



5 September, 2024

Tenth Schedule of the Constitution

Context: H.P. Assembly passes Bill denying pension to legislators who defect

➤ Overview:

- The Himachal Pradesh Government passed the Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly (Allowances and Pension of Members) Amendment Bill, 2024, to deter legislators from switching parties by revoking pensions of those disqualified under the Tenth Schedule's anti-defection provisions.

➤ Schedules of the Indian Constitution

- Purpose: Outline allocation of powers, list of states and territories, and division of responsibilities.
- Number of Schedules: 12 (initially 8)
- Inspiration: Based on the schedules in the Government of India Act of 1935.

➤ The Tenth Schedule

- The Tenth Schedule, also known as the "Anti-Defection Act," was introduced by the **52nd Amendment Act of 1985**.
- Aims to prevent political defections and ensure stability in the legislature by regulating the disqualification of legislators on grounds of defection.

➤ Provisions of the Tenth Schedule

- **Disqualification Grounds:**
 - **Voluntary Resignation:** An elected member is disqualified if they voluntarily give up their membership of the party that elected them.
 - **Joining Another Party:** A member is disqualified if they join another political party after being elected as a member of one party.
 - **Split and Merger:** Provisions for disqualification are also outlined for scenarios involving party splits and mergers.
- **Exceptions:**
 - **Defection Due to Merger:** A member is not disqualified if their party merges with another party, provided they are a member of the new merged party.
 - **Speaker's Decision:** The Speaker of the House has the authority to make decisions on issues of disqualification based on the Tenth Schedule.

➤ Implementation

- **Authority:** The Speaker of the Lok Sabha or the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha is responsible for making decisions regarding disqualification under the Tenth Schedule.
- **Judicial Review:** Decisions made by the Speaker are subject to judicial review by the courts, though the judiciary generally refrains from intervening in the Speaker's decisions.

➤ Amendments to the Tenth Schedule

- **First Amendment (1985):** Introduced by the 52nd Amendment Act to address political defections and ensure legislative stability.
- **Ninety-First Amendment (2003):** Enhanced provisions of the Tenth Schedule and addressed loopholes to curb floor-crossing and improve stability.

➤ Supreme Court Rulings and Interpretations

- **Kihoto Hollohan v. Zachillhu (1992):** Upheld the Tenth Schedule's constitutionality, clarified the Speaker's role in defection cases, and acknowledged judicial review.
- **Rajendra Singh Rana v. Swami Prasad Maurya (2007):** Addressed disqualification issues, reaffirming the Speaker's authority in such matters.

Sand Mining

Context: Recently the Andhra Pradesh government has intensified its response against illegal sand mining.

➤ Overview:

- The Andhra Pradesh government introduced GO 43, which withdrew previous sand policies (New Sand Mining Policy 2019 and Upgraded Sand Policy 2021) and replaced them with an Interim Mechanism for Sand Supply until the Sand Policy 2024 is formulated.

➤ Sand Mining

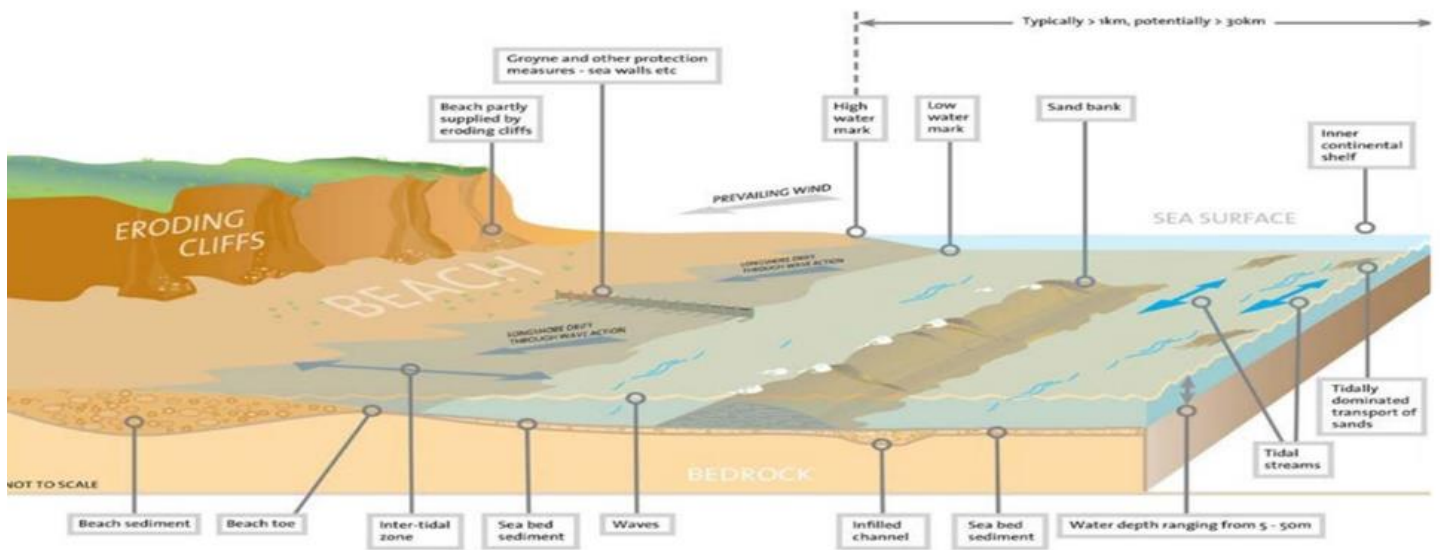
- Sand Mining involves the extraction of sand from riverbeds, beaches or ocean floors.
- It is a critical activity for several construction and industrial purposes.
- **Uses of Sand:**
 - **Construction:** Sand is a fundamental component of concrete, mortar, and asphalt. It is used in building roads, bridges, and buildings.
 - **Glass Manufacturing:** High-quality sand is used to produce glass.
 - **Land Reclamation:** Sand is employed in creating new land from bodies of water.
 - **Coastal Protection:** Sand replenishment is used to combat coastal erosion.

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➤ Methods of Sand Mining

- **Riverbed Mining:** Extracts sand from riverbeds and floodplains, causing riverbank erosion and disruption of river ecosystems.
- **Beach Mining:** Involves sand extraction from beaches, leading to beach erosion and threats to coastal communities and ecosystems.
- **Dredging:** Removes sand from the seabed or ocean floor using dredgers, affecting marine environments, often used for large-scale projects.
- **In-Stream Mining:** Extracts sand directly from river channels, disrupting natural river flow and harming aquatic life.

➤ Illegal Sand Mining:

- Illegal sand mining occurs when extraction activities are carried out without legal permits or outside regulated areas. It often involves:
 - **Over-extraction:** Taking more sand than is sustainable, leading to environmental degradation.
 - **Unauthorized Areas:** Mining in protected or restricted zones.
 - **Lack of Regulation:** Absence of proper oversight and adherence to environmental laws.

➤ Reasons for Illegal Sand Mining:

- **High Demand:** Rapid urbanization and infrastructure development create intense demand for sand.
- **Economic Incentives:** Profitable black market sales lure operators to bypass regulations.
- **Weak Enforcement:** Insufficient monitoring and enforcement of existing regulations.

➤ Regulation and Control of Sand Mining

- **Licensing and Permitting:** Requires sand mining operations to obtain licenses or permits, including environmental impact assessments.

- **Zoning and Land Use Planning:** Designates specific areas for sand extraction and excludes sensitive habitats to reduce environmental impact.
- **Environmental Laws:** Enforces laws to protect natural resources, water quality, and ecosystems from the adverse effects of sand mining.
- **Monitoring and Enforcement:** Conducts regular monitoring and inspections to ensure compliance with sand mining regulations.

➤ Regulation of Sand Mining in India

• Legal Framework:

- Sand is a minor mineral under Section 3(e) of the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act).
- Section 15 of the MMDR Act permits State Governments to regulate quarry and mining leases for minor minerals.

• State Government Authority:

- Regulation of minor minerals, including sand, falls under State Governments' jurisdiction.
- Section 23C of the MMDR Act allows States to create rules to prevent illegal mining, transportation, and storage.

• National Frameworks:

- The Ministry of Mines developed the 'Sand Mining Framework' with State Mining Departments, focusing on sustainability and transparency.
- This framework is circulated to State Governments for implementation.

• Sustainable Guidelines:

- The Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change issued Sustainable Sand Mining Management Guidelines, 2016, to address sand mining regulation issues.





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India - Bhutan relations

Context: Bhutan against appointment of new Indian Advisers

Overview:

- Bhutan has expressed its desire to assert greater independence by signaling that it will not encourage the appointment of new Indian administrative Advisers. While it is not requesting the immediate withdrawal of current Advisers, it prefers no replacements once their terms end.



Strategic Significance of Bhutan for India

- National Security and Geostrategy**
 - Bhutan's location, bordering both China and India, is pivotal for India's national security and strategic interests in the region.
- Economic and Energy Resources**
 - Bhutan's vast **hydropower resources** are crucial for fulfilling India's energy demands and enhancing economic cooperation between the two nations.
- Environmental and Ecological Collaboration**
 - The shared Himalayan ecosystem fosters cooperation on environmental conservation, disaster management, and climate change adaptation.
- Regional Cooperation and Integration**
 - Bhutan's participation is significant in regional integration efforts through **SAARC** and **BIMSTEC**, contributing to broader regional stability and collaboration.

Cooperation Between India and Bhutan

- Diplomatic Relations:**
 - Governed by the **Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation**, first signed in **1949** and **renewed in 2007**.

Trade and Economic Ties:

- India is Bhutan's largest trade partner and source of FDI, **India providing 50% of Bhutan's total FDI**.
- The Trade, Commerce, and Transit Agreement (2016)** establishes a free trade regime.

Development Partnership:

- Bhutan is the **largest recipient of Indian external aid for 2023-24**.
- India supports Bhutan's ambition to become a 'high-income' nation by 2034 and promotes 'Brand Bhutan.'

Hydropower Projects:

- India has developed four major hydroelectric projects in Bhutan: Kurichhu, Tala, Chukha, and Mangdechhu, with Mangdechhu handed over in 2022.

Cultural and Security Relations:

- Shared Buddhist heritage strengthens cultural ties.
- The India-Bhutan Foundation fosters people-to-people exchanges.
- Indian Military Training Team (MTRAT) aids Bhutan's Royal Army, and India's Border Road Organisation (BRO) builds roads under Project 'DANTAK.'

New Initiatives:

- Collaborations include RuPay and BHIM apps, the India-Bhutan SAT satellite, and addressing STEM teacher shortages.
- India gifted 5.5 lakh Covishield vaccine doses through the Vaccine Maitri Initiative.

Challenges in India-Bhutan Relations

- Hydropower Issues
- e.g., Punatsangchhu I & II
- Militant Hideouts
- Bhutan has paused the Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal (BBIN) Motor Vehicle Initiative
- Financial Burden: Transition from a 60:40 grant-loan model to a 30:70 model has increased Bhutan's financial burden.
- Chinese Influence: Bhutan's border disputes with China, such as over Doklam, pose security concerns for India.

India-Bhutan-China Dynamics

China's Growing Influence

- China accounts for over 25% of Bhutan's trade and is involved in major infrastructure projects and telecom expansion.
- Territorial claims by China include Jakarlung, Pasamlung, and the Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary.

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- **Political Maneuvering**
 - Bhutan's Foreign Minister's visit to China in October 2023 and the subsequent boundary agreement indicate a shift towards normalizing relations with China.
- **Implications for India**
 - Increased Chinese influence in Bhutan could threaten India's security interests, especially concerning the Doklam tri-junction.
 - The rising Chinese presence may alter the regional geopolitical balance, impacting India's traditional influence in Bhutan.

NEWS IN BETWEEN THE LINES

Centralised Pension Payment System



Recently, the Union Labour Ministry has cleared a proposal for Centralised Pension Payment System (CPPS) for about 78 lakh pensioners.

About Centralised Pension Payment System:

- The Centralised Pension Payment System (CPPS) is a **new system for disbursing pensions to employees** under the **Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995**.
- It will allow pensioners to **receive their pensions from any bank or branch** in India and is expected to benefit over 78 lakh people.
- It will also help the **Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)** transition to an **Aadhaar-based payment system (ABPS)**.
- This system offers several benefits, including the **elimination of branch visits** for pension verification and **immediate credit of pensions after release, reduced disbursement costs**.

FAME India Scheme



Recently, the Centre is expected to finalize the third phase of the FAME India Scheme within a month or two.

About the FAME India Scheme:

- The Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid and) Electric Vehicles in India (FAME India) Scheme was **launched in 2011 under the National Mission on Electric Mobility and the National Electric Mobility Mission Plan 2020**.
- Its **aim is to promote the adoption of electric and hybrid vehicles** in India.
- The **Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI)** formulated the FAME India scheme in **2015**.
- **Phase I** of the FAME India Scheme, which **started in 2015** and operated until **31st March 2019**, focused on demand creation, technology platforms, pilot projects, and charging infrastructure.
- **Phase II**, which began in **April 2019** and has been extended to **31st March 2024**, emphasizes the electrification of public and shared transportation.
- **Phase I was allocated ₹895 crores**, while **Phase II has a budget of ₹10,000 crores**.
- **Phase III will replace the temporary Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme (EMPS) 2024, which expires in September**.
- The goal is to convert **30% of total transportation to electric vehicles by 2030**.
- The scheme is **implemented and monitored by the National Automotive Board under the Department of Heavy Industry** and it operates as a **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) in-kind scheme**.

Haryana Green Manifesto 2024



Recently, environmentalists and civil society members in Haryana released a 'Haryana Green Manifesto 2024' addressing urgent issues such as air pollution, waste management, groundwater depletion and the protection of the Aravallis.

About Haryana Green Manifesto 2024:


- The 'Haryana Green Manifesto 2024' is a **first-of-its-kind initiative** created by environmentalists, ecologists and civil society members in Haryana to address critical environmental issues in the state.
- The manifesto **aims to have these environmental concerns and demands** included in the manifestos of political parties contesting the upcoming Haryana Assembly elections.
- The central demand of the manifesto is the legal designation of the **Aravallis as Critical Ecological Zones (CEZs)** to ensure the protection and conservation of the essential ecosystem services they provide.
- Haryana is home to **eight of the 50 most polluted places in the world**.
- The state faces significant challenges with **unsegregated waste being dumped**.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a growing concern over the depletion and pollution of groundwater aquifers, which are vital for the state's water supply. Haryana has the lowest forest cover in India, with only 3.6%, significantly below the national average of 21%, contributing to ecological imbalance.
<p>Personality in News</p> <p>Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan</p>  <p><i>Remembering a TRUE LEGEND</i></p> <p>5th September, the birthday of Dr. S. Radhakrishnan is observed as Teacher's Day as a mark of tribute to his great contribution for the Nation.</p>	<p>Today, the President of India will confer National Awards to 82 teachers at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi on the birth anniversary of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan.</p> <p>Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan (5 September 1888- 17 April 1975): Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, an educationist and former President was born as Sarvepalli Radhakrishnaya in the erstwhile Madras Presidency (now in Tiruvallur district of Tamil Nadu).</p> <p>Contributions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> He served as India's ambassador to UNESCO and later to the Soviet Union, where he represented India's interests on the global stage. In 1952, he became the first Vice President of India and in 1962, he assumed the role of the second President of India, serving until 1967. Some of his major works include Indian Philosophy (1923–1927), The Philosophy of the Upanishads (1924), An Idealist View of Life (1932) and Eastern and Western Thought (1939). <p>Awards and Honours:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Radhakrishnan was awarded the Bharat Ratna in 1954 for his contributions to education, philosophy and politics. He was the first individual to receive the Sahitya Akademi Fellowship, by the Sahitya Akademi. He also received the prestigious Templeton Prize for his efforts in advocating non-violence and for his teachings on love, wisdom and the reality of God. He was also honored with other notable awards, including the Peace Prize of the German Book Trade and the British Order of Merit.

POINTS TO PONDER

- Which state in India is hosting a two-day Global Artificial Intelligence Summit-2024-themed "Making AI Work for Everyone" today and tomorrow (5th-6th September 2024)? – **Hyderabad**
- Recently, the 3rd edition of the Joint Defence Cooperation Committee (JDCC) meeting between India and which country was held in New Delhi? – **Kenya**
- Recently, the Indian Navy's P8I Poseidon aircraft is on its first-ever deployment in Europe to participate in which exercise in 2024? – **Exercise Varuna**
- VISHANU YUDDH ABHYAS is a mock drill focused on which aspect of preparedness, conducted under the National One Health Mission (NOHM)? – **Pandemic Preparedness**
- Recently, the cabinet approved a proposal for the procurement of 240 aeroengines (AL-31FP) for which aircraft under the Buy (Indian) category? – **Su-30 MKI**

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