NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

Along with the gradual destruction of the Aravali ranges, the mighty Thar desert in western Rajasthan is expanding fast because of migration of people, changes in the rainfall pattern, spread of sand dunes and unscientific plantation drives. The degradation of land is posing a threat to the desert ecology, while the climate change has contributed to the spread of arid region. With these findings, a study on desertification of Thar region conducted by the Central University of Rajasthan has predicted that the sandstorms from the desert will travel as far as the National Capital Region (NCR) in the years to come. The sandstorms will become intense with the erosion of Aravali hills, which act as a 'natural green wall' between the desert and the plains.

Heavy rains across Karnataka during October and November this year have affected the winter migration of birds that otherwise used to flock in large numbers and roost in the water bodies of the State before flying out again during the onset of summer. The rains during the two months were the highest in the last 50 years and helped fill up the reservoirs and water bodies. But not all species of birds prefer a habitat replete with water except those that tend to swim or dabble like ducks.

India and Central Asian nations share a "broad regional consensus" on Afghanistan, said a regional conference of Foreign Ministers in Delhi on Sunday that proposed the use of the India run terminal at the Chabahar port in Iran as a route for trade. A joint statement issued at the end of deliberations at the third India-Central Asia dialogue, hosted by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar for the Foreign Ministers of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, said it was important to provide "immediate" humanitarian aid for Afghans.

The Sri Lankan Navy seized eight Indian fishing vessels and arrested 55 fishermen on the charge of poaching. The Sri Lankan government agencies said a fast attack craft of the 4th Fast Attack Craft Flotilla attached to the Northern Naval Command took hold of six trawlers and arrested 43 fishermen, hailing from Rameswaram in Tamil Nadu, south-east of Delft Island, Jaffna, in the

INDIA`S DATA PROTECTION BILL

1.Nearly two years after it was constituted on 11 December 2019, the Joint Committee on the Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019, headed by Member of Parliament P.P. Chaudhary, has presented its final report on the upcoming bill in both Houses of Parliament on 16 December.

2.Key recommendations: Remove the word 'personal' from the existing title of 'Personal Data Protection Bill'. This is intended to reflect that the bill, in order to better ensure privacy, will also be dealing with non-personal data, such as personal data that has been anonymised. Amend the section restricting the transfer of personal data outside India to say "sensitive personal data shall not be shared with any foreign government or agency unless such sharing is approved by the central government. No social media platform be allowed to operate in India unless its parent company, which controls the technology powering its services, sets up an office in the country. It proposes a separate regulatory body to be set up to regulate the media. Jail term of up to 3 years, fine of Rs 2 lakh or both if de-identified data is re-identified by any person. The word 'personal' ought to be dropped from the name of the Bill. Central government may exempt any government agency from the legislation only under exceptional circumstances.

3.Recommendations compare with EU regulation-**The JCP recommendations on the Personal Data Protection Bill are in some aspects very similar to global standards such as European Union's General Data Protection Regulation.** Similarities: Consent: Users must have informed consent about the way their data is processed so that they can opt in or out. Breach: Authorities must be notified of a breach within 72 hours of the leak. Transition period: Two-year transition period for provisions of GDPR to be put in place. Data fiduciary: Under EU law, a Data fiduciary is any natural or legal person, public authority, agency or body that determines purpose and means of data processing. In India, it also includes NGOs.

4.The committee has recommended the formation of a Data Protection Authority (DPA): The Data Protection Authority (DPA) will be dealing with privacy and personal data as well as non-personal data. Composition of DPA: The Chairperson and the members of the DPA shall be appointed by the Union government based on the recommendation of a selection committee chaired by the Cabinet Secretary. Other members of the committee would be the Attorney General of India, the IT and law secretaries. Nominated members: An independent expert and a director each from the IIT and the IIM will be nominated by the Centre.

AMAZON-FUTURE DEAL

1.The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has frozen its approval given in November 2019 to Amazon's investment in a Future Group unit on the grounds that the U.S. e-commerce company had suppressed the scope and full details of its investment while seeking regulatory approval. It has also slapped multiple fines on Amazon. Implications: The CCI decision further roils the legal landscape as Amazon seeks to block the Future Group's 2020 decision to sell its retail assets to Reliance Industries.

2.Issue-**(Note: just have a brief overview of the case. No details are necessary about the case from the exam's perspective).** Future Group and Reliance Industries Limited had signed a Rs 24,713-crore deal in August 2020 for Future Retail to sell its retail, wholesale, logistics and warehousing units to Reliance Retail and Fashionstyle. Amazon is Future Group's Indian partner. Amazon says Future violated a partnership contract with the asset sale to its rival and wants to scuttle it, while the indebted Indian group says it would collapse if the transaction fails.

3.Why did Amazon approach SIAC? The parties in a deal usually sign a contractual agreement which specifies about: The arbitral institution administering the arbitration. The applicable rules. The seat of arbitration. In this case Amazon and Future Group have under their agreement agreed to refer their disputes

early hours. The operation was in compliance with the COVID19 protocol.

The Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021, which seeks to link electoral rolls to Aadhaar, has been listed for introduction in the Lok Sabha on Monday. The Bill allows electoral registration offi• cers to ask for the Aadhaar of applicants for registration as voters so as to establish their identity.

Data recorded in the Poshan (Nutrition) Tracker have not been made public in the interest of privacy of women and children, the government told Parliament last week. "The data that we deal with within the Poshan Tracker, to maintain the privacy of women and children in our country, especially the minor children whose data should not be publicly made available. It is to honour the privacy of women and children who are serviced by the Government of India in collaboration with State Governments across the anganwadi systems in the country," Smriti Irani, Minister for Women and Child Development, told the Lok Sabha.

The herd of 22 wild elephants that has been in Kanker, Balod, Gariaband,and Dhamtari districts of Chhattisgarh for the last nine years, has successfully surmounted the last natural barrier to settle down in its new habitat in Gadchiroli district of Maharashtra. Conservationists say the habitat is ideal for elephants but express concern on possible human-elephant conflict during tendu leaf collection and in case of crop damage.

The Central Information Commission (CIC) has dismissed an appeal seeking disclosure of reports submitted by the State Bank of India to the Centre and the Reserve Bank of India regarding sale and encashment of electoral bonds in 2018 which are withheld by the SBI on grounds of personal information held in fiduciary capacity. Nearly three years after an appeal was filed with the CIC, the highest adjudicator of RTI matters, Information Commissioner Suresh Chandra noted that there appears to be "no public interest" in further prolonging the matter as there is no substance in the appeal calling for intervention by the Commission.

A new initiative will now help mothers identify "breastfeeding - friendly" hospitals before they give birth. The Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India (BPNI), in collaboration with the Association of Healthcare Providers of India (AHPI), which comprises more than 12,000 private hospitals, has launched an accreditation programme that will

to SIAC, with Singapore presumably being the contractual choice for the seat/place of arbitration.

4. How is the dispute taken up at the SIAC? What is the procedure to be followed? Once a dispute is referred to arbitration, the process of appointment of the arbitral tribunal takes place. Composition: Typically, in case of a three member tribunal, both the parties appoint one member each to the tribunal, while the third member is jointly appointed by the two nominees or, if they fail to agree, by SIAC.

5. Appointment of an Emergency Arbitrator: Appointment of the arbitral tribunal usually takes time. Therefore, under the rules of SIAC, parties can move SIAC to appoint an emergency arbitrator to get urgent interim relief, even as the process of appointment of the main arbitral tribunal is underway.

6. What happens when the parties don't comply with the order voluntarily? Currently under Indian law, there is no express mechanism for enforcement of the orders of the Emergency Arbitrator. But, the parties voluntarily comply with the Emergency Award. However, if the parties don't comply with the order voluntarily, then the party which has won the emergency award, in this case Amazon, can move the High Court in India under Section 9 of the Arbitration & Conciliation Act, 1996, to get similar reliefs as granted by the Emergency Arbitrator.

7. Why has Singapore become the hub of international arbitration? Foreign investors investing in India typically want to avoid the rigmarole of the Indian courts. Foreign investors feel that Singapore is neutral ground for dispute resolution. Singapore itself over time has built a stellar reputation as jurisdiction driven by rule of law with international standards and high integrity. This gives comfort to investors that the arbitration process will be quick, fair and just". According to the 2019 annual report of SIAC, India was the top user of its arbitration seat with 485 cases being referred to SIAC, followed by Philippines at 122, China at 76 and the United States at 65.

8. Does India has any international arbitration centre? **Yes. India now has its own international arbitration centre in Mumbai. About Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC): It is a not-for-profit international arbitration organisation based in Singapore,** which administers arbitrations under its own rules of arbitration and the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) Arbitration Rules.

PEGASUS SNOOPING CASE

1. The Supreme Court has stayed further proceedings of a Commission of Inquiry appointed by the West Bengal Government to look into allegations of snooping using the Pegasus software.

2. Issue- The continued use of spyware Pegasus, which an Israeli company sells to governments worldwide, has been confirmed with fresh reports. Like the phones it targets, Pegasus has been apparently updated and now comes with new surveillance capabilities.

3. Pegasus- It is a spyware tool developed by an Israeli firm, the NSO Group. Spyware spy on people through their phones. Pegasus works by sending an exploit link, and if the target user clicks on the link, the malware or the code that allows the surveillance is installed on the user's phone. Once Pegasus is installed, the attacker has complete access to the target user's phone.

4. Pegasus can "send back the target's private data, including passwords, contact lists, calendar events, text messages, and live voice calls from popular mobile messaging apps". The target's phone camera and microphone can be turned on to capture all activity in the phone's vicinity, expanding the scope of the surveillance.

5. Zero-click attack- A zero-click attack helps spyware like Pegasus gain control over a device without human interaction or human error. So all awareness about how to avoid a phishing attack or which links not to click are pointless if the target is the system itself. Most of these attacks exploit software which receive data even before it can determine whether what is coming in is trustworthy or not, like an email client.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MALWARE, TROJAN, VIRUS AND WORM

1. Malware is defined as a software designed to perform an unwanted illegal act via the computer network. It could be also defined as software with malicious intent. Malware can be

enable hospitals to get a "breastfeeding friendly" tag. This programme is called "Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI)". The initiative is only for private hospitals and is based on the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's MAA programme for government hospitals launched in 2016.

Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu urged all stakeholders, including the private sector, to supplement the government's efforts in the field of adult education and skills training. Stressing the need to make every adult literate, he called for focus on digital and financial literacy among the people.

Newly obtained Pentagon documents show that the U.S. airstrikes in West Asia have been marked by "deeply flawed intelligence" and resulted in thousands of civilian deaths, including many children, the New York Times reported on Saturday. It said the trove of confidential documents covering more than 1,300 reports of civilian casualties undercuts the government's portrayal of a war fought with precision bombs.

classified based on how they get executed, how they spread, and/or what they do. Some of them are discussed below.

2.Virus: A program that can infect other programs by modifying them to include a possible evolved copy of itself. Worms: Disseminated through computer networks, unlike viruses, computer worms are malicious programs that copy themselves from system to system, rather than infiltrating legitimate files.

3.Trojans: Trojan or trojan horse is a program that generally impairs the security of a system. Trojans are used to create back-doors (a program that allows outside access into a secure network) on computers belonging to a secure network so that a hacker can have access to the secure network.

4.Hoax: An e-mail that warns the user of a certain system that is harming the computer. The message thereafter instructs the user to run a procedure (most often in the form of a download) to correct the harming system. When this program is run, it invades the system and deletes an important file.

5.Spyware: Invades a computer and, as its name implies, monitors a user's activities without consent. Spywares are usually forwarded through unsuspecting e-mails with bonafide e-mail i.ds. Spyware continues to infect millions of computers globally.