

## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS (DCA)

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## SUPREME COURT CRITICISES 'GROWING MISUSE' OF IPC SECTION 498A

### Context

- The Supreme Court raised concerns over the **misuse of Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) (now Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita)**, which penalises cruelty against married women by their husbands and in-laws.

### About Section 498A (Section 84 of Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023)

- It deals with the **offense of cruelty by a husband or his relatives** towards a married woman.
- This section was introduced to address the **rising instances of cruelty and harassment** faced by married women in the context of dowry.
- It defines cruelty as:**
  - Any wilful conduct** which is of such a nature as is likely to **drive the woman to commit suicide** or to cause grave injury or danger to life, limb or health (whether mental or physical) of the woman; or
  - Harassment of the woman** where such harassment is with a view to coercing her or any person related to her to meet any unlawful demand for any property or valuable security.
- Punishment:** Whoever the husband or the relative of the husband of a woman, subjects her to cruelty shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to **three years and shall also be liable to fine.**
- A complaint must be filed **within three years of the alleged incident.**
- The offence is cognizable and non-bailable, which means that **immediate custody of the accused is possible.**

### Why Was Section 498A Introduced?

- Section 498A** was added to the IPC in the backdrop of increasing dowry deaths and cases of domestic violence in the **1980s.**
- It sought to **provide legal protection to women** suffering from Physical and mental harassment, Dowry-related abuse and Coercion and violence within marriages.

### Misuse of Section 498A

- Growing Misuse:** With the rise in matrimonial disputes, there's a growing tendency to misuse this provision for personal vendetta against the husband and his family.

- Coercion for Financial Gain:** False cases are used to extort money or gain leverage in matrimonial disputes.
- Vague Allegations:** Often, vague and generalized allegations are made without specific details or evidence, leading to the misuse of legal processes and harassment of innocent family members.
- Social and Psychological Damage:** The stigma associated with domestic violence allegations can have severe consequences for the accused, even if they are ultimately acquitted.
- Immediate Arrest:** The provision for immediate arrest in some cases can be misused to pressure the accused before guilt is established.
- Ethics and Integrity:** The misuse of legal provisions raises ethical concerns and highlights the importance of integrity in legal proceedings.

### Why is Section 498A Being Misused?

- No Immediate Verification:** Since Section 498A is a cognizable and non-bailable offense, arrests can occur without preliminary investigation, which creates scope for abuse.
- Marital Disputes:** In cases of interpersonal conflicts or divorces, false accusations may be used to settle scores.
- Lack of Accountability:** The absence of strict penalties for filing false cases adds to its misuse.

### Supreme Court's Stand

- Scrutiny of Allegations:** The court emphasized the need to scrutinize vague allegations to prevent the misuse of legal provisions and arm-twisting tactics.
- Specifics Required:** FIRs should contain concrete and precise allegations with details about the time, date, place, and manner of the alleged harassment.
- Context Matters:** The court considers the context of the FIR, such as the timing and circumstances surrounding the complaint, to determine its genuineness.
- Protecting Innocents:** The court aims to protect innocent family members from being unnecessarily dragged into matrimonial disputes without substantial evidence.
- Judicial Responsibility:** The court emphasizes the role of the judiciary in scrutinizing complaints and preventing the misuse of legal processes.

### Way Ahead

- Balanced Legal Framework:** Laws should be gender-just, protecting the rights of all individuals regardless of gender.

- **Preliminary Investigation:** There should be mandatory preliminary inquiry before registering FIRs to filter false cases.
- **Family Welfare Committees:** Independent committees can examine cases before formal arrests, as suggested in the **Rajesh Sharma case**.
- **Accountability for False Complaints:** Individuals making false accusations should be held accountable.

#### Factors Contributing to Domestic Violence Against Women

- **Patriarchal Norms:** Deeply ingrained patriarchal norms perpetuate gender inequality and normalize violence as a means of control within families.
- **Cultural Acceptance:** In many societies, domestic violence is tacitly accepted or overlooked, discouraging victims from seeking help.
- **Economic Dependence:** Financial dependence on male family members often traps women in abusive relationships.
- **Substance Abuse:** Alcohol and drug abuse can significantly increase the risk of domestic violence.
- **Lack of Education and Awareness:** Limited awareness of legal rights and support mechanisms prevents victims from seeking help.

Source: IE

## EDUCATION IN MOTHER TONGUE

### Context

- The Prime Minister highlighted that National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 supports the **vision of teaching young children in their mother tongue**.

### About

- The NEP 2020, with its emphasis on mother tongue education, is expected to bring about a paradigm shift in the Indian education system.
- It aims to create an environment where children can learn and grow in their native language, thereby fostering a deep understanding of their cultural roots.

### Mother Tongue

- A mother tongue, also known as a native language, is the **first language a person learns from birth**.

- It is the language spoken in the family or community during a child's early development, and it often reflects the culture, traditions, and social environment of that community.

### Significance of Education in Mother Tongue

- **Improved Comprehension and Learning:** When children are taught in their mother tongue, they can understand and retain information more effectively.
- **Cognitive Development:** Learning in a familiar language supports cognitive skills, including problem-solving, critical thinking, and creativity.
- **Stronger Communication Skills:** Mother tongue education helps children develop strong language skills, which are crucial for both oral and written communication.
- **Cultural Identity and Preservation:** It strengthens children's connection to their community and identity, fostering a sense of pride and belonging.
- **Emotional Well-being:** It allows children to express themselves more freely and participate in social and academic activities.
- **Social Inclusivity:** It promotes equality by ensuring that all children, regardless of their background, can access education effectively.

### Constitutional Provisions related to Promotion of Mother Tongue in India

- **Article 29 (1) – Protection of Interests of Minorities:** It ensures that any section of citizens, including linguistic minorities, have the right to conserve their language, script, and culture.
- **Section 29(f) of Chapter V under Right to Education Act, 2009** clearly states that, medium of instructions shall, as far as practicable, be in child's mother tongue.
- **Article 30 (1) – Right of Minorities to Establish and Administer Educational Institutions:** It allows minorities, whether based on religion or language, the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice.
- **Article 350A – Facilities for Instruction in Mother Tongue at the Primary Stage:** This article directs that the state shall provide facilities for instruction in the mother tongue at the primary level of education.
  - ♦ It emphasizes that, as far as possible, children should be taught in their mother tongue or regional language in the early stages of education.
- **Article 350B – Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities:** To safeguard and promote the interests of linguistic minorities, including the protection and development of their language and culture.



### Government Initiatives to Promote Education in Mother Tongue:

- **As per Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) 2020-21**, there are 28 languages in which teaching learning is going on in grades (1-5).
- **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020:** It provides, wherever possible, for medium of instruction to be in the home language/ mother tongue/ local language upto at least class 5 and preferably upto class 8.
  - ♦ It also provides for making available high quality text books in home language/ mother tongue and encouraging teachers to use bilingual approach while teaching.
- There are separate organisations for development and promotion of **Hindi, Urdu, Sindhi and Sanskrit languages**.
- **All India Council for Technical education (AICTE)** has issued guidelines permitting technical education institutions to offer their courses in local languages also. So far 19 institutions from 10 states have started offering such courses.
- AICTE has developed a tool called **AICTE Automation Artificial Intelligence Tool** to translate English language online courses into 11 Indian languages.
- **DIKSHA Portal:** Course material including text books and teaching resources for Grades 1-12 are available on DIKSHA portal of the Government in 33 Indian languages and Indian Sign language.
- **JEE and NEET exams** are conducted in 13 Indian languages.

### Conclusion

- The emphasis on mother tongue education is not a new concept. Historically, several countries have adopted this approach to enhance the learning experience of young children.
  - ♦ For instance, in the early 20th century, the Soviet Union implemented a policy of nativization that promoted education in the mother tongue of various ethnic groups.
  - ♦ Similarly, in the 1950s, China introduced a policy to promote mother tongue education among its ethnic minorities.
- Embracing multilingualism is not merely an educational endeavour; it is a commitment to inclusivity and diversity.
- India's education system can foster a generation of individuals who are not only academically proficient but also culturally enriched and globally competent.

Source: PIB

## ISSUE OF MANUAL SCAVENGING IN INDIA

### Context

- The Supreme Court vowed to go to **“any extent possible”** to ensure that manual scavenging is wiped out.

### About

- The SC was referring to its **2023 judgment** in which it had issued directions to the Union and States to take measures to eradicate manual scavenging and hazardous cleaning in the country.
- **Highlights of 2023 Judgement:**
  - ♦ Frame policies to ensure that manual sewer cleaning is completely eradicated in a phased manner.
  - ♦ All states and Union Territories should ensure that the guidelines and directions framed by the Union of India are embodied in their own guidelines and directions.
  - ♦ Full rehabilitation measures are taken in respect of sewage workers, and those who die.
  - ♦ Development of a portal containing information relating to sewer deaths, and victims, and the status of compensation disbursement.
  - ♦ Increase in compensation payable for sewer deaths to 30 lakh from the earlier 10 lakh.

### Manual Scavenging

- Manual scavenging refers to the practice of manually cleaning, carrying, or disposing of human excrement from latrines, open drains, and sewers, often using basic tools or even bare hands.
- It is historically and predominantly associated with the caste system in India, where individuals from specific marginalized groups were into this form of labor.

### Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013:

- **Prohibition of Manual Scavenging:** The Act explicitly prohibits the employment of people in manual scavenging, it makes it illegal to engage in or promote manual scavenging in any form.
- **Ban on Construction of Dry Latrines:** The Act bans the construction of dry latrines (toilets that do not use water or modern sanitation systems) and mandates the conversion into sanitary ones using modern technology.
- **Penalties for Violations:** With imprisonment upto 2 years or fine upto Rs. One Lakh or both.

- **Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers:** The law emphasizes the rehabilitation of manual scavengers by providing them with financial support, housing, and access to alternative livelihoods.
- **Identification and Survey of Manual Scavengers:** The Act requires the government to conduct a survey to identify and document the people involved in manual scavenging across the country.
- **National and State Commissions:** The Act establishes a National Commission for Safai Karamcharis and state-level commissions to monitor the implementation of the law, as well as to oversee the rehabilitation efforts.

### Challenges in Implementation:

- **Non-compliance by local authorities and employers:** In some areas, the practice continues due to lack of proper enforcement and awareness.
- **Social stigma:** Deep-rooted social and caste-based discrimination continues to hinder the social reintegration of manual scavengers into more dignified occupations.
- **Inadequate Rehabilitation:** There have been reports of poor implementation of rehabilitation schemes, with many manual scavengers not receiving the support they are entitled to under the law.

### Government Initiatives

- **Swachh Bharat Mission (2014):** Launched to improve sanitation across India, this initiative aims to eliminate open defecation and convert dry latrines into sanitary ones, thereby reducing the need for manual scavenging.
- **National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC):** Established to provide financial assistance for the welfare and rehabilitation of manual scavengers and their families. It offers loans for skill development, self-employment, and business ventures.
- **Skill Development Programs:** The government provides training and skill development programs for manual scavengers to help them transition into alternative, dignified livelihoods.
- **Self-Employment and Livelihood Support:** Under various schemes, financial assistance is provided for self-employment and small businesses, enabling manual scavengers to find alternative occupations.
- **NAMASTE (National Action for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem) scheme:** It aims to eliminate the practice of manual scavenging by

promoting the use of mechanized equipment for cleaning sewers and septic tanks.

- ♦ It aims at modernizing sanitation practices, protecting workers from hazardous conditions, and promoting safer, more efficient systems for waste management.

### Way Ahead

- **Strict Enforcement of Laws:** Strengthening the implementation of the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013, with harsher penalties for violations and robust monitoring systems.
- **Promotion of Mechanization:** Widespread use of mechanized equipment to clean sewers and septic tanks, reducing manual labor and ensuring worker safety.
- **Rehabilitation and Skill Development:** Comprehensive training programs to help manual scavengers transition to alternative livelihoods, along with financial support for self-employment.
- **Social Awareness:** To eliminate the caste-based stigma associated with manual scavenging, promoting dignity, and fostering social inclusion.
- **Inclusive Policies and Support:** Targeted government schemes to provide welfare, education, housing, and healthcare to affected communities.

Source: TH

## BHARAT 6G VISION DOCUMENT

### Context

- The Bharat 6G Vision envisaged India to be a frontline contributor in design, development and deployment of 6G technology by 2030.

### What is 6G (sixth-generation wireless)?

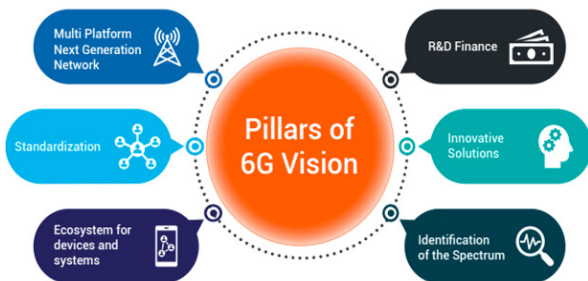
- **The 6G** has been conceived as a far superior technology promising internet speeds up to **100 times faster than 5G**.
- As opposed to 5G, which at its peak can offer internet speeds up to 10 gigabits per second, 6G promises to **offer ultra-low latency** with speeds up to **1 terabits per second**.
- The 6G Technology has been named **'IMT 2030'** by the **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)**.
  - ♦ The frequency bands **4400-4800 MHz, 7125-8400 MHz (or parts thereof), and 14.8-15.35 GHz** are being studied in ITU for the use of international Mobile Telecommunications (IMT).

### Bharat 6G Vision

- The government plans to implement the 6G project in two phases;
  - Phase 1 from 2023-2025 (2 years):** In Phase 1, support will be provided to explorative ideas, risky pathways, and proof-of-concept tests.
  - Phase 2 from 2025-2030 (5 years):** In Phase 2 there is conceptualization and commercialization of technology solutions.
- Use cases of 6G** include remote-controlled factories, constantly communicating self-driven cars and smart wearables taking inputs directly from human senses.

### Bharat 6G Alliance

- It is a collaboration between India's domestic industry, academia, research institutions, and standards organisations.
- The alliance aims to build a national action plan for 6G, ensuring that India remains at the forefront of technological innovation in the coming decades.



### Benefits of 6G Vision

- The technology 6G will enable advancements in sectors like;
  - Healthcare:** Telemedicine, robotic surgeries, AI-based diagnostics.
  - Agriculture:** Smart monitoring, precision farming using IoT sensors.
  - Education:** Real-time immersive learning through AR/VR technologies.
- Industrial Automation:** Leveraging Industry 4.0 with enhanced Machine-to-Machine communication, Digital Twins, and IoT for smart industries.

### Challenges

- There is a **need for R&D investments** with a focus on semiconductors, AI processors, and advanced SoCs.

- There are concerns related to **cybersecurity and privacy** in a hyper-connected network environment.

### Recommendations to enable Bharat 6G Mission

- Participation to global standards forums** to ensure interoperability and global reach of our innovation,
- Space-Terrestrial Integration** for ubiquitous coverage,
- Innovative funding mechanisms** to support industry, startups, academia, and national laboratories to undertake R&D,
- Shared use of spectrum**, particularly in the higher frequency bands.

### Concluding remarks

- Bharat 6G Mission is fully aligned with the national Vision of **Atmanirbhar Bharat**.
- It also ensures that India takes its rightful place in the world as a **leading supplier of advanced telecom technologies** and solutions that are affordable and contribute to the global good.

Source: PIB

## INDIA'S FIRST HYPERLOOP TEST TRACK

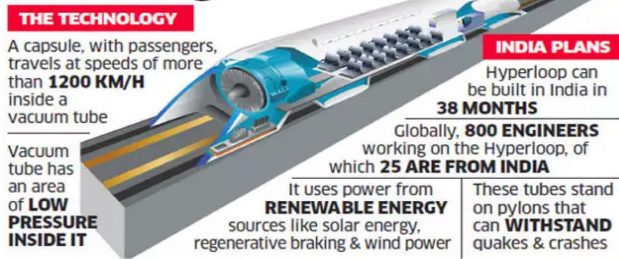
### Context

- IIT Madras** has completed a **410-meter Hyperloop test track**, marking a milestone in futuristic transportation.
- The Mumbai-Pune corridor** will be the first full-scale Hyperloop project in India.

### What is Hyperloop technology?

- A Hyperloop is a **high-speed transportation system** where pods, functioning as pressurized vehicles, move at extraordinary speeds through **low-pressure tubes**.
- Key Features;**
  - Speed:** Hyperloop pods can reach up to **1200 km/h** with an operational speed of around 360 km/h.
  - Frictionless System:** Operates within a vacuum-sealed environment, minimizing resistance and energy consumption.
  - Efficiency:** Provides direct, point-to-point travel without intermediate stops.

## Travelling in a Tube



### Benefits

- **Energy Efficiency:** Due to reduced air resistance and friction, Hyperloop systems are expected to be highly energy-efficient.
- **Sustainability:** Many Hyperloop concepts are designed to be powered by renewable energy sources like solar power, making them environmentally friendly.
- **Reduced Travel Time:** Hyperloop could drastically reduce travel times between cities, making long-distance commutes more feasible.

### Challenges

- **Infrastructure Costs:** Building the necessary infrastructure, including tubes, stations, and supporting systems, is extremely expensive.
- **Land Acquisition:** Acquiring the land needed for Hyperloop routes can be challenging, especially in densely populated areas.
- **Technological Hurdles:** Developing and perfecting the technology, including maglev systems, vacuum seals, and safety mechanisms, requires significant research and development.

Source: ET

## INDIA DOUBLES NUCLEAR POWER GENERATION IN THE LAST DECADE

### Context

- Recently, the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology informed the recent Lok Sabha session that **India nearly doubled its nuclear power generation** capacity from 2014 to in 2024.

### About the Nuclear Power Generation in India

- Over the past decade, the country has nearly doubled its nuclear power capacity, growing from 4,780 MW in 2014 to **currently operating 24 nuclear reactors** with a **combined capacity of 8,180 MW in 2024**.

- The government has set an ambitious target to triple this **capacity to 22,480 MW by 2031-32**.
  - ♦ This expansion is driven by several key initiatives, including the approval of **10 new reactors, increased funding, and collaborations with Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and limited private sector participation**.
- The above expansion is **part of India's broader goal** to achieve a **nuclear capacity of 1 lakh MW by 2047**, aligning with the country's commitment to a **net-zero transition by 2070**.

### Key Developments and Initiatives

- **Bulk Approval of Reactors:** The government approved the construction of 10 new reactors, significantly boosting capacity.
- **Increased Funding:** Enhanced financial allocations have supported the expansion and modernization of nuclear facilities.
- **Collaborations with PSUs:** Partnerships with Public Sector Undertakings have facilitated the development and operational efficiency of nuclear plants.
- **Private Sector Participation:** Limited involvement of private entities has also contributed to the sector's growth.

### Technological Advancements

- India is focusing on indigenous technology development to enhance its nuclear power infrastructure. The **Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)** is working on the **Bharat Small Modular Reactor (BSMR)** and the **Bharat Small Reactor (BSR)**, designed for captive nuclear power generation.
- Additionally, the **Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR)** is expected to achieve criticality soon, marking a significant step in India's nuclear technology capabilities.
- **Harnessing Thorium Reserves:** India's abundant thorium reserves, constituting 21% of the global total, present a significant opportunity.
  - ♦ **Indigenous projects like 'Bhavani'** are being developed to harness this resource, reducing dependence on imported uranium and other materials.

### Applications Beyond Power Generation

- **Agriculture:** Development of 70 mutagenic crop varieties to enhance agricultural productivity.
- **Healthcare:** Introduction of advanced isotopes for cancer treatment.
- **Defense:** Use of atomic energy processes to develop cost-effective, lightweight bulletproof jackets.



### Challenges and Way Ahead

- Despite the progress, India faces challenges in implementing nuclear power projects, such as land acquisition, forest clearances, and equipment procurement.
- The government is committed to addressing these issues through streamlined administrative processes and increased collaboration with various stakeholders.
- With a clear roadmap and strategic initiatives, India is poised to become a global leader in nuclear energy, contributing significantly to its energy mix and supporting its long-term environmental goals.

Source: PIB

## NEWS IN SHORT

### VAIKOM SATYAGRAH

#### Context

- 2024 marks the **100 years of Vaikom Satyagrah (1924)**.

#### About

- **Cause:** The movement was initiated against the **practice of untouchability**.
  - ♦ In Vaikom in the **erstwhile Travancore princely State**, members of the lower castes, particularly Dalits, were denied the right to walk on roads leading to the Vaikom Shiva Temple.
- **Leadership:** It was led by **T.K. Madhavan, K. Kelappan**, and other prominent leaders.
  - ♦ Mahatma Gandhi also supported the cause, sending his advice, although he did not physically participate in the protests initially.
  - ♦ **E.V. Ramasamy Periyar**, a prominent social reformer and leader of the Self-Respect Movement, also lent support to the movement.
- **Protest:** Participants in the Satyagraha (non-violent resistance) demanded the right of Dalits to use public roads and approach the temple like other castes.
  - ♦ They engaged in peaceful marches and acts of civil disobedience, despite facing violent opposition from upper-caste groups.
- **Outcome:** After over a year of protest and negotiations, the Government eventually allowed Dalits to use the public roads leading to the temple, marking a victory for social equality and the end of caste-based discrimination in the region.

- **Significance:** The Vaikom Satyagraha played a vital role in the social reform movement in Kerala and was an important part of the broader struggle against untouchability and caste oppression in India.
  - ♦ It also marked the first major organized movement against untouchability in the Indian independence movement.

Source: TH

### SAYDNAYA PRISON

#### Context

- Thousands of detainees, primarily political prisoners, were freed from Syria's **Saydnaya Prison**.

#### About

- The Saydnaya prison, also spelt Sednaya, was established in the 1980s in a small town near to the capital Damascus in Syria.
- It was administered by the Syrian military police for decades, with the first detainees arriving in 1987.
- It served as a "human slaughterhouse" while subjecting its detainees to inhumane conditions.

#### Geographical Location of Syria

- Syria is located in the Middle East, in the western part of the Asian continent.
- It shares borders with Turkey to the north, Iraq to the east, Jordan to the south, Israel and Lebanon to the southwest, and the Mediterranean Sea to the west.
- Syria occupies a strategic position, linking the **Levant region with the rest of the Arab world**.



Source: IE

### ABETMENT OF SUICIDE

#### Context

- The **Supreme Court of India** held that mere allegations of harassment are not enough to invoke charges of abetment of suicide under **Section 306** of the **Indian Penal Code (IPC)**.



**About**

- **Section 306 IPC states that** “if any person commits suicide, whoever abets the commission of such suicide, shall be punished with imprisonment for up to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine.”
- **For a conviction** there must be clear evidence of direct or indirect acts of incitement to commit suicide.

**Supreme court ruling**

- The prosecution must prove beyond doubt that the accused played a definitive role in the abetment.
- Without clear evidence of an active role in provoking or assisting the suicide, a conviction under Section 306 IPC cannot be sustained.

Source: DH

**WORLD MALARIA REPORT****Context**

- According to the **World Malaria report**, released by the **World Health Organization (WHO)**, India has seen significant progress in reducing malaria incidence and mortality rates.

**Key findings**

- The malaria caseload in India was **reduced by 69 percent** from 6.4 million in 2017 to **two million in 2023**.
- In 2023, **India accounted for half of all estimated malaria cases** in the WHO South-East Asia Region, followed by Indonesia, which accounted for just under one-third.
  - ♦ The Region had **eight malaria endemic countries in 2023**, accounting for **4 million cases** and contributing **1.5 per cent** of the burden of malaria cases globally.
- **Bhutan and Timor-Leste**, from the Region, reported **zero malaria deaths** since 2013 and 2015, respectively, while **Sri Lanka** was certified **malaria-free in 2016**.

**What is Malaria?**

- **Malaria** is a life-threatening disease spread to humans by some types of mosquitoes. It is mostly found in tropical countries.
- **Transmission:** It is caused by **plasmodium protozoa**. The plasmodium parasites spread through the bites of infected female Anopheles mosquitoes.
  - ♦ Blood transfusion and contaminated needles may also transmit malaria.

- **Types of parasites:** There are 5 Plasmodium parasite species that cause malaria in humans and 2 of these species – **P. falciparum and P. vivax** – pose the greatest threat. The other malaria species which can infect humans are **P. malariae, P. ovale and P. knowlesi**.
  - ♦ **P. falciparum is the deadliest malaria parasite** and the most prevalent on the African continent. P. vivax is the dominant malaria parasite in most countries outside of sub-Saharan Africa.
- **Symptoms:** Fever and flu-like illness, including chills, headache, muscle ache and fatigue.

Source: DDNEWS

**GHOST GUN****In Context**

- **Ghost guns** are becoming more common in crimes, posing a **growing threat to public safety**.
  - ♦ The Biden administration has taken steps to regulate **ghost guns by requiring serial numbers** and background checks for kits and parts.

**What are Ghost Guns?**

- Ghost guns are homemade firearms that lack serial numbers, making them virtually untraceable by law enforcement.
- They can be assembled from kits or individual parts purchased online or at gun shows, often without background checks.
- Ghost guns are becoming more common in crimes, posing a growing threat to public safety.

**Need For Regulation**

- Ghost guns pose a **threat to internal security** by enabling criminals to acquire firearms without background checks or traceability.
- The **use of 3D printing to manufacture gun parts** raises concerns about the accessibility of firearms and the need for technological regulation.
- **Gun violence is a major social issue** in many countries (like US), and the proliferation of ghost guns adds another layer of complexity to the problem.

Source: IE

**SHORTFIN MAKO SHARK****Context**

- A young shortfin mako shark has been tagged for the first time in the Mediterranean Sea by researchers from the United States.

**About**

- It is a large, **predatory shark** that lives in the open ocean.
- It is the **fastest shark** and is one of the fastest fishes on the planet.



- Shortfin mako sharks are known to be **highly migratory**, with individuals making long migrations every year.
- **Habitat:** It is found offshore in tropical and warm temperate waters of all oceans, but has been known to travel to cooler waters at times.
- **The main threats** to this species are overfishing and bycatch.
- **Conservation Status:**
  - ◆ **IUCN:** Critically Endangered.
  - ◆ Appendix II species under CITES.

