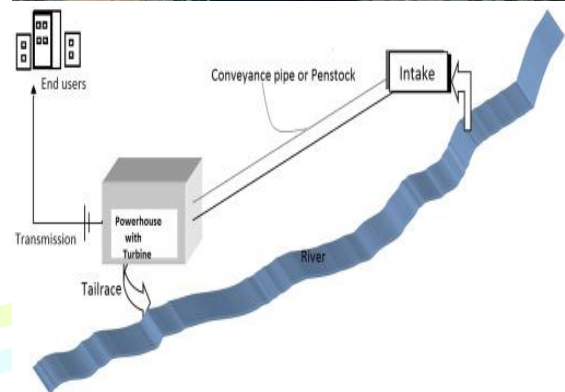


Vishnugad Hydropower Plant

- An independent panel of the World Bank is considering a plea by residents of Haat village, Chamoli district, Uttarakhand to investigate environmental damage from the under-construction Vishnugad Pipalkoti Hydro Electric Project (VPHEP) in the district
- The Tapovan Vishnugad Hydropower Plant is a 520 MW run-of-river hydroelectric project being constructed on Dhauliganga River in Chamoli District of Uttarakhand, India.
- The plant is expected to generate over 2.5 TWh of electricity annually.
- Run-of-river hydro projects use the natural downward flow of rivers and micro turbine generators to capture the kinetic energy carried by water.
- Typically water is taken from the river at a high point and diverted to a channel, pipeline, or pressurized pipeline



- The 444-MW VPHEP is being built by the Tehri Hydropower Development Corporation (THDC), a partially State-owned enterprise.
- The project is primarily funded by the World Bank and was sanctioned in 2011.
- It is proposed to be completed in June 2023.
- About 40% of the funds for the \$792 million project (₹64,000 crore approx.) has already been disbursed.

THE HINDU

Zorawar



- Indian Army is prioritising the procurement of the indigenous Indian light tank named ‘Zorawar’, for deployment in the mountain
- “It will have equal firepower as the present tank, including missile firing. The power to weight ratio will make it very agile,”
- Indian Light Tank Zorawar has been designed to operate in high-altitude areas, marginal terrains to the island territories and will be “highly transportable for rapid deployment to meet any operational situation”.

THE HINDU

Disqualification under RPA 1951



What RoPA'1950 & 1951 entail?

RoPA'1950	RoPA'1951
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualification of voters • Preparation of electoral rolls • Delimitation of constituencies • Allocation of seats in the Parliament and state legislature 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The actual conduct of elections in India • Administrative machinery for conducting elections • Qualification and disqualification of MPs/MLAs • Election offences and disputes • Registration of political parties

Grounds for disqualification

The Legislature, in the Representation of the People Act of 1951, is “absolutely specific” on the grounds to disqualify. These grounds are:

SECTION 8: Conviction for certain offences

SECTION 9: Dismissal for corruption or disloyalty

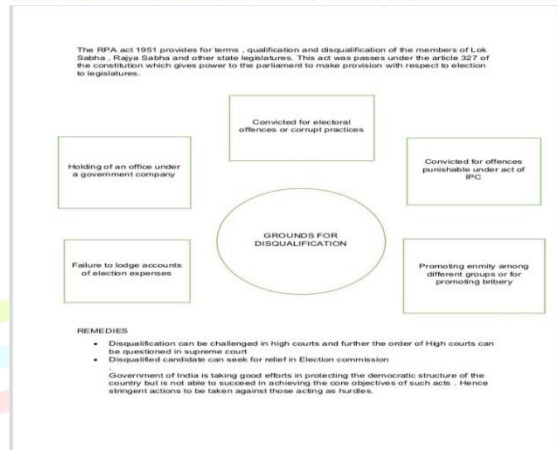
SECTION 9A: When there is subsisting contract between the person and the government

SECTION 10: Disqualification for office under government company

SECTION 10A: Failure to lodge account of election expenses

Apart from these disqualifications, there are no other disqualifications and, as is noticeable, there can be no other ground

— CJI DIPAK MISHRA



- Section 9 in the Representation of the People Act, 1951
- Disqualification for dismissal for corruption or disloyalty.
- A person who having held an office under the Government of India or under the Government of any State has been dismissed for corruption or for disloyalty to the State shall be disqualified for a period of five years from the date of such dismissal.
- For the purposes of sub-section (1), a certificate issued by the Election Commission to the effect that a person having held office under the Government of India or under the Government of a State, has or has

not been dismissed for corruption or for disloyalty to the State shall be conclusive proof of that fact: Provided that no certificate to the effect that a person has been dismissed for corruption or for disloyalty to the State shall be issued unless an opportunity of being heard has been given to the said person.

- What is Section 9A of The Representation of the People Act, 1951, which might lead to CM Hemant Soren's ouster?
- As per Section 9A in The Representation of the People Act, 1951, "a person shall be disqualified if, and for so long as, there subsists a contract entered into by him in the course of his trade or business with the appropriate Government for the supply of goods to, or for the execution of any works undertaken by, that Government."

THE HINDU

Puttaswamy case and data privacy

- Judgment in the case of Justice K.S. Puttaswamy (retd.) vs Union of India (2017).
- The judgment delivered on that date formally recognised the right to privacy as being a fundamental right

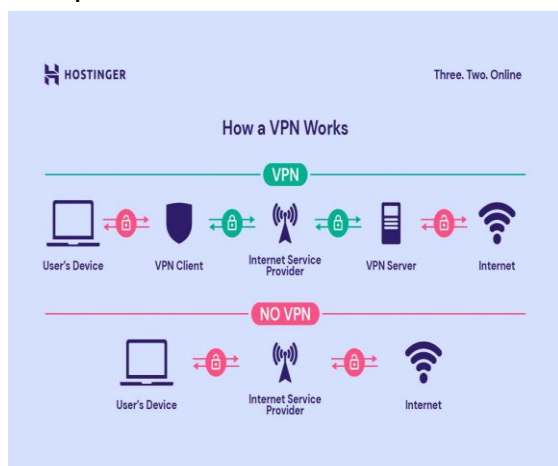
stemming from the right to life and personal liberty, guaranteed under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution.

- The Bench also held that while the right to privacy is intrinsic to an individual's ability to exercise bodily autonomy, it is still not an "absolute right" in and of itself, placing limitations in a manner similar to those placed on the right to free speech and expression.
- Data security breaches which result in the loss and theft of personal, sensitive data have not reduced in terms of measurable frequency or their impact
- Data concerning the scale and nature described here is used most often by some legitimate advertising agencies, unscrupulous telemarketing firms, and cyber criminals.
- The recent interventions by the Government which aim to restrict Indian nationals from subscribing to and accessing VPN services

What is a VPN?

- A commercial virtual private network is technology that allows you to create a private connection over a less private network by creating an encrypted tunnel between your computer and the internet. You can install a VPN just

like you would any other app or program on your smartphone or computer.



THE HINDU

AFSPA

WHAT IS ARMED FORCES SPECIAL POWERS ACT?

➤ Introduced in 1958, AFSPA confers on members of the armed forces special powers to rein in suspects in areas declared "disturbed" on account of insurgent activities or similar threats. It has been in force in Manipur since 1980, and the alleged excesses committed under it are the reasons why activist Irom Sharmila has been on a hunger strike since 2000.

WHAT ARE SPECIAL POWERS?

AFSPA allows any commissioned officer, warrant officer and non-commissioned officer – or any other



person of equivalent rank – to:

➤ Fire upon or use force against any person acting "in contravention of any law for the time being in force in the disturbed area"

➤ Arrest suspicious people without warrant

➤ Destroy any structure suspected to house an arms dump, shelter from which armed attacks are made or are likely to be made

➤ Conduct searches without warrants for evidence, to recover a wrongfully confined person or property or arms or explosives

➤ AFSPA bars prosecution or proceedings – except with Centre's nod – against personnel for action committed while exercising powers under the Act

reviewing the provisions of AFSPA submitted its report on June 6, 2005, with the recommendation that AFSPA be withdrawn.

- It had suggested making amendments to the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (UAPA) to achieve the purpose of AFSPA.
- In 2016, a two-judge Bench of the Supreme Court of Justices Madan B. Lokur and U.U. Lalit passed a historic judgment on a plea by hundreds of families in Manipur for a probe by a Special Investigation Team into 1,528 cases of alleged fake encounters involving the Army and the police between 1979 and 2012.
- The Court held that "there is no concept of absolute immunity from trial by a criminal court.

THE HINDU

- AFSPA was first invoked in the then Naga Hills district of Assam in 1958.
- Justice Jeevan Reddy Committee, which recommended the repeal of the AFSPA, finally, national security concerns made the Commission's recommendations infructuous and the AFSPA continued as it was.
- The Justice B.P. Jeevan Reddy Commission that was tasked with