

DAILY PT POINTERS

1st July, 2024



The Hindu : GS 2/Polity and Governance –Page 1

New criminal laws in force; Cr.PC, IPC applicable only for old cases

Till BNS gets new section on sexual crimes against men and transgender persons, police can invoke allied charges such as wrongful confinement and physical hurt, if they get such complaints; Central officials say States free to amend BNSS

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

As three new criminal laws come into effect across the country from Monday despite objections from States ruled by non-BJP parties, Union government officials said here on Sunday that the States were free to bring in their own amendments to some provisions of the Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) that replaces the Code of Criminal Procedure (Cr.PC). The BNSS prescribes the procedure and conditions for arrest, bail, and custody, among other things.

The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), which replaces the Indian Penal Code, 1860, may also be amended soon to incorporate a section on sexual

Crime and punishment

The new Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita has 358 Sections against the 511 in the Indian Penal Code that it replaces. The Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita replaces the Code of Criminal Procedure, and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam comes in place of the Indian Evidence Act



What is new?

- Provision for **Zero FIR** allowing filing of a first information report at any police station, regardless of jurisdiction

- Online registration** of police complaints and mandatory videography of crime

scenes for all heinous crimes

- A person can now report incidents by **electronic communication**, without the need to visit a police station

- Judgment in criminal cases has to come **within 45 days**

of completion of the trial

- Provisions against false promise of marriage, gang rape of minors and **mob lynching**

- Statement of a woman rape victim will be recorded by a woman police officer

in the presence of her guardian or relative

- Death sentence or life imprisonment for **gang rape of a minor**

- Sedition** has been replaced with 'secession' or 'act against the country's sovereignty, unity and integrity'

crimes against men and transgender persons. A senior government official said that police officers were being asked to invoke other allied sections under the BNS, such as wrongful confinement and physical hurt, if they get such complaints, until an amend-

ment is brought to correct this anomaly.

The Bharatiya Sakshya (BS), which replaces the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, is the third law which will come into force.

From 00:00 hours on July 1, more than 650 district courts and 16,000 pol-

ice stations across the country will have no option but to migrate to the new system. Cognisable offences will be registered under Section 173 of the BNSS, instead of Section 154 of the Cr.PC.

The IPC and Cr.PC will run concurrently along

with the new laws as several cases are still pending in courts and some crimes that took place before July 1 that are reported later will have to be registered under the IPC.

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- The new criminal laws mark a significant step towards empowering Indian citizens. These laws aim to create a more accessible, supportive, and efficient justice system for everyone.
- The key provisions of the new criminal laws include Reporting Incidents Online, Filing FIR at Any Police Station as well as the victims getting a free copy of FIR. Apart from this, in the event of an arrest, the individual has the right to inform a person of his choice about their situation.
- The new laws have also prioritized the investigations for offences against women and children, ensuring timely completion within two months of recording information. In the new criminal laws, it has become mandatory for forensic experts to visit crime scenes for serious offences and collect evidence. Summons can now be served electronically, expediting legal processes, reducing paperwork, and ensuring efficient communication between all parties involved.

The Hindu :GS2-Health(Page -5)

Meningoencephalitis claims two lives in Kerala: officials

A.S. Jayanth
KOZHIKODE

Unhygienic and stagnant water resources and high temperatures could be the factors contributing to the recent unusual rise in the rare, but fatal primary amoebic meningoencephalitis cases in the State.

Three cases of the infection, including two deaths, have been reported in the last two months alone. While a five-year-old girl from Malappuram district died in May, a 13-year-old girl from Kannur district lost her life in June. Another 12-year-old boy from Kozhikode district is right now undergoing medical treatment at a private hospital. First detected in Alappuzha municipality in 2016, the infection was reported in Ma-

Unhygienic and stagnant water resources and high temperatures may be worsening situation

lappuram in 2019 and 2020, Kozhikode in 2020, Thrissur in 2022, and in Alappuzha in 2023. "There has been a rise in such cases the world over. Warming of the atmosphere and stagnant and unhygienic water resources could be some of the conditions leading to it. This type of amoeba is found to be more active in warm water," M.P. Jayakrishnan, Additional Professor, Paediatrics, Government Medical College Hospital, Kozhikode, told *The Hindu* on Sunday.

Dr. Jayakrishnan was

among those who treated the five-year-old girl from Malappuram and also suspected the possibility of the infection. "Earlier, we used to have cases of bacterial meningitis. But, its instances have come down of late due to vaccination. The five-year-old girl had symptoms similar to that of bacterial meningitis. That was when we thought if it could be amoebic meningoencephalitis," he pointed out.

This infection is caused by *Naegleria fowleri*, also called 'brain-eating amoeba', which lives in fresh warm water, such as lakes and rivers.

The amoeba infects people when it enters their body through the nose. It travels up to the brain and destroys the tissues and results in its swelling.

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The Hindu: GS 3/Science and Technology –Page 5

Carbon derived from coconut husks can power supercapacitors, find researchers

Sarath Babu George
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Researchers at the Government College for Women, Thiruvananthapuram, have devised a method to produce activated carbon, suitable for supercapacitor fabrication, from coconut husks, which are a major agricultural residue in Kerala.

The coconut husk biowaste-derived activated carbon holds immense promise for sustainable and efficient green solutions for high-performance supercapacitors owing to its availability, low cost, and eco-friendly nature.

Supercapacitors, with



Schematic illustration of the synthesis of activated carbon.

significantly higher capacitance and energy storage capacity than conventional capacitors, have emerged as a vital component in the

quest for sustainable energy storage solutions. But, the search for an ideal supercapacitor electrode material has been a challenge.

The research team, led by Xavier T.S., Assistant Professor, Department of Physics, and including Merin Tomy, Ganesh S.G., Anu M.A., and Sreelakshmi S.R., found the prototype supercapacitors made of coconut husk-derived activated carbon to be four-times more efficient than the existing supercapacitors. The findings have been published in the *American Sustainable Resource Management Journal*.

The team had leveraged the innovative microwave-assisted method designed at the Centralised Common Instrumentation Facility (CCIF) at the college.

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Should education be brought back to the State list?

When was the subject added to the concurrent list? How do other countries govern education?

Rangarajan. R

The story so far:

The NEET-UG exam has been embroiled in controversies over the award of grace marks, allegation of paper leaks and other irregularities. The government also cancelled the UGC-NET exam after it was held, while the CSIR-NET and NEET-PG exams have been postponed.

What is the historical background?

The Government of India Act, 1935 during the British rule created a federal structure for the first time in our polity. The legislative subjects were distributed between the federal legislature (present day Union) and provinces (present day States). Education which is an important public good was kept under the provincial list. After independence, this continued and education was part of the 'State list' under the distribution of powers.

However, during the Emergency, the Congress party constituted the Swaran

Singh Committee to provide recommendations for amendments to the Constitution. One of the recommendations of this committee was to place 'education' in the concurrent list in order to evolve all-India policies on the subject. This was implemented through the 42nd constitutional amendment (1976) by shifting 'education' from the State list to the concurrent list. There was no detailed rationale that was provided for this switch and the amendment was ratified by various States without adequate debate.

The Janata Party government led by Morarji Desai that came to power after Emergency passed the 44th constitutional amendment (1978) to reverse many of the controversial changes made through the 42nd amendment. One of these amendments that was passed in the Lok Sabha but not in the Rajya Sabha was to bring back 'education' to the State list.

What are international practices?

In the U.S., State and local governments

set the overall educational standards, mandate standardised tests and supervise colleges and universities. The federal education department's functions primarily include policies for financial aid, focussing on key educational issues and ensuring equal access. In Canada, education is completely managed by the provinces. In Germany, the constitution vests legislative powers for education with landers (equivalent of States). In South Africa, on the other hand, education is governed by two national departments for school and higher education. The provinces of the country have their own education departments for implementing policies of the national departments and dealing with local issues.

What can be the way forward?

The arguments in favour of 'education' in the concurrent list include a uniform education policy, improvement in standards and synergy between Centre and States. However, considering the vast diversity of the country, a 'one size fits all'

approach is neither feasible nor desirable. Further, as per the report on 'Analysis of Budgeted expenditure on Education' prepared by the Ministry of Education in 2022, out of the total revenue expenditure by education departments in our country estimated at ₹6.25 lakh crore (2020-21), 15% is spent by the Centre while 85% is spent by the States. Even if expenditure by all other departments on education and training are considered, the share works out to 24% and 76% respectively.

The arguments against restoring 'education' to State list include corruption coupled with lack of professionalism. The recent issues surrounding the NEET and NTA have however displayed that centralisation does not necessarily mean that these issues would vanish.

Considering the need for autonomy in view of the lion's share of the expenditure being borne by the States, there needs to be a productive discussion towards moving 'education' back to the State list. This would enable them to frame tailor-made policies for syllabus, testing and admissions for higher education including professional courses like medicine and engineering. Regulatory mechanisms for higher education can continue to be governed by central institutions like the National Medical Commission, University Grants Commission and All India Council for Technical Education.

Rangarajan. R is a former IAS officer and author of 'Polity Simplified'. Views expressed are personal.

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The Hindu-Defense(GSIII)–Page 12

DRDO takes up study on development of indigenous conventional submarine

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

As the procurement of new submarines under P-75I goes on, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has taken up a preliminary study on the design and development of an indigenous conventional submarine under Project-76.

“DRDO got a go ahead from Defence Ministry to carry out a preliminary study to determine the project contours. It is expected to take up to a year

after which a formal case will be put up to the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) for project sanction,” a defence source said.

This will be a continuation of the advanced technology vessel (ATV) project, to build a conventional submarine, under which the Arihant series of nuclear ballistic missile submarines (SSBN) are being built and another project for building nuclear-powered submarines (SSN) is currently under way, the source said.

Under P-76, there will be

substantial indigenous content, including weapons, missiles, combat management system, sonars, communications, electronic warfare suite, mast and periscope, sources said. The Navy has a 30-year submarine building programme, and after the P-75I, it intends to design and build conventional submarines indigenously, senior officials had stated on several occasions.

Propulsion module

An air independent propulsion (AIP) module de-

signed and developed by the DRDO is now awaiting fitment on the Scorpene-class submarines. The first Scorpene-class submarine *Kalvari* is expected to go for refit in 2025 when the fitment process will begin and is expected to take two to three years, sources said.

An AIP module acts as a force multiplier as it enables conventional submarines to remain submerged for a longer duration thereby increasing their endurance and reducing chances of detection.

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Indian Express –Environment (GSIII)-Page 12

Govt approves ₹56 crore for next phase of conservation plan for Great Indian Bustard

NIKHIL GHANEKAR
NEW DELHI, JUNE 30

THE MINISTRY of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has approved ₹56 crore for the next phase of the conservation of Great Indian Bustard (GIB) and Lesser Florican.

The plan includes habitat development, in-situ conservation, completion of the conservation breeding centre, releasing captive-bred birds and habitat development among other things.

Earlier in a June 7 meeting, the executive committee of the National CAMPA (Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority) had recommended the Wildlife Institute of India's (WII) proposal to the governing body, multiple sources aware of developments said. Submitted in March, the WII proposal which outlines the plan to scale up the project for 2024-2033 includes two components.

The conservation programme has been running since 2016 for long-term recovery of



As of now, around 140 GIBs are surviving in the wild

critically endangered GIB and Lesser Florican. As of now, around 140 GIBs and fewer than 1,000 Lesser Floricans are surviving in the wild.

The first component comprises targets such as completion of the conservation breeding centre (CBC) in Jaisalmer's Ramdevra, development of the Sorsan Lesser Florican facility, preparatory work for releasing captive-bred birds, release of GIBs in Rajasthan and other range states, post-release monitoring and artificial insemination.

The second component comprises in-situ conservation of

GIBs in other range states such as Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. This component will be implemented by WII along with state governments. The budget for this component has been pegged at ₹43.68 crore and its approval will be sought later.

Between 2024-2026, WII will also undertake GIB population estimation in Jaisalmer, its range states and rangewide population estimation of the lesser florican.

As the rewilding won't begin before 2027, until then WII plans to collect two to four eggs of the GIB and six to ten eggs of Lesser Florican each year.

To release the captive-bred Bustards, release sites will be identified. According to the WII plan, these Bustards will be trained for release and soft release enclosures will also be developed. The 2024-2029 phase will also target developing and implementation of artificial insemination techniques as a backup to the captive-breeding conservation, scientists working on

the project said. The WII has been collaborating with the Abu Dhabi-based International Fund for Houbara Conservation for the same. "Artificial insemination will help to facilitate genetic management and diversity. If we want sperm from a particular male GIB to manage the population from a genetic perspective, we can go for cryopreservation. Artificial insemination will also help augment fertility rates. It has been tried successfully in the UAE, but not in India," said a scientist associated with the project. The two species have faced severe decline over the years due to hunting, habitat loss and depredation of eggs by other predators. Additionally, the overhead power lines have also emerged as a key threat to GIB with a 2017-18 study estimating deaths of 88,000 birds of different species annually.

Plans to recover the species first started in 2013 under the National Bustard Recovery Plan, which later gave way to the Bustard Recovery Project in 2016.

- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has approved Rs 56 crore for the next phase of the conservation of Great Indian Bustard (GIB) and Lesser Florican.
- The plan includes habitat development, in-situ conservation, completion of the conservation breeding centre, releasing captive-bred birds and habitat development among other things.

Great Indian Bustards : One of the heaviest flying birds endemic to the Indian subcontinent. **State Bird of Rajasthan.**

Habitat: Untamed, Arid grasslands. A Maximum number of GIBs were found in Jaisalmer and the Indian Army-controlled field firing range near Pokhran, Rajasthan.

Other areas: Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

Protection Status:

IUCN Status: Critically Endangered.

Listed in **Wildlife Protection Act's Schedule 1.**

HEADLINES OF THE DAY



PIB -History(GSI)

Prime Minister's Office

Prime Minister pays tributes to tribal heroes on the occasion of Hul Diwas

Posted On: 30 JUN 2024 2:32PM by PIB Delhi

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has paid tributes to tribal heroes like Sidhu-Kanhu, Chand-Bhairav and Phoolo-Jhano for their self-respect and valour against the atrocities of the British Empire

- Hul Diwas celebrated in Jharkhand People

HEADLINES OF THE DAY



PIB -Defense(GSIII)

Ministry of Defence

INS SHIVALIK REACHES PEARL HARBOUR TO PARTICIPATE IN RIM OF THE
PACIFIC EXERCISE (RIMPAC) - 24

Posted On: 29 JUN 2024 5:15PM by PIB Delhi

- RIMPAC-24, spanning over six weeks of intense operations and training, is aimed at enhancing interoperability and building trust among the navies of friendly foreign countries.
- Led by the US Navy, approximately 29 countries are participating in the current exercise. RIMPAC-24 provides a unique training opportunity, while fostering and sustaining cooperative relationships among participants, critical to ensuring the safety of sea lanes and security of world's oceans.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Air -Economy(GSIII)

India Initiates Anti-Dumping Probe Into Import Of Glass Fibre From China, Thailand And Bahrain



- India has initiated an anti-dumping probe pertaining to glass fibre imports from China, Thailand, and Bahrain, following a complaint from a domestic player.
 - Dumping is said to occur when the goods are exported by a country to another country at a price lower than its normal value.
 - This is an unfair trade practice which can have a distortive effect on international trade.
 - Anti dumping is a measure to rectify the situation arising out of the dumping of goods and its trade distortive effect
 - The use of anti dumping measure as an instrument of fair competition is permitted by the WTO. In fact, anti dumping is an instrument for ensuring fair trade and is not a measure of protection per se for the domestic industry. It provides relief to the domestic industry against the injury caused by dumping.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Air -Environment(GSIII)

World Bank Approves 2nd Round Of 1.5 Billion Dollars In Financing To Help India Accelerate Development Of Low-Carbon Energy



- The World Bank has approved a second round of 1.5 billion dollars in financing to help India accelerate the development of low-carbon energy. The financing is extended to promote a market for green hydrogen, electrolysers, and increased renewable energy penetration.
- Earlier, in June 2023, the World Bank approved the 1.5 billion dollars for the First Low-Carbon Energy Programmatic Development Policy Operation. The fresh funding is expected to help India expand its green hydrogen production and boost the mobilisation of finance for low-carbon investments.
- The development comes in the backdrop of India's ambitious National Green Hydrogen Mission and energy transition targets. The Centre has set a target of achieving 500 GW of installed renewable energy capacity by 2030 and reaching net zero by 2070.