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MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



MK Yadav Sir

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PIB Jan 2

NSCAEM
(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Govt Scheme)

Significant milestone crossed - more than 1 crore screened for Sickle Cell Disease under the National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission

Context: Recently, a significant milestone was crossed as more than 1 crore individuals were screened for Sickle Cell Disease under the National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission.

National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission

- **About:** This program, which was **introduced in the 2023 Union Budget**, is centred on tackling the healthcare issues associated with sickle cell disease within tribal communities.
- **Mission:** Enhance the quality of care for all individuals affected by Sickle Cell Disease, aiming for a brighter future.
  - **Decrease the prevalence of the disease** through a comprehensive and well-coordinated strategy involving screening and awareness initiatives.
- **Vision:** By 2047, completely eradicate sickle cell disease as a public health concern in India.
- At the outset, the emphasis **will be on 17 states** that exhibit a higher incidence of Sickle Cell Disease.
- **These states include** Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, Bihar, and Uttarakhand.
  - **MP** is a state with the **highest tribal population** in terms of absolute numbers as per Census 2011 and also has the **highest burden of sickle cell anaemia**.

Sickle Cell Anemia

- **About**: It is one of a **group of inherited disorders** known as sickle cell disease.
- **Cause**: It is caused by a **change in the gene** that tells the body to make the iron-rich compound in red blood cells **called hemoglobin**.
- **Symptoms**: Extreme tiredness or irritability due to anaemia, painful swelling of hands and feet, and jaundice in the early stages.
- **Treatment**: Blood transfusions alleviate anaemia and lower pain crisis risk.

THE HINDU

Page 1

HIT AND RUN LAW IN INDIA

Syllabus GS Paper 2 – Governance)

MHA seeks to pacify truckers protesting new hit-and-run law

Will invoke the new penal section only after consultations with the All India Motor Transport Congress: Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

As transporters across the country struck work to protest the increase in punishment in hit-and-run cases in the yet-to-be-implemented Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) convened a meeting with the All India Motor Transport Congress on Tuesday.

Transporters, including bus and taxi unions, have called a nationwide strike from January 1-January 30 to protest Section 106 of the BNS, which prescribes a maximum punishment of ten years in cases of rash and negligent driving. "The government wants to clarify that the new laws have not been implemented yet. We would also like to point out that the decision to invoke Section 106 (2) of the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita will be taken only after consultation with the All India Motor Transport Congress. I appeal to the body and transporters to return to work," Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla said after the meeting.

Though the motor transport congress has called off the strike after the meeting, transport bodies in other States would continue with the strike, Kultaran Singh Atwal, chairman, All India Motor Transport Congress, said.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10



Stationary trucks line the roads of Lucknow as drivers respond to call to strike. SANDEEP SAXENA

Rahul slams govt. for enacting laws without consultations

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Expressing solidarity with truckers, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi slammed the Centre for making laws without consulting stakeholders or the Opposition. "The insistence on making laws without discussion with the affected class and without dialogue with the Opposition is a continuous attack on the soul of democracy," he said in a post on X. » PAGE 10

Context: Recently, as transporters across the country went on strike to protest the proposed increase in punishment for hit-and-run cases under the yet-to-be-implemented Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

Hit-and-Run Law in India

- **About**: The new hit-and-run law in India, integrated into the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita (BNS), has replaced the previous Indian Penal Code (IPC), bringing about significant changes in the legal framework.
- **Penalties**: Offenders causing a serious road accident through negligence and failing to report to authorities can be subjected to up to 10 years of imprisonment or a fine of Rs 7 lakh.
- **Defining Hit-and-Run**: The law precisely defines a hit-and-run accident as a situation where a driver, involved in an accident with another property, pedestrian, or vehicle, flees without providing necessary aid or exchanging crucial details such as insurance information.
- **BNS vs. Previous Legislation**: Before the enactment of BNS, hit-and-run cases were addressed under Section 304A of the Indian Penal Code.
  - The previous penalties were comparatively lenient, with offenders facing a maximum imprisonment of up to two years upon identification.
- **Shifting Paradigm**: The implementation of Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita reflects a substantial shift towards stricter consequences for hit-and-run offenses in India.
  - This legislative move signifies a commitment to addressing such incidents more rigorously and promoting road safety.

ALL INDIA RADIO

Jan 2

KAVARATTI

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 – Geography)

PM Modi to dedicate to the nation & lay foundation stone for multiple development projects worth over Rs. 1,150 crore at Kavaratti Island in Lakshadweep today

Context: Prime Minister of India will dedicate to the nation and lay foundation stone for multiple development projects at Kavaratti Island in Lakshadweep.



Kavaratti

- **About**: It is the capital of the Union Territory of Lakshadweep in India.
  - Kavaratti is a census town as well as the name of the atoll upon which the town stands.
- **Located**: It is located 332 km west to the city of Kannur, 351 km west of the city of Kozhikode, and 404 km west of the city of Kochi.
- **Climate**: Tropical Savanna Climate.
- **Importance location:** Largest city in Lakshadweep (Andrott).
  - Nine degree channel separates the Minicoy island and Maldives.

Lakshadweep

- **About:** It is a union territory of India.
- **Islands:** It is an archipelago of 36 islands serving as the maritime boundary between the Arabian Sea to the west and the Laccadive Sea to the east.
- **Located**: It is located 200 to 440 km (120 to 270 mi) off the Malabar Coast of India.

ECONOMIC TIMES Jan 2

SIMPLIFIED CERTIFICATION SCHEME

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – Govt Scheme)

Ministry of Communications expands simplified certification scheme for 37 products

Context: The Telecommunication Engineering Centre TEC of Department of Telecommunications DoT has brought 37 more products under Simplified Certification scheme SCS.

Simplified Certification Scheme (SCS)

- **About:** It is tailored for applicants dealing with Group A equipment. Under this scheme, applicants submit a test-wise compliance sheet and a Self-Declaration of Conformity (SDoC) for parameters included in ERs.
- **Applicability**: This scheme applies to all equipment notified under the SCS category periodically.
- **Application Process**: Under this scheme, applicants are required to submit a test-wise compliance sheet, a Self-Declaration of Conformity (SDoC), and test reports for parameters outlined in Essential Requirements (ERs).
- **Adherence to GCS Rules/Procedures**: All rules and procedures applicable to the General Certification Scheme (GCS) are applicable to SCS, with the exception that test reports submitted by the applicant will not be evaluated by TEC.
    - However, TEC retains the right to seek clarifications from the applicant, if necessary.
- **Certificate Issuance**: Certificates will typically be issued within fifteen working days from the date of application submission.

LIVEMINT

Page 2

AMRUT MISSION

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – Govt Scheme)

France, Germany to fund AMRUT mission

Shashank Mattoo & Rituraj Baruah

NEW DELHI

France's development agency AFD and Germany's KfW Bank are in talks with India to provide €100 million loan to fund the country's urban infrastructure plan, AMRUT mission, according to persons aware of the matter.

Negotiations on the loan are set for early 2024 with the signing expected in February. This follows the countries' collaboration on the City Investments to Innovate, Integrate and Sustain or CITIIS 2.0 programme, a four-year initiative focused on urban renewal and sustainable waste management, to which they contributed €100 million each.

AFD and KfW Bank are in talks to provide €100 mn loan to fund the urban infrastructure plan of India

The Union Cabinet, which approved the plan in May 2023, had said, "The programme envisages to support competitively selected projects promoting circular economy with focus on integrated waste management at the city level, climate-oriented reform actions at the State level, and institutional strengthening and knowledge dissemination at the National level."

Both France and Germany have funded urban transformation projects in India before. France's AFD was part of the CITIIS 1.0 programme, which began in 2018. It has also provided technical expertise to the government's Smart Cities Mission in Nagpur, Puducherry and Chandigarh. It has also financed metro projects in Bengaluru, Pune, Surat, Nagpur and Kochi.

Germany's KfW Bank has also invested in metro projects in India. It has provided funds for the expansion of the suburban rail system in Bengaluru.

Queries mailed to AFD, KfW Bank and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs were unanswered till the time of publishing this story.

shashank.mattoo@livemint.com

Context: France's development agency AFD and Germany's KfW Bank are in talks with India to provide €100 million loan to fund the country's urban infrastructure plan, AMRUT mission.

AMRUT Mission

- **Full Form:** Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation.
- **Launched:** On 25th June 2015.
- **Selected Cities:** 500 cities and towns.
- **Ministry**: Housing and Urban Affairs.
- **Focus**: Development of basic infrastructure, in the selected cities and towns, in the sectors of water supply; sewerage and septage management; storm water drainage; green spaces and parks; and non-motorized urban transport.
- **State Annual Action Plan (SAAP)**: It is a consolidated plan that is a combination of all the city-level SLIPs(Service Level Improvement Plans) of all proposed AMRUT cities in the respective states.
- **AMRUT 2.0**:
  - **Announcement:** 1 October 2021
  - **Type of scheme:** Centrally sponsored scheme
  - **Aim:** To promote the circular economy of water through the development of City Water Balance Plan (CWBP) for water conservation.
    - To provide universal coverage of water supply through functional taps to all households in all the statutory towns in the country and coverage of sewerage/septage management in 500 cities covered in the AMRUT scheme.

DTE Jan 2

SNOW LEOPARD
(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Env and Eco)

Snow Leopard: Enigmatic big cat of High Asia now National Symbol of Kyrgyzstan

Context: The snow leopard, the mysterious and enigmatic symbol of High Asia with its host of mountain ranges stretching from the Altai to the Himalayas, is now the national symbol of Kyrgyzstan.

Snow Leopard

- **Scientific Name**: Panthera uncia
- **Top Predator**: Snow leopards act as an indicator of the health of the mountain ecosystem in which they live, due to their position as the top predator in the food web.
- **Conservation Status**:
  - **IUCN**: Vulnerable.
  - **CITES**: Appendix I.
  - **Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**: Schedule-I.
- **Habitat**: Across the mountainous landscape of central Asia, which covers different parts of the Himalayas such as Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Sikkim.
- **Threat**: Largely threatened because of the loss of natural prey species, retaliatory killing due to conflict with humans and illegal trade of its fur and bones.
- **Initiatives Taken**
  - **Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Programme (GSLEP):** It is an unprecedented alliance of all snow leopard range countries, non-governmental organizations, multi-lateral institutions, scientists and local communities, united by one goal: saving the snow leopard and its mountain ecosystems.
  - **The SECURE Himalaya project**: Financially supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), aims to preserve high altitude biodiversity and diminish the reliance of local communities on the natural ecosystem.
  - **Project Snow Leopard (PSL)**: Advocates for an inclusive and participatory strategy to safeguard snow leopards and their habitats.

INDIAN EXPRESS

Page 1

CITIZENSHIP AMENDMENT ACT
(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – Polity)



CHALLENGE TO CITIZENSHIP (AMENDMENT) ACT PENDING BEFORE SC

Govt ready with rules for CAA, set to be notified before LS polls announcement

Process to be online, mobile phones can also be used to apply: Officials

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL & ANANTHAKRISHNAN G
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 2

RULES FOR the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), the Bill for which was cleared by Parliament in December 2019, will be notified much before the announcement of the Lok Sabha elections, sources in the government said Tuesday.

The Bill, which sought to fast-track Indian citizenship to Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians – but not Muslims – who migrated to India owing to religious persecution in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh, was passed by Lok Sabha on December 9, 2019, and Rajya Sabha two days later. It received the President's assent on December 12, 2019.

EXPLAINED

Rules key to Act

IT HAS been more than four years since the law received Presidential assent after Parliament cleared the Bill. Its passage led to widespread protests. Eight extensions later, the government is ready with the rules which are necessary for implementation of the Act.

GOVT & POLITICS

BJP HUDDLE ON LS POLLS: RAM TEMPLE CAMPAIGN, 303-PLUS SEATS PAGE 7

Soon after the passage of the law, widespread protests broke out across the country. The rules for implementation of the Act were never notified and the government sought repeated extensions for framing the rules.

Sources told *The Indian Express* that the rules are now ready and the online portal is also in place. The entire process, sources said, will be online and applicants can apply even from their mobile phones.

"We are going to issue the rules for the CAA in the coming days. Once the rules are issued, the law can be implemented and those eligible can be granted Indian citizenship," the sources said.

Asked whether the rules will be notified before the announcement of the Lok Sabha elections, the sources said, "All things are

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Context: Recently, sources in the government have indicated that the rules for the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), the Bill for which was cleared by Parliament in December 2019, will be notified well in advance of the announcement of the Lok Sabha elections.

Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) 2019

- **It amended**: The act amended the Citizenship Act, 1955 to make illegal migrants eligible for citizenship of India.
- **Citizenship on the Basis of Religion**: The CAA provides citizenship on the basis of religion to six undocumented non-Muslim communities (Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians) from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh who entered India on or before 31st December, 2014.
- **Definition**: Under the Act, an illegal migrant is a foreigner who:
  - Enters the country without valid travel documents like a passport and visa, or
  - Enters with valid documents, but stays beyond the permitted time period.
- **Citizenship by Registration or Naturalisation**: The Act allows a person to apply for citizenship by registration or naturalisation if the person meets certain qualifications.
- **Citizenship by Registration or Naturalisation**: The Act allows a person to apply for citizenship by registration or naturalisation if the person meets certain qualifications.
- **Non-applicability**: These provisions on citizenship for illegal migrants will not apply to the tribal areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Tripura, included in the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution.

PIB

Jan 2

NATIONAL ANTI-DOPING AGENCY

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – Governance)

NADA India conducts an Anti-Doping awareness session at Raipur, Chhattisgarh.

Context: National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA India) conducted an Anti-Doping awareness session for the Junior National Fencing Championship at Raipur, Chhattisgarh.

National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA)

- **About**: NADA was established by the Government of India with the goal of serving as an independent Anti-Doping Organization for India, with a vision of fostering drug-free sports.
- It was officially formed as a registered society under the Societies Registration Act of 1860 in November 2005.
- **Nodal Ministry**: Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
- **Objective**: To enforce anti-doping regulations in accordance with the **World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)** code and oversee the doping control program.
  - **To actively promote education, research, and awareness** initiatives aimed at addressing the issue of doping and its detrimental consequences.
- **Functions of NADA**
  - Enforce the Anti-Doping Code **to ensure compliance by all sports** organizations in the country.
  - **Coordinate the doping testing program** in collaboration with all relevant stakeholders.
  - Promote research and education in the field of anti-doping to instil the importance of drug-free sports.
  - **Embrace best practice standards and quality** systems to facilitate the effective implementation and continuous enhancement of the program.

SOCIAL REFORMERS
(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 – History)

PM Modi pays tributes to social reformer Savitri Bai Phule & Rani Velu Nachiyar on their Jayanti

Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tributes to social reformer Savitri Bai Phule and first queen to fight against the British colonial power in India Rani Velu Nachiyar on their Jayanti.

Savitri Bai Phule

- **Early Life**: Savitribai Phule, born on January 3, 1831, in Naigaon village of Maharashtra's Satara district, belonged to the Mali community. Despite being married off at an early age, her husband Jyotirao Phule played a pivotal role in educating her at home.
- **Pioneering Education for Women**: The couple defied societal norms by establishing the first girls' school in Bhidewada, Pune, in 1848.
- **Social Reforms and Activism**: Savitribai and Jyotirao extended their social impact by opening schools for marginalized communities, leading to discontent among nationalists like Bal Gangadhar Tilak.
- **Satyashodhak Samaj**: The Phules established the Satyashodhak Samaj, aiming to promote social equity irrespective of caste, religion, or class hierarchies.
- **Relief Work and Social Service**: During the 1896 famine and the 1897 Bubonic plague in Maharashtra, Savitribai actively participated in relief work, showcasing her commitment to addressing humanitarian crises.
- **Literary Legacy**: Savitribai Phule, a prolific writer, published her first collection of poems, 'Kavya Phule' ('Poetry's Blossoms'), at the age of 23 in 1854. Her literary contributions also include 'Bavan Kashi Subodh Ratnakar' ('The Ocean of Pure Gems'), published in 1892.

Rani Velu Nachiyar

- **About**: She was the first Indian queen to wage war with the East India Company in India.
- **Known by**: Tamils as Veeramangai ("brave woman").
- With the support of Hyder Ali's army, feudal lords, the Maruthu Brothers, Dalit commanders, and Thandavarayan Pillai, she fought the East India company.

INDIAN EXPRESS Page 1

SKAO

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Sci and Tech)

GMRT TO PLAY KEY ROLE

Another eye in sky, on ground: India is now part of world's largest radio telescope project

DAE approves Rs 1,250 cr, Pune's NCRA to take lead

ANJALI MARAR
BENGALURU, JANUARY 2

EVEN AS ISRO Monday launched a unique observatory to study X-rays and black holes in deep space and the stage is being set to construct the third node of the LIGO in Maharashtra, scientists in India will now also be part of the international mega-science project, the Square Kilometre Array Observatory (SKAO), that will function as the world's largest radio telescope.

The SKAO is not a single telescope but an array of thousands of antennas, to be installed in remote radio-quiet locations in South Africa and Australia, that will operate as one large unit meant to observe and study celestial phenomena.

India, through the Pune-based National Centre for Radio Astrophysics (NCRA) and some other institutions, has been involved in the development of SKA since its inception in the 1990s.

Considering the multinational collaboration, SKAO was established as an intergovernmental organisation in 2021 following years of negotiation in which India, too, participated.



Installation work at one of the SKA sites in Western Australia. *Credit: SKAO*

Countries have to sign, and ratify, the SKAO convention to formally become members. The Government's approval for joining the project, with a financial sanction of Rs 1,250 crore, is the first step towards the ratification.

The approval, which the Department of Atomic Energy announced in its 2023 year-ending note, comes weeks after India gave its go-ahead to construct the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

SCIENCE CONGRESS FAILS TO KEEP DATE THIS YEAR PAGE 8

Context: India has joined the international mega-science project, the Square Kilometre Array Observatory (SKAO), set to be the world's largest radio telescope.

Square Kilometre Array Observatory (SKAO)

- **About**: The SKAO, or Square Kilometre Array Observatory, is a next-generation radio astronomy-driven Big Data facility set to revolutionize our comprehension of the Universe and the fundamental laws of physics.
- **Global Collaboration for Radio Astronomy Advancement**: As an intergovernmental organization, the SKA Observatory unites nations worldwide in its mission to construct and operate cutting-edge radio telescopes, fostering global collaboration and innovation for the betterment of society.
- **Global Presence**: The SKAO's global footprint includes its headquarters in the UK, two radio-quiet telescope sites in South Africa and Australia, and supporting facilities.
- **Leading the Way in Radio Astronomy**: By constructing and operating state-of-the-art telescopes, the SKAO aims to become the premier research infrastructure for radio astronomy globally.
- **Dual Telescopes**: Once operational, the SKAO will function as a single global observatory operating two of the most advanced radio telescopes on Earth.
  - These telescopes, composed of hundreds of dishes and thousands of antennas, will span three continents, serving Member States and partners.

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