# 19th Nov – 25th Nov Weekly Compilation

# (The Hindu+ Indian Express + PIB + Other World-Wide News)

## Old Pension Scheme                                                    (Source: IE)

**Why in News?**
A few political parties are promising to restore to the **Old Pension Scheme** in some states.

**What is the Old Pension Scheme?**
- **About:**
  - The scheme assures **life-long income, post-retirement.**
  - Under the old scheme, **employees get a pension under a pre-determined formula which is equivalent to 50%** of the last drawn salary. They also get the benefit of the revision of Dearness Relief (DR), twice a year. The payout is fixed and there was no deduction from the salary. Moreover, under the OPS, **there was the provision of the General Provident Fund (GPF).**
    - GPF is available only for all the government employees in India. Basically, it allows all the government employees to contribute a certain percentage of their salary to the GPF. And the total amount that is accumulated throughout the employment term is paid to the employee at the time of retirement.
  - The Government bears the **expenditure incurred on the pension**. The scheme was **discontinued in 2004.**
- **Concerns:**
  - **Unfunded Pension Liability:**
    - The main problem was that the pension liability remained unfunded — that is, there was **no corpus specifically for pension, which would grow continuously and could be dipped** into for payments.
    - The Government of India budget provided for pensions every year, there was no clear plan on how to pay year after year in the future.
  - **Unsustainable:**
    - The OPS was also unsustainable. For one, pension liabilities would keep climbing since pensioners' benefits increased every year, like salaries of existing employees, pensioners gained from indexation, or what is called **'dearness relief'.**
    - And two, better health facilities would increase **life expectancy, and increased longevity** would mean extended payouts.

- This has led to a massive pension burden on the Union and state Governments.

**What was Planned to Address Related Concerns?**
- In 1998, the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment commissioned a report for an **Old Age Social and Income Security (OASIS)** project. An expert committee submitted the report in January 2000.
- The primary **objective of OASIS was targeted at unorganised sector** workers who had no old age income security.
- The OASIS report recommended individuals could invest in three types of funds — safe, balanced, and growth — to be floated **by six fund managers.**
- The balance would be invested in corporate bonds or government securities. Individuals would have unique retirement accounts, and would be required to invest at least Rs 500 a year.
- Post retirement, at least Rs 2 lakh from the retirement account would be used to purchase an annuity.
  - An annuity **provider invests the amount and provides** a fixed monthly income — which was Rs 1,500 when the report was prepared — for the remainder of the individual's life.

**What was the Origin of the New Pension Scheme?**
- **About:**
  - The OASIS report became the basis for the New Pension Scheme, which was notified in December 2003.
  - The Central Government introduced the **National Pension System (NPS)** with effect from January 2004 (except for armed forces).
    - In 2018-19, to streamline the NPS and make it more attractive, the Union Cabinet approved **changes in the scheme** to benefit central government employees covered under NPS.
  - The NPS was launched as **a way for the government to get rid of pension liabilities.**
    - According to a news report that cited research from the early 2000s, India's pension debt was reaching uncontrollable levels.
  - On introduction of NPS, the Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1972 was amended.
  - After retirement they can withdraw a part of the pension amount in a lump sum and use the rest to buy an annuity for a regular income.
- **Implementation:**
  - NPS is being implemented and regulated by PFRDA (Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority) in the country.

- o **National Pension System Trust (NPST)** established by PFRDA is the registered owner of all assets under NPS.
- ▪ **Features:**
  - o The All-Citizens Model of the NPS allows all citizens of India (including NRIs) **aged between 18 - 70 years** to join NPS.
  - o It is a participatory scheme, where employees contribute to their pension corpus from their salaries, with matching contributions from the government. The funds are then invested in earmarked **investment schemes through Pension Fund Managers.**
    - • In this NPS, those employed by the government contribute 10% of their basic salary to NPS, while their employers contribute up to 14%.
    - • In 2019, the Finance Ministry said that Central government employees have the option of selecting the Pension Funds (PFs) and Investment Pattern.
  - o At retirement, they **can withdraw 60% of the corpus,** which is tax-free and the remaining 40% is invested in annuities, which is taxed.
  - o Even private individuals can opt for the scheme.
- ▪ **Issues with the NPS:**
  - o Unlike OPS, the NPS requires **employees to deposit 10% of the basic pay,** along with the dearness allowance.
  - o There is no GPF advantage and the amount of pension is not fixed.
  - o The major issue with the scheme is that it is market-linked and return-based. In simple terms, **the payout is uncertain.**

## New draft digital data protection bill tabled for comments          (Source: HT)

**Context:** The draft Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2022, was recently opened by the Union Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) for public comments.

**About the new draft:**
- • The Bill seeks to establish a **comprehensive legal framework** governing digital personal data protection in India, recognizing both the –
  - o **Rights** of citizens (Digital Nagrik), societal rights to protect their personal data – a strict user-consent regime for data processing.
  - o **Duties/obligations** of the Data Fiduciary (consumer internet and social-media companies) to process and use collected data lawfully.

**Background:**

- The revamped draft was released after the **government withdrew an earlier version** – the **Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019**, that sparked outrage from Big Tech and civil society.
- The 2019 Bill was prepared by former Supreme Court judge **B N Srikrishna**, to guarantee the protection of persons' personal data and to establish a Data Protection Authority.
- The government has decided to come up with a fresh bill that fits into the comprehensive suggestions made by the **Joint Committee of Parliament** (JCP) on the 2019 Bill.
- The JPC had submitted many recommendations (such as broad data protection in line with KS **Puttaswamy** judgement of 2017) to the 2019 Bill in 2021

**Key provisions of the Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2022:**



Bill's ambit

The draft Bill narrows the scope of the data protection regime to personal data protection — a move welcomed by the industry
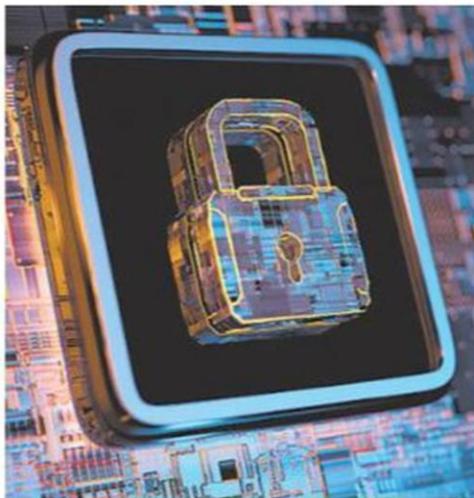
**THIS ACT APPLIES TO:**
- Personal data collected from users online
- Data collected offline, but later digitised

**THE ACT EXCLUDES:**
- Personal data processed by an individual for personal or domestic purpose
- Recorded personal data in existence for at least 100 years

- **Data Protection Board:** It will act as the adjudicating body to enforce the provisions of the Bill.
- **Data Protection Officer and independent data auditor:** They will be appointed by businesses of "significant" size (based on the volume of data they process), to evaluate compliance with provisions of the law.
- **Easing cross-border data flows:**

- o The new Bill **relaxes data localisation rules** and permits data to flow to certain global destinations, based on their data security landscape.
- o The previous Bill mandated enterprises to keep a copy of sensitive personal data within India and prohibited the transfer of critical personal data from the country, **the most important concern expressed by IT firms.**
- **Right to correction/eraser:** Users will have the right to have their personal data in the custody of enterprises corrected and erased.
- **Duties of companies:**
  - o Companies will **not be obligated to keep user data** that no longer serves a business purpose.
  - o Companies should **not process personal data** that could harm minors (less than 18 years of age).
- **Promoting start-up ecosystem:** The government may also exclude certain enterprises from Bill's restrictions based on the volume of users and personal data handling.
- **Exemptions:** The Central government has been empowered to exempt its agencies from adhering to provisions of the Bill in the interest of –
  - o Sovereignty and integrity of India,
  - o Security of the state,
  - o Friendly relations with foreign states,
  - o Maintenance of public order or preventing incitement to any cognisable offence.
- **Penalties:** Focus is more on financial penalties than a criminal conviction.
  - o **For companies**: Between Rs 50 – 500 crore for data breaches and noncompliance.

**For users:** A consumer who submits false documents for an online service or makes bogus grievance complaints may face a Rs 10,000 fine.

**Significance:**
- **Based on global best practices:** The government says that it has reviewed the Personal Data Protection laws of Singapore, Australia, the European Union and the US.
- **Economic benefits:** The bill draft also considers the country's 1 trillion-dollar Digital Economy goals and the rapidly growing innovation and startup ecosystem.

**Concerns:**
- **State agencies are granted broad-vague exemptions.** This may not meet the **'necessity'** and **'proportionality'** tests outlined in the landmark right to privacy judgement (KS Puttaswamy case) of 2017.
- **The independence of a proposed regulator – the Data Protection Board, has been reduced.** Unlike the Data Protection Authority, which is envisioned as a statutory body under the 2019 Bill, the appointment of the chairperson and members of the Board is entirely up to the **discretion** of the central government.
- **Relaxing data localisation requirements** will make it difficult to detect and investigate non-compliance and breaches.

**Conclusion:** Though the bill is significantly simpler this time excluding non-personal data, it will require several modifications before it is practical.

## Compensation to Climate Change                                             (Source:TH)

**Why in News?**
At the G-20 summit in Bali, **rich nations including the U.S, Japan, and Canada have pledged USD 20 billion to wean Indonesia off coal** and reach **carbon neutrality** by 2050.
What is the Importance of Compensation?
- Between 1900 and now, **developed countries have benefited from industrial development**, which also led to **Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions.**
  - Data from the Global Carbon Project shows that between 1751 and 2017, 47% of the $CO_2$ emissions came from the U.S. and the EU-28. In total, just 29 countries.
- Developing countries **were relatively late in starting out** on economic development.
  - They may be **contributing to emissions now**, but that is a weak reason to ask them to stop economic development.
  - **For Example:** A farmer in rural Africa can claim that his country has not added to emissions historically, but because of the U.S. or Russia's industrialisation, his agriculture yields are declining. Or an urban worker in South America has to work, without choice, in unforgiving heat wave conditions caused by the developed world's emissions of the past.

**What are the Consequences of the State of Emission?**
- **Emissions attributable to the U.S. over 1990-2014 caused losses** that are concentrated around 1–2% of per capita GDP across nations in South America, Africa, and South and Southeast Asia, where temperature changes have likely impacted labour productivity and agricultural yields.
  - But emissions may have also helped a few countries, such as those in Northern Europe and Canada.
- Moody's Analytics estimates that by the **middle of the century, Canada would see a rise in GDP of 0.3% as warmer climates** spur agriculture and labour productivity.
- According to the UN Environment Programme's annual **emissions gap report for 2022** , **the international community is falling far short of the Paris goals**, with no credible pathway to 1.5°C in place.

**Where about India's Emissions?**
- According to the **'Emissions Gap Report 2022', India is among the top seven emitters** (others being China, the EU-27, Indonesia, Brazil, the Russian Federation and the U.S.).

- These seven, plus international transport, accounted for 55% of global GHG emissions in 2020.
- Collectively, **G-20 members** are responsible for 75% of global GHG emissions.
- **Some GHG emissions are unavoidable**. In the context of India's population, **its emissions are far lesser per head, than for others.**
  - **World average per capita GHG emissions were 6.3 tonnes of $CO_2$ equivalent** ($tCO_2e$) in 2020.
  - The U.S. is way above this level at 14, followed by 13 in the Russian Federation and 9.7 in China. India remains far below the world average at 2.4.

**What are the Related Steps by India?**
- India announced that it will reach **carbon neutrality by 2070.**
- India has also **committed to generate 500 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030,** bringing down emission intensity of **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**, as well as raising **forest cover.**
- In last year's coal agreement, India drafted the language.
  - It was **changed from "phase-out" to "phase-down" of coal.**
    - It **reflects the country's ground realities of large energy requirements,** met predominantly by thermal power, to spur economic development.

# 2nd Voice of Global South Summit(VOGSS) (Source: IE)

**Context:** The 2nd Voice of Global South Summit, hosted by India, focused on condemning the Hamas attacks of October 7 and called for **restraint, dialogue, and diplomacy** to resolve the Israel-Hamas conflict.

**What is VOGSS?**
Voice of Global South Summit is a platform where countries from the Global South, often described as **developing or less developed**, come together to share perspectives and priorities. The summit focuses on sustaining momentum toward a **more inclusive, representative, and progressive** world order.
**The outcome of the summit:**
Indian PM unveils **DAKSHIN** (Global South Centre of Excellence) and **calls for 5 'Cs'** for the Global South: Consultation, Cooperation, Communication, Creativity, and Capacity building.

**What is the global south?**

The term "Global South" refers to various countries **often described as "developing,"** "less developed" or "underdeveloped." The concept of the Global South can be traced to the **Brandt report of 1980**.

**India's initiatives for Global south:**
**India has taken several initiatives for South-South cooperation**, including the induction of the **African Union into the G20 Grouping**, International Solar Alliance, Global Biofuel Alliance, and Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure. Initiatives such as **MAHARISHI** focus on global food security, while the **G20 Digital Public Infrastructure Framework** aim to enhance collaboration and address shared challenges among Global South

## HC Verdict: Local Reservation in the Private Sector     (Source: Indian Express)

**Context:** The Punjab and Haryana High Court **invalidated a 2020 Haryana government law that reserved 75% of private-sector jobs** for state residents.

**What is a Local Reservation?**
Local reservation typically refers to a **policy or law that reserves a certain percentage of jobs, opportunities, or benefits for individuals** who are local residents of a specific region or state.

**What did Haryana State Employment of Local Candidates Act, 2020 say?**
The law mandates that companies **with 10 or more employees reserve 75% of jobs** paying **less than Rs. 30,000 per month** for candidates from the state. Employers must **register** eligible employees on the **Labor Department's portal**.
Similar domicile job reservation laws exist in other states like **Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Jharkhand**

**Why did the court invalidate the law?**
- **Violation of Article 16:** The law **violated constitutional rights** by reserving 75% of private-sector jobs for Haryana residents, stating that a **government cannot discriminate based on residence**.
  - The Haryana government claimed **authority under Article 16(4)** (exceptions to Article 16) but was **deemed unconstitutional by the court**.
- **Violation of Article 19:** The court also criticized the law for **imposing excessive control** on private employers, creating an **"Inspector Raj,"** and impairing individuals' rights under **Article 19(1)(g)** of the Constitution.
  - Private jobs are **skill-based and analytical**, and citizens have the fundamental right to work anywhere in India

**What does the Constitution Say?**

The Constitution of India **guarantees freedom of movement and consequently employment** within India through several provisions.

- **Article 14** provides for equality before the law irrespective of place of birth.
- **Article 15** guards against discrimination based on place of birth.
- **Article 16** guarantees no birthplace-based discrimination in public employment.
- **Article 19** ensures that citizens can **move freely throughout the territory of India**

## Nicobari Hodi Craft                                                                  (Source: TH)

**Why in News?**
Recently, the Andaman & Nicobar Islands has filed an application, seeking the **Geographical Indication (GI) tag** for the Nicobari Hodi craft.

- This is the first application from the Union Territory seeking a tag for one of its products.
- Earlier, the government awarded the **GI tag to Mithila Makhana.**

**What is Nicobari Hodi?**

- The hodi is the **Nicobari tribe's traditional craft.** It is an **outrigger canoe,** very commonly operated in the Nicobar group of islands.
- The technical skills for building a hodi are based on **indigenous knowledge inherited by the Nicobarese** from their forefathers.
- The hodi is built using **either locally available trees or from nearby islands**, and its design **varies slightly** from island to island.
- Considerations to be taken into account **include the length of the finished canoe**, which has to be 12 times that of its width, while the length of the undressed tree trunk has to be 15 times this width.
- Hodis are used for transporting people and goods from one island to another, for sending coconuts, for fishing and racing purposes.
- The tuhet, a group of families under a headman, consider the **hodi an asset**. Hodi races are held between **islands and villages.**

**What is a Geographical Indication (GI) Tag?**

- **About:**
  - o The GI is an indication **used to identify goods having special characteristics originating from a definite geographical territory.**
  - o The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, **1999** seeks to provide for the registration and better protection of geographical indications relating to goods in India.
  - o It is governed and directed by the **WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).**

- It was decided and also stated under Articles 1 (2) and 10 of the **Paris Convention** that the protection of industrial Property and Geographical Indication are elements of **Intellectual Property.**
  - o It is primarily an agricultural, natural or a manufactured product (handicrafts and industrial goods).
- **Validity:**
  - o This tag is valid for a period of **10 years** following which it can be renewed.
- **Significance:**
  - o Once a product **gets this tag, no person or company can sell a similar item under that name.**
  - o GI registration of a product provides it **legal protection and prevention against unauthorised use by others.**
  - o GI tag helps in **promoting the exports** of the product.
  - o It also provides **comfort to customers about the authenticity** of that product.
- **GI Registration:**
  - o There is a proper process of registration of GI products which includes filing of application, preliminary scrutiny and examination, show cause notice, publication in the geographical indications journal, opposition to registration, and registration.
    - Any association of persons, producers, organisation or authority established by or under the law can apply.
    - The applicant must represent the interest of the producers.
  - o The Geographical Indications Registry **responsible for administration of GI Goods is established at Chennai.**
- **GI Tag Products:**
  - o Some famous goods which carry this tag include **Basmati rice**, **Darjeeling Tea**, **Chanderi Fabric**, Mysore Silk, Kullu Shawl, Kangra Tea, **Thanjavur Paintings**, Allahabad Surkha, Farrukhabad Prints, Lucknow Zardozi, **Kashmir Saffron** and Kashmir Walnut Wood Carving.

## Sufism                                                                                    (Source: PIB)

**Why in News?**
Recently, a book 'In Search of the Divine: Living Histories of Sufism in India' has been published.

**What is Sufism?**
- **About:**
  - o Sufism is a **mystical form of Islam**, a school of practice that focuses on the spiritual search for God and shuns materialism.

- o It is a form of **Islamic mysticism which stresses on asceticism**. There is a lot of emphasis on devotion towards God.
- o In Sufism, self-discipline is considered an essential condition to gain knowledge of God by sense of perception.
- o In the beginning of 12 AD, some religious people in **Persia turned to asceticism due to the increasing materialism of the Caliphate.** They came to be called the 'Sufis'.
- o In India, Sufi movement **began in 1300 A.D** & came to South India in the 15th century.
- o In Sufism, self-discipline was considered an essential condition to gain knowledge of God. While orthodox Muslims emphasize external conduct, the Sufis lay stress on inner purity.
- o Multan and Punjab were the early centers and later on, it spread to Kashmir, **Bihar, Bengal and the Deccan.**

- ▪ **Etymology:**
  - o The term 'Sufi' is probably derived from the Arabic 'suf' word which means 'one who wears wool'. This is because woolen clothes were generally associated with ascetics. Another possible origin of the word is 'safa' which means purity in Arabic.

- ▪ **Stages of Sufism:**
  - o **1st Stage (Khanqah)**: Started in 10th century, also called the age of Golden Mysticism
  - o **2nd Stage (Tariqa):** 11-14th century, when Sufism was being institutionalized and traditions and symbols started being attached to it.
  - o **3rd Stage (Tarifa)**: Started in the 15th century, at this the stage when Sufism became a popular movement.

- ▪ **Major Sufi Orders:**
  - o **Chisti:**
    - • Chishtiya Order was founded in India by Khwaja Moin-Uddin Chishti.
    - • It emphasised the doctrine of the unity of being with God (waḥdat al-wujūd) and members of the order were also pacifists.
    - • They rejected all material goods as distractions from the contemplation of God.
    - • They abstained from connection with the secular state.
    - • Recitation of the names of God, both aloud and silently (dhikr jahrī, dhikr khafī), formed the cornerstone of Chishtī practice.
    - • The Chishty teachings were carried forward and popularized by disciples of Khwaja Moin-Uddin Chishti like Khwaja Qutbuddin Bakhtiyar Kaki, Fareeduddin Ganj-e-Shakar, Nizam uddin Auliya and Naseeruddin Charagh.
  - o **Suhrawardi Order:**
    - • It was founded by Sheikh Shahabuddin Suharwardi Maqtul.

- The Suhrawardis, unlike the Chishtis, accepted maintenance grants from the Sultans.
  - **Naqshbandi Order:**
    - It was founded by the Khwaja Baha-ul-din Naqsh band.
    - In India, this order was established by Khwaja Bahauddin Naqshbandi.
    - From the beginning, the mystics of this Order stressed on the observance of the Shariat.
  - **Qadiriyya Order:**
    - It was popular in Punjab.
    - Sheikh Abdul Qadir of Badaun founded it in the 14th century.
    - They were supporters of the Mughals under Akbar.

# Digital Personal Data Protection Bill 2022                                          (Source: IE)

**Why in News?**
The Union Government has released a revised personal data protection bill, now called **the Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2022.**
- The Bill has been introduced after 3 months of the withdrawal of the **Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019.**

**What are the Seven Principles of the 2022 Bill?**
- **Firstly,** usage of **personal data** by organisations must be done in a manner that is **lawful, fair to the individuals concerned and transparent to individuals.**
- **Secondly**, personal data must **only be used for the purposes** for which it was collected.
- **The third principle** talks of **data minimisation.**
- **The fourth principle** puts an emphasis on **data accuracy** when it comes to collection.
- **The fifth principle** talks of how personal data that is collected **cannot be "stored perpetually by default"** and storage should be **limited to a fixed duration.**
- **The sixth principle** says that there should be **reasonable safeguards to ensure** there is "no **unauthorized collection or processing** of personal data".
- **Seventh principle** states that "the person who decides the purpose and means of the processing of personal data **should be accountable for such processing".**

**What are the Key Features of the Digital Personal Data Protection Bill?**
- **Data Principal and Data Fiduciary:**
  - **Data Principal** refers to the individual whose **data is being collected.**
    - In the case of children (**<18 years**), their parents/lawful guardians will be considered their **"Data Principals".**

- o **Data Fiduciary** is the entity (individual, company, firm, state etc), which decides the **"purpose and means of the processing of an individual's personal data".**
    - **Personal Data** is "any data by which an individual can be identified".
    - **Processing** means "the entire cycle of operations that can be carried out in respect of personal data".
- o **Significant Data Fiduciary:**
    - **Significant Data Fiduciaries** are those who deal with a high volume of personal data. The **Central government** will define who is designated under this category based on a number of factors.
    - Such entities will have to appoint a **'Data protection officer'** and an independent **Data Auditor.**
- **Rights of Individuals:**
    - o **Access to Information:**
        - The bill ensures that individuals should be able to **"access basic information"** in languages specified in the **eighth schedule of the Indian Constitution.**
    - o **Right to Consent:**
        - Individuals need to **give consent before their data is processed** and "every individual should know **what items of personal data** a Data Fiduciary wants to collect and the **purpose of such collection** and further processing".
        - Individuals also have the **right to withdraw consent** from a Data Fiduciary.
    - o **Right to Erase:**
        - Data principals will have the right to **demand the erasure and correction** of data collected by the data fiduciary.
    - o **Right to Nominate:**
        - Data principals will also have the **right to nominate an individual** who will exercise these rights in the event of their death or incapacity.
- **Data Protection Board:**
    - o The Bill also proposes to set up a **Data Protection Board** to ensure compliance with the Bill.
    - o In case of an unsatisfactory response from the Data Fiduciary, the consumers can file a complaint to the **Data Protection Board.**
- **Cross-border Data Transfer:**
    - o The bill allows for **cross-border storage and transfer of data** to "certain notified countries and territories" provided they have a **suitable data security landscape**, and the **Government can access data** of Indians from there.
- **Financial Penalties:**
    - o **For Data Fiduciary:**
        - The bill proposes to **impose significant penalties** on businesses that undergo data breaches or fail to notify users when breaches happen.

- The penalties will be imposed ranging from Rs. 50 crores to Rs. 500 crores.
    - o **For Data Principal:**
        - If a **user submits false documents while signing up for an online service,** or files frivolous grievance complaints, the user could be fined up to Rs 10,000.
- **Exemptions:**
    - o The government can **exempt certain businesses from adhering to provisions of the bill** on the basis of the **number of users and the volume of personal data** processed by the entity.
        - This has been done keeping in mind **startups** of the country who had complained that the Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019 **was too "compliance intensive".**
    - o **National security-related exemptions,** similar to the previous 2019 version, **have been kept intact.**
        - The **Centre has been empowered** to exempt its agencies from adhering to provisions of the Bill in the interest of **sovereignty and integrity of India, security of the state, friendly relations with foreign states, maintenance of public order** or **preventing incitement** to any cognisable offence.

**Why is Digital Personal Data Protection Bill Significant?**
- The new Bill offers significant **concessions on cross-border data flows**, in a departure from the previous Bill's contentious requirement of local storage of data within India's geography.
- It offers a relatively **soft stand on data localisation requirements** and permits **data transfer** to select global destinations which is likely to **foster country-to-country trade agreements.**
- The bill recognises the data principal's **right to postmortem privacy (Withdraw Consent)** which was missing from the PDP Bill, 2019 but had been recommended by the **Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC).**

**How has India Strengthened Data Protection Regime?**
- **Justice K. S. Puttaswamy (Retd) vs Union of India 2017:**
    - o In August 2017, a nine-judge bench of the Supreme Court in **Justice K. S. Puttaswamy (Retd) Vs Union of India** unanimously held that Indians have a constitutionally protected **fundamental right to privacy** that is an intrinsic part of life and liberty under **Article 21.**
- **B.N. Srikrishna Committee 2017:**
    - o Government appointed a **committee of experts for Data protection** under the chairmanship of **Justice B N Srikrishna** in August 2017, that submitted its report in July 2018 along with a draft Data Protection Bill.

- The Report has a wide range of recommendations to **strengthen privacy law in India** including **restrictions on processing and collection** of data, Data Protection Authority, **right to be forgotten**, **data localisation** etc.
  - **Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021:**
    - **IT Rules (2021)** mandate social media platforms to exercise greater diligence with respect to the content on their platforms.

## 30 Years of India-China Border Peace and Tranquility Agreement (BPTA)
### (Source: TH)

**Context:** The India-China Border Peace and Tranquility Agreement (BPTA), signed in 1993, marked its **30th anniversary recently,** but its contested legacy reflects the fraying mechanisms built to maintain peace on the Line of Actual Control (LAC)

**India-China Border:**
The LAC separates Indian-controlled territory from Chinese-controlled territory.
**It is divided into three sectors:**
1. Eastern Sector (Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim)
2. Middle Sector (Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh)
3. Western Sector (Ladakh)
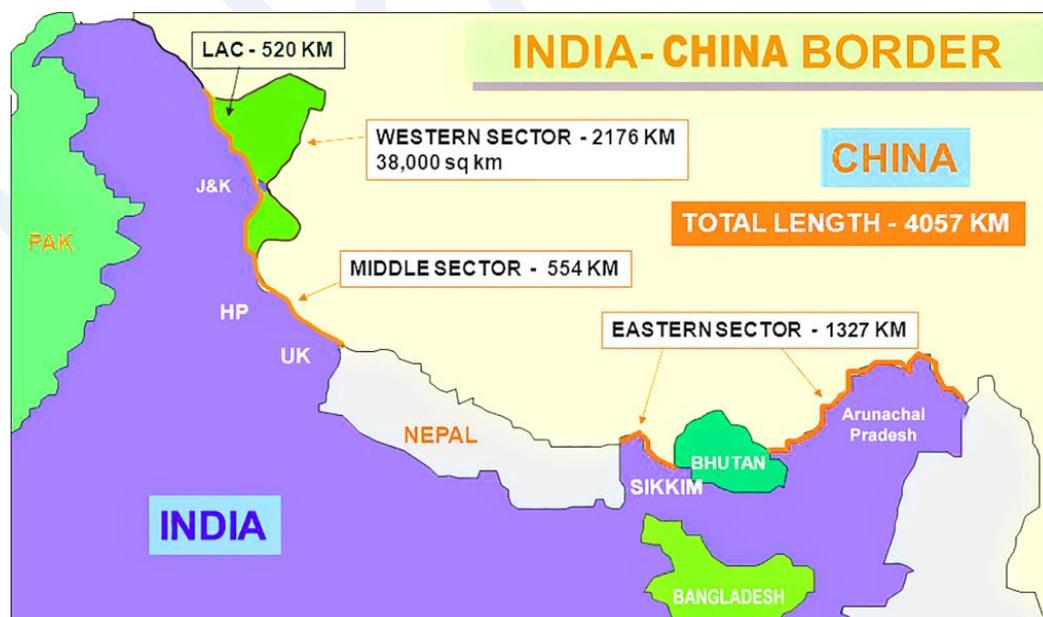
**In the Eastern Sector**
The alignment of the LAC is along the **McMahon Line**, named after Sir Henry McMahon, foreign secretary of British India. He drew the **890-km line** as the border between British India and Tibet (a part of the 1914 Shimla Convention Between Great Britain, China, and Tibet).
China claims around 90,000 sq km of Arunachal Pradesh — the entire state — as its territory. It calls the area "**Zangnan**" in the Chinese language and makes repeated references to it as "South Tibet".

**What is the origin of the border dispute with China?**
After the communists took over in China (1949), they withdrew from all international agreements citing them to be **"unequal treaties"** imposed on it during its **"century of humiliation"** (when China was under colonial regulations) and demanded a **re-negotiation of all its borders.** China now doesn't comply with LAC and other border settlements done before 1949.

The India-China conflict is characterized by **cycles of conflict and cooperation over 75 years**, with recent serious episodes in **Galwan Valley (2020) and Tawang (2022).**

**Historical partnerships and a growing power gap** contribute to strategic challenges, while infrastructure build-up, especially in Tibet, has intensified the security dilemma.

**What is the India-China Border Peace and Tranquility Agreement (BPTA)?**
It was signed in 1993 to **maintain peace on the Line of Actual Control (LAC).** It committed both sides to respecting the status quo, reducing the risk of unplanned confrontations, and minimizing military forces along the LAC.

**Other Agreements:**
- **The Agreement on Confidence Building Measures in the Military Field** along the LAC:
  - It was signed in 1996, and laid down pledges on non-aggression, prior notification of large troop movements, and exchange of maps to resolve disagreements over the LAC.
- **The Border Defence Co-operation Agreement:** It was signed in 2013 following the Depsang Valley incident.


## Severe Climate Disasters of 2022 and COP27 (Source: TH)


**Why in News?**

While the developing and vulnerable nations continue to demand climate finance at COP27, **it is important to realise that the lives have also been severely affected by global catastrophes, especially in the year 2022.**

**How have Past Global Catastrophes Devastated the Planet?**

- **Pakistan Floods:**
  - Pakistan **recorded 62% less than normal rainfall in the month of March,** 2022 and the warmest April preceding the monsoon season.
    - Glaciers melted as a result of these heat waves, which led rivers to swell. Access to basic necessities became difficult for 33 million people of Pakistan's 220 million population.
  - Extreme rainfall further triggered the most devastating floods from June to September.
    - The flood was the worst in the country's recent history.
    - Over 1,500 people were killed, with millions being displaced and developing serious health issues such as skin infections, **malaria and diarrhoea.**
- **Hurricane Ian in the US:**
  - NASA data revealed that **warm ocean waters in the Gulf of Mexico powered Hurricane Ian in the US towards the end of September, 2022** making it one of the strongest hurricanes to hit the country in recent memory.
    - It **resulted in the loss of 101 lives** and monetary losses of more than USD 100 billion.
    - The disaster was the costliest climate-induced disaster of the year.
  - The **escalation brought severe floods,** relentless rains and strong winds to southwestern Florida.
- **European Droughts**
  - In June and July, 2022, **Europe was hit by two extreme heat waves**, which claimed approximately 16,000 lives.
    - This year's drought is likely to be the worst in 500 years.
  - Water levels in Europe's biggest rivers – Rhine, Po, Loire, and Danube – shrunk, and dry conditions continue to prevail in different parts of the continent.
- **Spain and Portugal:**
  - An atmospheric high-pressure system, which causes dry air to descend over subtropical regions in the Northern Hemisphere during winter and spring seasons, called **Azores high**, has the ability to block wet weather outlets.
  - This caused dry conditions in Iberian Peninsula in southwestern Europe, and the Mediterranean region.
    - Spain and Portugal hence faced the driest weather in 1,200 years, along with wildfires.
- **Natural Disasters in India:**

- o India recorded **natural disasters almost every day in 2022.**
- o India recorded **"extreme weather events on 241 of 273 days"** in the first nine months of the year.
  - Thunderstorms, persistent rains, **cyclones**, **droughts**, **heat waves**, **lightning**, **floods** and **landslides** occurred all throughout these months.
  - **Himachal Pradesh recorded the highest number of deaths** followed by Assam and Madhya Pradesh.
- o Overall, these **disasters claimed about "2,755 lives, affected 1.8 million hectares (ha) of crop area,** destroyed over 416,667 houses and killed close to 70,000 livestock."

**What are the Major Outcomes of the COP27?**
- ▪ **"Loss and Damage" Fund for Vulnerable Countries:**
  - o The United Nations Climate Change Conference COP27 **signed an agreement to provide "loss and damage" funding to vulnerable countries.**
- ▪ **Technology:**
  - o At COP27, a **new five-year work program was launched to promote climate technology solutions** in developing countries.
- ▪ **Mitigation:**
  - o A mitigation work programme was **launched aimed at urgently scaling up mitigation ambition and implementation.**
  - o The **work programme will start immediately following COP27** and continue until 2030, with at least two global dialogues held each year.
  - o Governments were also **requested to revisit and strengthen the 2030 targets** in their national climate plans by the end of 2023, as well as accelerate efforts to phase down unabated coal power and phase-out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies.
- ▪ **Global Stocktake:**
  - o Delegates at the UN Climate Change Conference COP27 wrapped up the second technical dialogue of the first global stocktake, a mechanism to raise ambition under the **Paris Agreement.**
  - o Prior to the conclusion of the stocktake at COP28 next year, the UN Secretary-General will convene a 'climate ambition summit' in 2023.
- ▪ **Sharm-El-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda:**
  - o It outlines **30 Adaptation Outcomes to enhance resilience** for 4 billion people living in the most climate vulnerable communities by 2030.
- ▪ **Action on Water Adaptation and Resilience Initiative (AWARe):**
  - o It has been launched to reflect the importance of water as both a key climate change problem and a potential solution.
- ▪ **African Carbon Market Initiative (ACMI):**

- o It was launched to support the growth of carbon credit production and create jobs in Africa.
- ▪ **The Global Renewables Alliance:**
  - o It brings together, for the first time, **all the technologies required for the energy transition in order to ensure an accelerated energy transition.**
  - o As well as ensuring targets are met, the Alliance also aims to position renewable energy as a pillar of sustainable development and economic growth.

## Projects to Track Small Fishing Vessels                                    (Source: PIB)

**Why in News?**
India has improved its position by six slots and is now placed at **61st rank as per the Network Readiness Index 2022 (NRI 2022)** report released recently.

**What is the Network Readiness Index 2022?**
- ▪ **About:**
  - o The Network Readiness Index (NRI) report maps the network readiness landscape of 131 economies based on their **performance in four areas:**
    - Technology, People, Governance, and Impact.
  - o The report is prepared by the **Portulans Institute, an independent non-profit,** nonpartisan research and educational institute based in Washington DC.
  - o This year's index includes **49 high-income economies, 32 upper-middle-income economies,** 36 lower-middle-income economies, and 14 low-income economies.
- ▪ **Global Rankings:**
  - o **US has taken the 1st spot** from the **Netherlands (4th)** as the most network-ready society.
    - The biggest mover in the index is **Singapore** (2nd), pushing **Denmark** (6th) and **Finland** (7th) out of the top 5.
    - The other five countries that made it to the Top 10 are - **Sweden** (3rd), **Switzerland** (5th), **Germany** (8th), **South Korea** (9th), and **Norway** (10th).
  - o Based on the top ten performers, NRI affirms that advanced economies in Europe, parts of Asia and the Pacific, and North America are **some of the world's most network-ready societies.**
- ▪ **India's Status:**
  - o India has not only improved its ranking, but also improved its score **from 49.74 in 2021 to 51.19 in 2022.**
  - o India **leads in several indicators:**
    - India secured **1st rank in "AI talent concentration".**

- **2<sup>nd</sup> rank** in "Mobile broadband internet traffic within the country" and "International Internet bandwidth".
- **3<sup>rd</sup> rank** in "Annual investment in telecommunication services" and "Domestic market size"
- **4<sup>th</sup> rank** in "ICT Services exports".
- **5<sup>th</sup> rank** in "FTTH/Building Internet subscriptions" and "AI scientific publications".
  - As per the report, **India has a greater network readiness** than would be expected given its income level.
    - **India is ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 36 in the group of lower-middle-income countries** after Ukraine and Indonesia.