

Siyom Bridge

- Siyom Bridge in Arunachal Pradesh
- The steel arch bridge on the Along-Yingkiong Road in the northeastern state was constructed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) under the project Brahmanak.
- Siyom Bridge
- The 100-metre-long, steel arch bridge over the river Siyom gives the Indian military a strategic advantage in deploying troops to the far-flung areas of the Line of Actual control faster besides providing connectivity to nearby villages and improving their access to markets and amenities.
- The Siyom River is a tributary of the Brahmaputra.
- It flows through the west Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh. Reports say that the new bridge over the river would improve connectivity to the upper Siang district and beyond via Along (Aalo).



Governor and council of minister

- It is a requirement under Article 163 of the Constitution that there shall be a Council of Ministers headed by the Chief Minister to aid and advise the Governor in the exercise of his functions.
- The Chief Minister shall be appointed by the Governor, who shall also appoint the other Ministers on the advice of the Chief Minister.
- All Ministers shall hold office during the pleasure of the Governor (Article 164)
- It is provided in Article 164(3) that the Governor shall administer the oaths of office and secrecy to a Minister before he assumes office.
- The Schedule III of the Constitution lays out the oath of office and oath of secrecy for a Minister of a State.
- For a person to become a Minister, he must be a Member of the Legislature of the State, and if the State has a legislative council, he can also be a member of that council and should not have suffered any disqualification provided under the Constitution.
- It is also a requirement that the council of ministers shall be

collectively responsible for the Legislative Assembly of the State

- The oaths are prescribed under Schedule III for various constitutional posts, including Ministers and judges, and without it, one cannot assume office.
- If the authority empowered to administer the oath refuses to do so, what should subsequently happen is a question that has come up before the court.

THE HINDU

Multi-domain operation

- MDO is not just actions on land, in the sea, air, cyber, space, and in the electromagnetic spectrum.
- It comprises operations conducted across multiple domains and contested spaces through the convergence of capabilities to overcome an adversary's strengths by presenting it with operational and/or tactical predicaments.
- This means having a common operating picture across all domains which forms the basis to decide the best tool to address a given task.
- the command, control and communication (C3) structure
- First, in the short- term, traditional physical domains must be stabilized,

with critical deficiencies of the services being plugged.

- Second, our C3 networks need to be hardened and protected against cyber threats.
- Importantly, they need to be linked and synchronized so that seamless exchange of data is ensured.
- Third, for the long term, a pilot project must be started now so that the true challenge of creating an MDO environment is grasped.

THE HINDU

Israel in ICJ

- The UNGA ended 2022 by passing a resolution that asked the body's highest court, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to render its opinion on the legal consequences of Israel's prolonged occupation of Palestinian land.
- There are two possibilities when a referral is made to the ICJ, it can either lead to a settlement with a party withdrawing its case or it can lead to a trial followed by a verdict.
- While its rulings are binding, the ICJ has no power to enforce them.



- It is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations (UN).
- Established in June 1945 by the Charter of the United Nations and began work in April 1946.
- The seat of the Court is at the Peace Palace in The Hague (Netherlands).
- Its official languages are English and French.
- The International Court of Justice is composed of 15 judges elected for a nine-year term of office by the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council.
- There are five seats for Western countries, three for African states, two for Eastern European states, three for Asian states, and two for Latin American and Caribbean states.
- The five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (France, Russia, China, the United Kingdom, and the United States) always have a judge on the Court, thereby occupying three of the Western seats, one of the Asian seats, and one of the Eastern European seats.
- 'Compulsory' jurisdiction is limited to cases where both parties have agreed to submit to their decision.
- Organizations, private enterprises, and individuals do not have access to International Court.
- Other international courts such as the International Criminal Court are not under the umbrella of the International Court.
- The International Court does not enjoy a full separation of powers, with permanent members of the Security Council being able to veto enforcement of cases, even those to which they consented to be bound.
- The ICJ has not been able to resolve major disputes amongst enemy nations. However, its judgements have been adhered to by friendly nations on issues of secondary importance.
- There are two other international judicial bodies i.e. International Criminal Court (ICC) and the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA).

THE HINDU

ONLINE Gaming regulation

The story so far:

- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has released draft amendments in relation to online gaming.
- The idea is to ensure that online games are in conformity with Indian laws and to safeguard users against potential harm.

What changes are being proposed?

- The proposals are aimed at safeguarding the interests of users by introducing set procedures and norms for verification and user engagement.
- More importantly, the draft proposal defines what constitutes an 'online game'.
- It is "a game that is offered on the internet and is accessible by a user through a computer resource if he makes a deposit with the expectation of earning winnings".
- 'Winning' constitutes any prize, in cash or kind, intended to be given to the participant "on the performance of the user and in accordance with the rules of the such online game".
- This addresses the discourse in the sector about the definitions of a 'game of skill' and a 'game of

chance'. The proposal endeavours to provide greater transparency.

- The game operators would have to verify users on the platform and provide them with the terms of services.
- For the monetary aspect of it, operators would have to inform the user about the policy related to the withdrawal or refund of their deposit, measures are taken for its protection, the manner, and distribution of winnings, and the fees and other charges to be paid by the user.
- They would also have to be informed about the risk of potential financial loss and addiction associated with the game.

What about the platforms?

- Before hosting or publishing a game, the platform would have to verify it from the self-regulatory body it is associated with.
- It would then be required to carry a registration mark on all its recognized online games.
- The platform is expected to appoint key management personnel or senior employee as its Chief Compliance Officers who would be entrusted with coordinating with law enforcement agencies to ensure

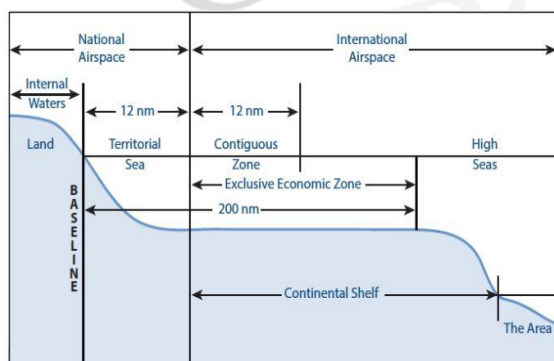
compliance with their orders or requisitions.

- Further, it must have in place an appropriate mechanism for the receipt and resolution of grievances.

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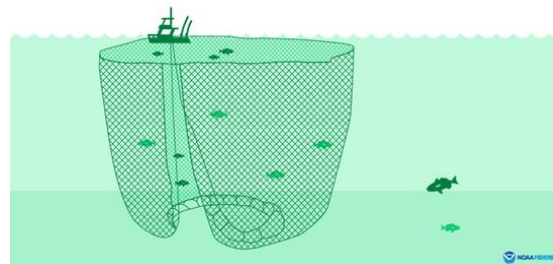
SC on seine fishing

- The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the Centre what would happen to the small and traditional fishermen in the State of Tamil Nadu if “affluent” purse seine fishermen on mechanized boats are allowed to operate beyond the 12 nautical mile territorial waters of water and end up catching hundreds of tonnes of fish.



- A purse seine is a large wall of netting deployed around an entire area or school of fish.
- The seine floats along the top line with a lead line threaded through rings along the bottom.
- Once a school of fish is located, a skiff encircles the school with the net.

- The lead line is then pulled in, "pursing" the net closed on the bottom, preventing fish from escaping by swimming downward.



What is Purse seine fishing?

- Purse seining is a non-selective fishing method that captures everything that it surrounds, including protected species.
- Sea turtles can be captured by a purse seine as it is set and then become entangled in the net mesh as it is hauled in.
- Purse seines can easily encircle marine mammals along with target species as the net is set.

THE HINDU

SC on the free speech of the minister

- “It is not possible to extend this concept of collective responsibility to any and every statement orally made by a Minister outside the House of the People/ Legislative Assembly...

- The Prime Minister or the Chief Minister does not have disciplinary control over the members of the Council of Ministers... in a country like ours, where there is a multi-party system and where coalition governments are often formed, it is not possible at all times for a Prime Minister/Chief Minister to take the whip whenever a statement is made by someone in the Council of Ministers,”
- The Supreme Court held that there is no reason to impose “additional restrictions” on the right to free speech of Ministers, and the government is not vicariously liable for disparaging remarks made by them, even if the comments are traceable to state affairs or meant to protect the government.
- “A statement by a Minister, even if traceable to any affairs of the state or for protecting the government, cannot be attributed vicariously to the government by invoking the principle of collective responsibility,
- “If such a statement is not consistent with the view of the government, then it is attributable to the Minister personally.

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