



Date - 18 Feb 2022

National Legal Services Day (NLSD)

- Recently the Ministry of Law and Justice informed the Lok Sabha about the All India Legal Awareness and Outreach Campaign, which was launched in October 2021 on the occasion of National Legal Services Day (NLSD).
- National Legal Services Day (NLSD) is celebrated every year on 9th November with the objective of spreading awareness to ensure fair, fair justice process for all citizens.

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National Legal Services Day (NLSD) and related constitutional provisions: The Hindu Analysis

- NLSD was started for the first time in the year 1995 by the Supreme Court of India to provide assistance to the poor and weaker sections of the society.
- Under this, free legal services are provided in cases before civil, criminal and revenue courts, tribunals or any other authority performing quasi-judicial functions.
- This day is celebrated to make the citizens of the country aware of the various provisions and rights of litigants under the Legal Services Authority Act. Help camps, Lok Adalat and legal aid programs are organized in every legal jurisdiction on this day.

Constitutional Provisions: The Hindu Analysis

- **Article 39A** states that the State shall ensure that the legal system works in such a way as to ensure that justice is accessible on a basis of equal opportunity and in particular to ensure that the opportunity of securing justice is denied to any citizen by reason of economic or any other disability. If not left, will arrange free legal aid.
- **Articles 14 and 22(1)** also make it mandatory for the state to ensure a legal system promoting justice on the basis of equality before the law and equal opportunity for all.

Objectives of Legal Services Authorities: The Hindu Analysis

- Providing free legal aid and advice.
- Spreading legal awareness.
- To organize Lok Adalats.
- To promote settlement of disputes through Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanism. There are different types of ADR mechanisms- arbitration, conciliation and judicial settlement including settlement or arbitration through Lok Adalat.
- Providing compensation to crime victims.

Legal Services Institutions to provide free legal services: The Hindu Analysis

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National level:

- **National Legal Services Authority (NALSA):** It was constituted under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. The Chief Justice of India is its chief patron.

State level:

- **State Legal Services Authority:** It is headed by the Chief Justice of the State High Court, who is its chief patron.

District Level:

- **District Legal Services Authority:** The District Judge of the district is its ex-officio chairman.

Taluka/Sub-Division Level:

- **Taluka/Sub-Divisional Legal Services Committee:** It is headed by a senior civil judge.
- **High Court:** High Court Legal Services Committee
- **Supreme Court:** Supreme Court Legal Services Committee.

Persons eligible to avail free legal services: The Hindu Analysis

- Women and Children
- Members of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes
- Industrial workers
- Victims of mass disaster, violence, flood, drought, earthquake, industrial disaster.
- Person with Disabilities
- Persons present in custody those persons whose annual income is less than the amount prescribed by the concerned State Government, if the matter is before any other court before the Supreme Court and if the case is less than Rs.5lac.
- Victims of human trafficking or those engaged in forced labor.

New India Literacy Program

- Recently the government has approved the “Nav Bharat Literacy Program” for the period 2022-2027 to cover all aspects of adult education in line with the National Education Policy 2020 and the budget announcements of 2021-22.
- This is in line with Budget 2021-22, which announced expansion of access to resources, online modules covering adult education.
- The estimated total outlay of “Nav Bharat Literacy Program” is Rs.1037.90 crores, which includes Central share of Rs.700 crores and State share of Rs.337.90 crores, respectively, for the year 2022-27.
- The name of adult education in the country has now been changed to ‘Education for all’.

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Objective of New India Literacy Program: The Hindu Analysis

- The objective of this program is not only to provide basic literacy and arithmetic education but also to incorporate other components which are essential for the citizens of the 21st century.

Other components include: The Hindu Analysis

- **Important life skills** (financial literacy, digital literacy, commercial skills, health care and awareness, child care and education, and family welfare etc.).
- **Vocational skill development** (with a view to getting local employment).
- **Basic education** (including equivalency at elementary, middle and secondary levels).
- **Continuing education** (including more advanced material on important life skills such as the use of holistic adult education courses in arts, science, technology, culture, sports and recreation, as well as other topics of interest to local learners).

Implementation of the plan: The Hindu Analysis

- The scheme will be implemented through online mode by volunteerism.
- Volunteers training, orientation, workshops can be organized through direct mode. All material and resources related to the scheme will be made available digitally.
- The school will be the unit for the implementation of the plan.
- Schools will be used to conduct survey of beneficiaries and voluntary teachers.

People involved in the scheme: The Hindu Analysis

- Non-literate people of the age of 15 years and above in all the States/UTs of the country.
- Using 'Online Teaching, Learning and Assessment System (OTLAS)' in collaboration with National Informatics Centre, NCERT and NIOS, a target of 5 crore learners has been set at the rate of 1 crore per annum.

Planning Requirement: The Hindu Analysis

- According to the 2011 Census, the total number of illiterate people in the age group of 15 years and above in the country is 25.76 crore (Male 9.08 crore, Female 16.68 crore).
- Also keeping in mind the 7.64 crore people certified as literate under the Saakshar Bharat program implemented from the year 2009-10 to the year 2017-18, it has been estimated that at present there are about 18.12 crore adults illiterate in India.

Other related initiatives: The Hindu Analysis

- **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC):** It aims to promote skill development by catalysing the creation of large, quality and profitable vocational institutions. It acts as a catalyst in skill development by providing financing to enterprises, companies and organizations providing skill training.
- **Digital India Programme:** It restructures several existing schemes, after which they are implemented in a synchronized manner. Today Current Affairs.
- **Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan:** It is one of the biggest initiatives in the country with the aim of making citizens digitally literate.
- **National Digital Literacy Mission:** It aims to empower at least one person per household with critical digital literacy skills by the year 2020.

- **Samagra Shiksha:** It is an integrated scheme for school education from pre-school to class XII to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels of school education.

Ban on Chinese mobile applications: Home Ministry

- Recently the Ministry of Home Affairs has recommended banning 54 Chinese mobile applications, including the popular game 'Garena Free Fire', raising concerns regarding privacy and national security.
- In the year 2020, the government also banned Tiktok and other popular short video apps in China.
- The decision to ban such apps in India is not only a geopolitical move, but also a strategic business maneuver that could have significant economic implications.
- Earlier it was observed that India's trade with China crossed US\$ 125 billion in the year 2021, with a record import of US\$ 100 billion from China, which imports Chinese goods, especially machinery, into India. Underscored the constant demand for a series.

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Advantages of Decision: The Hindu Analysis

Help in the nation's technology market:

- Banning these Chinese websites and applications to the Indian public helps to provide opportunities to our in-house IT talent and focus on the Internet user.
- Big tech firms in Silicon Valley (US) and China are confused about Indian consumers in both hardware and software, but India's focus is more on exporting IT services than its country's technology market.

No more trust in passive diplomacy:

- Banning these apps also sends a clear message from India that it will no longer be a victim of China's Nibble and Negotiate policy.
- The standoff continues in Ladakh.

Hurt China's ambition:

- The ban could affect one of China's most ambitious goals, namely becoming a digital superpower of the 21st century.
- The Chinese Internet industry needs more than 500 million netizens from India to continue a training for artificial intelligence algorithms in its effort to establish control over the rest of the world.

Recognizing the importance of data:

- India's ban on apps and considering restrictions related to telecom hardware and mobile handsets can prove to be helpful for data collection and digital technology.

Arguments in opposition to the decision: The Hindu Analysis

Data privacy not limited to Chinese apps:

- The apps were banned in recent days following reports of unauthorized users' data being stolen and accessed to servers outside India. Today Current Affairs.
- However, data privacy and security concerns are not limited to Chinese apps only.

India's economic dependence on China:

- Banning Chinese mobile apps is a relatively small target as India is dependent on Chinese products in many important and strategically sensitive areas.

Lack of replacement:

- After banning more than 118 Chinese apps, other websites and applications through Indian technology have started to bridge this gap. But it is not able to block the use of Chinese websites and applications.

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