

TATHASTU ICS

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S.No.	TOPIC
1	INDIAN GPS NAVIC TO BE LINKED TO AADHAAR ENROLMENT DEVICES
2	INDIA'S MYANMAR QUANDARY, ITS PARADOXICAL POLICY
3	MONEY LAUNDERING

INDIAN GPS NAVIC TO BE LINKED TO AADHAAR ENROLMENT DEVICES

SOURCE: [TH](#)

WHY IN NEWS?

- Indian Constellation **NavIC**, a seven-satellite system, akin to American GPS, is to be **incorporated into Aadhaar enrolment devices**.
- Department of Space revealed its involvement in field trials and technical guidance for device procurement specifications.
- Committee Report: Parliamentary Committee of Science and Technology received responses from DoS, unveiling successful trials and technical assistance.
- Aadhaar Enrolment Kits: Currently, GPS-linked Aadhaar enrolment kits collect and verify personal information.

ABOUT NavIC:

- **NavIC, India's GPS equivalent** is the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS).
- It is an **autonomous regional satellite navigation system** that provides accurate realtime positioning and timing services.
- It **covers India and a region extending 1,500 km (930 mi)** around it, with plans for further extension. The constellation is in orbit as of 2018.
- **NavIC-based trackers are compulsory on commercial vehicles** in India and some consumer mobile phones with support for it since the first half of 2020.

IRNSS

Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System

IRNSS (NavIC) is designed to provide accurate real-time positioning and timing services to users in India as well as region extending up to 1,500 km from its boundary

NAVIGATION CONSTELLATION CONSISTS OF SEVEN SATELLITES

- 3** in geostationary earth orbit (GEO) and
- 4** in geosynchronous orbit (GSO) inclined at 29 degrees to equator

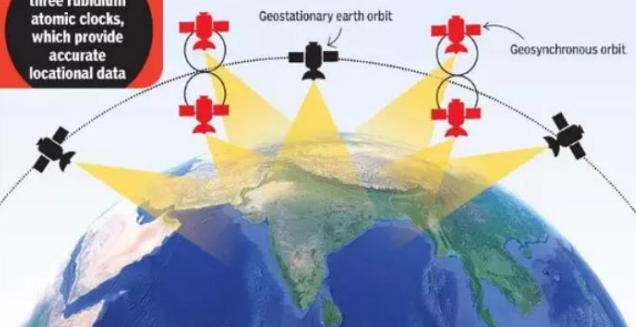
Each sat has three rubidium atomic clocks, which provide accurate locational data

IT WILL PROVIDE TWO TYPES OF SERVICES

- 1 Standard positioning service** | Meant for all users
- 2 Restricted service** | Encrypted service provided only to authorised users (military and security agencies)

Applications of IRNSS are: Terrestrial, aerial and marine navigation; disaster management; vehicle tracking and fleet management; precise timing mapping and geodetic data capture; terrestrial navigation aid for hikers and travellers; visual and voice navigation for drivers

While **American GPS** has **24 satellites** in orbit, the number of sats visible to ground receiver is limited. In **IRNSS, four satellites** are always in geosynchronous orbits, hence always visible to a receiver in a region **1,500 km** around India



SIGNIFICANCE OF THE MERGER:

- The incorporation of NavIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation) technology into Aadhaar enrolment devices is designed to elevate their precision and dependability.
- Presently, these devices rely on the Global Positioning System (GPS) for gathering and confirming personal information during the Aadhaar enrolment process.
- Following successful field trials by the Department of Space (DoS), the department is currently offering its technical knowledge to finalize the procurement standards for these devices.

- Incorporating NavIC technology will bring multiple advantages, encompassing heightened navigation precision and enhanced disaster management capabilities.

WHY IS NAVIC NECESSARY DESPITE EXISTING SYSTEMS?

- While GPS and GLONASS are managed by defense agencies of their respective countries, there's a potential for civilian service to be compromised or restricted.
- NavIC stands as an autonomous regional system covering India, ensuring position services without relying on external systems. Its complete control is vested in the Government of India.

OTHER NAVIGATION SYSTEMS OPERATIONAL IN THE WORLD

Four global systems:

- GPS from the U.S.
- GLONASS from Russia.
- Galileo from European Union
- BeiDou from China.

Two regional systems:

- NavIC from India
- QZSS from Japan.

NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS INSTITUTE FOR POLICY RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND TRAINING (NTIPRIT):

- This institute serves as the principal training centre for the Department of Telecommunications. Established in 2010 as the National Telecom Academy.
- Its main role involves conducting introductory training for probationary officers of the Indian Telecommunication Service Group — A (ITS Group A), selected through the All-India Engineering Services Examination by UPSC.

GPS AIDED GEO AUGMENTATION SYSTEM (GAGAN):

- GAGAN is a collaborative Space Based Augmentation System (SBAS) developed by ISRO and AAI to enhance navigational services within the Indian Flight Information Region (FIR) and potentially beyond.
- GAGAN comprises satellites and ground stations that correct GPS signals, resulting in improved accuracy of position. GAGAN serves diverse sectors such as aviation, forestry, railways, scientific research, land management, tourism, and more.
- Its advanced features support flight phases from en-route to approach for qualified airports within its service area.
- Operational GAGAN Payload is present on GSAT-8, GSAT-10, and GSAT-15 satellites. GAGAN's geographical coverage extends from Africa to Australia, with the capacity for 45 reference stations for expansion into neighbouring countries.

INDIA'S MYANMAR QUANDARY, ITS PARADOXICAL POLICY

SOURCE: [TH](#)

SYLLABUS: India and its Neighbourhood- Relations

WHY IN NEWS?

The military has chosen to release political prisoners after the president of Myanmar extended the state of emergency by six months. Nevertheless, these behaviors are hardly indicative of a democratic and peaceful Myanmar.

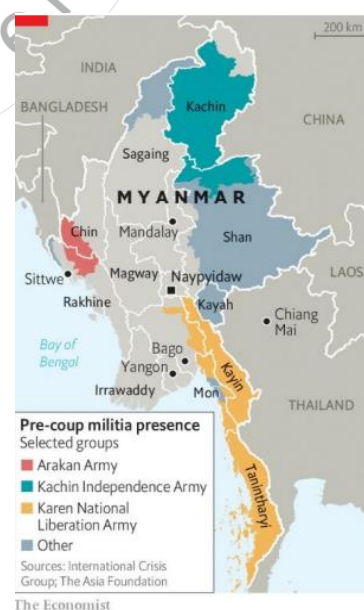
DEVELOPMENTS IN MYANMAR'S ONGOING TRAGEDY:

- July 31 and August 1 will be recorded as the crucial dates when the history of Myanmar's ongoing tragedy was written.
- In the first case, the acting President of Myanmar, Myint Swe, announced the fourth extension of the 'emergency' for another six months.
- In the second instance, the military regime decided to release several political prisoners and - even reduced the sentences imposed on Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the deposed President Win Myint. - Ms. Suu Kyi also moved from prison to house arrest.



BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INDIA AND MYANMAR:

1. **India extended assistance** to Myanmar during **both the pandemic and the coup**; however, residents of Myanmar faced **accusations of instigating violence in Manipur**. Concerns over **trafficking and drug-related** issues led India to halt the Free Movement Regime in 2022.
 2. During the **Mekong Ganga Cooperation (MGC)** meeting, India's Foreign Minister engaged in discussions about projects and border stability with Myanmar. **India also supports the ASEAN's 'Five-Point Consensus'**.
 - **Nevertheless, India's professed commitment to democracy in Myanmar contrasts with its actual policy due to security concerns in the northeast and its relationship with China.**
1. For instance, India's announcement of the **Sairang-Hmawngbuchhuah railway project** near the **Myanmar border**, as part of its **Act East Policy**, seeks to **counter China's railway influence** in Myanmar and the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor.
 2. Furthermore, multiple reports suggest that India has increased its supply of arms to the military following the coup. This not only contradicts India's stance on reinstating democracy but also escalates tensions along the border.



CHALLENGES IN INDIA-MYANMAR RELATIONS:

- **Coup by Military Junta:** The recent takeover by the military junta in Myanmar posed a challenge for India in balancing its strategic and economic interests while upholding its commitment to democratic values and human rights.
- **Trade Relations:** India's economic ties with Myanmar, with a bilateral trade worth \$2 billion, lag behind China's engagement. India's withdrawal from the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership could further widen this trade disparity.
- **Rohingya Concerns:** The presence of Rohingya migrants in India raises internal security issues and strains national resources.
- **Northeast Insurgency:** The Myanmar-China border serves as a hotspot for local armed separatist groups in Myanmar and Indian outfits like ULFA in Assam and NSCN (IM) in Nagaland.
- **Internal Security:** The porous and lightly policed Indo-Myanmar border poses a significant internal security challenge, exploited by terrorist and insurgent groups for arms trafficking and recruitment.
- **Free Movement Regime:** Militants and cross-border criminals exploit the Free Movement Regime for illegal activities like arms smuggling, contraband trade, and counterfeit currency circulation.
- **Trust Deficit:** Delays in project implementation have widened the trust gap between India and Myanmar.
- **China's Influence:** China has consolidated its influence through soft power and economic projects, including those under its Belt and Road Initiative, further asserting its role in Myanmar.

POTENTIAL UPCOMING STRATEGIES FOR INDIA:

- **Engagement with Supporters of Democracy:** India has an opportunity to interact with Suu Kyi and other pro-democracy figures following her reduced sentence, thereby enhancing diplomatic relations with the National Unity Government.
- **Treatment of Refugees:** India should adopt a compassionate approach when dealing with incoming refugees, avoiding broad security measures and prejudiced profiling, while acknowledging familial connections.
- **Harmonizing Security and Democracy:** India needs to strike a balance between its security interests and dedication to democracy, taking into account its role in regional stability and the impact of China's influence.

MONEY LAUNDERING

SOURCE: [TH](#), [TH](#), [TH](#)

ABOUT MONEY LAUNDERING:

- Money laundering pertains to the transformation of unlawful gains or earnings of an organization, entity, or individuals into lawful ones.
- Criminals utilize money laundering as a strategy to obscure the illicit origins of their income.
- Through intricate transfers, transactions, or a sequence of commercial activities, the money is laundered, effectively removing its illicit source and presenting it as lawful business earnings.

PREVENTION OF MONEY LAUNDERING ACT, 2002 (PMLA):

OBJECTIVES-

- Counteract money-laundering.
- Thwart the funneling of funds into unlawful endeavors and financial offenses.
- Enact provisions for the seizure of assets originating from, or implicated/employed in, money-laundering activities.
- Address issues associated with and related to the actions of money laundering.

OFFENCES- According to the PMLA, engaging in any wrongdoing outlined in Part A and Part C of the PMLA Schedule will trigger the application of PMLA provisions. Several legislations and offenses that might fall under the purview of PMLA include:

- **Part A** enumerates breaches under various laws including: the Indian Penal Code, Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, Prevention of Corruption Act, Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, Copyright Act, Trademark Act, Wildlife Protection Act, and Information Technology Act.
- **Part B** designates offenses that align with Part A offenses, but the monetary value linked to such wrongdoings is Rs 1 crore or more.
- **Part C** addresses cross-border criminal activities, highlighting the commitment to combat money laundering on an international scale.

AUTHORITIES ENTRUSTED FOR INVESTIGATION-

Enforcement Directorate: -

- The **Enforcement Directorate conducts investigations** into money laundering offenses as stipulated by the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA).
- It undertakes measures for the attachment and confiscation of assets if these are determined to be the gains from a criminal activity originating from a Scheduled Offense under the PMLA.
- Furthermore, it pursues legal actions against individuals implicated in the act of money laundering.

Financial Intelligence Unit – India (FIU-IND): -

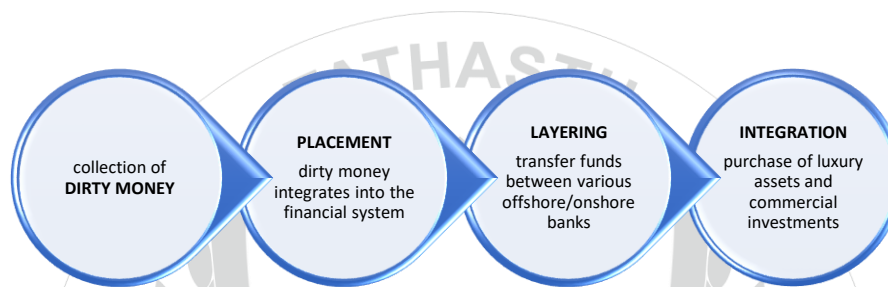
On ED's power under PMLA

An upshot of the judgment by the Supreme Court on the validity of certain provisions under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act

- The offence of money laundering is as heinous an offence as terrorism
- Section 3 (definition of money laundering), Section 24 (reverse burden of proof), and Section 5 (attachment of property) to stay
- Stringency in granting bail under the Act is legal and not arbitrary
- It is not mandatory to give an Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) in every case as it was not an FIR
- The statements made to ED are considered admissible
- Provision of attachment of property of accused as proceeds of crime 'balances' the interests of the accused and the State
- The question of enactment of PMLA amendments through the Money Bill route is to be decided by a larger Bench



- India (FIU-IND), operating within the Department of Revenue under the Ministry of Finance, functions independently and reports directly to the Economic Intelligence Council (EIC), which is overseen by the finance minister. FIU-IND serves as the central national entity tasked with receiving, processing, analyzing, and disseminating information concerning suspicious financial transactions. It holds responsibilities including:
 - Coordinating and enhancing collaborations between national and international intelligence agencies.
 - Engaging in investigations to contribute to the global endeavors against money laundering and associated criminal activities.
 - Offenses listed in the schedule are investigated separately by relevant agencies mentioned in respective legislation, such as the local police, CBI, customs departments, SEBI, or other investigative bodies.



CONSEQUENCES OF MONEY LAUNDERING:

Impacts of Money Laundering in Indian Context	Examples
Socio-cultural Effects	Money laundering fuels radicalisation, terrorism activities
Encouragement of Criminal Activities	The success of money laundering schemes may embolden criminals to engage in more fraud, drug trafficking, and related crimes.
Erosion of Trust in Institutions	Money laundering undermines public trust in financial institutions and the rule of law, impacting societal integrity.
Economic Effects	It leads to huge economic losses to state in form of tax evaion
Distortion of Economic Activity	Inflated investment in sectors like real estate due to money laundering can lead to artificial demand, affecting market dynamics.
Impact on Tax Revenue	Money laundering reduces taxable income, thereby depriving the government of legitimate tax revenue.
Security and Terrorism	It fuels various types of terrorism like digital terrorism, biological, etc
Financing Terrorism	Illicit funds can be funneled through money laundering for financing terrorism, posing a threat to national security.

Impacts of Money Laundering in Indian Context	Examples
Organized Crime Infiltration	Money laundering provides organized crime groups with financial power to infiltrate businesses and institutions.
Weakening Institutions	It leads to lack of faith of common people in government institutions
Corruption and Bribery	Money laundering can lead to corruption and bribery of officials, eroding the functioning of public institutions.
Diminished Governance	Money laundering undermines effective governance and weakens the rule of law, hampering societal progress.

CHALLENGES IN TACKLING MONEY LAUNDERING:

- **Predicate Offence-Centric Law:** This law hinges on outcomes pursued by primary agencies like the CBI, Income Tax, or police, where the Act's cases depend on their investigations. (Predicate offence: a component of a more serious crime)
- **Technological Advancement Gap:** Enforcement agencies struggle to match the pace of rapidly evolving technologies.
- **Incomplete KYC Norms:** KYC norms fail to address Hawala transactions due to RBI's limited regulatory control, and market competition leads banks to relax security, aiding money launderers.
- **Rampant Smuggling Activities:** Black-market channels in India facilitate the sale of imported goods like electronics and food items.
- **Fragmented Enforcement Agencies:** Divisions dealing with money laundering, cybercrimes, terrorism, and economic offences lack coordination.
- **Tax Haven Nations:** Countries known for financial secrecy laws enabling anonymous accounts have a historical link to money laundering.

WAY FORWARD:

Aspect	Proposed Solutions
Legal Framework	Develop a comprehensive and independent legal framework specifically focused on money laundering with clear definitions and provisions.
Technology	Establish specialized cybercrime units within enforcement agencies, invest in technology training, and adopt advanced tools for monitoring and investigating digital financial transactions.
KYC Norms	Strengthen KYC norms by introducing robust customer identification methods, enhancing oversight of banks' compliance, and establishing stringent penalties for non-compliance.

Aspect	Proposed Solutions
Smuggling and Informal Trade	Enhance border security, strengthen customs enforcement, and promote awareness campaigns to curb illicit trade activities.
Enforcement Agencies	Foster collaboration among enforcement agencies through dedicated task forces, joint training programs, and information-sharing mechanisms.
International Cooperation	Strengthen international partnerships by signing mutual legal assistance treaties (MLATs), participating in global anti-money laundering initiatives, and sharing intelligence with other countries.
Financial Intelligence Units	Strengthen the capabilities of Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs) to efficiently collect, process, and share information related to suspicious financial activities.
Regulation of Tax Havens	Collaborate with international organizations and other countries to pressure tax havens into implementing more transparent financial regulations and information sharing.
Awareness and Education	Launch public awareness campaigns to educate citizens about the consequences of money laundering, how to recognize suspicious activities, and the importance of reporting such activities to authorities.

