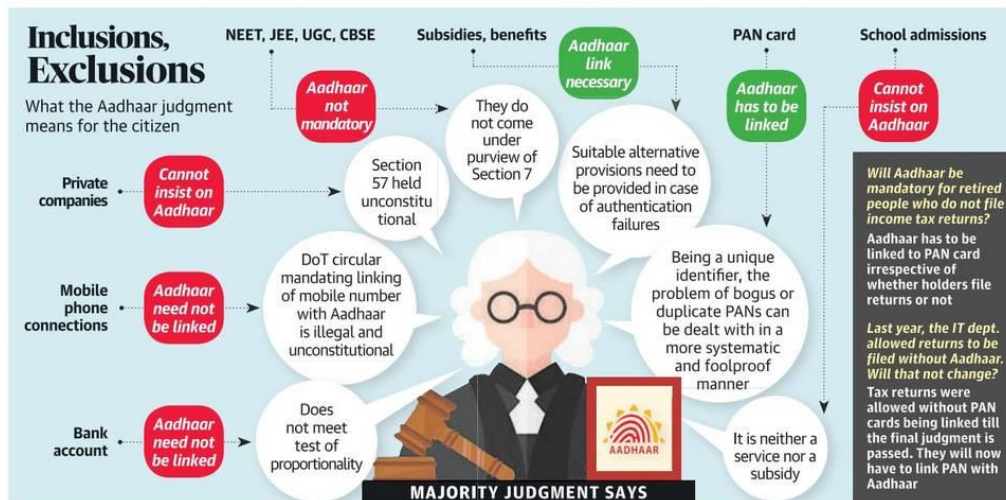


September – 27

NATIONAL

Supreme court ruling on Aadhaar

- ❖ The Supreme Court (September 26) declared the Centre's flagship Aadhaar scheme as Constitutionally valid.
- ❖ The Supreme Court ruled that linking the Aadhaar card to PAN card is mandatory and is needed for filing income tax returns.
- ❖ The apex court, however, said Aadhaar is not mandatory for opening bank accounts and linking with existing accounts.



Compiled by Varun B. Krishnan | With inputs from Lakshmikumar and Sridharan Attorneys

- ❖ The Supreme Court also struck down Section 57 of the Aadhaar Act that allowed private companies to avail Aadhaar data.
- ❖ Calling the section unconstitutional, the court asserted that private companies cannot insist on having Aadhaar number of customers.
- ❖ Aadhaar authentication records cannot be stored beyond six months, striking down the current rule of 5 years.

Live Streaming of Cases of Constitutional Importance

- ❖ The Supreme Court (September 26) allowed live streaming of cases of Constitutional importance that take place in the Court of the Chief Justice of India.



- ❖ The bench said that they want to implement the concept of 'open court' in a bid to decongest the court.
- ❖ As per the court the public had a "right to know" what happens inside the courtroom.
- ❖ The decision came on the back of a clutch of petitions filed by senior lawyer Indira Jaisingh, law student Snehil Tripathi and NGO Centre for Accountability and Systemic Change.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Two New Earth-like Exoplanets Discovered

- ❖ NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) has discovered two new earth-like exoplanets namely "super-Earth" and "hot Earth".
- ❖ TESS was launched in April 2018 to detect exoplanets (planets outside the sun's solar system) and this is TESS's first discovery.
- ❖ TESS is on a 2-year mission to expand astronomers' known catalogue of so-called exoplanets, worlds circling distant stars.
- ❖ Super-Earth is named as "Pi Mensae c" and is almost 60 light-years away which orbits its sun every 6.3 days.
- ❖ Hot-Earth has been named as LHS 3844 b which is almost 49 light-years away. It orbits its sun every 11 hours.
- ❖ Both the planets are too hot to support life.

Jan Dhan Darshak

- ❖ Finance Ministry has launched Mobile Application Jan Dhan Darshak as a Part of Financial Inclusion.
- ❖ Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance and National Informatics Centre (NIC) have jointly developed the app Jan Dhan Darshak as a part of financial inclusion initiative.
- ❖ This App will provide guidance to the common people in locating a financial service touch point at a given location in the country.

ENVIRONMENT

Air Pollution Control Device "WAYU"

- ❖ Union Minister for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences and Environment, Forest and Climate change, Dr Harsh Vardhan inaugurated air pollution control device WAYU (Wind Augmentation PurifYing Unit)
- ❖ WAYU has been installed for traffic junctions at ITO intersection and Mukarba Chowk in Delhi.
- ❖ WAYU is developed by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research –National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (CSIR-NEERI)
- ❖ It has been indigenously developed as a part of Technology Development Project being funded by Department of Science and Technology.
- ❖ The device works on two principles mainly Wind generation for dilution of air pollutants and Active Pollutants removal.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

UN's Highest Environmental Honour

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi was awarded the United Nations' Champions of the Earth award for the year 2018.
- ❖ The UN recognised Modi with its highest environmental honour in the policy leadership category for his efforts to eliminate all single use plastic in India by 2022.
- ❖ Six of the world's most outstanding environmental changemakers have been recognised with the Champions of the Earth Award.
- ❖ French President Emmanuel Macron and Mr. Modi have been jointly recognised in the Policy Leadership category.
- ❖ Cochin International Airport was honoured with the award for Entrepreneurial Vision, for its leadership in the use of sustainable energy.
- ❖ The airport is world's first fully solar-powered airport.

❖ The other winners include

| | |
|---|---|
| Environmental and indigenous rights defender Joan Carling | For protecting land and environmental rights of indigenous people for more than 20 years |
| China's Zhejiang's Green Rural Revival Programme | For transforming once heavily polluted area of rivers and streams in East China's Zhejiang province |
| The 'Beyond Meat and Impossible Food' | Science and Innovation category |

Barclays Hurun India Rich List 2018

- ❖ Billionaire Mukesh Ambani, chairman of India's 2nd most valued firm 'Reliance Industries', has topped the 'Barclays Hurun India Rich List 2018' for the 7th consecutive year.
- ❖ Barclays Hurun India Rich List 2018, a compilation of the individuals in India having a net worth of INR 1,000 crore or more.
- ❖ Mr Ambani is followed by London-based S.P. Hinduja and L.N. Mittal.
- ❖ Azim Premji is fourth in the list.
- ❖ The cumulative wealth of the 831 individuals featured in the list stood at \$719 billion, amounting to a quarter of India's GDP of \$2,848 billion.

FIFA's Best Player of The Year Award

- ❖ Luka Modric broke a decade of award dominance by Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi after being crowned world footballer of the year by FIFA.
- ❖ Modric beat out Liverpool's Egyptian forward Mohamed Salah and Ronaldo.
- ❖ He was voted FIFA's best player (2017-18 season) after winning the Champions League for a 4th time in 5 seasons with Real Madrid and leading Croatia to its 1st World Cup final.
- ❖ Messi and Ronaldo were the only winners of world soccer's main individual award from FIFA in various guises since 2008, both winning five titles each.

MISCELLANEOUS

Human Capital Score

- ❖ India ranks 158th in the world for its investments in education and health care
- ❖ The study is published in journal the Lancet.
- ❖ The study places Finland at the top.
- ❖ The U.S. is ranked 27th, while China is at 44th and Pakistan at 164th.
- ❖ South Asian countries ranking below India in this report include
 - Pakistan (164)
 - Bangladesh (161)
 - Afghanistan (188).
- ❖ Countries in the region that have fared better than India in terms of human capital include
 - Sri Lanka (102)
 - Nepal (156)
 - Bhutan (133) and
 - Maldives (116).
