

# DATA LOCALIZATION

## Advantages

In today's time, data is considered to be the new oil, and this makes it very valuable. If the data is analyzed accurately, then it can form the backbone for any successful business.

Governments looking to implement data localization might be seeking to give their local corporations a competitive edge. The national government can prevent the flow of data to external countries and thus, this data can be made available for the internal use by the domestic companies only. The informational asymmetry caused will prove to be beneficial for local companies.

Data is a national resource, and thus the government holds a right on the revenue that is generated from the data. Similar to the inflow and outflow taxation of goods and services, the movement of data can also undergo taxation.

## Disadvantages

Foundation of the Internet lies with the free movement of data. In case the free flow of data is affected by imposing taxes or extreme protectionism, this will eventually destroy the Internet.

Most companies prefer using the Internet as a medium to reach their customers because it is cheaper and free of excessive regulation. When robust data localization and protection laws are implemented, then there is a high possibility that the Internet may face an abrupt end leading to its 'death'.

Another disadvantage that data localization holds is the security problem that is associated with the storage of data at a single location. The concept of storing data in a single geographical region is entirely opposite to the diversification approach followed by the MNCs.

Also, the citizens of the country are not willing to allow the government to spy on their data. If all the data is stored within the geographical boundaries, then the government can collate all this data and even invade an individual's privacy, if needed.

## Way forward

Data Privacy will require a balancing act between personal liberty and sovereign securities such as prevention and investigation of crime and National security threats.

Another legitimate concern of the State that needs to be balanced with the Right to Privacy, recognized in Puttaswamy, is social welfare measures.

The illegitimate commercial gains being enjoyed by enterprises at the cost of privacy of individuals are also likely to vanish due to data localization.

But Data protection is a complex exercise, and the law will need amendments from time to time depending on the problems that crop up. Thus it must be brought into the Statute book expeditiously.

## Introduction

Data localization refers to the act of storing data on any physical device that may be present within the territorial borders of a country where the data has been generated.

Some governments often restrict free-flowing data and the data that could impact government operations in a region. Many governments attempt to protect and promote security across the borders to encourage data localization.

## Data Laws in India

As of now, there is only a single mandatory rule for data localization in India. This is governed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and is meant for payment systems. Besides this, other bill drafts are yet to take the form of a law.

The other prominent evidence present in this context is the Data Protection Bill of 2018. The bill itself has got a fixed set of requirements on the data transfer that takes place across the borders. The draft e-commerce policy has clauses on the cross-border transfer of data.

## Need

Will help law-enforcement access data for investigations and enforcement.

Proponents highlight security against foreign attacks and surveillance, harkening notions of data sovereignty.

Many domestic-born technology companies, which store most of their data exclusively in India, support localisation.

Reliance Jio has strongly argued that data regulation for privacy and security will have little teeth without localisation, calling upon models in China and Russia.

Instances of cyber attacks and surveillance will be checked.

Recently, many WhatsApp accounts were hacked by an Israeli software called Pegasus. Social media is being used to spread fake news, which has resulted in lynchings, national security threats, which can now be monitored, checked and prevented in time.

Data localisation will increase the ability of the Indian government to tax Internet giants. Strong data protection legislation will also help to enforce data sovereignty.

## Arguments against Electoral Bond

The bonds increase the anonymity of political donations, Citizens will not be able to know who is donating how much money to which political party.

Promoting corruption and lack of transparency in the accounts of all political parties.

The electoral bonds scheme has opened floodgates to unlimited corporate donations to political parties and anonymous financing by Indian as well as foreign companies which is a threat to Indian democracy.

## Concern

The Election Commission and the Reserve Bank of India objected to electoral bonds and had advised against the issuance of electoral bonds as a mode for donation to political parties.

It alleged that almost 99% of electoral bonds purchased are of value one crore and 10 lakh denominations which shows that it is not individual citizens but large corporations which are purchasing these bonds with a view to receiving kickbacks from the government.

The Election Commission of India filed an affidavit in 2019, saying the government's scheme for political funding has legalized anonymity.

Many major political parties have not disclosed the amount they received through electoral bonds.

As the bonds are sold through a public sector bank, the government would easily know who is funding which political party.

## Way forward

Intensive scrutiny: of election expenditure incurred by parties and candidates is needed in order to ensure detection of black money in the system.

Higher expenditure limit: In order to prevent parties from violating expenditure norms, the Election Commission should allow higher expenditure limit for candidates.

Simultaneous elections: This should be considered since a shorter campaign period will limit expenses incurred by parties.

State funding of elections: shall be explored for bringing all parties on a level playing field and to make private donations less relevant.

National Electoral Fund: as suggested by the former Chief Election Commissioner S.Y. Quraishi shall also be explored, to which all donors can contribute and the funds are distributed among the parties.

# ELECTORAL BOND

## Introduction

The Electoral bonds were introduced with the Finance Bill (2017). The Electoral Bond is a bearer instrument like a Promissory Note and an interest-free banking instrument.

A bearer instrument is a document that authorizes the holder with the right of ownership or title of the property, such as Currency, shares or bonds.

Unlike normally registered instruments, no record is kept about the owners of bearer instruments or the transfer of ownership. Whoever physically holds the bearer document is assumed to be the owner of the property.

Electoral bonds may be purchased by a person, who is a citizen of India or established in India.

Electoral bond would be issued/purchased for any value, in multiples of Rs 1,000 from the specified branches of the State Bank of India (SBI).

Political parties registered under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 and also secured a minimum of 1% of voters polled in the last general election to the House of the People or the Legislative Assembly of the State are eligible to receive electoral bonds.

Electoral Bonds can be encashed by an eligible political party only through their bank accounts with the authorized bank.

Electoral bonds protect the identity of political donors and parties receiving contributions.

## Who can receive electoral bonds?

Issued in multiple values of Rs 1,000, Rs 10,000, Rs 1 lakh, Rs 10 lakh and Rs 1 crore, these bonds can only be encashed by political parties, which had secured at least 1 percent of the votes polled in the most recent Lok Sabha or state election.

Money received from electoral bonds will be deposited in a bank account verified by the Election Commission. All the transactions for electoral bonds can be done only through that account.

## Arguments in favour of Electoral Bond

It promotes transparency in funding and donation received by political parties.

It is an important "electoral reform" toward a "cashless-digital economy".

It is a tool to eradicate black money in political funding.

# INDIA'S HEALTH DIPLOMACY AND PHARMA SECTOR

## India's Pharm Sector

- The pharmaceutical industry in India was valued at an estimated US\$42 billion in 2021.
- India is the world's third largest provider of generic medicines by volume, with a 20% share of total global pharmaceutical exports.
- It is also the largest vaccine supplier in the world by volume, accounting for more than 50% of all vaccines manufactured in the world.
- Major pharmaceutical hubs in India are: Vadodara, Ahmedabad, Ankleshwar, Vapi, Baddi, Sikkim, Kolkata, etc.

## Challenges

- Highly fragmented industry: The Indian pharma industry is highly fragmented. The market is overloaded with generic manufacturers.
- Out of Pocket (OoP) expenditure: It is limiting the access to medicines wherein, that Indian Insurance section does cater to patients in IP, and not in OP (Out Patient scenario), that causes quite a dent.
- Talent Pool: In India, the demand for these services has outstripped supply. There is a huge shortfall in 'Healthcare Manpower' of the country, right from Pharmacists, Nurses and Doctors and related.
- Lack in innovation: India is rich in its manpower and talent. The government needs to invest in research initiatives and talent to grow India's innovation.

## Reforms

- To foster an Atmanirbhar Bharat by enhancing the R&D, high-value production capabilities, import substitution and domestic manufacture of active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) the government has introduced a US\$2 billion incentive program which will run from 2021-22 to 2027-28.
- In 2019 the Department of Pharmaceuticals announced that as part of the Make in India initiative, drugs for local use and exports must have 75% and 10% local APIs respectively and a bill of material must be produced for verification.
- The Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for promotion of domestic manufacturing of critical Key Starting Materials (KSMs)/Drug Intermediates (DIs) and Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) in India.

## Way forward

- India needs user friendly government policy for the common man to establish small scale, raw material manufacturing units/ incubators in all states.
- The government and industry should facilitate the pharmacist community to become entrepreneurs and promote incubators' establishment.
- Raw material produced from small scale units should be properly validated in the testing laboratory of the state to ascertain their quality specifications.
- Small scale produces may be re-processed in another industry or via a chain of industry for quality products that can be used for parenteral / tailor-made formulations.

## Introduction

- The concept of Global Health (Vaccine) Diplomacy has emerged as a cornerstone for foreign policies of major countries during the Pandemic.
- With India as a pharmaceutical hub and ambitions for regional and global leadership, the GHD has emerged as an integral part of Indian foreign policy in general and in the form of the 'Neighborhood First' policy in particular.
- GHD holds some promise of enabling 'policy coherence' through the determinants of health and human security to ensure that health is seen as a global public good.

## Background

- In this context, scholars have witnessed GHD's role in the formulation of International Health Regulations (IHRs), 2005, Framework Convention of Tobacco Control, Universal Health Coverage (Sustainable Developmental Goals, UN Climate Change Conference 2019; UN, 2019 and most recently the COVAX Facility in 2020.
- Researchers have emphasized the critical role of GHD in promoting peace, improving health and well-being, strengthening global leadership and international cooperation, global coordination, negotiating for TRIPS waiver for COVID-19 vaccines, promoting vaccine equity and strengthening the bonds between nations.

## About India's Health Diplomacy

- In recent years, India has established itself as the world's 'pharmacy hub', and this claim was proven once again when it delivered COVID-19 vaccines to its citizens, neighbouring nations and across the globe.
- Following the philosophy of humanitarianism through the principle of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', India has decided to provide the COVID-19 health assistance to its immediate neighbouring countries.
- India always has prepared to help out the countries in emergencies such as tsunamis, floods, earthquakes, even pandemics/endemics and so on.

# LIVE STREAMING OF SC PROCEEDINGS

## Global Outreach

- In USA: The US Supreme Court has rejected appeals for broadcast of its proceedings, but since 1955 allowed audio recording of oral arguments.
- In Australia: Live or delayed broadcasting is allowed but the practices differ across courts.
- In Brazil: Since 2002, live video and audio broadcast of court proceedings is allowed.
- In Canada: Court Proceedings are broadcast live on Parliamentary Affairs Channel.
- In United Kingdom: Court Proceedings are broadcast live with a one-minute delay on the court's website, but coverage can be withdrawn in sensitive appeals.

## Significance

- Broadcasting court proceedings will ensure transparency and greater access to the justice system.
- Citizens have a right to know what arguments are made and the responses of the judges as their judgements bind us all.
- The principle "justice should not only be done but seen to be done".
- Live Streaming would empower, and provide access to citizens who cannot personally come to court due to social, economic, health, or physical disability-related limitations.

## Concerns

- The individuality of judges is more likely to become a subject of public debate through live-streaming, creating problems of its own.
- Lawyers aspiring to publicize themselves through their addresses to the Bench.
- It will affect the normalcy of the proceedings.
- Video clips of court proceedings are already on social media platforms with sensational titles and little context, such as "HIGH COURT super angry on IAS/IPS officer".

## Way Forward

- Live streaming is neither required in all types of matters nor in all courts.
- Live streaming or videography could be avoided in the matters which have a privacy dimension, such as family matters or criminal matters.
- Any Kind of Misuse of court proceedings video must be dealt with strict law and also need to formulate guidelines to promote the positive impact while curbing the negative one.

## Introduction

The Supreme Court of India has decided to live stream its proceedings in important Constitution Bench cases.

## Background

In 2018, a Supreme Court bench had agreed to hear a PIL (Public Interest Litigation) aspiring live streaming of judicial proceedings on important matters of constitutional and national importance.

## Present Status

- The Supreme Court approved a set of guidelines and also did not allow live streaming in the cases involving: Matrimonial matters. Matters involving juveniles or the protection and safety of the private life of young offenders. Matters of National security.
- It may provide for face distortion of the witness if she/he consents to the broadcast anonymously.
- To protect confidential or sensitive information, including all matters relating to sexual assault and rape.
- Cases which may provoke sentiments and arouse passion and provoke enmity among communities.
- Currently, the Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, and Patna High Courts live stream their proceedings.

# NOBEL PRIZE

## Awarded by

- After Nobel's death, the Nobel Foundation was set up to carry out the provisions of his will and to administer his funds.
- In his will, he had stipulated that four different institutions – three Swedish and one Norwegian – should award the prizes.
- From Stockholm, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences confers the prizes for physics, chemistry, and economics, the Karolinska Institute confers the prize for physiology or medicine, and the Swedish Academy confers the prize for literature.
- The Norwegian Nobel Committee based in Oslo confers the prize for peace.
- Each Nobel Prize consists of a gold medal, a diploma bearing a citation, and a sum of money, the amount of which depends on the income of the Nobel Foundation.
- Along with enormous prestige, the prize comes with a 10-million krona (\$1.1 million) cash award and a gold medal to be handed out at a ceremony in Oslo, Norway, on December 10, the anniversary of prize founder Alfred Nobel's death.

## About

- Nobel Prizes are awarded annually from a fund bequeathed for that purpose by the Swedish inventor and industrialist Alfred Nobel.
- In the will he drafted in 1895, Nobel instructed that most of his fortune be set aside as a fund for the awarding of five annual prizes "to those who, during the preceding year, shall have conferred the greatest benefit on mankind." (Physics, Chemistry, Medicine, Literature, and Peace).
- The first distribution of the prizes took place on December 10, 1901, the fifth anniversary of Nobel's death.
- An additional award, the SverigesRiksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel, was established in 1968 by the Bank of Sweden and was first awarded in 1969.

## Peace

The Nobel Peace Prize for 2022 has been awarded to human rights advocate Ales Bialiatski from Belarus, the Russian human rights organisation Memorial, and the Ukrainian human rights organisation Center for Civil Liberties, the Norwegian Nobel Committee announced.

## Literature

- The Nobel Prize for Literature 2022 has gone to French author Annie Ernaux, for, according to the Swedish Academy, "the courage and clinical acuity with which she uncovers the roots, estrangements and collective restraints of personal memory".
- Ernaux, 82, has seen a sharp increase in popularity in the English-speaking world since 2019, after her seminal work 'The Years', translated by Alison L Strayer, was shortlisted for the Man Booker international prize.
- Her book on her illegal abortion in the 1960s, 'Happening' (first published in 2001) has also been in the limelight after abortion rights were curtailed in the US.

## Chemistry

- This year's Nobel Prize in Chemistry has gone to three scientists who, through their work, have made a strong case for adopting an alternative approach to producing new complex molecules in the laboratory or industry, which minimises waste and increases overall efficiency.
- 'Click Chemistry' demonstrates its vast potential in the pharmaceutical and other industries.

## Physics

- The Nobel Prize for Physics 2022 is being shared by three scientists, Alain Aspect, John F Clauser and Anton Zeilinger, for their work on quantum mechanics.
- The three conducted a series of experiments on something called entangled quantum states, where two separate particles behave like a single unit. Their pathbreaking results will have implications in the fields of quantum computers, quantum networks and secure quantum encrypted communication. Put simply, quantum computers use quantum mechanics to solve problems too complex for regular computers.

## Physiology

- Swedish scientist Svante Paabo won the 2022 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for discoveries "concerning the genomes of extinct hominins and human evolution.
- The winner has been credited with transforming the study of human origins after developing approaches to allow for the examination of DNA sequences from archaeological and paleontological remains.

# PLASTIC WASTE IN INDIA

## Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016

- It aims to increase minimum thickness of plastic carry bags from 40 to 50 microns.
- Expand the jurisdiction of applicability from the municipal area to rural areas, because plastic has reached rural areas also.
- Extended Producer Responsibility: To bring in the responsibilities of producers and generators, both in plastic waste management system and to introduce collect back system of plastic waste by the producers/brand owners, as per extended producers responsibility
- Introduced collection of plastic waste management fee through pre-registration of the producers, importers of plastic carry bags/multilayered packaging and vendors selling the same for establishing the waste management system
- Promote use of plastic waste for road construction as per Indian Road Congress guidelines or energy recovery, or waste to oil etc. for gainful utilization of waste and also address the waste disposal issue.

## Government steps

- India has pledged to ban all single-use plastics by 2022.
- All offices of central and state governments and major PSUs have been told to prohibit single-use plastic products.
- India has banned imports of solid plastic waste.
- India has passed the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 and introduced the Extended Producer Responsibility.

## Way forward

- The 3R's +E Strategy:
- Reduce:** To efficiently reduce plastic pollution, there is an evident need of reducing our usage of plastic.
  - Reuse:** Many plastic items can be reused or used for different purposes. Before throwing plastic items, it is important to consider how they can be reused.
  - Recycle:** Plastic recycling consists of collecting plastic waste and reprocessing it into new products, to reduce the amount of plastic in the waste stream.
- Educate: Another crucial solution is education in order to increase awareness and behavioral change.

## Context

- Around 3.46 million tonnes per annum (TPA) of plastic wastes were generated during 2019-20, Ashwini Kumar Choubey, minister of state in the ministry of environment, forest and climate change, told the Lok Sabha.
- Approximately 1.58 million TPA of the plastic waste was recycled and 0.16 million TPA was co-processed in cement kilns, he added.
- The minister was referring to the annual report by the central pollution control board for 2019-20.
- Recently, representatives from 175 countries at fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5.2) agreed to end plastic pollution and formulate an internationally binding treaty by 2024.

## Causes

- As plastic is less expensive, it is one of the most widely available and overused items in the world today.
- Rapid urbanization and population growth increase the demand of cheap plastics.
- Since it is an affordable and durable material, it is utilized in every other way possible, from packaging materials to plastic bottles and containers, straws to plastic carry bags.
- Plastic takes 400 years and even more to Decompose. The decomposition rate of plastic typically ranges from 500 to 600 years, depending on the type.
- Burning plastic is incredibly toxic and can lead to harmful atmospheric conditions and deadly illnesses.

## Impacts

- Plastic-contaminated seafood: Scientists have found micro plastics in 114 marine species, and around one-third of these end up on our plates.
- Upsets the Food Chain: Because it comes in sizes large and small, polluting plastics even affect the world's tiniest organisms, such as plankton.
- Economic impacts: Plastic pollution costs \$13 billion in economic damage to marine ecosystems per year. This includes losses to the fishing industry and tourism, as well as the cost to clean up beaches.
- Marine life: The most visible and disturbing impacts of marine plastics are the ingestion, suffocation and entanglement of hundreds of marine species.
- Air Pollution: Burning of plastic in the open air leads to environmental pollution due to the release of poisonous chemicals.

# PM KUSUM

## Challenges

Regulation: Very few federal states have started bidding or commissioning projects for solar feed-ins or grid-connected pumps.

Operational and technical: Discoms are more utility than distributed PV (under the program) because of the higher cost of distributed PV and the loss of location benefits due to the exemption from interstate transmission system (ISTS) fees.

Financially: The current barriers to their introduction are concerns about their economic feasibility in the face of high agricultural subsidies, supplying excess electricity when selling water or irrigating additional land.

Lack of Credit: In addition, many unsecured farmers do not have access to bank credit.

Lack of trust: The grid connection model requires the pump to be measured and billed for billing, but lacks trust between the farmer and the nightclub.

## Way Forward

Extending the Scheme: Extending PM KUSUM's schedule to 2022 and beyond will allow DISCOM to coordinate this scheme with its electricity procurement plan.

Create a fair competition for distributed solar systems: To counter the prejudice against distributed solar energy, address substation counterparty risk and grid failure risk, and standardize pricing to reflect the higher costs of distributed power plants and solar system ISTS.

Optimize land management: Optimize land management through coordination between departments. This helps reduce delays in leasing or converting farmland for non-agricultural purposes such as solar power.

Innovative solution: The government should innovative solutions to fund the contributions of farmers. Government need out-of-the-box solutions, such as the Karnataka pilot project, a special vehicle for farmers to help farmers install solar power plants on their farms.

Intelligent solution: Build trust by deploying solutions such as smart meters and smart transformers and working with farmers.

## About the scheme

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has launched the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthan Mahabhayan (PM KUSUM) Scheme for the installation of solar pumps and grid-connected solar and other renewable power plants in the country.

The scheme aims to add solar and other renewable capacities of 25,750 MW by 2022 with a total central financial support of Rs. 34,422 Crore including service charges to the implementing agencies.

## Component

Component A: 10,000 MW of Decentralized Ground Mounted Grid Connected Renewable Power Plants of individual plant size up to 2 MW.

Component B: Installation of 17.50 lakh standalone Solar Powered Agriculture Pumps of individual pump capacity up to 7.5 HP.

Component C: Solarisation of 10 Lakh Grid-connected Agriculture Pumps of individual pump capacity up to 7.5 HP.

## Significance

Increase in income: This program provides landowners with a stable and continuous source of income for 25 years by using dry /non-cultivable land.

Employment: It will also help increase green energy production and create jobs in rural areas, later enabling the government sector to solarize pipe wells and pump water irrigation projects.

Cost reduction: Solar pumps save diesel costs for operating diesel pumps and provide farmers with a reliable source of irrigation through solar pumps.

Environmentally Friendly: This program helps prevent harmful pollution from the operation of diesel pumps.

Achieve national goals: This supports India's commitment to increase the percentage of installed electricity capacity from non-fossil fuels to 40% by 2030.

# THEATRE COMMANDS

## Advantages of the system

- The theatre command system is intended to bring better synergy between the three branches of the armed forces.
- Instead of separate commands for the army, navy, air force, a unified command will be set up to be led by a single commander.
- Which means that the military assets that are now split under separate centres of command will be fused into one single command under one operational head who will be responsible for directing and controlling their activities in a given situation.
- But apart from operational synergies, experts point out that a theatre command system will also contribute to more streamlined costs and a leaner fighting force.
- A big chunk of the annual defence budget goes into paying salaries and pensions while outlays do not always grow in line with the actual needs of the armed forces.
- Supporters say that the theatre command system will help remove redundancies and bring greater focus in the allocation of resources.

## Challenges for India in its Creation

- According to experts, the key hurdle in integrating the three services under the theatre command system is that of the structure itself: that is who reports to whom and how does the chain of command flow.
- These involve issues of operational command and control over assets.
- Further, budgetary allocations and the distribution of funds have also been pointed out as factors that need to be clearly worked out to enable the setting up of a seamless theatre command system.
- Another issue may be the existing mismatch between the assets of the army, navy and air force.
- According to reports, with fewer perceived resources, the Indian Air Force has concerns about its assets getting spread out thinly over the different theatre commands while it has also been suggested that more clarity is sought on questions of operational control.
- A piece published by the Observer Research Foundation said that the air force "has only 31 operational squadrons against a modest sanctioned strength of 42 (and that) would make it difficult for IAF to permanently station assets in a particular command with territorial boundaries".

## Way forward

- Analysis of what is available in the public domain reveals that there are to be a West Land Based Theatre Command, an East Land Based Theatre Command (both headed by the army), a Maritime Command (headed by the Navy), Air Defence Command (headed by the Air Force) and Andaman and Nicobar Command with rotational helmsmanship.
- There is a need to address the cognitive dissonance caused by the prevailing mindsets and lack of communication (trust) for integration to succeed.
- Besides the doctrinal base, there needs to be a legal authority like an Act of Parliament to authorise such changes. Authority to direct, control, reward and punish implies legitimate power. In a society subscribing to democratic values, the legitimacy of power wielded in any organisation finds its origin in the elected government.
- India is not NATO or the United States. This fact should be the premise while working on the Theatre Command concept. Indian process should not simply mirror US/NATO/Russia/China approaches but be unique to our geography, threat perception, and future objectives
- Indian planners should also keep in mind that this is not just one-time reform but a continuous process. The Americans started the reforms over hundred years ago and are still continuing. The Russians initially opted for only four 'Joint Strategic Commands'. At a later date, a fifth 'Northern Command' was added to meet specific requirements.

## Context

- India's first Chief of Defence Staff, late General BipinRawat was instrumental in laying down the foundation for joint theatre commands in India.
- His successor, Lt. General Anil Chauhan has now spelled it as his priority area.
- In his maiden communication with the three defence forces, the new CDS asked the Army, the Navy and the Air Force to make a move ahead toward the creation of integrated theatre commands.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh announced the setting up of "joint theatre commands" so as to have an enhanced coordination among all three services of the country's armed forces.

## About ITC

- Several nations in the world have theatre commands, including the United States and China.
- The idea behind the 'Theatre Command System' is to bring synergy coordination between the three wings of the armed forces... at the same time streamline costs, and have a leaner fighting force with optimal utilisation of resources.
- It's a concept that has its origins in the 1st world war, but became much more prominent during the second one with battles being fought across continents.
- Today, almost all major countries like China, Russia, the US, the UK and France work on a theatre command concept.
- It is a unified command under which all the resources of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force are pooled, depending on the threat perception.
- The commands could be geographical — like looking at a border with a particular country — or thematic, like a command for all maritime threats.

## Global Reach

- More than 32 countries in the world already have some form of theatre or joint command in place for better integration among the branches of the military.
- Notable among such countries are the US and China.
- According to a report, the US was the first to come up with a theatre command system and "presently possesses six geographical and four functional commands".
- Russia is said to have commenced with the restructuring of its armed forces in 2008 and "has now created four theatre commands".
- China's theatre command system is said to be based on the US model and has "five peacetime geographical commands".
- It is the Chinese Western Theatre Command that covers India.