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**DAILY NEWS
ANALYSIS**

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Cannot share Aadhaar details for crime inquiry, UIDAI tells HC
(THE HINDU)

COVERED IN GS : 2 (polity & constitution)

NEWS

Recently, the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) told the Delhi High Court that fingerprints found at a scene of crime cannot be matched against the Aadhaar database to identify a criminal.

About About Aadhar Act, 2016::

- The Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 (shortly called Aadhar Act), was passed by the Parliament in March, 2016.

Objectives:

- ❖ To provide legal backing to the Aadhaar unique identification number project.
- ❖ To provide for targeted delivery of subsidies and services to individuals residing in India by assigning them unique identity numbers, called Aadhaar numbers.

Cannot share Aadhaar details for crime inquiry, UIDAI tells HC

'Biometric details need to be protected'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has told the Delhi High Court that it cannot share Aadhaar details such as core biometrics information with investigating agencies to match chance prints and photographs from crime scenes.

The UIDAI said the objective of the Aadhaar Act, 2016, is to empower the people with a unique identity and digital platform only for the purpose of 'identity proof'.

Against the law

"There is clear prohibition under the law against sharing or using core biometrics for any reason whatsoever," the UIDAI said in an affidavit filed in response to a petition by the State prosecution seeking to match the chance prints and photographs of unknown accused, who allegedly committed robbery and murder in 2018, with data of Aadhaar.

The UIDAI said it does not collect biometric information such as iris scan and fingerprints based on technologies, standards or procedures suitable for forensic purposes.

"Therefore using the biometric data for random matching purposes may not

भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA



Clear prohibition under the law against sharing or using core biometrics, says UIDAI

be technologically feasible and shall be beyond the purview of the Act," it said.

Additionally, the UIDAI submitted that as per the mandate of the Aadhaar Act and the direction of the Supreme Court, such information cannot be provided without giving an opportunity of hearing to the Aadhaar cardholder in question.

"Biometric information is unique to an individual and therefore is sensitive information and needs to be protected to thwart any possibility of misuse," the UIDAI said.

It explained that for Aadhaar-based authentication in all cases, it is essential that both the 'live biometric' and the Aadhaar number is made available for a proper response.

The High Court will hear the case on May 18.

Eligibility:

- Every resident shall be entitled to obtain an Aadhaar number.
- A resident is a person who has resided in India for 182 days, in the one year preceding the date of application for enrolment for Aadhaar.

Use of Aadhar Number:

- ✓ To verify the identity of a person receiving a subsidy or a service, the government may require them to have an Aadhaar number.
- ✓ Aadhaar number cannot be a proof of citizenship or domicile.

Offences & Penalties:

A person may be punished with imprisonment up to three years and minimum fine of Rs 10 lakh for unauthorised access to the centralized data-base, including revealing any information stored in it.

About Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI):

- The Unique Identification Authority of India is a **statutory authority** established under the provisions of Aadhaar Act 2016.
- UIDAI was created to issue a 12-digit Unique Identification numbers (UID), named as "Aadhaar", to all residents of India.
- Under the Aadhaar Act 2016, UIDAI is responsible for:
 1. Aadhaar enrolment and authentication,
 2. Operation and management of all stages of Aadhaar life cycle,
 3. Developing the policy, procedure, and system for issuing Aadhaar numbers to individuals

Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)

Delimitation panel notifies new J&K Assembly constituencies (THE HINDU)

COVERED IN GS : 2 (polity)

NEWS

The Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) Delimitation Commission has announced the new boundaries, names and number of Assembly constituencies in the Union Territory (UT) of J&K.

About delimitation:

- Delimitation is the act of **redrawing boundaries** of an Assembly or Lok Sabha seat **to represent changes in population over time.**
- The goal is to redraw boundaries (based on the most recent Census data) in such a way that **the population of all seats is as uniform as possible throughout the state.**

Article 82: After each census, the distribution of seats in the Lok Sabha to the States and the partition of each State into territorial constituencies shall be readjusted by such authority and in such manner as **Parliament** may by law determine.

Panel notifies new J&K Assembly constituencies

Jammu to get 43 seats, Kashmir 47

PEERZADA ASHIQ
DAMINI NATH
SRINAGAR/NEW DELHI

The Jammu and Kashmir Delimitation Commission on Thursday notified the new boundaries, names and number of Assembly constituencies in Jammu and Kashmir, paving the way for the first-ever Assembly election in the Union Territory that was carved out of the erstwhile State of J&K in 2019.

While not mentioned in its order, the Delimitation Commission said in a statement that it had recommended to the Centre to nominate at least two "Kashmiri migrants" to the Legislature who would have the same powers as nominated members of the Puducherry Assembly and to "consider" giving "some representation" to persons displaced from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

A source said this was a "proposal" that the Centre

would take a call on.

A day before its term was to end, the Commission, chaired by Justice (retired) Ranjana Prakash Desai and including Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra and J&K State Election Commissioner K.K. Sharma as ex-officio members, met to finalise its order and later issued a gazette notification.

The delimitation was carried out based on the 2011 Census and other considerations like geographical features and access.

The new Assembly would have 90 seats, 47 in Kashmir and 43 in Jammu, an increase from the earlier 83, with six of the additional seats being in Jammu and one in Kashmir. In a first, nine seats were reserved for the Scheduled Tribes – six in the Jammu region and three in the Kashmir Valley, the commission said.

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Delimitation Commission

- ❖ The job of delimitation is assigned to a high-power body known as **Delimitation Commission or a Boundary Commission**, whose orders have the force of law and cannot be questioned before any court.
- ❖ Such a Commission is formed by an **act of Parliament** as provided by Article 82 of the Indian Constitution.
- ❖ The orders will take effect on a date to be determined by the **President** of India.

Delimitation in the UT of J&K:

- The delimitation of Lok Sabha seats in the former state of J&K was governed by the Indian Constitution, but the delimitation of Assembly seats was governed independently by the J&K Constitution and the J&K Representation of the People Act, 1957.
- The state had 111 assembly seats - **46 in Kashmir, 37 in Jammu, 4 in Ladakh and 24 seats reserved** for Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK).
- After the **revocation of Article 370** in 2019, the state lost its special status and was divided into **two UTs - J&K and Ladakh**.

- ❑ It was set up in 2020 to redraw Assembly and parliamentary constituencies of J&K and headed by Justice (retired) **Ranjana Prakash Desai and two other members.**
 - ❑ After several extensions, the panel had submitted its final recommendations recently and the **delimitation order was passed on May 5.**
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- ✓ The Commission's report takes the total number of seats in the UT to **90** (43 in the Jammu division and 47 in the Kashmir valley).
 - ✓ The panel has also **reserved 9 assembly seats** - 6 in Jammu and three in Kashmir - for **Scheduled Tribes**. 7 assembly seats have been reserved for **Scheduled Castes**.
 - ✓ The panel has also recommended the provision of **at least two seats for members** (with one woman) **from among Kashmiri migrants** in the assembly.

- The Union Coal Ministry has sought to rush through the forest diversion process for proposed opencast coal mining in Angul district of Odisha which would require the felling of more than one lakh standing trees in a reserve forest and cause disturbance to the elephant herds.
- Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL), a joint venture company of the Government of India and Telangana, has proposed to mine coal at the Naini mine in Chhendipada tahasli of the district.

Over 1 lakh trees to be felled for coal mining in Odisha

Union Coal Ministry seeks environment clearance

SATYASUNDAR BARIK
BHUBANESWAR

The Union Coal Ministry has sought to rush through the forest diversion process for proposed opencast coal mining in Angul district of Odisha which would require the felling of more than one lakh standing trees in a reserve forest and cause significant disturbance to the elephant herds.

Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL), a joint venture company of the Government of India and Telangana, has proposed to mine coal at the Naini mine in Chhendipada tahasli of the district.

The total requirement of land for the project is 912.799 hectares, of which 643.095 hectares is reserve forestland and 140.18 hectares is village forestland. The remaining is non-forestland.

The SCCL is waiting for environment and forest clear-



An important issue flagged by the inspection team was the threat to animals, especially elephants. • BISWARANJAN ROUT

ance before diverting 783.275 hectares of forestland for the coal field, which is in the south-eastern corner of the lower Gondwana basin within the Mahanadi Valley.

According to the site inspection report submitted by the Angul Divisional Forest Officer, 1,05,092 trees would have to be felled in the Chhendipda reserve forest, 1,087 in a revenue forest and 327 in non-forestland.

The company has, however, been allowed to create

compensatory afforestation over 1,083 hectare of degraded forest.

The important issue flagged by the site inspection team was the threat to wild animals, especially elephants. Though the area for coal mining is not a part of any national park, wildlife sanctuary or biosphere, movement of wild elephants is often witnessed in the northern and southern parts of the lease area. The division wanted a plan for safe passage to elephants.

DIRECT SEEDING OF RICE (DSR) (THE HINDU)**COVERED IN GS : 3 (ECONOMICS)****NEWS**

- The Punjab government recently announced Rs 1,500 incentive per acre for farmers opting for Direct Seeding of Rice (DSR), which is known for saving water.

Benefits:

DSR technique can help save 15% to 20% water.

DSR offers avenues for ground water recharge as it prevent the development of hard crust just beneath the plough layer due to puddled transplanting and it matures 7-10 days earlier than puddle transplanted crop, therefore giving more time for management of paddy straw.

DSR can solve labour shortage problem because as like the traditional method it does not require a paddy nursery and transplantation of 30 days old paddy nursery into the main puddled field.



UN's WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME (WFP) (THE HINDU)

COVERED IN GS : 3 (ECONOMICS INTERNATIONAL RELATION)

NEWS

The United Nations' World Food Programme (WFP) has said that it is in discussions with India on procurement of wheat as several countries face food security challenges amid the Ukraine war.

ABOUT

- ✓ India's wheat production stood at 109.59 million tonnes in the 2020-21 crop year (July-June).
- ✓ The World Food Programme launched the 2022 Global Report on Food Crises recently in which UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said that the war in Ukraine is "supercharging" a three-dimensional crisis – food, energy and finance — with devastating impacts on the world's most vulnerable people, countries and economies.



World Food Programme

What is it? The World Food Programme (WFP) is the food-assistance branch of the United Nations and the world's largest humanitarian organization addressing hunger and promoting food security.