



CURRENT AFFAIRS : SEPTEMBER 2022

CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (IDENTIFICATION) RULES, 2022

Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) notified the Criminal Procedure (Identification) Rules, 2022 governing The Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act (CPA), 2022 which was passed in March this year.

About Criminal Procedure (Identification) Rules, 2022

- 2022 Rules specify the details for CPA in order to lay down the procedure for taking measurements of convicts and other persons for the purposes of identification and investigation in criminal matters and to preserve records.

Key features of the rules

- o Taking Measurements: The Rules specify that for certain persons measurements will not be taken unless they have been charged or arrested in connection with any other offence.
- o Authorised persons to take measurements: The Rules specify that an authorised user, or any person skilled in taking the measurements, or a registered medical practitioner, or any person authorised in this behalf may take such measurements.
- o Rule-making power to National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB): NCRB under MHA will direct states on how to collect and store the information.
- o Punishment: Any act of unauthorised access, distribution or sharing of data collected under the Act shall be punishable as per the provisions of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 and the Information Technology Act, 2000.

About the Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act (CPA), 2022

- The Act repealed the Identification of Prisoners Act, 1920 which was enacted to authorise the taking of measurements and photographs of convicts and other persons.

- 2022 Act expands the scope and ambit of the “measurements” which can be taken under the provisions of law.

- o It will help in unique identification of a person involved in any crime and will assist the investigating agencies in solving the criminal case.

Concerns with the notified rules

- Rules are restricting the grounds under which a person’s data may be collected.
- Rules do not define who is a person skilled in taking measurements, while expanding the list of persons who may take measurements.
- Excessive Delegation of rule-making power to NCRB may violate the principle of separation of roles between the entity that issues guidelines and the entity that has to follow such guidelines.
- Records to be destroyed on request: To destroy any record, a request has to be made to a nodal officer.
- o While the Act empowers NCRB for suo-moto destruction of records, the rules put the onus on the individual to request for such destruction.

Key Provisions of the 2022 Act

- o Expands the ambit of certain provisions: The Act expands the type of data called as measurements that may be collected, persons from whom such data may be collected, the authority that may authorise such collection and the rule making power.
- o Retention of details: Act requires the details collected to be retained in digital or electronic form for 75 years from the date of collection.
- ☑ The record may be destroyed in case of persons who have not been previously convicted, and who are released without trial, discharged, or acquitted by the court.
- o Resistance to giving details: Resistance or refusal to give details will be considered an offence under the Indian Penal Code, 1860.

o Role of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB): Act empowers NCRB to collect the details about the persons covered under the act from state governments, UT administrations, or other law enforcement agencies.

☐ Other functions of NCRB under the Bill include storing, processing, disseminating and destroying those details.

Comparison of key provisions of the 1920 Act and the 2022 Act

Parameters	1920 Act	Changes in the 2022 Act
Data permitted to be collected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fingerprints, foot-print impressions, photographs. 	Adds: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> biological samples, and their analysis, Iris and retina scan. behavioural attributes including signatures, handwriting, examinations under sections 53 and 53A of CrPC (includes blood, semen, hair samples, and swabs, and analyses such as DNA profiling)
Persons whose data may be collected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Convicted or arrested for offences punishable with rigorous imprisonment of 1 year or more. Persons ordered to give security for good behaviour or maintaining peace. Magistrate may order in other cases collection from any arrested person to aid criminal investigation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Convicted or arrested for any offence. However, biological samples may be taken forcibly only from persons arrested for offences against a woman or a child, or if the offence carries a minimum of 7 years imprisonment. Persons detained under any preventive detention law. On the order of Magistrate, from any person (not just an arrested person) to aid investigation.
Persons who may require/ direct collection of data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigating officer under CrPC, officer in charge of a police station, or of rank Sub-Inspector or above. Magistrate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Officer in charge of a police station, or of rank Head Constable or above. Head Warden of a prison. Metropolitan Magistrate or Judicial Magistrate of first class. Executive Magistrate in case of persons required to maintain good behaviour or peace,
Rule-making power with regard to manner of collecting details etc.	Vested in the state government.	Now vested to State as well as the Central government.

Key concerns with the act

- May violate right to privacy: The information specified under the Act forms part of the personal data of individuals and several provisions may not meet the necessity and proportionality standards laid out by Supreme Court in 2017.
- Amounting to forcible extraction: The act attaches criminal liability for resistance or refusal to allow taking measurements.

o Such criminalization is in violation of an individual's right against self-incrimination under Article 20(3).

- Heightens the possibilities of misuse: Act allows for measurements to be taken if a person has been convicted/ arrested for any offence, including petty offences.

o Further, there is no limitations on the use of the data collected.

o Such discretion is likely to result in abuse of the law at lower levels and overburdening of the systems used for collection and storage.

o Such collection can also result in mass surveillance, with the database under this law being combined with other databases such as those of the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS).

- Limitations of NCRB: NCRB is ill-equipped to deal with quality management for a database containing records of the proposed measurements, particularly of biological samples and their analysis.

- Predictive policing: The inclusion of derivative data such as "analysis" and "behavioural attributes" have raised concerns that data processing may go beyond recording of core "measurements for predictive policing."

PRISON REFORMS

National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) has released Prison Statistics in India (PSI) Report, 2021.

- PSI is one of the 3 annual flagship reports by the NCRB.

- It provides data like numbers and available capacity of different types of jails, strength and training of jail officials and prison budget and expenditure.

Key findings of the report

o High Undertrials: Nearly 8 out of every 10 prisoners in Indian jails are awaiting trial.

- Uttar Pradesh jails record the highest number of undertrials followed by Bihar and Maharashtra.

o Disadvantaged sections prisoners: 67.5% inmates belong to SC, ST and OBC communities.

▣ 80% of undertrials are from disadvantaged sections of society.

o Understaffed: The sanctioned strength of jail-staff was 89,479 while the actual strength was 64,449 as due to vacancies not being filled up.

o Budget & infrastructure: The sanctioned budget for the year 2021-22 has increased by 13.0% in comparison to the year 2020- 21

About National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB)

- NCRB was set-up in **1986 under the Ministry of Home Affairs.**
- It functions as a **repository of information on crime** and criminals so as to assist the investigators.
- It was entrusted with the responsibility for monitoring, coordinating and implementing the **Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS)** project in the year 2009.
- NCRB is also entrusted to maintain **National Database of Sexual Offenders (NDSO)** and share it with the States/UTs on regular basis.
- **Other reports released by NCRB:**
 - o **Accidental Deaths & Suicides in India:** This report provides **age-group-wise and sex-wise details of** accidental deaths, traffic accidents and suicides including **farmer's suicides** which is a crucial matter in India.
 - o **Crime in India:** Information on **cognizable crimes as reported in police stations, police casualties, police firing, police & civilians' casualties.**

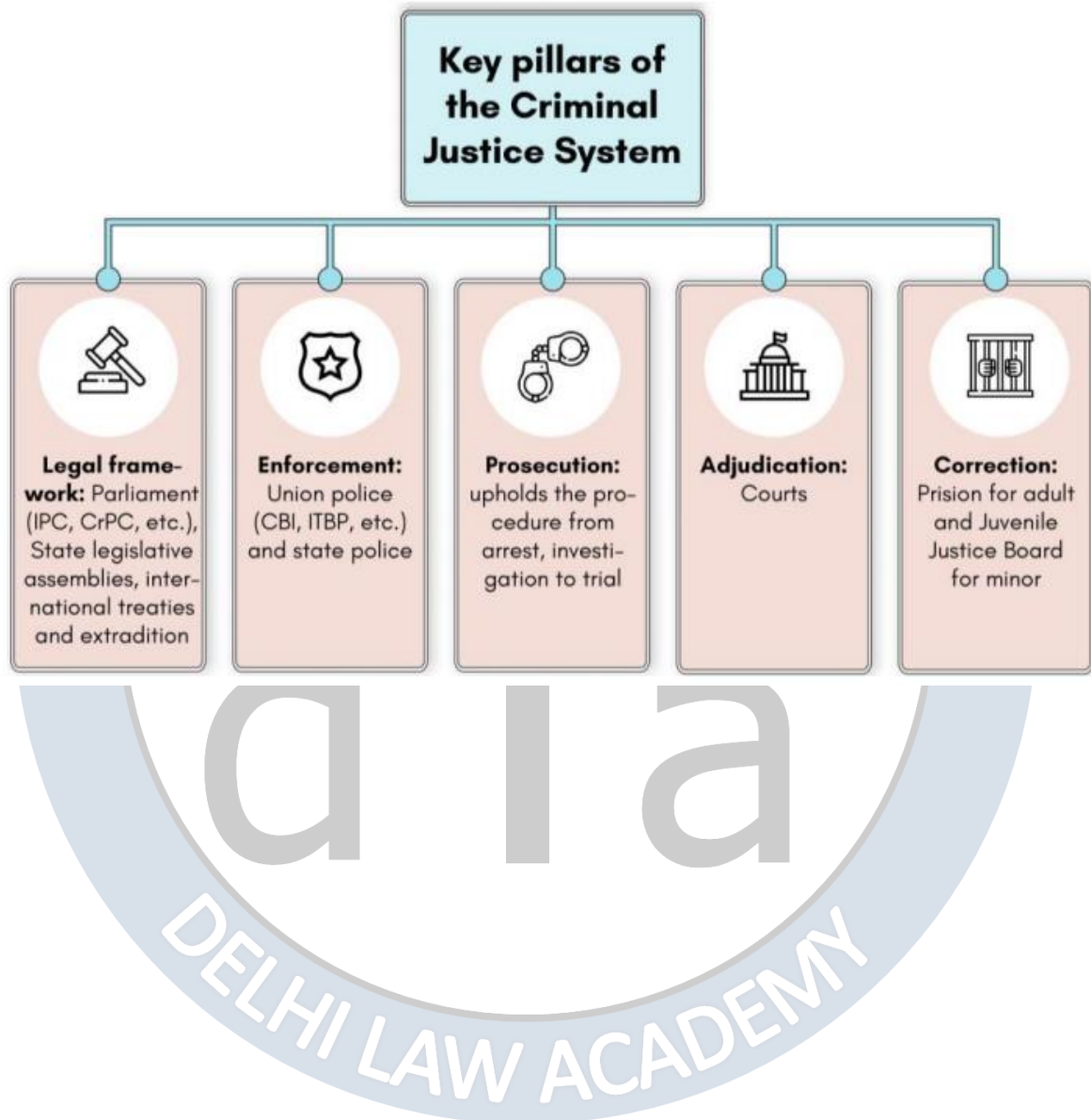
About Prisons in India

• 'Prisons'/'persons detained therein' is a State subject.

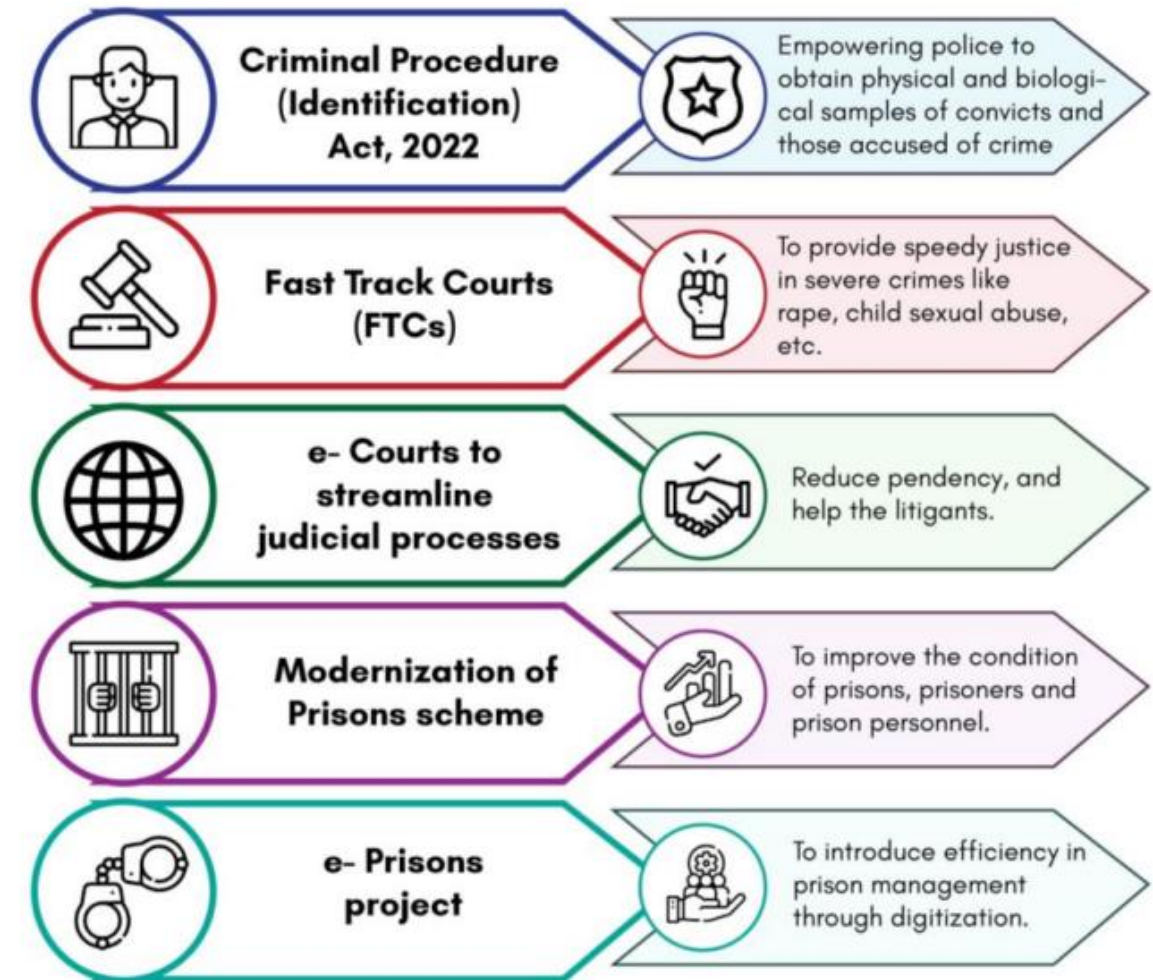
o Administration and management of prisons is the responsibility of respective State Governments.

o It is governed by the Prison Act 1894 and the prison manuals of the respective state governments.

- Ministry of Home Affairs also provides regular guidance and advice to States and UTs on various issues concerning prisons and prison inmates.



Initiatives taken for improving Governance of Prison



SC on bail of life convicts

- The SC said that convicts who have completed 10 years of their life sentence and whose appeals would not be heard in the near future by the High Court (HC) should be released on bail unless there exist cogent reasons to deny the relief.

- o It also asked all high courts to provide details of life convicts who have served 14 years of their sentence so that they can be considered for premature release as per the existing remission policies in states.

- o In India, serving 14 years in jail is mandatory for such convicts to apply for remission.

LIVE STREAMING OF CONSTITUTION BENCH HEARINGS

- Supreme Court (SC) will Live Stream Constitution Bench Hearings from September 27.
- In 2021, SC's e-Committee, came out with model rules for live-streaming and recording of court proceedings in India.
 - o Earlier, in 2018 (Swapnil Tripathy vs Supreme Court), the Supreme Court declared live telecast of court proceedings part of the right to access justice under Article 21 of the Constitution.
 - o Currently, six high courts, namely Gujarat, Orissa, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Patna, and Madhya Pradesh, live-stream court proceedings through their channel on YouTube.
 - o Live-streaming of SC proceedings is part of third phase of e-courts project, an initiative to implement use of information and technology in judiciary.
- Challenges and Issues
 - o Lack of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructure. E.g. use YouTube instead of their own platform.
 - o Lack of trained manpower and Digital Divide in India.
 - o High Data Security and privacy requirements to ensure safety of victims and witnesses.
 - o Risk of sensationalism by the media and greater influence of public opinion on judges.

About Constitution Bench

- When a significant legal dispute has to be resolved or a provision of the Constitution needs to be interpreted, **Article 145(3) of the Constitution permits the establishment of a constitutional bench of 5,7 or 9, etc. judged to do so.**

CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE (CWC)

- Government has notified Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection Amendment) Model Amendment Rules, 2022 that bar a person associated with an organization receiving foreign funds to be a part of CWC.

- CWCs were established under Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 for Children in need and care of protection.
- They are constituted for every district or group of districts by state government for care and protection of children who are abused, exploited, abandoned or orphaned.

DEMISE OF FORMER SOVIET PRESIDENT MIKHAIL GORBACHEV

- Mikhail Gorbachev was the leader of the Soviet Union from 1985 until its collapsed in 1991.
- He was a young and dynamic soviet leader who wanted to reform the communist regime along the lines of democratic principles by giving freedom to citizens.
- His achievements include
 - o Policy of glasnost, or openness or freedom of speech, allowing people to criticise the government in a way which had been previously curtailed.
 - o Program of economic reform called Perestroika or Restructuring which was necessary as the Soviet economy was suffering from both hidden inflation and supply shortages.
 - o Seen as an architect of reform who created the conditions for the end of the Cold War in 1991 - a time of deep tensions between the Soviet Union and Western nations.
 - o Cultural freedoms were granted to the press and the artistic community during his time.
 - o Nuclear disarmament agreement with the then United States President Ronald Reagan which won him the Nobel Peace Prize. The agreement eliminated for the first time an entire class of nuclear weapons.

WAR CRIMES

- According to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC), war crimes refers to serious violations of humanitarian laws during a domestic conflict or a war between two states.
 - o Genocide and crimes against humanity can happen in peacetime or during the unilateral aggression of a military towards a group of unarmed people.

- This definition is derived from the 1949 Geneva Conventions (regulates the conduct of armed conflict and seeks to limit its effects).
- It is based on the idea that individuals can be held liable for the actions of a state or its military.

CLONING

Recently, China has successfully cloned a wild Arctic wolf for the first time in the world.

- The Arctic wolf (white wolf or polar wolf) is native to the High Arctic tundra of Canada's Queen Elizabeth Islands.
- This cloning is considered a milestone achievement in conserving rare and endangered species through cloning technology.

About Cloning

- Cloning is the process of producing genetically identical copies of a biological entity (genes, cells, tissues and even entire organisms).
- The copied material, which has the same genetic makeup as the original, is referred to as a clone.
- Despite having the same genetic material clones do not always look identical. This is because the environment also plays a role in deciding the physical feature of an organism.
- In mammals including humans, identical twins (monozygotic twins) are natural clones

INDIA'S FIRST LITHIUM CELL PLANT

- India's first lithium cell plant manufacturing facility will be launched in Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh.

o With an installed capacity of 270 Mwh the plant can produce 60% of India's present requirement.

o These cells are used for Mobile Phones, hearable and wearable devices.



o Currently, India imports complete requirements of lithium-ion cells primarily from China, South Korea, Vietnam and Hong Kong.

CONVERSION THERAPY

The National Medical Commission, apex regulatory body of medical professionals, has declared conversion therapy to be counted among professional misconduct.

o Based on Madras High Court order, it is enlisted under the Indian Medical Council (Professional Conduct Etiquettes and Ethics) Regulations, 2003.

- Conversion Therapy, also known as Reparative therapy, covers the emotional or physical therapy used to “cure” or “repair” a person’s attraction to the same sex, or their gender identity and expression.

o But it lacks medical evidence and can turn dangerous, targeting the LGBTQ+ youth.

o This can lead to depression, anxiety, drug use, homelessness, and suicide.

GLOBAL INNOVATION INDEX

India jumped six-notch to become 40th most innovative country in the 132-nation Global Innovation Index (GII) from 46th rank in 2021.

About Global Innovation Index (GII) Report

- Launched in 2007, the GI tracks the global state of innovation and ranks innovative performance of nations annually.

o The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) joined it in 2011.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR) REGIME IN INDIA

Recently, the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) has released a report on India’s Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) regime.

- The paper discusses India current status in comparison to its global peers in terms of patenting and trademark activities highlighting the urgent need for investing in IPR ecosystem.

Key findings on India's Patent ecosystem



Positives

- **Number of patent applications increased** from 45,444 in 2016-17 to 66,440 in 2021-22.
- **Proportion of residents** in the applications has **reached 44.5% in 2021- 22.**
- **Patents granted** have also **gone up.**

Negatives

- In 2020, the number of **patents filed** in India was only **4% of China** and **9.5% of US.**
- **India takes about 58 months to dispose of a patent application** as compared to about 20 months in China and 23 months in the US.

About Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)

- Intellectual property (IP) refers to creations of the mind, such as inventions; literary and artistic works; designs; and symbols, names and images.
- Twin objectives of IPR include:
 - o Promoting investments in knowledge creation and business innovation.
 - o Promote the widespread dissemination of new knowledge through market.
- IPR are the rights given to persons over the creations of their minds which usually give the creator an exclusive right over the use of his/her creation for a certain period of time.

o Such protection is provided in the form of Copyright, Geographical Indications (GI), Patents, Registered designs Trademarks etc.

- Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) is the most comprehensive multilateral agreement on IPR.

o It is in sync with the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property (patents, industrial designs, etc.) and the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works (copyright).

CHEETAH REINTRODUCTION

Eight wild African Cheetahs (5 female and 3 male) from Namibia, were recently introduced in Kuno National Park (KNP), Madhya Pradesh under Project Cheetah.

About Project Cheetah

- It is world's first inter-continental large wild carnivore translocation project and is a part of the centrally Sponsored Scheme- 'Project Tiger' of India.

- It aims to introduce African cheetah in India.

o Cheetahs are the only large wild mammalian species that went extinct since the India country's independence in 1947 due

to large scale capture of animals from the wild for coursing, bounty and sport hunting, extensive habitat conversion and decline in prey base.

- National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) is the nodal agency authorized by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) for funding, supervision and hand holding of the project.

SWACHH SUJAL PRADESH

- Andaman and Nicobar (A&N) Islands have become India's first Swachh Sujal Pradesh.

- Swachh Sujal Pradesh certification (by Ministry of Jal Shakti) has three important components as:
 - o Safe and secure drinking water supply and management.
 - o ODF (open defecation free) Plus: ODF Sustainability and Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM), and
 - o Cross-cutting interventions like convergence, IEC (Information, Education Communication), action planning, etc.
- All villages on A&N Islands have received Har Ghar Jal certification.

HYBRID POWER PLANT

- Adani Green has commissioned the world's largest 600 MW Solar and 150 MW wind power project in Jaisalmer.
- Hybrid Power Plants are those power plants which generate electricity from two or more sources, usually renewable, with one connection point.
 - o E.g. Solar + Wind, Solar + Hydraulic, Solar + Biomass etc.
- Benefits of Hybrid Power Plants: Reduced intermittency of renewable energy power, improved supply stability, increased capacity factor and optimization of transmission network utilization etc.

DARK SKY RESERVE

- Department of Science & Technology has announced setting up of India's first dark sky reserve at Hanle in Ladakh as a part of Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary.
 - o It will be one of the world's highest-located sites for optical, infra-red, and gamma-ray telescopes.
 - o It will promote astronomy-tourism, giving a boost to local tourism and economy through science.

- Dark Sky Reserve is a place that has policies to ensure that a tract of land or region has minimal artificial light interference.
- o International Dark Sky Association, a U.S.-based non-profit, designates places as International Dark Sky Places, parks, sanctuaries and reserves, depending on criteria they meet.

About Hanle


- o It is located in Ladakh's cold desert region – away from any form of human disturbance.
- o Cloudless skies and low atmospheric water vapour make it one of the best sites in world for astronomical observations.

NEELAKURINJI

- Recently, Neelakurinji/ Kurinji flower has bloomed in Chandradrona mountains in Chikkamagaluru (Karnataka) after 12 years.
- It is endemic to Western ghats generally bloom in the regions of Tamil Nadu, Kerala & Karnataka.
- o It grows at an altitude of 1,300 to 2,400 meters.
- o Its blooms once every 12 years season. However, blooming seasons have become unpredictable over the years due to changing weather patterns

INS VIKRANT

Prime Minister commissions India's first Indigenous Aircraft Carrier INS (Indian Naval Ship) Vikrant in Kochi.



HEIGHT
59 METRES

INS Vikrant


CARRIER STATS

Crew	1,700
Compartments	2,300
PERFORMANCE	
Top Speed	28 knots
Cruising Speed	18 knots
Endurance	18 knots nautical miles

WEAPONRY*

- 34 fixed wing and rotary aircraft
- MiG-29K fighter aircraft
- MiG-29K fighter aircraft
- Kamov-31 Air Early Warning Helicopters
- American-built MH-60R multirole helicopters
- Indigenously built Advanced Light Helicopters

*The Navy has not specifically revealed yet what weapons and equipment INS Vikrant will have. Expected list based on earlier statements and weaponry on board the comparably-sized INS Vikramaditya.



DECKS 14 **WIDTH** 62 METRES **WEIGHT** 40,000 TONNES

LENGTH 262 METRES

- Vikrant is the largest warship ever been built in the maritime history of India.
- o It is also the first indigenously designed and built aircraft carrier for Indian Navy.
- o It is designed by Indian Navy's in-house Warship Design Bureau (WDB) and built by Cochin Shipyard Limited, a Public Sector Shipyard under Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways.
- o The only operational aircraft carrier with Indian Navy at present is INS Vikramaditya, which had served in erstwhile Soviet and, thereafter, Russian navy as Admiral Gorshkov before being inducted by India in 2013.

HYBRID MILITANTS

- A hybrid militant was arrested in Jammu & Kashmir.
- 'Hybrid' or 'part-time' militants are people who do not figure on police records as ultras, but are radicalised enough to carry out a terror strike and then slip back into the routine life.
- o A hybrid militant poses as civilian to dissemble their violent activities thus making it more difficult for security forces to trace them or determine their activities.

MILITARY EXERCISES IN NEWS

- Exercise Vostok – 2022: Indian Army contingent will be participating in multilateral strategic and command Exercise Vostok – 2022.
- Exercise Kakadu: It is Australia's naval exercise hosted biennially. Navies of more than 14 countries (including India) participated in this exercise recently.
- Exercise JIMEX 22: It is a Japan India Maritime Exercise.
- Exercise Parvat Prahar: Exercise showcased prowess of Indian Army to carry out operations in high-altitude mountains of Ladakh sector.

CRIME IN INDIA REPORT 2021

Recently, the Crime in India, 2021, annual report of NCRB was released.

About NCRB's Crime in India report

- NCRB, established in 1986, aims of establishing a body to compile and keep records of data on crime.
 - o It functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
 - o Its functions include the collection, coordination and exchange of information on inter-state and international criminals to the respective states.
 - o NCRB shall empower Indian Police with Information Technology and Criminal Intelligence to enable them to effectively enforce the law and improve public service delivery.
- Data for the Crime in India report is collected by State Crime Records Bureau (SCRB) from District Crime Records Bureau (DCRB) and sent to NCRB at the end of every calendar year.
 - o It contains comprehensive information on cases registered and their disposal, and persons arrested and their disposal.
- NCRB publishes four major annual reports viz. Crime in India, Accidental Deaths & Suicides in India, Prison Statistics India and Fingerprint in India.

DENOTIFIED TRIBES (DNTS)

31st August marked the 70th year of the repeal of the Criminal Tribes Act, 1871.

About Denotified Tribes

- DNTs, the most vulnerable and deprived, are communities that were 'notified' as being 'born criminal' during the British regime under Criminal Tribes Act, 1871.
 - o DNTs are a heterogenous group engaged in various occupations such as transport, keymaking, salt trading, entertaining — acrobats, snake charmers, jugglers — and pastoralists.
- Criminal Tribes Act, 1871 was repealed by Habitual Offenders Act, 1952.
 - o Several DNTs were included in Scheduled Tribe (ST), Scheduled Caste (SC) and Other Backward Caste (OBC) lists because they come from diverse social backgrounds.
- As per Renke Commission, 2008, there are nearly 1,500 nomadic and semi-nomadic tribes and 198 Denotified tribes, comprising 15 crore Indians.
- 31 August is celebrated as Vimukta Jatis day in India by the DNTs communities.

About Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes

- All **nomadic tribes (NTs)** are not DNTs, but all DNTs are NTs.
- Nomads and Semi-Nomads are **social groups who undertakes a fairly frequent, usually seasonal physical movement** as part of their livelihood strategy and moves from one place to another.
- **Three types of nomadic communities:**
 - o **Hunter/trappers** of birds and animals, gamer, etc. such as Konda Reddis, Chenchus etc.
 - o **Pastoral communities** such as Pardis, Guzzars, Banjaras, Bhils, Kurabas, Madhuras, etc.
 - o **Peripatetic groups of peddlers**, fortune tellers, storytellers, acrobats, dancers and dramatists.

OPERATION MEGH-CHAKRA

- CBI recently launched a major operation code named “Operation Megh-Chakra” against circulation and sharing of child sexual abuse material online.
- o A similar operation “Operation Carbon” was carried out by CBI in November 2021.
- CBI has an International Child Sexual Exploitation (ICSE) image and video database, which allows investigators from member countries to share data on cases of child sexual abuse.

ABORTION LAW IN INDIA

Recently, the Supreme Court (SC) extended the right to safe and legal abortion up to 24 weeks of pregnancy to all women in the country, regardless of marital status.

Abortion Laws in India

- In India, unconditional abortion is not permitted.
- o Carrying out abortion is illegal under Section 312 and 313 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), unless it is performed in the manner prescribed under the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act, 1971.
- MTP Act 1971: It was enacted to provide for the termination of certain pregnancies by registered medical practitioner under certain specified conditions.
- MTP (Amendment) Act, 2021: 1971 Act was further amended in 2021 for increasing access of women to legal and safe abortion service.
- o Abortion for unmarried women: Extended MTP services under the failure of contraceptive clause to any women for safe abortion based on a woman’s choice, irrespective of marital status.
- o Increasing the upper gestation limit from 20 to 24 weeks for special categories of women: This includes survivors of rape, victims of incest and other vulnerable women (differently abled women, minors, among others).

Doctor's advice:

- ☑ Advice of one doctor is needed for terminating the pregnancy of gestation period up to 20 weeks.
- ☑ Advice of two doctors is needed for terminating a pregnancy of gestation period between 20 weeks to 24 weeks.
- o Establishes Medical Board: It will decide if a pregnancy may be terminated after 24 weeks due to substantial foetal abnormalities.
- o Confidentiality clause: The name and other particulars of a woman whose pregnancy has been terminated cannot be revealed except to a person authorised by law.
- Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Rules 2021 under MTP (Amendment) Act, 2021:
 - o It only included married women whose marital status had changed during their pregnancy, rape survivors, minors, women with mental disabilities, and women pregnant with fetuses that had severe abnormalities.
 - o However, it was silent on single women in consensual relationships

REVISIONS IN SCHEDULE TRIBES (ST) LISTS

- Cabinet recently approved the addition of four tribes to STs list as part of Constitution (ST) Order (Amendment) Bill 2022.
- Hatti tribe in Trans-Giri area of Himachal Pradesh, Narikoravan and Kurivikkaran hill tribes of Tamil Nadu and Binjhia in Chhattisgarh, were newly added to list.
 - o Hattis are close-knit community who take their name from their traditional occupation of selling home-grown crops, vegetables, meat, and wool etc.
 - o Narikoravan (jackal catchers) and Kuruvikaras (bird eaters) are nomadic tribal communities.
 - o Binjhia, ethnic group found in Odisha and Jharkhand, have rich heritage of tradition and culture.

Places in News: India

- Jammu and Kashmir**
 - Manasbal Lake was opened for NCC cadets again.
- Ladakh**
 - India's first dark sky reserve will be set up at Hanle.
 - India and China's troops begin disengagement from Patrolling Point (PP) 15 in Gogra-Hot Springs.
- Haryana**
 - Haryana will develop a curated jungle safari park, largest outside of Africa, in the Aravalli range.
- Rajasthan**
 - White fly attack, on rabi crop has been reported in Rajasthan.
- Madhya Pradesh**
 - Tigers being reintroduced in Madhav National Park
- Uttar Pradesh**
 - UP cabinet approved the notification of state's fourth tiger reserve in Ranipur Wildlife Sanctuary in Chitrakoot district.
- Assam**
 - Cabinet approves MoU on withdrawal of water by India and Bangladesh from Kushi-yara River.
- Andhra Pradesh**
 - India's first lithium cell plant manufacturing facility launched in Tirupati.
- Karnataka**
 - Heavy rain wreaks havoc in Bengaluru.
 - Neelakurinji/ Kurinji flower bloomed in Chandradrona mountains in Chikkamagaluru after 12 years.
- Tamil Nadu**
 - 12,000-year-old artefacts found near Chennai.
 - ASI has recently undertaken conservation measures at Sittanavasal.

Places in News: World

- Uzbekistan**
 - PM attended 22nd SCO Summit at Samarkand.
- Kazakhstan**
 - Kazakhstan has invited PM Modi for CICA summit.
- Tajikistan**
 - Violent border clashes erupted between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.
- Nepal**
 - India, Nepal agree to take forward Sapta Kosi high dam project.
- Red Sea**
 - Iran's Navy seized two US Navy sea drones in the Red Sea.
- Malawi**
 - Malawi became the first country in southern Africa to eliminate trachoma.
- Angola**
 - Joao Manuel Goncalves Lourenco re-elected as President of Angola.
- Congo**
 - Congo got its first ever Marine Protected Areas.
- Azerbaijan**
 - Clashes erupted between Azerbaijan and Armenia.



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