

NEWS TODAY

BILLS INTRODUCED TO OVERALL INDIAN PENAL CODE (IPC), 1860, CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (CRPC), 1973 AND INDIAN EVIDENCE ACT (IEA), 1872

• Earlier in May 2020, an **Expert Committee under the chairmanship of Ranbir Singh** was constituted to recommend reforms in criminal law.

Bills	Key Changes
Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) Bill, 2023 to replace IPC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sedition has been repealed. However, armed rebellion, separatist activities, organized crimes, etc., have been made separate offenses. • Terrorism has been defined and made punishable for the first time. • Mob lynching made an offense explicitly. • Sexual intercourse on false promise of marriage, employment, etc., has been made a new offense. • Initiating children into crime made punishable.
Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita Bill, 2023 to replace CrPC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trial in-absence for proclaimed offenders like those absconding to evade trial. • Speedy justice by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Summary trial for petty offenses. ➢ Fixing 90-day window for investigation after filing of chargesheet. • Witness protection scheme to be made by states. • Bail after serving 1/3rd of maximum sentence for first-time offenders. • Zero-FIR, e-FIR to lodge complaint outside police station area. • Restrictions on commutation of sentences.
Bharatiya Sakshya (BS) Bill, 2023 to replace IEA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accepted documents include electronic and digital records, emails, etc. • Mandatory digitization of FIR, chargesheets, etc. • Mandatory use of Forensic services for offenses punishable with 7 or more years • Video recording of search and seizure operations by the police.

CENTRAL ARMED POLICE FORCE(CAPF)-CHALLENGES AND SUGGESTIONS

- **The Ministry of Home Affairs has informed** that 436 CAPF personnel died by suicide in the past three years.
- **Also**, an FIR was recently registered against the Assam Rifles, which is one of the 7 CAPFs.
 - All CAPFs are functioning under the **Ministry of Home Affairs.**
 - **6 remaining CAPFs:** Sashastra Seema Bal, Border Security Force, Central Reserve Police Force, Central Industrial Security Force, Indo-Tibetan Border Police, National Security Guard.
- **Challenges with CAPF**
 - **Top positions** are occupied by IPS officers. This has a demoralizing effect on the officers of the CAPFs.
 - **High vacancies.**
 - **High level of stress** in personnel due to working conditions, homesickness, etc.
 - **Slow progress** in modernizing arms, clothing, and equipment.
 - The **low representation of women personnel** i.e. 3.76% by last year.
- **Suggestions**
 - **Need of accommodation near the deployment of the respective force**, to enable personnel to meet their family members.
 - **Steps to encourage women to join CAPFs** and reservations for transgenders can be considered.

About Assam Rifle

- It guards the Indo-Myanmar border.
- It has dual control where **administration is of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and operational control is by the Indian Army.**
- It is the **oldest CAPF** in India.

RESERVE BANK OF INDIA (RBI) GOVERNOR CALLS FOR EARLY COMPLETION OF REVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND (IMF) QUOTA

- RBI Governor said that review of the quotas at IMF can help IMF assist distressed countries better.
- Issues associated with IMF lending
 - **Quota-based lending:** IMF support to a country is linked to the **quota size of the countries**.
 - **Financing with riders:** Riders like **fiscal austerity, high interest rates** associated with lending can be **counterproductive** for target economies.
 - **Standby arrangements:** Arrangement for **helping countries with Balance of Payments crisis** comes with a **performance benchmark and attached with a "stigma"**.
 - This may cause countries to seek **financial support from other borrowers** leading to **debt sustainability consequences**.
- Recommendations
 - **A multilateral debt relief program** providing **targeted assistance to low-income countries** with high debt levels.
 - **Debt Sustainability Analysis (DSA)** for countries **should be realistic on growth and fiscal projections founded** on accurate and comprehensive debt data.
 - DSA consists of analysis of **public debt and total external debt**.
 - **Redesign standby arrangements** with lesser riders for countries whose macro-fundamentals are **reasonably resilient**.
 - **Green transition efforts** must address both the physical and transition risks of climate change.

GOVT RELEASES BUFFER STOCK ONION TO STABILIZE PRICES

- **Inflationary trend in Onion prices** has been witnessed due to **late onset of the monsoon**.

Key Facts about Onion

- **Highest Producer: Maharashtra.**
- **Weather conditions: 70% relative humidity, average annual rainfall of 650-750 mm, temperature** for vegetative phase and bulb development is **13-24°C and 16-25°C, respectively.**

- **Other factors:**
 - **Low shelf life.**
 - **Possible decline in Rabi areas** this season for Onion.
 - **Low storage infrastructure**
 - **Supply chain obstacles.**
- **Steps taken to curb price inflation:**
- **Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF):** The Government has been maintaining **onion buffer** under the **PSF** to check the volatility in prices of onion.
 - It is maintained as a **Central Corpus Fund by Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC)**.
 - PSF was set up in **2014-15** under the **Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW)** as a **Central Sector Scheme**.
 - It was transferred to **Department of Consumer Affairs** in 2016.
 - It is managed by a **Price Stabilization Fund Management Committee (PSFMC)**.
 - It works by **procurement** of selected produce, maintenance of buffer stocks and regulated release into the market.
- **Irradiation of onion by Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC)** to increase shelf life.

About IMF Quota

- An individual member country's quota broadly reflects **its relative position in the world economy**.
- Quotas are denominated in **Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), the IMF's unit of account**.
- IMF quotas are distributed according to a four-pronged formula that considers a **member country's GDP, economic openness, "economic variability" and international reserves**.

PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE PRESENTS REPORT ON ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE

● Key highlights

- **Setu Bharatam scheme:** Only 25% of the projects under **Setu Bharatam scheme** have been completed
 - The scheme was launched in 2016 to **make all national highways Railway crossing free by 2019**.
- **Unmanned level crossing (ULC):** All ULCs on **Broad Gauge have been eliminated** but need to be replaced on Metre Gauge and Narrow Gauge.
- **Road Survey Guidelines:** Lack of emphasis on **community engagement and the impact of road projects** on local communities.
- **Challenges in construction of Road over/under bridges and Service roads:** Delay in **environmental clearances and land acquisition, poor contract management, etc.**
- **Recommendation**
 - **Community engagement:** Involving residents, businesses, etc. can better serve their specific needs and **mitigate potential negative impacts**.
 - **Use of technology:** Drones, LiDAR, AI-enabled Intelligent Transportation Systems, etc. for early damage detection, minimising **human errors and lower maintenance costs**.
 - **Sustainable roads:** Promote road design that optimizes energy efficiency, enhance Environment Impact Assessment, etc.
 - **Private Sector Participation:** Comprehensive feasibility studies to **assess viability of PPP, incorporate incentives and penalties** in the contract to improve contract management.
 - **Adoption of best practices:** specifications and standards issued by Indian Road Congress, etc.

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY (GEF) AND CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL RELEASED REPORT ON 'INCLUSIVE CONSERVATION INITIATIVE' (ICI)

• Key highlights

- Indigenous peoples own **40% of terrestrial protected areas and 37% of ecologically intact landscapes.**
- **Indigenous land management** has equal or greater impacts on reducing deforestation than state managed.
- Less than **1% of climate change mitigation and adaptation funding** is directed to IPLC (indigenous and local communities)
- Only **7% of the US\$ 1.7 billion of funding pledged** for ILPC (at the 26th CoP of UNFCCC in 2021) goes directly to them.

• About ICI

- **Background:** Endorsed by GEF in 2022
- **Aim:** To support ILPC to secure and enhance their stewardship over **landscapes, seascapes and territories with high biodiversity** and irreplaceable ecosystems.

➤ 4 components

- Local Action to **deliver Global Environmental Benefits**
- Global IPLC **Capacity Building**
- **IPLC Leadership** in International Environmental Policy
- **Inclusive Conservation** Knowledge to Action

• Other initiatives for inclusive conservation

- **Global Biodiversity Framework Fund** proposed by GEF.
- **India:** Formation of **Community Reserves** and recognition to the **Sacred Grove under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 2002; Recognition of Forest Rights Act, 2006.**

- **CI** is a Virginia (USA) **based non-profit organization** that works to **protect nature that introduced quantitative threshold for biodiversity hotspots.**

About Global Environment Facility (GEF)

HQ: Washington, D.C (US)

- i **Genesis :** Established in **1992 Rio Earth Summit.**
- 🗂️ **About :** A "financial mechanism" dedicated to confronting **biodiversity loss, climate change, pollution, and strains on land and ocean health.**
 - Serves to to **5 conventions** i.e. **CBD, UNFCCC, Stockholm Convention on POPs, UNCCD and Minamata Convention on Mercury.**
- 👥 **Membership :** 185 member countries.
- 💰 **Trustee :** World Bank

ALSO IN NEWS

 Adjourned sine-die	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both Houses of Parliament adjourned sine die. • Adjournment sine die means terminating a sitting of Parliament for an indefinite period. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Here, the House is adjourned without naming a day for reassembly. • The power of adjournment sine die lies with the Presiding Officer of the House. • Presiding Officer can also call a sitting of the House any time after the House has been adjourned sine die.
 Amendment to CGST and IGST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both houses of the Parliament passed two bills to amend the CGST (Central Goods & Services Tax) and IGST (Integrated Goods & Services Tax) Acts. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It will implement the GST Council's recommendation for 28 % GST on online gaming, casinos, and horse racing. ➤ It will be applied on the initial amount paid upon entry, and not on the total value of each bet placed. ➤ Covers both games based on both skill and chance.
 Consumer Welfare (Corpus) Fund (CWF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consumer Welfare Guidelines have been amended to include reimbursement of legal expenses incurred by a complainant, after its final adjudication. • The prescribed amount shall be paid from the interest accrued on the Consumer Welfare (Corpus) Fund (CWF). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ CWF aims to promote, protect and advocate welfare of consumers in India, create consumer awareness and strengthen consumer movement in the country. ➤ It has been established at the State level, through co-contribution with the Department of Consumer Affairs, under the Central Goods and Services Act, 2017.
 Pink Bollworm (PBW)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific name: Pectinophora gossypiella. • Impact: Adults lay eggs on cotton bolls; once hatched, the larvae eat the seeds and damage the fibers of the cotton. • Distribution: It is now recorded in nearly all the cotton-growing countries of the world.



 <p>Legionella bacteria</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Britain is removing a group of asylum seekers from the Bibby Stockholm barge because Legionella bacteria was found in the water supply. ● Legionella bacteria are found naturally in freshwater like rivers and lakes and can grow inside water tanks and plumbing systems. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ It can cause a serious type of pneumonia (lung infection) called Legionnaires' disease. ➢ It can also cause Pontiac fever, a milder illness resembling the flu.
 <p>Luna-25</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Russian space agency have clarified that Luna-25 will not affect Chandrayaan-3 (India's mission to make a soft landing on lunar south pole). ● Luna-25 is a Russian lunar lander mission launched to make a soft landing on the lunar south pole ● Objective: To study the composition of the polar regolith, and to study the plasma and dust components of the lunar polar exosphere.
 <p>National Space Innovation Challenge (NSIC) 2023</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) in collaboration with ISRO and Navars EduTech launched NSIC. ● NSIC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ National-level campaign to ignite next-generation space enthusiasts to understand and contribute to Indian space economy ➢ It is open to all school students across the country. ● AIM is a flagship initiative of NITI Aayog to create and promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship.
 <p>Trans-fatty acids</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Unsaturated fats : from natural and industrial sources. ● Natural trans fats are safe in moderation, but artificial ones may lead to health issues. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Naturally-occurring transfat comes from ruminants (cows and sheep). ● Industrially-produced transfat is formed during hydrogenation of vegetable oil, resulting in "partially hydrogenated" oil (PHO). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ PHO is solid at room temperature and prolongs the shelf life of products. ● WHO has also launched REPLACE strategy which is a step-by-step guide for the elimination of industrially-produced trans-fatty acids. ● Efforts by FSSAI: Trans Fat-Free logo, Eat Right and Heart Attack Rewind media campaigns, pledge to reduce trans fats to 2%.
 <p>Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ministry of Railways will establish Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs) under PMBJP at some railway stations. ● About PMBJP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Launched under: Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizer ➢ Objective: To provide quality medicines at affordable prices to all through dedicated outlets called PMBJAK. ➢ Implementing Agency: Pharmaceutical & Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI) ➢ Incentive: Incentives to PMBJK owners is up to Rs 5 lakh (special incentives of up to Rs. 2.00 lakh for women, SC/ST, etc.) ➢ Ensuring quality: Medicines are procured only from WHO-Good Manufacturing Practices (WHO-GMP) certified suppliers.
 <p>Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Recently, China raised objections on the use Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam in G-20 logo on the ground of use of non-UN languages. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Official languages of the UN: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish. ● Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ It is a philosophy that inculcates an understanding that the whole world is one family. ➢ The verse finds mention in Maha Upanishad.