

22 – 12 – 2021

News: Aadhar linking with Electoral List

- Recently, parliament passed the Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021 which seeks to link Aadhar with Electoral list.

Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021

- Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021 provides for amendment of section 23 of the Representation of People's Act, 1950, enabling the linking of electoral roll data with the Aadhaar ecosystem.
- This aims to curb the menace of multiple enrolment of the same person in different places.
- This will help in stopping bogus voting and fraudulent votes.
- This linking is in consonance with 105th report of the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personal, Public Grievances and Law and Justice.
- The citizens get voting rights when they turn 18. However, many are left out of the electoral rolls even after turning 18. This is because in the present system, 1st January is the qualifying date.

- According to the bill, **four qualifying dates will be declared for updating the voting rolls to include those who have turned 18 — the first day of the months of January, April, July and October.**
- The language for registration of **‘wives of service voters’ will now be replaced by ‘spouse’**. This will make the laws more **“gender-neutral”**.
- Service voters are those serving in the armed forces, armed police forces of a state serving outside it and government employees posted outside India.

News: Organisation of Islamic Cooperation

- A meeting of foreign ministers from the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) agreed to establish a humanitarian trust fund to address the growing economic crisis in Afghanistan which has left millions facing hunger over the winter.

Humanitarian Trust Fund

- The **fund will be set up under the Islamic Development Bank to channel aid to Afghanistan in coordination with other groups.**
- **Allowing Afghanistan access to its financial resources would be pivotal to preventing economic collapse** and said realistic pathways to unfreezing billions of dollars in frozen central bank reserves should be explored.

Trust Fund by United Nation

- The United Nations (UN) has also setup a special trust fund to provide urgently needed cash directly to Afghans through a system that taps into donor funds frozen since the Taliban takeover in August.
- It was set up with the aim of injecting liquidity into Afghan households in a bid to permit them to survive the upcoming winter and remain in their homeland.
- Germany is a first contributor to the fund. It had pledged 50 million euros (USD58 million) for it.

Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)

- Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) is an international organization of 53 Muslim majority countries (second largest inter-governmental organisation after UN).
- It was founded in 1969 the headquarters of OIC is in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.
- Motto of the grouping is to "To safeguard the interests and ensure the progress and well-being of Muslims".

The OIC system consists of

- **Islamic Summit:** The largest meeting, attended **by the kings and Heads of state and governments, convened once in every 3 years.** Most recent was conducted in Mecca, Saudi Arabia on 2019.
- **Council of Foreign Ministers:** Meeting **annually.**
- **Secretary General:** The Secretary General is **elected by the Council of Foreign Ministers for a period of five years, renewable once.** The Secretary General is elected from among nationals of the Member States in accordance with the principles of equitable geographical distribution, rotation and equal opportunity for all Member States with due consideration to competence, integrity and experience. **Hussein Ibrahim Taha from Chad** was selected as the new secretary general. He will replace Yousef Ahmed Al-Othaimen, who will leave the post in November 2021.
- India is not a **member of the OIC.** However, India was invited as a guest of honor at 46th Session of the Council of Foreign Minister in 2019. 2019 is the 50th anniversary of OIC. India's application of membership was strongly opposed by Pakistan at the time of its formation. Currently, even though India is home to 32crore Muslims, is not a Member of OIC since Muslims are minority in India and **Membership of OIC is confined only to Muslim-major Countries.**

- Recently, the Organisation for Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has criticised Government of India over the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, and the Babri Masjid verdict of the Supreme Court.