



Daily Current Affairs Dated On 15-May-2018

General Studies-2

SC to examine pleas for forming five-judge Bench to decide on special status of Jammu and Kashmir

The Supreme Court will examine fervent pleas for a five-judge Constitution Bench to decide whether special status granted to Jammu and Kashmir is unconstitutional.

Mr. Venugopal said the case should be taken up by the court after three months. He said the Centre would also make submissions on the constitutionality of Article 35A, which gives Jammu and Kashmir special status.

About Article 35A

Article 35A of the Constitution gives the State Legislature *carte blanche* to decide who all are the "permanent residents" of the State and grant them special rights and privileges in public sector jobs, acquisition of property within the State, scholarships and other public aid and welfare programmes.

The provision mandates that no Act of the State legislature coming within the ambit of Article 35A can be challenged for violating the Indian Constitution or any other law of the land.

Article 35A was incorporated into the Indian Constitution in 1954 by an order of President Rajendra Prasad on the advice of the Jawaharlal Nehru Cabinet.

Parliament was not consulted when the President incorporated Article 35A into the Indian Constitution through a Presidential Order issued under Article 370.

Article 368 (i) of the Constitution mandates that only Parliament can amend the Constitution by introducing a new Article.

The court is hearing a writ petition filed by a non-governmental organisation, We the Citizens, which challenges the validity of both Article 35A and Article 370.

It challenges that Article 35A is against the "very spirit of oneness of India" as it creates a "class within a class of Indian citizens".

A second petition filed by Jammu and Kashmir native, Charu Wali Khanna, has challenged Article 35A for protecting certain provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Constitution which restricts the basic right to property if a native woman marries a man not holding the Permanent Resident Certificate.



Daily Current Affairs Dated On 15-May-2018

General Studies-3

Scheme for Capacity Building in Textile Sector

A meeting of stakeholders on Samarth – Scheme for Capacity Building in Textile Sector under the Skill India Mission was held in New Delhi today to familiarize the stakeholders about the scheme and its guidelines.

The meeting was chaired by Union Minister of Textiles, Smt Smriti Zubin Irani. The broad objective of the new scheme is to skill the youth for gainful and sustainable employment in the textile sector covering the entire value chain of textiles, excluding spinning and weaving.

The scheme, approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on 20th of December last year, is intended to provide demand driven, placement oriented National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF) compliant skilling programmes to incentivize and supplement the efforts of the industry in creating jobs in the textiles sectors.

The scheme targets to train 10 lakh persons (9 lakh in organised and 1 lakh in traditional sector) over a period of 3 years (2017-20), with an outlay of Rs. 1300 crore. The guidelines of the scheme were released on 23rd of April 2018.

The meeting was attended by the senior officials of the Textiles Ministry, institutions and organizations under it, representatives of textile industry, State Governments, training institutions among others.

MNRE issues National Wind-solar Hybrid Policy

Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has issued National Wind-Solar Hybrid Policy here today.

The objective of the policy is to provide a framework for promotion of large grid connected wind-solar PV hybrid system for efficient utilization of transmission infrastructure and land.

It also aims at reducing the variability in renewable power generation and achieving better grid stability.



Daily Current Affairs Dated On 15-May-2018

On technology front the Policy provides for integration of both the energy sources i.e. wind and solar at AC as well as DC level.

The Policy also provides for flexibility in share of wind and solar components in hybrid project, subject to the condition that, rated power capacity of one resource be at least 25 per cent of the rated power capacity of other resource for it to be recognised hybrid project.

The Policy seeks to promote new hybrid projects as well as hybridisation of existing wind/solar projects.

The existing wind/solar projects can be hybridised with higher transmission capacity than the sanctioned one, subject to availability of margin in the existing transmission capacity.

The Policy provides for procurement of power from a hybrid project on tariff based transparent bidding process for which Government entities may invite bids. Policy also permits use of battery storage in the hybrid project for optimising the output and further reduce the variability.

It mandates the regulatory authorities to formulate necessary standards and regulations for wind-solar hybrid systems.

Benefits:

With significant capacity additions in renewables in recent years and with Hybrid Policy aiming at better utilisation of resources, it is envisaged that the Hybrid Policy will open-up a new area for availability of renewable power at competitive prices along with reduced variability.

A scheme for new hybrid projects under the policy is also expected shortly.

Environment Minister Launches Mobile App of GSDP

Emphasising that the Green Skill Development Programme (GSDP) will go a long way in reaping the demographic dividend in the country, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Dr. Harsh Vardhan has said that the GSDP aims to get 80, 000 people imparted green skills and in filling the skill gaps in the environment sector.

Speaking after launching the Mobile App of Green Skill Development Programme (GSDP) at the Ministry premises here today, Dr. Harsh Vardhan pointed out that



Daily Current Affairs Dated On 15-May-2018

more than 30 programmes have been identified, which will be conducted in 84 institutions across the country.

BACKGROUND OF GSDP:

Realizing the need for developing the green skills, the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) is utilising the vast network and expertise of Environmental Information System (ENVIS) hubs and Resource Partners (RPs).

The Ministry has taken this initiative for skill development in the environment and forest sector to enable India's youth to get gainful employment and/or self-employment.

The programme endeavours to develop green skilled workers having technical knowledge and commitment to sustainable development.

It will help in the attainment of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), National Biodiversity Targets (NBTs), as well as Waste Management Rules (2016).

ENVIS RPs in Botanical Survey of India (BSI), Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) and their respective regional offices were the nodal Centres for the pilot programme.

The skilling programmes cover diverse fields such as pollution monitoring (air/water/soil), Sewage Treatment Plant, Effluent Treatment Plants and Common Effluent Treating Plants (STP/ETP/CETP) operation, waste management etc.

The duration of the courses ranges from 80 hours to 560 hours approx.