

Date: 7th January 2021

Anti Conversion Laws:

News: Supreme Court decide to study the anti-conversion Laws of Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh.

Relevance:

- Prelims: Constitutional Articles belonging to fundamental rights.
- Mains: GS-2, can be used as an example in various questions.

What's the issue?

- Uttar Pradesh enacted the legislation named Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Ordinance 2020 and Uttarakhand enacted the legislation Freedom of religion Act 2018.
- They both criminalizes religious conversion via marriage and mandate prior official clearance before marrying into another faith.
- The guilty will be punished with a 10- year prison sentence. And these offenses are non-bailable.
- Outcome:
 - Several petitions have been filed that mobs are lifting people in the middle of the marriage
 - Supreme court for now have not put stay on these orders.

Fundamental Rights involved:

- **Article 21:** Fundamental right to live with dignity.
- Hadiya Case Judgement: It recognize **right to marry** a person with own's choice was a part of an adult privacy.

Demand for autonomous state:

News: Lawmakers from Assam has submitted a memorandum to the centre for implementation of article 244A for creation of an autonomous state within Assam.

Relevance :

- Prelims:

- about article 244A
- Constitutional procedure for declaration of autonomous areas and
- constituent areas of Autonomous state

Issue:

- The demand for creating an autonomous state comprising of three hill district which includes Karbi Anglong, West Karbi anglong and Dima Hasao.
- Article 244A:
 - Parliament can provide for creation of an autonomous state within Assam which can be comprised of any tribal area as mentioned in sixth Schedule.
 - Legislature for autonomous state:
 - It can be a elected or partly nominated or partly elected body.
 - OR it can be a councils of Minister
 - OR both
- Such law may specify the matter which are mentioned in state List or the concurrent list over which the legislature of the autonomous state have power to make laws upon.
- Define the matters on which executive powers of the autonomous state lies and provide for state taxes that will be assigned to the autonomous state
- It can be done by a Simple Majority.

New Entry norms to set up stock exchanges:

- A resident promoter setting up an Market infrastructure institutions (MII) may hold upto 100% shareholding, it will be brought down to not more than either 51% or 26% in next 10 years.
- A foreign promoter from FATF may hold upto 49% shareholdings which shall be brought down to 26% or 15% in coming 10 years.
- Foreign individuals other than from FATF may hold upto 10% shareholding in MII.
- Any person other than promoter may hold upto 25% shares in an MII.

Market Infrastructure Institutions: includes stock exchanges and depositories.

Policy to boost journal access:

News: Recently, a new policy was proposed named as **Science, Technology and innovation policy**.

Aim of the policy:

- To develop a system whereby all the researchers can access the research published in top international journal at no cost.

Present issues:

- **High subscription price:** presently, it costs around Rs. 1500 crores annually to subscribe to these journals.
- Individual colleges cannot negotiate with the publishers and only a small fraction of researcher are able to benefit.

Expected benefits of the policy:

- It will aid in building strong foundation for the future which is going to be dependent on science and technology.
- This policy will cost huge burden on the exchequer but will come with the benefit of increased access.

Target of the policy:

- Doubling the number of full time equivalent researchers and gross domestic expenditure on R&D (GERD) and private sector contribution to GERD every five years.
- Find out the loopholes and strengthen the S&T infrastructure for socioeconomic development.

Miscellaneous

- China denied the permission to WHO team of experts to visit China to investigate the origin of COVID-19.
- **PongDam wildlife sanctuary** situated in Himachal Pradesh is responsible for origin of Avian flu.

- **National Institute of High Security Animal Disease (NIHASD)** is situated in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
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