

## Resolve Tibet act

- The House of Representatives has passed a Bill that will strengthen the efforts of the United States to push the Chinese government to resolve the longstanding Tibet-China dispute through dialogue with Tibetan leaders.
- It aims to pressure the Chinese government to resume negotiations with the Dalai Lama's envoys.



- The House of Representatives has passed a bill that aims to resolve the Tibet-China dispute through dialogue with Tibetan leaders.
- The bipartisan 'Promoting a Resolution to the Tibet-China Dispute Act', also known as Resolve Tibet Act, pressures China to resume negotiations with the Dalai Lama's envoys or democratically elected leaders of the Tibetan people.
- The bill dismisses China's claim that Tibet has always been part of China and empowers the State Department to counter China's disinformation about Tibetan history, people, and institutions.

The Hindu

## EU digital service act

### Digital Services Act (DSA) overview

- The DSA regulates online intermediaries and platforms such as marketplaces, social networks, content-sharing platforms, app stores, and online travel and accommodation platforms. Its main goal is to prevent illegal and harmful activities online and the spread of disinformation.
- It ensures user safety, protects fundamental rights, and creates a fair and open online platform environment.

### What are the key goals of the Digital Services Act?

- The DSA protects consumers and their fundamental rights online by setting clear and proportionate rules.
- It fosters innovation, growth and competitiveness, and facilitates the scaling up of smaller platforms, SMEs and start-ups.
- The roles of users, platforms, and public authorities are rebalanced according to European values, placing citizens at the centre.



## SC on electoral bond critical analysis

- the world over, this amount is limited to prevent undue influence on the government.
- We had such a provision in India before electoral bonds were introduced.
- The judgment says: “The chief reason for corporate funding of political parties is to influence the political process which may in turn improve the company’s business performance....”
- Electoral bonds also removed the earlier limits on how much of its profits a company could donate to political parties.
- The scheme even allowed loss-making companies to make donations.
- This could have opened the door for shell companies to be formed with the purpose of channeling funds to political parties.
- Democracies went through a phase of crony capitalism, where big money funded political parties.
- In return, laws, policies, schemes and incentives were made for the benefit of the donors.
- In a limited way, the Supreme Court’s judgment prevents this from happening in India.
- There was an Amendment to the Finance Bill. In any country, the central bank alone has the authority to issue currency such as notes and bonds.
- Section 31 of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act says “only the RBI or the Central Government authorized by the

RBI Act shall draw, accept, make or issue any bill of exchange or promissory note for the payment of money to the bearers of the note or bond”.

- The Government amended the RBI Act using a Finance Act, and allowed under a new clause 31(3), the central government to authorize any scheduled bank to issue electoral bonds.
- This amendment to the Finance Act too has been struck down.
- A number of laws were amended to introduce electoral bonds such as the RBI Act 1934, the Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1951, the Income Tax Act 1961, and the Companies Act 2013.

### The essence of the judgment

- The Supreme Court judgment can be summarized as follows.
- The electoral bonds scheme has been struck down.
- All Amendments to the RPA Act, the Finance Act 2017, and the Companies Act 2013 are violative of Articles 19 and 14 of the Constitution.
- Article 19 refers to the right to information, and Article 14 to the right to equality, where arbitrariness in law is not permissible.
- These Articles are part of the Fundamental Rights in the Indian Constitution, and cannot be violated.
- The Supreme Court has directed the State Bank of India (SBI), the sole bank receiving funds in exchange for electoral bonds, to stop issuing them.

## The Hindu 17<sup>th</sup> February 2024 by SP Sir

- The SBI has to submit the full details of all electoral bonds that have been issued so far, to the Election Commission of India (ECI) by March 6, 2024.
- In turn, the ECI has to publish this information on its website within two weeks.
- We need to note that two constitutional bodies, the ECI and the Supreme Court, have acted in favor of democracy.
- The power of judicial review of laws passed by Parliament based on the Constitution is precious.
- The DAC has approved amendments in the DAP 2020 with respect to benchmarking and cost computation, payment schedule and procurement quantity.
- The DAC also cleared the AoN for sustainment support through repair replenishment for the 24 MH-60R multi-role helicopters procured by the Navy from the U.S. under the foreign military sale route.

The Hindu

### DAP 2020 & Acceptance of necessity

- The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) on Friday accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN), the first step in the procurement process, for proposals worth ₹84,560 crores.
- The proposals include some long-pending deals such as for heavy-weight torpedoes (HWT) for the Navy's Scorpene-class submarines and fight refueller aircraft (FRA) for the Indian Air Force (IAF) beginning afresh.

'DAP 2020'

- The procurement of a new generation of anti-tank mines having seismic sensors and the provision of remote deactivation with additional safety features has been approved under the Buy (Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured category of Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020.

What is Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) ?

- The approval, termed Acceptance of Necessity (AoN), is the first step toward procurement of any military equipment and hardware under India's defence acquisition norm.
- The tendering and contracting process is undertaken only after the grant of AoN.

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