

NEWS TODAY

ASSOCIATION FOR DEMOCRATIC REFORMS (ADR) RELEASED “ANALYSIS OF SITTING MPs FROM LOK SABHA AND RAJYA SABHA OF INDIA 2023” REPORT

• Key findings

- **Sitting MPs with criminal cases:** Out of 763 MPs analysed, **40% MPs have declared criminal cases** against themselves.
 - **25% MPs** have declared **serious criminal cases** including cases related to murder, kidnapping, crimes against women etc.
 - **Kerala has highest percentage** of MPs with criminal cases followed by Bihar, and Maharashtra.
- **Average assets of sitting MPs with declared criminal cases is more** than assets of MPs with no criminal cases.
- **Criminalisation of Politics (CoP)** refers to **infiltration of criminals, lawbreakers, and corrupt individuals into political system.**
- **Reasons of CoP:** Growing nexus between political parties and criminals, culture of buying votes and freebies to attract voters, High winning ability of candidates with criminal cases etc.
- **Impact of CoP: Deterioration** in quality of governance, **difficult to conduct free and fair elections;** affects integrity of public servants etc.
- **SC judgements to curb CoP**
 - **Public interest foundation case 2018:** All candidates will have to declare their criminal antecedents to ECI before contesting polls.
 - **Lily Thomas Vs Union of India, 2013:** MP, State Legislators convicted of crime with a minimum sentence of 2 years imprisonment would cease to be members of house.

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME RELEASED “BUILDING MATERIALS AND THE CLIMATE: CONSTRUCTING A NEW FUTURE” REPORT

- Report highlights the urgent need to **develop new models for cooperation on decarbonisation of building materials.**
 - Report was developed in collaboration with Yale Center for Ecosystems and Architecture in the framework of the Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction (GlobalABC).
- Decarbonisation of buildings refers to **removal or reduction of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emission** into atmosphere.
- **Need to decarbonise building/construction sector**
 - It is **responsible for at least 37 percent of global emissions** (largest emitter of greenhouse gas).
 - To **limit global warming to 1.5°C (Paris agreement)** and **achieve net zero by 2050** by reducing **embodied carbon** in building materials.
 - Embodied carbon account for **11 percent of annual global GHG emissions arising from manufacturing, transportation, installation, maintenance, and disposal of building materials.**

• Challenges in decarbonization of building/construction sector

- **Regulation and market demand:** No consensus exists on **Building specifications, standards and codes.**
- **Lack of Data** on **durability and resilience** of materials and its impact on embodied carbon.
- **Lack of capacity** in data collection and reporting of material changes, maintenance and repair that have occurred in a building over time.

DECARBONISING BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION THROUGH THE AVOID-SHIFT-IMPROVE APPROACH



108 MIGRANTS FROM PAKISTAN AWARDED CITIZENSHIP IN GUJARAT

- An order of the Ministry of Home Affairs in 2021 empowered the Collectors from certain districts in the States of Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Haryana, and Punjab for:
 - Registration of Citizen of India and grant certificate of naturalization under Section 5 and 6 of the Citizenship Act 1955 respectively.
 - This is applicable in respect of any person belonging to the minority community in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan.
- Citizenship by naturalization can be acquired by a foreigner (not an illegal immigrant)
 - Who is ordinarily resident in India for 12 Years
 - Throughout the period of twelve months immediately preceding the date of application; and For 11 Years in the aggregate in the 14 Years preceding the twelve months.
 - Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, however, relaxed the period of 11 years to 5 years for the person belonging to Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi or Christian community in Afghanistan, Bangladesh or Pakistan.
 - Other qualifications as specified in the Third Schedule to the Citizenship Act, 1955.
- Indian citizenship can be acquired by birth, descent, registration, and naturalization.
- Constitutional provisions for citizenship (Part 2 of the Constitution)
 - Articles 5, 6, 7 and 8, provides provisions regarding who will be the citizens of India at the commencement of the Constitution.
 - Article 11 grants Parliament the authority to make any provision regarding the acquisition and termination of citizenship.

INDIA- BRAZIL JOINT STATEMENT RELEASED AT THE SIDELINES OF G20 SUMMIT

- 2023 year marks the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Brazil and India, as well as 20th anniversary of IBSA (India-Brazil-South Africa) forum.

Key highlights of joint statement

- Both sides will work together in framework of G-4 and L.69.
 - G4 grouping of Brazil, India, Japan and Germany demands UNSC reform.
 - L.69 group includes developing countries from Africa, Latin America and Caribbean, Asia, and Pacific. It also supports UNSC reform.
- Brazil support to the Indian candidature for non-permanent seat of UNSC for 2028-2029 term.
- Both countries are founding member of Global Biofuels Alliance which facilitates adoption of biofuels.
- India welcomes Brazil's presidency of BASIC (grouping of Brazil, South Africa, India and China) and supports Brazilian presidency of 30th Conference of Parties to UNFCCC (COP30) in 2025.
- Expansion of India-Mercosur Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) during Brazil's Mercosur Presidency to leverage full potential of economic partnership.
 - Mercosur is an economic and political bloc consisting of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay.
- Establishment of India-Brazil Business Forum for private sector collaboration.
- Increase joint projects in partnership with International Solar Alliance and CDRI (Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure) in third countries.



INDIA URGES SRI LANKA TO KEEP ITS PROMISES TO FULFIL THE TAMILS' ASPIRATIONS

- India's reaction comes in the backdrop of a report released by Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on 'Promoting reconciliation, accountability and Human Rights in Sri Lanka'.
 - The report highlighted delays in holding local government elections and in reconstituting Provincial Councils under the 13th amendment.
- Tamil Issue in Sri Lanka:
 - Tamils are an Indian origin Hindu community, dominated in north and east of Sri Lanka. They migrated to Sri Lanka over the course of time.
 - They have conflicts with the Sinhala, the majority Buddhist community.
- Incidents leading to civil war:
 - Land acquisition in the north and east for expansion of military installations.
 - Buddhist heritage conservation at Hindu sites.
 - Curbing rights for Forestry protection.
- In order to end the civil war, the Indo-Sri Lanka Accord was signed in 1987. The 13th Amendment is the outcome of this accord.
 - Amendment provided for the creation of Provincial Councils, assured a power sharing arrangement to self-govern.
 - Subjects such as education, health, agriculture, housing, land and police are devolved to the provincial administrations.

RE-GLOBALIZATION FOR A SECURE, INCLUSIVE, AND SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

- The World Trade Organization (WTO) released **World Trade Report, 2023**, which evaluates how **re-globalization can provide solutions to global challenges**, and assesses the risk of trade fragmentation.
 - **Re-globalization** is a concept that **renews focus on interconnectedness, cooperation, and trade between nations**.
 - **Recent crises**, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, war in Ukraine, etc., fed into perceptions that globalization exposes economies to excessive risks.
- **Key highlights of the report**
 - **Re-globalization to reduce poverty and inequality**
 - **In India**, growth trend in services during the **1994-2005 period** shows a **decrease in the head count poverty rate** of around **1.5 points**.
 - **Re-globalization to promote environmental sustainability**
 - **International coordination on environmental policies** is essential to **maximize their potential impact**, by enabling **knowledge spill overs** and reducing the costs through **economies of scale**.
 - **Emission intensity in India dropped significantly** between **1990 and 2010** by reallocating resources from less efficient to more efficient firms.
 - **Impact of security concerns on trade**
 - Involvement of **security in trade policy can lead to higher trade barriers** due to re-shoring and friend-shoring.
 - **Trade interdependence** and cooperation among economies can **reduce the probability of conflict** and raise economic security.

ALSO IN NEWS

 <p>Integrated Government Online Training (iGOT) Karmayogi platform</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● iGOT Karmayogi, in partnership with NITI Aayog, has launched a new curated collection dedicated to the Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP). ● About iGOT Karmayogi platform <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ It is a comprehensive online platform to guide individual civil service officials in their capacity-building journey. ➢ The platform is envisioned to evolve into a vibrant and world class marketplace for content modelled on Framework of Role, Activities, and Competencies (FRACs). ● It was launched as part of Mission Karmayogi with the objective of enhancing governance through Civil Service Capacity Building.
 <p>Eastern Maritime Corridor (EMC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A Memorandum of Intent (MoI) on EMC, also known as Vladivostok-Chennai Maritime Corridor (VCMC), was signed between India and Russia in September 2019 formalizing plans to construct EMC. ● Significance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Increased India's involvement with the Russian Far East, oil and gas shipments into India, diversified trade route with Northeast Asia through maritime means, etc.
 <p>Most Favoured Nation (MFN)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Government has withdrawn duties imposed over and above the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) duty on certain products from the US to resolve outstanding WTO disputes. ● MFN <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ It is a WTO principle of not discriminating between one's trading partners, i.e. all are granted "most favoured nation treatment". ➢ Under WTO rules, an advantage negotiated with one country must be extended to all trading partners who are WTO members. ➢ However, some exceptions are allowed like countries can set up a free trade agreement, special access to developing countries, etc.
 <p>Nyoma airfield</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Minister of Defence has laid foundation stone for Nyoma airfield in Eastern Ladakh. ● Border Roads Organisation will construct India's highest fighter airfield in Nyoma. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Nyoma village is located close to south Bank of Pangong Tso at 13,700 feet. Nyoma is around 46 kilometres from Line of Actual Control. ● Significance of Nyoma airfield <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Boost air infrastructure in Ladakh and augment IAF's capability along Northern border. ➢ Counter China's strategy of Anti Access Area Denial (A2AD). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A2AD involves restricting the enemy's freedom of movement on battlefield through deployment of a wide range of surface-to-air missile sites and long-range radars etc.



 <p>Bhoj Wetland</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Green Tribunal has banned the operation of cruise boats in Upper Lake in Bhopal and other wetland site. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It further banned construction within "no development zone" i.e. "buffer zone" as provided in Wetland Rules, 2017. Bhoj Wetland (Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh) was designated as a Ramsar site in 2002. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It has two man-made reservoirs i.e. Upper lake (Bhojtal) and Lower Lake. Upper Lake is an important source of drinking water for city. Upper lake is rich in biodiversity, particularly resident and migratory birds, macrophytes, phytoplankton, zooplankton, etc.
 <p>Kilauea volcano</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kilauea volcano has erupted again in Hawaii. Kilauea aka Mount Kilauea, the world's most active volcanic mass, is located on southeastern part of island of Hawaii, Hawaii state, U.S. Volcano is a vent in the crust of Earth, from which eruptions of molten rock, hot rock fragments, and hot gasses take place.
 <p>PM SHRI Schools (PM Schools for Rising India)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Education laid the foundation stone of 141 PM SHRI Schools in Uttarakhand. PM SHRI School is a centrally sponsored scheme. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PM SHRI Schools showcase all components of National Education Policy 2020 and will act as exemplar schools and offer mentorship to other schools in their vicinity. Tenure: 2022-23 to 2026-27. Key features <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Setting up of more than 14500 PM SHRI Schools by strengthening existing schools from amongst schools managed by Central government/State/UT Government/local bodies. Focus on learning outcomes of every child in every grade.
 <p>Nipah virus (NiV)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kerala has witnessed outbreak of NiV. NiV is a zoonotic virus (transmitted from animals to humans) and can also be transmitted through contaminated food or directly between people. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was first recognized in 1999 during an outbreak among pig farmers in Malaysia. Fruit bats of family (Pteropodidae) and genus (Pteropus) are the natural hosts for Nipah virus. There is no treatment or vaccine available for either people or animals.
 <p>Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) refers to a group of hereditary diseases that can damage and kill specialized nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord (motor neurons). Motor neurons control movement in the arms, legs, face, etc. as well as skeletal muscle activity. It is mainly caused by a mutated or missing gene known as the survival motor neuron gene 1 (SMN1).
 <p>Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (SSB) Prize</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSB Prize for the year 2022 has been awarded to twelve leading scientists in the seven disciplines. About SSB Prize <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is named after the founder Director of the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) and is given each year. Awarded in 7 fields including Biological Sciences, Chemical Sciences, Earth, Atmosphere, Ocean and Planetary Sciences, etc. Eligibility: Citizens of India up to the age of 45 years as reckoned on 31st December of the year preceding the year of the Prize. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overseas citizen of India (OCI) and Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) working in India are also eligible.



AHMEDABAD



BHOPAL



CHANDIGARH



DELHI



JAIPUR



JODHPUR



GUWAHATI



HYDERABAD



LUCKNOW



PRAYAGRAJ



PUNE



RANCHI



SIKAR