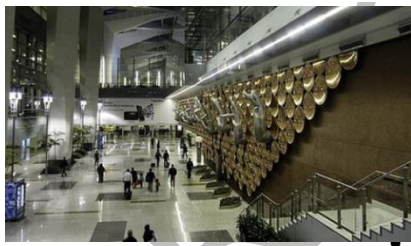


- By declaring Vigilance department and establishment as intelligence organisation, both are exempted from the RTI Act.
- The 2nd schedule of the RTI Act provides a list of 26 organisations that are exempted from providing information on grounds of being intelligence and security organisations.
- Section 24 of the Act states:
 - The Central government has the authority to amend the 2nd schedule from time to time, thereby adding, removing or substituting organisations present.
 - The state government has a similar authority and is authorised to exempt an intelligence and security organisation by issuing a notification in the official gazette. It states that both the Centre and state governments are “required to present the said notification before their respective legislatures”.

INDIA'S FIRST CORONAVIRUS AIRPORT TESTING FACILITY

India's first Corona virus airport testing facility has been launched at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport Limited (DIAL).

About:



The facility at the Terminal-3 of the airport offers a walk-in option and ensures a safe journey to all the passengers entering the city or scheduled for domestic connecting flights.

International passengers traveling without a valid COVID negative certificate can also book a slot in advance for testing at the Airport. The test results are available within four to six hours.

- The test is not mandatory for International passengers but they can opt for it to get exemption from the mandatory seven-day institutional quarantine, in case tested negative.

CHIEF COMPLIANCE OFFICER (CCO)

Reserve Bank of India has issued guidelines for appointment of Chief Compliance Officer (CCO) in banks to ensure uniform approach with regard to compliance and risk management culture across the banking industry.



About:

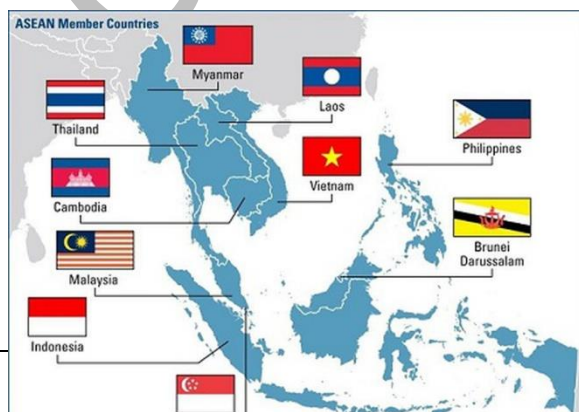
The CCO must be appointed for a minimum fixed period of three years.

The person should be a senior executive of the bank, preferably in the rank of a general manager or an equivalent position or he could also be recruited from outside.

- There shall not be any responsibility which brings elements of conflict of interest, especially the role relating to business.
- He must not be a member of any committee which brings his/her role in conflict with responsibility as member of the committee, including any committee dealing with purchases/sanctions.
- No vigilance case or adverse observation from the RBI should be pending against the candidate identified for appointment as the CCO.
- Selection of the candidate for the post of the CCO should be done on the basis of a well-defined selection process and recommendations made by the senior executive-level selection committee constituted by the board for the purpose.

ASEAN-INDIA PLAN OF ACTION (2021-2025)

External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar co-chaired the ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting along with his Thailand counterpart. The meeting saw the participation of Foreign Ministers of the ten ASEAN Member States and India.



About:

It reviewed the status of ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership in several areas including maritime cooperation, connectivity, education and capacity

building and people-to-people contacts.



- It also reviewed the progress in implementation of the ASEAN-India Plan of Action, 2016-2020.
- The new ASEAN-India Plan of Action (2021-2025) was adopted at the Meeting. The plan of action provides for deepening cooperation in an array of areas including trade, investment and people-to-people contact.

Important Info :

- The 10-nation Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is considered one of the most influential groupings in the region, and India and several other countries including the US, China, Japan and Australia are its dialogue partners.
- ASEAN member countries are Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar and Cambodia.

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