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Resolution in legislature

Context: The West Bengal Assembly unanimously passed a resolution opposing any attempts to divide the state, in response to BJP leaders' demands for North Bengal as a separate Union Territory and Cooch Behar as a separate state.

➤ Definition and Purpose:

- A resolution is a procedural device used to initiate discussion on matters of general public interest in the House.

➤ For admissibility, a resolution must be:

- Clearly and precisely expressed.
- Focused on one definite issue.
- Free from arguments, inferences, ironical expressions, imputations, or defamatory statements.
- Restricted to the conduct or character of persons in their official or public capacity.
- Not related to matters under judicial adjudication. [Rule 173]

➤ Types of Resolutions:

- **Private Members' Resolutions:**
 - Moved by private members and are not binding on the government.
 - Members must give written notice at least two days before the ballot date. Resolutions are non-binding.
- **Government Resolutions:**
 - Moved by ministers with advance notice. Time for discussion is allocated by the Business Advisory Committee.
- **Four categories:**
 - Approving international treaties, conventions, or agreements.
 - Declaring or approving government policies.
 - Approving recommendations of committees.
 - Approving government proposals to reject arbitration awards.
- **Statutory Resolutions:**
 - Tabled under constitutional or statutory provisions.
 - Notice may be given by a minister or a private member, with specific notice periods as prescribed by the Constitution or statute.
 - Published in the Bulletin under 'Statutory Resolution' after admission.
- **Resolutions vs. Motions:**
 - All resolutions are substantive motions, but not all motions are substantive or require a vote.
 - Resolutions are self-contained proposals requiring House approval, while motions may not necessitate a vote.

Sr. No.	Points	Motion	Resolution
1)	Meaning	Motion is a written proposal placed before the meeting for discussion and decision.	Resolution is an accepted motion in the meeting.
2)	Amendment	Motion is subject to amendment before it is put to vote.	When resolution is passed, it cannot be amended.
3)	Recording	A motion is not recorded in the minutes book of a meeting.	All resolutions must be recorded in the minute book of a meeting.
4)	Filing	Motion need not be filed with the registrar of companies.	Certain resolutions are required to be filed with the registrar of the companies within 30 day of the date of its passing.
5)	Withdrawal	It may be withdrawn by mover before it is put to vote.	Once it is approved, it cannot be withdrawn.
6)	Types	Motion can be i) formal motion ii) substantive motion	Resolutions are of 3 types i) Ordinary ii) Special iii) Resolution Requiring special notice

• Significance and Examples:

- Resolutions can have significant legal and political impact, such as those related to constitutional amendments or presidential impeachment.
- Political resolutions, such as those passed by states against central laws like the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) or Uniform Civil Code (UCC), reflect state governments' positions but do not have legal force.
- Recent examples include states like Kerala passing resolutions against the CAA and Nagaland against the UCC.

• Court Rulings:

- In March 2021, the Supreme Court heard a PIL challenging state assemblies' competence to pass resolutions against central laws like the CAA and farm laws.
- The court found no harm in state assemblies passing such resolutions, viewing them as opinions rather than enforceable laws. Chief Justice Sharad Bobde noted that these resolutions are expressions of a majority's opinion, not legal judgments.

Parliamentary Committees

Context: Key parliamentary committees, such as the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), have begun forming largely through consensus, in contrast to the elections observed during the previous Lok Sabha.

➤ About:

- Parliamentary Committees are panels of MPs appointed or elected by the House or nominated by the Speaker/Chairman.
- They operate under the direction of the Speaker/Chairman and present their reports to the House or the Speaker/Chairman.
- These committees have their origins in the British Parliament.

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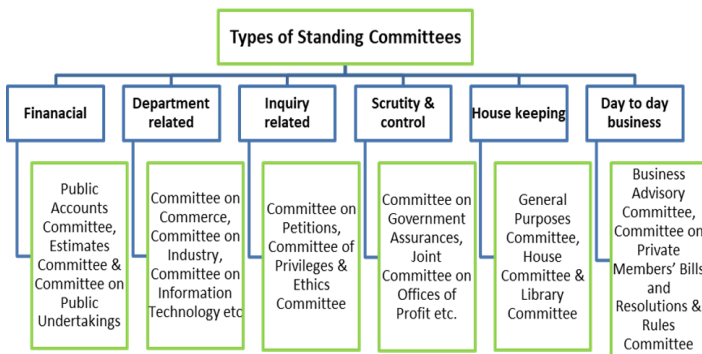


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- Their authority is derived from Article 105 and Article 118 of the Constitution:
- Article 105 covers the privileges of MPs.
- Article 118 grants Parliament the power to create rules to regulate its procedures and conduct of business.

➤ **Types of Committees:**

- **Standing Committees:**
 - Permanent and work continuously; constituted annually or periodically.
 - **Classified into six categories:**
 - Financial Committees
 - Departmental Standing Committees
 - Committees to Enquire
 - Committees to Scrutinise and Control
 - Committees Relating to the Day-to-Day Business of the House
 - House-Keeping Committees or Service Committees



- **Ad Hoc Committees:**
 - Temporary and dissolve upon completing their assigned tasks.
- **Subdivided into:**
 - Inquiry Committees
 - Advisory Committees
- **Principal Ad Hoc Committees include:**
 - Select Committees
 - Joint Committees on Bills
- **Purpose and Function:**
 - Legislative business often occurs in committees due to the complex nature of lawmaking and limited parliamentary time.
 - Increasing political polarization and contentious debates have led to more legislative work being handled in committees.
 - MPs rely on committees for expert advice and detailed analysis.
 - Committees reflect party representation similar to the overall Parliament.
 - Bills are thoroughly examined, with input from external stakeholders and the public.

- Committee reports create a public record, pressuring the government to reconsider provisions.
- Closed-door meetings encourage collaborative and less media-driven discussions.

India-Bangladesh Relations

Context: The recent fall of government has led to questions on how should India react to the changes in power structure in the Eastern neighbourhood.

History of India-Bangladesh Relations

➤ **Foundation and Highs (1971):**

- India played a pivotal role in Bangladesh's independence during the 1971 Liberation War.
- Bangladesh's first government, led by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was established in Kolkata.
- India recognized Bangladesh on December 6, 1971, and established diplomatic relations shortly after.

➤ **Lows (1975-1991):**

- Relations deteriorated after Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's assassination in 1975.
- Military regimes under General Ziaur Rahman (1975-1981) and General H.M. Ershad (1982-1991) saw anti-India sentiments rise.
- Issues included disputes over the sharing of river waters, insurgencies in Northeast India, and border security.

➤ **Repair and Growth (1991-Present):**

- With the return of parliamentary democracy in 1991, relations improved significantly.
- Sheikh Hasina's government (since 1996) has fostered cooperation, leading to agreements on water sharing and trade.
- Major milestones include the Ganga Water Sharing Treaty and various infrastructure projects.

Significance of India-Bangladesh Relations

➤ **Geo-strategic:**

- Bangladesh's location is crucial for India's access to the Bay of Bengal and Southeast Asia.
- Bangladesh serves as a strategic route for trade and connectivity, including access to Chattogram and Mongla ports.

➤ **Geo-political:**

- A stable Bangladesh helps maintain regional security and peace, crucial for India's strategic interests.
- Bangladesh's support is important for India's bid for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council (UNSC).

➤ **Economic:**

- Bangladesh is India's largest trade partner in South Asia, and the second-largest trade partner overall.
- Bilateral trade reached \$18 billion in 2021-2022, up from \$10.8 billion in 2020-21.

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- India has provided duty-free access to all Bangladeshi exports under the South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) agreement.

➤ **Cultural:**

- Shared cultural and religious ties include significant Hindu Bengali communities and religious sites like the Ranir Bunglow Temple and Bhoj Vihara.
- Historical connections through shared language, literature, and traditions strengthen cultural bonds.

➤ **International Cooperation:**

- Cooperation is key for regional forums like BIMSTEC, SAARC, and COPs to UNFCCC.
- Both countries work together on regional development and environmental issues.

Areas of Cooperation

➤ **Political:**

- Indian PM Narendra Modi's visit to Bangladesh for its golden jubilee celebrations.
- India awarded the Gandhi Peace Prize 2020 to Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.
- Bangladeshi PM Sheikh Hasina participated in the G-20 summit in India.

➤ **Land Boundary Agreement (2015):**

- The agreement resolved long-standing disputes by swapping disputed islands and allowing residents to choose their country of residence.
- The agreement settled over 160 enclaves and demarcated the border.

➤ **Economic:**

- Bangladesh is India's largest trade partner in South Asia, with trade valued at \$18 billion.

- Joint feasibility study on the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) to enhance trade and reduce tariffs.

- India provides duty-free access to Bangladeshi goods under SAFTA.

➤ **Infrastructure:**

- India extended Lines of Credit worth over \$7 billion for infrastructure projects in Bangladesh.
- The Ahaura-Agartala rail link and Maitri Setu bridge enhance connectivity.
- The Kolkata-Dhaka-Agartala Bus Service reduces travel distance significantly.

➤ **Energy:**

- Bangladesh imports nearly 2,000 megawatts of electricity from India.
- The India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline will transport one million Metric Tonnes Per Annum (MMTPA) of diesel.

➤ **Defence:**

- Joint exercises such as Exercise Sampriti (Army) and Exercise Bongosagar (Navy).
- Cooperation on border security along the 4096.7 km border.

➤ **Tourism:**

- Bangladeshi tourists are significant in India; in 2017, they outnumbered tourists from Western Europe.

➤ **Medical:**

- Bangladesh accounts for over 35% of India's international medical patients and contributes over 50% of revenue from medical tourism.

NEWS IN BETWEEN THE LINES

Recently, the Thadou Students' Association (TSA) formed a global platform to address critical issues facing the Thadou community, particularly in Manipur.

About the Thadou Tribe:

- The Thadou people, also known as Thadou te, are an **indigenous tribe** of people and part of the Kuki community.
- They **speak the Thadou language** and live in **Northeast India, Myanmar** and **Bangladesh**.
- The Thadou language is part of the **Sino-Tibetan language** family and is also known as Kuki or Thado Chin.
- They are the **second largest tribe in Manipur**, after the **Meitei** and are also found in Assam, Nagaland, and Mizoram.
- The Government of India recognized each dialect group of the Kukis as a separate tribe in **1956**, including the Thadou.
- They **practice four types of marriages**, including **chongmu, sahabra, jolta** and **kijamang**, and prefer to marry their maternal uncle's daughter.
- Their subsistence activities include **hunting, fishing, cultivation** and **animal husbandry**.

Thadou Tribe



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Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana



Recently, the Bombay High Court upheld Maharashtra's 'Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana' as a beneficiary scheme for women and not discriminatory, dismissing a PIL that claimed it was politically motivated and a "freebie."

About Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana:

- Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana is a Maharashtra state government scheme, launched on June 28, 2024.
- The primary aim of the scheme is to provide financial assistance and empowerment to economically weaker women in Maharashtra.
- Eligibility for the Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana requires women to be between 21 and 65 years of age, residents of Maharashtra and have an annual family income of less than ₹2.5 lakh.
- This scheme will support economically weaker women in Maharashtra by providing them with monthly financial aid of ₹1,500 every month and three free LPG cylinders annually.
- Educational support under the scheme includes fee waivers for poor girls from Other Backward Classes (OBC) and Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) pursuing higher education.

Siris Tree



Recently, the century-old Indian siris tree in East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh, collapsed on August 3 due to floodwaters eroding the soil beneath it, causing widespread sorrow as the tree had featured in over 100 movies.

About the Siris Tree:

- The siris tree, also known as Albizia lebeck, is a deciduous tree native to the Indian subcontinent and Myanmar.
- It is a member of the Fabaceae family and has many common names, including Indian siris, East Indian walnut and woman's tongue tree.
- The siris tree can grow up to 30 meters tall with a crown that spreads 10–15 meters wide and has rough grayish-brown bark.
- It features bipinnate leaves with paired leaflets, fragrant yellowish-white flowers in clusters, and flat pods containing multiple seeds.

The Godavari River:

- The Godavari River is the second-longest river in India after the Ganges, with a length of about 1,465 km.
- It originates in the Western Ghats near Trimbak in the Nashik district of Maharashtra.
- This river has many tributaries, including the Pravara, Manjira and Maner on the right bank and the Purna, Pranhita, Indravathi and Sabari on the left bank.

F-16 Fighter Jet



Recently, Ukraine has received its first American-made F-16 fighter jets.

About F-16 Fighter Jet:

- The F-16 Fighting Falcon, also known as the F-16, is a single-seat, single-engine, supersonic, multirole fighter aircraft that has been the United States' frontline fighter plane since 1979.
- The F-16 can travel over 500 miles in an air-to-surface mission, defend against hostile aircraft, and return to its starting point.
- Its combat radius is greater than that of potential threat fighter aircraft.
- It can identify low-flying aircraft in radar ground clutter and accurately pinpoint targets in all weather conditions, which allows it to deliver explosives with precision in non-visual bombing scenarios.
- It is powered by a single Pratt & Whitney or General Electric turbofan engine that can generate 23,000 to 29,000 pounds of thrust, accelerating the aircraft to more than twice the speed of sound
- It has a fuselage length of about 15 meters and a wingspan of about nine meters, and an empty weight of 9,000 kilograms.

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Zika Virus



Recently, in Maharashtra, seven new Zika virus cases were reported in Pune city, including five pregnant women, an 18-year-old youth and a 40-year-old man, bringing the total to 72 cases in the district.

About Zika Virus:

- The Zika virus is a **mosquito-borne virus** that was first identified in the **Zika Forest of Uganda in 1947**.
- It is **similar to dengue fever**, yellow fever and West Nile virus.
- It is primarily transmitted to humans **through the bite of infected Aedes mosquitoes**, particularly **Aedes aegypti** and **Aedes albopictus**.
- It can also spread through **sexual contact**, **blood transfusion** and from an **infected mother to her baby** during pregnancy or childbirth.
- Common symptoms, when present, include **fever**, **rash**, **joint pain**, **muscle pain**, **headache**, and **red eyes** (conjunctivitis).
- There is **no specific treatment** available for Zika virus infection or disease.

POINTS TO PONDER

- Which state government recently introduced the Mukhyamantri Maiyaan Samman Yojana? – **Jharkhand**
- In which city was the 14th India-Vietnam Defence Policy Dialogue recently held? – **New Delhi**
- What type of vessel is INS Shalki, which was recently in the news? – **Diesel-electric submarine**
- Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve, which has been recently highlighted in the news, is situated in which state? – **Madhya Pradesh**
- What is the causative agent of Legionnaires' disease, which has been recently reported? – **Bacteria**

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