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MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



MK Yadav Sir

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INDIAN EXPRESS

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CRPC 1973

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – Polity)



CrPC & personal law: Divorced Muslim women's right to alimony

AJOY SINHA KARPURAM
NEW DELHI, JULY 10

THE SUPREME Court on Wednesday dismissed an appeal by a Muslim man against a Telangana High Court order allowing his ex-wife to seek maintenance under the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (CrPC).

A two-judge Bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and George Masih reiterated that a Muslim woman is entitled to seek maintenance from her husband under Section 125 of the CrPC — a secular legislation — even if they were divorced under religious personal law.

While the ruling follows a 22-year-old landmark precedent, it sparked a discussion on the chequered legal and political history of the right to maintenance of Muslim women.

The present case

Petitioner Mohd Adbul Samad challenged a 2017 family court order directing him to pay maintenance of Rs 20,000 per month to his former wife. The Telangana High Court, on appeal, refused to set aside the order of the family court.

Section 125 CrPC places an obligation on "any person having sufficient means" to maintain "his wife" or "his legitimate or illegitimate minor child" if they are unable to maintain themselves — typically through monetary support at regular intervals. The explanation in the section clarifies that the word "wife" also includes a divorced woman who has not re-married.

Justice Nagarathna, in her opinion, said that Section 125 CrPC is "embedded in the text, structure and philosophy of the Constitution" as a social justice measure. "The remedy of maintenance is a critical source of succour for the destitute, the deserted and the deprived sections of women... It is an instantiation of the constitutional philosophy of social justice that seeks to liberate the Indian wife including a divorced woman from the shackles of gender-based discrimination, disadvantage and deprivation," Justice Nagarathna wrote.

This, she said, is "aligned" with the power to create special provisions for women under Article 15(3) of the Constitution, and the obligation on the State under Article 39(e) to ensure "that citizens are not forced by economic necessity to enter avocations unsuited to their age or strength".

The ruling reiterated that maintenance under Section 125 CrPC exists "in addition" to the provisions for maintenance under the Muslim (Women) Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986 (MWPRD Act), not "against" it.

"...While enacting the 1986 Act, Parliament did not simultaneously or at any-time thereafter create any bar for a divorced Muslim woman from claiming maintenance under Section 125 of the CrPC," Justice Nagarathna wrote.

This position was first taken in the landmark 2001 ruling in *Danial Latifi & Anr v. Union of India*.

EXPLAINED LAW

Shah Bano decision

In 1978, a woman named Shah Bano Begum filed a petition seeking maintenance from her husband under Section 125 for herself and her five children. Divorcing Shah Bano via 'irrevocable talaq' later that same year, her former husband, Mohammed Ahmad Khan, argued that he is only required to provide maintenance during the iddat period following divorce — three months under ordinary circumstances during which she cannot marry another man — according to Muslim personal law.

After Shah Bano's plea was granted by Madhya Pradesh High Court in 1980, the matter reached the Supreme Court. The All Indian Muslim Personal Law Board argued that the court was bound to apply Muslim personal law as per The Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Act, 1937.

A five-judge Constitution Bench upheld the High Court's decision. Then Chief Justice of India Y V Chandrachud held that provisions such as Section 125 CrPC "cut across the barriers of religion", and "whether the spouses are Hindus or Muslims, Christians or Parsis, pagans or heathens, is wholly irrelevant". The court also held that the divorced wife was entitled to maintenance under Section 125 even after the iddat period "if she is unable to maintain herself".

Challenge to 1986 Act

Soon after the MWPRD Act was enacted, Shah Bano's lawyer, Danial Latifi Nafess Ahmad Siddiqui, challenged its constitutionality before the Supreme Court.

He argued that Section 125 is meant to protect women of all religions from "destitution or vagrancy", and that the MWPRD Act discriminates against Muslim women, violating their right to equality (Article 14) and right to life with dignity (Article 21).

The Centre argued that personal law is a legitimate basis for discrimination and does not violate the right to equality.

The All India Muslim Personal Law Board argued that the Act takes care of Muslim women and prevents "vagrancy" while being in tune with Muslim personal law, which only places an obligation for maintenance on the husband during the iddat period.

In an endeavour to uphold the constitutionality of the law while securing maintenance for a divorced Muslim woman beyond the iddat period, the five-judge Constitution Bench in its judgment creatively interpreted Section 3(a) of the MWPRD Act, which requires the former husband to provide "a reasonable and fair provision and maintenance to be made and paid to her within the iddat period".

The court interpreted this to mean that the husband "is required to contemplate the future needs (of the divorced wife) and make preparatory arrangements in advance for meeting those needs" within the iddat period. In contrast, the actual payment would not be limited to this period and could "extend to the whole life of the divorced wife unless she gets married for a second time".

As a result, the court held, a Muslim husband is responsible for paying maintenance even beyond the iddat period, and upheld the constitutionality of the MWPRD Act.

Context: The Supreme Court upheld a Telangana High Court ruling permitting a Muslim man's ex-wife to seek maintenance under the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (CrPC).

Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (CrPC)

- **Definition**: It is a procedural law that establishes the guidelines for criminal case investigation and trial in India.
- **Date of Enforcement**: April 1, 1974.
- **Key Provisions**
- **Offenses Investigation**: The Criminal Procedure Code describes how law enforcement authorities look into offenses.
- **Arrest of Persons:** It outlines the circumstances in which someone may be placed under arrest as well as the protocols to be adhered to both during and following the arrest.
- **Bonds and Bail**: The CRPC outlines the circumstances in which an arrested individual may be released on bond as well as the terms of such a release.
- **Trial Procedures**: It outlines the steps that must be taken to try criminal charges, such as questioning witnesses, taking statements, and presenting evidence.
- **Sentencing and Judgements**: The Criminal Procedure Code (CRPC) describes how sentencing and judgments are given in criminal cases.

The Present Case

- **Background**: Petitioner d challenged a 2017 family court order directing him to pay maintenance of Rs 20,000 per month to his former wife. The Telangana High Court, on appeal, refused to set aside the order of the family court.
- **Section 125 CrPC**: It places an obligation on "any person having sufficient means" to maintain "his wife" or "his legitimate or illegitimate minor child" if they are unable to maintain themselves — typically through monetary support at regular intervals.
    - Section 125 CrPC is aligned with the power to create special provisions for women under Article 15(3) of the Constitution and the State's obligation under Article 39(e).
- **Additional Maintenance Provisions**: The ruling reiterated that maintenance under Section 125 CrPC exists in addition to the provisions under the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986 (MWPRD Act), not against it.
- **No Bar for Divorced Muslim Women**: Parliament did not create any bar for a divorced Muslim woman from claiming maintenance under Section 125 of the CrPC while enacting the 1986 Act.

Landmark Rule

- **Supreme Court Ruling:** The Supreme Court upheld the Madhya Pradesh High Court's decision that Shah Bano was entitled to maintenance under Section 125 even after the iddat period if she was unable to maintain herself.
- **Enactment of MWPRD Act:** In response to the Shah Bano verdict, the government enacted the MWPRD Act, placing the obligation to pay maintenance after the iddat period on the relatives or children of the divorced wife and, in their absence, on the State Wakf Board.

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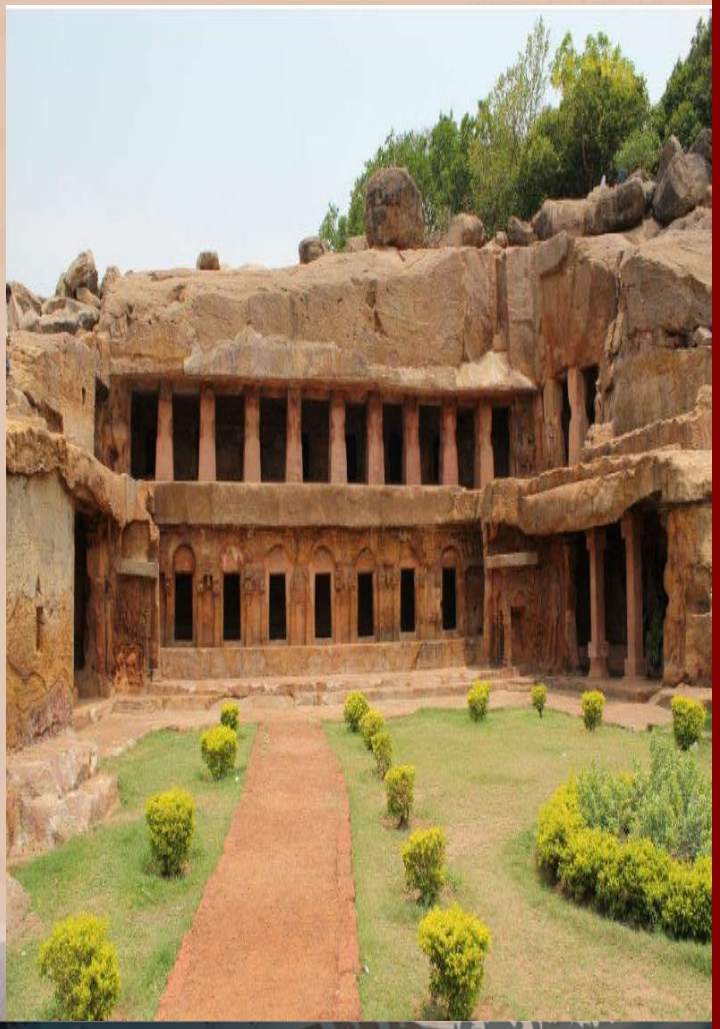
July 10

KHANDAGIRI AND UDAYAGIRI HILLS

(Syllabus GS Paper 1 –Art and Culture)

President Droupadi Murmu To Visit The Historic Udayagiri Caves In Bhubaneswar

Context: President of India, visited the Khandagiri and Udayagiri caves in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.



Rock-cut Caves in Odisha

- **About:** The twin hills of Khandagiri and Udayagiri, situated 7 kilometers west of Bhubaneswar, represent the earliest Jain rock-cut architecture in eastern India.
- **Historical Background**: The rock-cut caves were commissioned in the 2nd century BC by King Kharavela of the Meghavahana dynasty.
- **Discovered by**: British Officer Andrew Sterling in the 19th century AD.
- **Purpose**: Originally built for Jain monks, providing residence and meditation spaces.
- **Current Count**: Initially, there were 117 caves constructed; today, only 33 remain.
- **Distribution**: 18 caves are situated in Udaygiri hill, while 15 are in Khandagiri hill.
- **Major Caves of Udaygiri Caves**
    - Hathigumpha
    - Rani Gumpha
    - Ganesh Gumpha
    - Vyaghra Gumpha
- **Major Caves of Khandagiri Caves**
    - Barabhuji Gumpha
    - Trushula Gumpha
    - Ambika Gumpha

INDIA TODAY July 10

CURIE MISSION
(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Sci and Tech)

Nasa's Curie to investigate the origin of Sun's radio waves

Context: NASA is set to launch a groundbreaking CubeSat Radio Interferometry Experiment (CURIE) mission to unravel the mysteries of solar radio waves.

CubeSat Radio Interferometry Experiment (CURIE) Mission

- **Objective**: Investigate the origins of solar radio waves using innovative techniques.
- **Spacecraft Description**: Consists of two shoebox-sized satellites orbiting approximately two miles apart.
- **Technology**: Utilizes low frequency radio interferometry, a pioneering method in space research.
- **Operational Capability**
  - **Radio Wave Measurement**: Covers the 0.1 to 19 megahertz frequency range, inaccessible from Earth due to atmospheric blockage.
  - **Orbital Position**: Orbits 360 miles above Earth to achieve unobstructed solar observations.
  - **Deployment:** Upon orbit insertion, spacecraft separate, deploy eight-foot antennas, and initiate data collection.
- **Scientific Significance**
  - **Research Impact:** Advances understanding of solar radio emissions and related phenomena.
  - **Future Prospects**: Sets precedent for future space-based radio astronomy missions.
  - Sponsorship and Support
  - **Funding**: Supported by NASA's Heliophysics Flight Opportunities for Research and Technology (H-FORT) Program.

THE WIRE July 10

VEERANGANA DURGAVATI TIGER RESERVE

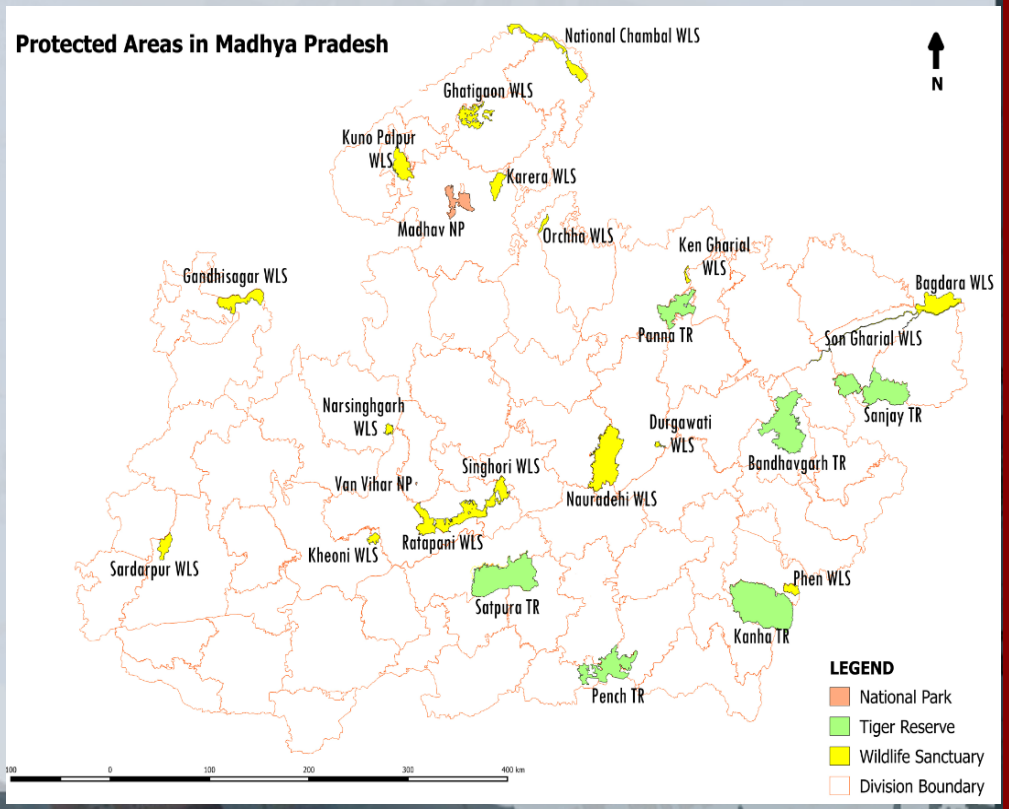
(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Env and Eco)

Madhya Pradesh launches probe into alleged irregularities poaching in new tiger reserve

Context: The Madhya Pradesh government has initiated an inquiry into the alleged poaching of tigers and irregularities in the newly established Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve.

Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve

- **About:** It is the 7th Tiger Reserve in the State of Madhya Pradesh and 54th in the country.
- **Location**: It is spread across Sagar, Damoh and Narsinghpur districts of Madhya Pradesh. It is spread over an area of 2,339 square kilometres.
- **Areas**: Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary and Durgavati Wildlife Sanctuary.
- **Rivers**: Parts of the reserve fall under the Narmada and Yamuna River basins.
    - The Singorgarh Fort is located within the reserve.
- **Vegetation**: Dry deciduous type
- **Flora**: The chief floral elements include Teak, Saja, Dhaora, Ber, Amla, etc.
- **Fauna**: Tiger, leopard, wolf, jackal, Indian fox, striped hyena, Nilgai, Chinkara, Chital, Sambhar, Black Buck, Barking deer, Common Langur Rhesus Macaque etc.



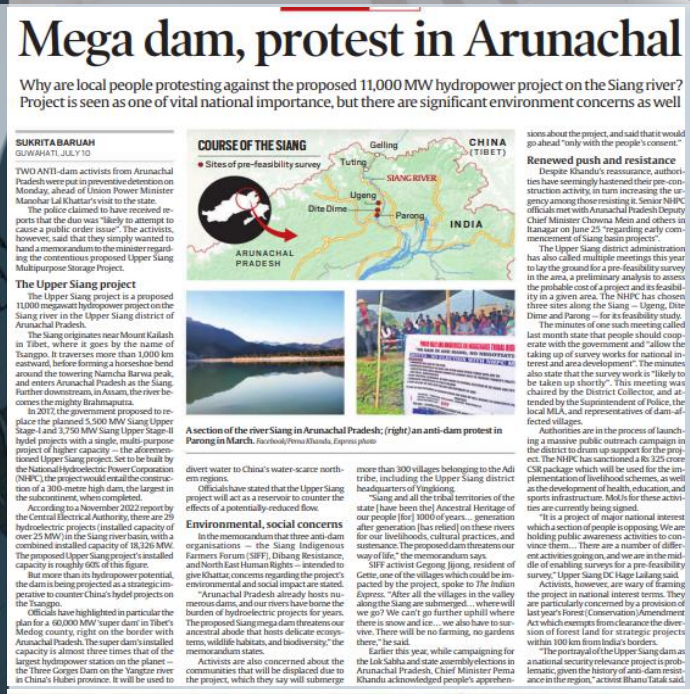
Other Tiger Reserves in Madhya Pradesh

- Kanha Tiger Reserve, Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve, Pench Tiger Reserve, Panna Tiger Reserve, Satpura Tiger Reserve, Sanjay Dubri Tiger Reserve

INDIAN EXPRESS Page 13

UPPER SIANG PROJECT

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Infrastructue/Environment)



Mega dam, protest in Arunachal

Why are local people protesting against the proposed 11,000 MW hydropower project on the Siang river? Project is seen as one of vital national importance, but there are significant environment concerns as well

SUKRITA BARUAH
GUWAHATI, JULY 10

TWO ANTI-dam activists from Arunachal Pradesh were put in preventive detention on Monday, ahead of Union Power Minister Manohar Lal Khattar's visit to the state.

The police claimed to have received reports that the duo was "likely to attempt to cause a public order issue". The activists, however, said that they simply wanted to hand a memorandum to the minister regarding the contentious proposed Upper Siang Multipurpose Storage Project.

The Upper Siang project

The Upper Siang project is a proposed 11,000 megawatt hydropower project on the Siang river in the Upper Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh.

The Siang originates near Mount Kailash in Tibet, where it goes by the name of Tsangpo. It traverses more than 1,000 km eastward, before forming a horseshoe bend around the towering Namcha Barwa peak, and enters Arunachal Pradesh as the Siang. Further downstream, in Assam, the river becomes the mighty Brahmaputra.

In 2017, the government proposed to replace the planned 5,500 MW Siang Upper Stage-I and 3,750 MW Siang Upper Stage-II hydel projects with a single, multi-purpose project of higher capacity — the aforementioned Upper Siang project. Set to be built by the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC), the project would entail the construction of a 300-metre high dam, the largest in the subcontinent, when completed.

According to a November 2022 report by the Central Electrical Authority, there are 29 hydroelectric projects (installed capacity of over 25 MW) in the Siang river basin, with a combined installed capacity of 18,326 MW. The proposed Upper Siang project's installed capacity is roughly 60% of this figure.

But more than its hydropower potential, the dam is being projected as a strategic imperative to counter China's hydel projects on the Tsangpo.

Officials have highlighted in particular the plan for a 60,000 MW 'super dam' in Tibet's Medog county, right on the border with Arunachal Pradesh. The super dam's installed capacity is almost three times that of the largest hydropower station on the planet — the Three Gorges Dam on the Yangtze river in China's Hubei province. It will be used to divert water to China's water-scarce northern regions.

Officials have stated that the Upper Siang project will act as a reservoir to counter the effects of a potentially-reduced flow.

Environmental, social concerns

In the memorandum that three anti-dam organisations — the Siang Indigenous Farmers Forum (SIFF), Dibang Resistance, and North East Human Rights — intended to give Khattar, concerns regarding the project's environmental and social impact are stated.

"Arunachal Pradesh already hosts numerous dams, and our rivers have borne the burden of hydroelectric projects for years. The proposed Siang mega dam threatens our ancestral abode that hosts delicate ecosystems, wildlife habitats, and biodiversity," the memorandum states.

Activists are also concerned about the communities that will be displaced due to the project, which they say will submerge more than 300 villages belonging to the Adi tribe, including the Upper Siang district headquarters of Yingkiong.

"Siang and all the tribal territories of the state [have been the] Ancestral Heritage of our people [for] 1000 of years... generation after generation [has relied] on these rivers for our livelihoods, cultural practices, and sustenance. The proposed dam threatens our way of life," the memorandum says.

SIFF activist Gegong Jijong, resident of Gette, one of the villages which could be impacted by the project, spoke to *The Indian Express*. "After all the villages in the valley along the Siang are submerged... where will we go? We can't go further uphill where there is snow and ice... we also have to survive. There will be no farming, no gardens there," he said.

Earlier this year, while campaigning for the Lok Sabha and state assembly elections in Arunachal Pradesh, Chief Minister Pema Khandu acknowledged people's apprehensions about the project, and said that it would go ahead "only with the people's consent."

Renewed push and resistance

Despite Khandu's reassurance, authorities have seemingly hastened their pre-construction activity, in turn increasing the urgency among those resisting it. Senior NHPC officials met with Arunachal Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein and others in Itanagar on June 25 "regarding early commencement of Siang basin projects".

The Upper Siang district administration has also called multiple meetings this year to lay the ground for a pre-feasibility survey in the area, a preliminary analysis to assess the probable cost of a project and its feasibility in a given area. The NHPC has chosen three sites along the Siang — Ugeng, Dite Dime and Parong — for its feasibility study.

The minutes of one such meeting called last month state that people should cooperate with the government and "allow the taking up of survey works for national interest and area development". The minutes also state that the survey work is "likely to be taken up shortly". This meeting was chaired by the District Collector, and attended by the Suprintendent of Police, the local MLA, and representatives of dam-affected villages.

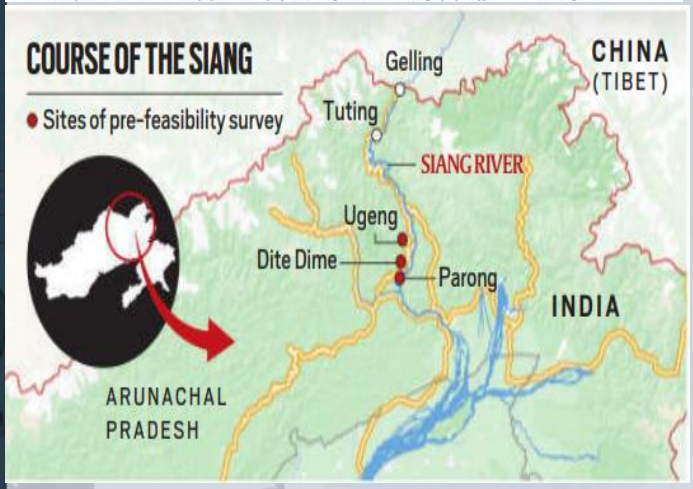
Authorities are in the process of launching a massive public outreach campaign in the district to drum up support for the project. The NHPC has sanctioned a Rs 325 crore CSR package which will be used for the implementation of livelihood schemes, as well as the development of health, education, and sports infrastructure. MoUs for these activities are currently being signed.

"It is a project of major national interest which a section of people is opposing. We are holding public awareness activities to convince them... There are a number of different activities going on, and we are in the middle of enabling surveys for a pre-feasibility survey," Upper Siang DC Hage Lailang said.

Activists, however, are wary of framing the project in national interest terms. They are particularly concerned by a provision of last year's Forest (Conservation) Amendment Act which exempts from clearance the diversion of forest land for strategic projects within 100 km from India's borders.

"The portrayal of the Upper Siang dam as a national security relevance project is problematic, given the history of anti-dam resistance in the region," activist Ithanu Tatak said.

A section of the river Siang in Arunachal Pradesh; (right) an anti-dam protest in Parong in March. *Facebook/Pema Khandu, Express photo*



- **Context:** Civil society groups including Siang Indigenous Farmers Forum, Dibang Resistance, and North East Human Rights urge the Union power ministry to reconsider its plan for additional dams and increased hydropower capacity in Arunachal Pradesh.

The Upper Siang Project

- **About:** It aims to harness 11,000 megawatts of hydropower on the Siang river in Arunachal Pradesh.
  - It replaces previous plans for two smaller projects with a single..
- **Built by**: National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC)
- **Origin of the Siang River:** This river originates from Mount Kailash in Tibet as the Tsangpo, flowing eastward over 1,000 km before entering Arunachal Pradesh.
- **Strategic Importance**: Seen as a strategic countermeasure against China's large-scale hydropower developments on the Tsangpo.
- Plans like China's 60,000 MW 'super dam' highlight the geopolitical significance of the Upper Siang project.
- **Hydropower Potential**: With a proposed capacity roughly 60% of the total installed capacity of existing hydroelectric projects in the Siang river basin (18,326 MW), it aims to significantly contribute to India's power generation.

Environmental and Social Concerns

- Activists and local organizations voice concerns about the project's impact on biodiversity, wildlife habitats, and ancestral lands of the Adi tribe.
- More than 300 villages, including the district headquarters of Yingkiong, are expected to be submerged, affecting local communities' livelihoods and cultural practices.

THE HINDU | Science II

SCIENTIFIC DEEP-DRILLING

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Sci and Tech)



Context: In the Koyna region of Maharashtra, a deep drilling site showcases a towering rig alongside associated equipment, an onsite mud logging unit, a gas analysis lab, and a geological studies lab.

Scientific Deep-Drilling

- **About:** It involves strategically digging boreholes to study deeper parts of the earth's crust.
- **Objective**: It aims to observe and analyze various aspects such as earthquakes, geological history, rock types, energy resources, and climate change patterns.
- **Role of Borehole Geophysics Research Laboratory (BGRL)**: Located in Karad, Maharashtra, BGRL is a specialized institute under India's Ministry of Earth Sciences.
    - It is tasked with executing India's scientific deep-drilling program, particularly focusing on understanding reservoir-triggered earthquakes in the Koyna-Warna region.
- **Mission in Koyna-Warna Region:** The region has been prone to earthquakes since the construction of the Koyna Dam in 1962.
    - BGRL's pilot borehole in Koyna has reached 3 km depth, with plans to drill down to 6 km to study earthquake mechanisms.

How Can Deep-Drilling Help

- **Enhanced Understanding of Earthquakes**: Deep-drilling provides access to depths where earthquakes originate, offering insights beyond surface observations.
- **Geological Observatories Underground**: Scientific boreholes act as geological observatories, equipped with sensors for direct experiments and monitoring fault lines.
- **Fundamental Geological Knowledge**: Deep-drilling yields crucial data on Earth's crust composition, structure, and processes, validating or refining surface-based models.
- **Addressing Geohazards**: Data from deep-drilling informs solutions for geohazards and utilization of geo-resources, crucial for societal applications.
- **Advancement in Seismology and Technology**: Investment drives innovation in seismology and drilling technologies, fostering self-reliance in tool development and data analysis.

THE PRINT July 10

AHOM MOIDAM

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 – Art and Culture)

Intl advisory body recommends inclusion of Ahom-era Moidams in UNESCO World Heritage List

Context: ICOMOS recommends adding Assam's Ahom Era Moidams to UNESCO's World Heritage List, citing their cultural significance and historical importance.

Ahom 'Moidam'

- **About**: The Ahom 'Moidam' are ancient burial grounds located in Assam's Charaideo district.
- **Establishment:** In the 13th century, Chau-lung Siu-ka-pha, founder of the Ahom kingdom, established his first capital at Che-rai-doi or Charaideo.
- **Features of Moidams**
  - **Exterior Structure**: The Moidams have hemispherical exteriors, varying in size based on the buried person's status and power.
  - **Components of Moidams**: Consist of a vaulted chamber with a centrally raised platform for the body, a hemispherical earthen mound with a brick structure (Chaw-chali), and an octagonal boundary wall with an arched gateway on the west.
  - **Burial Practices**: Deceased individuals were interred with various objects used during their life, including royal insignia, wooden, ivory, or iron artifacts, and gold pendants.
  - **Construction Materials**: The construction materials, as recorded in the Ahom canonical texts (Phukan), include wood, stone, and burnt bricks for building the Moidams.

International Council on Monuments and Sites

- **About**: It is a global non-governmental organization closely associated with UNESCO.
- **Mission:** Its primary mission is to promote the conservation, protection, use, and enhancement of monuments, building complexes, and sites worldwide.
- **Advisory Role:** As an Advisory Body of the World Heritage Committee, ICOMOS plays a crucial role in implementing the UNESCO World Heritage Convention.

HANNIBAL DIRECTIVE
(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – IR)

HANNIBAL DIRECTIVE

Israeli army's purported 'death before capture' doctrine, said to have been activated as Hamas attacked on Oct 7

ANAGHA JAYAKUMAR
NEW DELHI, JULY 10

AS HAMAS raided southern Israel on October 7 last year, the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) activated the "Hannibal Directive", a purported operational doctrine of using maximum force to ensure no soldiers are captured, even if it means sacrificing military and civilian lives, a media investigation has found.

The Hannibal Directive, also known as Hannibal Procedure and Hannibal Protocol, was used from the first hours of the attack at at least three military facilities that Hamas infiltrated, the Israeli newspaper *Haaretz* reported on July 7.

About 1,200 people were killed and 250 were carried away to Gaza by the fighters, which provoked a ferocious Israeli assault on the Palestinian enclave in which more than 186,000 may have been killed over the last nine months, according to an estimate published in *The Lancet* journal.

The IDF has said that the results of its internal investigations would be presented once complete.

Operational procedure

The Hannibal Directive refers to a purported IDF operational policy that aims to pre-empt politically painful prisoner swaps by immediately eliminating everyone in the vicinity of a captive Israeli soldier, even if it poses a risk to the soldier himself.

The full text of the purported doctrine has never been published, even though its existence has been discussed for long. Describing the procedures to be used in the minutes and hours immediately following a possible abduction, the directive purportedly states: "In case of capture, the main mission becomes rescuing our soldiers from the captors, even at the cost of hitting or wounding our soldiers."

The 'Hannibal' name

Israeli officials have maintained that the name was chosen at random. But it is believed that the policy was named after the Carthaginian general Hannibal, who apparently chose to kill himself when faced with the possibility of capture by the Romans in c. 181 BCE.

Hannibal, who commanded the forces of Carthage, a great city in what is now Tunisia, in the 17-year Second Punic War with the Roman Empire, had taken refuge with Prusias I of Bithynia in northwest Anatolia. The Romans forced Prusias to give him up, but Hannibal was determined not to be captured.

According to accounts left by the Roman writer Cornelius Nepos and the historian Titus Livius, upon discovering that he had been surrounded, Hannibal consumed poison.

The 'Jibril Agreement'

The Hannibal Doctrine is said to have been formulated as a response to the Jibril Agreement of 1985 in which 1,150 Palestinian prisoners were exchanged for three Israelis who had been seized in Lebanon by the Syria-based militant group Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC).

The deal, which was negotiated over almost a year, was nicknamed after the leader of the PFLP-GC, Ahmed Jibril. Among the Palestinians released by Israel was Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, who went on to found Hamas in 1987.

The swap negotiations were exhausting, and the deal was seen as costly by many Israelis. In mid-1986, after Hezbollah attempted to abduct two Israeli soldiers to southern Lebanon, Yossi Peled, then head of the IDF's Northern Command, drafted the operational order that would become the basis of the Hannibal Doctrine.

LONGER VERSION ON
indianexpress.com/explained

Context: A media investigation has revealed that during Hamas' raid on southern Israel last year, the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) activated the controversial "Hannibal Directive," employing maximum force to prevent soldier capture, even at the cost of military and civilian lives.

Hannibal Directive

- **About:** It is also known as the Hannibal Procedure and Hannibal Protocol, was employed from the initial hours of the attack at least three military facilities infiltrated by Hamas.
- **Definition**: It is an alleged IDF operational policy intended to prevent politically sensitive prisoner exchanges by eliminating all individuals near a captured Israeli soldier, even if it endangers the soldier.
- **Secrecy of the Doctrine**: The full text of the Hannibal Directive has never been publicly released, though its existence is widely acknowledged and discussed among soldiers and analysts.
- **Procedure**: The directive focuses on actions to be taken immediately following a potential abduction, stating: "In case of capture, the main mission becomes rescuing our soldiers from the captors, even at the cost of hitting or wounding our soldiers."
- **Origin of the Name**: The directive's name was reportedly chosen at random. However, it is believed to reference the Carthaginian general Hannibal, who opted to take his own life rather than be captured by the Romans around 181 BCE.
- **Historical Context**: Hannibal, leading Carthage in the Second Punic War against Rome, took refuge with Prusias I of Bithynia.
    - When Romans demanded his surrender, Hannibal chose to consume poison to avoid capture, as recorded by Cornelius Nepos and Titus Livius.
- **Formulation of the Doctrine**: The Hannibal Doctrine was developed in response to the 1985 Jibril Agreement, where 1,150 Palestinian prisoners were exchanged for three Israelis captured by the PFLP-GC. This deal, seen as costly by many Israelis, spurred the creation of the doctrine to prevent similar situations.
- **Drafting the Doctrine**: Following a 1986 Hezbollah abduction attempt, Yossi Peled, then head of the IDF's Northern Command, drafted the operational order that laid the foundation for the Hannibal Doctrine.

TIMES OF INDIA

Page 7

SPOTTED POND TURTLES

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Eco and Env)

Man caught transporting 100 rare species of turtle

Devanshi.Mehta
@timesofindia.com



The seized turtles are protected under Schedule-I

New Delhi: Over 100 live, rare and protected turtles were found in the bag of a man who was transporting these on a scooter to Raja Ram Kohli Marg on Wednesday.

"At 1.15pm, our team spotted the suspect riding a scooter from the Shakarpur direction with a large bag," the police officer, who led the arrest, said.

Acting on an informer's tip-off, officers caught the man. In his bag were 100 live turtles. Among these were 50 Indian roofed turtles, 45 black-spotted pond turtles (both listed under Schedule-I for protection), along with a smaller number of Indian eyed and Indian soft shell turtles, also protected under Schedule-I.

According to experts, the species are considered rare at different levels in International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) but all four are protected under Schedule 1 of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, which is the highest level of protection provided to any species.

"They are one of the rarest species, often used as exotic pets. Some use it for occult purposes. The softshell turtle is even exploited as an aphrodisiac," People for Animals (PFA), the animal rights organisation, says.

"The suspect, a resident of Ghaziabad, failed to give a satisfactory explanation for possessing the turtles," a police source said. Subsequently, Geeta Colony Police registered a case under Sections 9, 39, 50, and 51 of Wildlife Protection Act and Section 11(A) of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.

During interrogation, he admitted to sourcing the turtles from the Ganga near Garhmukteshwar with an associate who is evading arrest following a wildlife smuggling case against him in Nandgram, Ghaziabad. Police officers told **TOI**, "He has admitted to selling turtles in the last 2-3 months."

An officer said: "The market rate of one such turtle is Rs 8,000-10,000, making it lucrative animal trafficking."

The turtles have been handed over to wildlife officials.

The turtles were caught in a joint operation of Delhi Police and PFA. "We were tipped off by a source and approached DCP Shahdara. He held the operation to confiscate one of the largest wildlife contrabandss in recent years," a PFA volunteer said.

Context: A man was found carrying over 100 live, rare, and protected turtles in his bag, including 50 Indian roofed turtles and 45 black spotted pond turtles.

Spotted Pond Turtles

- **Identification:** These are named for the yellow or white spots on their black heads, legs, and tails. They have large heads, short snouts, and webbed feet that aid in swimming.
- **Alternate Names**: Also known as Black Pond Turtle, Black Spotted Turtle, and Hamilton's Terrapin.
- **Unique Sound**: When retreating into their shells, spotted pond turtles emit a soft croak.
- **Geographic Distribution:** Large, deep rivers in India, Assam, Pakistan, and Bangladesh.
- **In India**: This species is distributed across the north, northeast, and a few parts of central India.
- **Conservation Status**
  - **IUCN Status**: Endangered.
  - **CITES**: Appendix I
  - Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I

Indian Roofed Turtle

- **About:** It is a species of turtle distinguished by the distinct "roof" at the topmost part of its shell.
- **Distribution**: Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan.
- **Threats**: The main threats to this species include heavy collection for food, traditional medicine, and the pet trade.
- **Conservation Status**
  - **IUCN Status**: Vulnerable
  - **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**: Schedule I

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FOREIGN CONTRIBUTION REGULATION ACT

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Internal Security)

NGO working on rights issues loses FCRA registration

Ministry tells CACIM that cancellation is due to incorrect filings of returns in 2018 and 2019; Centre for Financial Accountability is one of its projects

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry on Wednesday cancelled the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) registration of the parent entity of the non-profit Centre for Financial Accountability (CFA), which monitors and critically analyses the role of financial institutions and their impact on development, human rights, and the environment.

In a recent report, the CFA had highlighted how additional projects sanctioned in a Special Economic Zone operated by the Adani Group in the Kutch region of Gujarat "will compound environmental hazards and increase health risks for the people while further polluting the environment and accelerating degradation of the ecology".

In December 2023, the CFA organised an online meeting with the All-India Bank Officers Confederation to discuss the issues faced by public sector banks and the road ahead.



Speaking with *The Hindu*, Jean Athialy, Executive Director, CFA said they were yet to receive the orders cancelling the FCRA registration of CACIM (India Institute for Critical Action Centre in Movement), but they had been informed online. CFA is one of the projects of CACIM.

"We have been told that the cancellation is due to the incorrect filings [of return] of financial years 2018 and 2019. This may be just an excuse, as they had all the years to ask us to rectify the mistakes. We certainly believe that the work we did has contributed to this action," Mr. Athialy said. He said the government wanted to throttle the organisations that were critical of its work.

"We are not going to get bogged down by such actions. We will continue our work. We recognise that the government wanted to throttle our work. We will find innovative ways to carry forward our work, which includes domestic donations. There is a life beyond FCRA," he said.

Earlier January, the Ministry cancelled the FCRA registration of Centre for Policy Research (CPR), a leading public policy research institution in New Delhi.

Since 2015, the FCRA registration of more than 16,000 NGOs have been cancelled on account of "violation." As on Wednesday, there were 15,946 FCRA-registered NGOs active in the country. The FCRA registration of nearly 6,000 NGOs had ceased to operate from January 1, 2022 as the Ministry either refused to renew their application or the NGOs did not apply for renewal.

FCRA registration granted to NGO

- **Apply online:** NGOs that want to receive foreign funds must apply online in a prescribed format with the required documentation.
- **Granted to:** FCRA registrations are granted to individuals or associations that have definite cultural, economic, educational, religious, and social programmes.
- **Inquiry and process of application:** Following the application by the NGO, the MHA makes inquiries through the Intelligence Bureau into the antecedents of the applicant, and accordingly processes the application.
- **Should not involve in illegal activity:** Under the FCRA, the applicant should not be fictitious or benami; and should not have been prosecuted or convicted for indulging in activities aimed at conversion through inducement or force, either directly or indirectly, from one religious' faith to another.

Context: The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has revoked the FCRA registration of the parent organization of the non-profit Centre for Financial Accountability (CFA).

Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA)

- **About**: Regulates the receiving and use of foreign contributions by individuals and corporations established in India. The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 has come into effect from 2011.
- **Objectives:** The law sought to regulate foreign donations to individuals and associations so that they functioned "in a manner consistent with the values of a sovereign democratic republic.
- **Extend to**: It extends to the whole of India.
- **Apply to:**
  - Citizens of India outside India.
  - Associate branches or subsidiaries, outside India, of companies or bodies corporate, registered or incorporated in India.
- **Validity:** Once granted, FCRA registration is valid for five years.
- **Renewal:** NGOs are expected to apply for renewal within six months of the date of expiry of registration.
- **Expiry:** In case of failure to apply for renewal, the registration is deemed to have expired, and the NGO is no longer entitled to receive foreign funds or utilise its existing funds without permission from the ministry.

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