

CURRENT AFFAIRS : DECEMBER 2023

CRIMINAL LAW REFORM ACTS

President of India granted assent to three significant bills to overhaul the country's criminal justice system.

- The three Acts include:
 - o **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023** replacing the Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860.
 - o **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita 2023** replacing the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1973.
 - o **Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam 2023** replacing the Indian Evidence Act, 1872.

BHARATIYA NYAYA SANHITA 2023

Objective

Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023 replaces Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860, the principal law on criminal offences in India.

Background

- Prior to IPC 1860: Indian criminal law consisted of a complex array of Parliamentary Charters and Acts, East India Company Regulations, Hindu law, Muslim law, customary law etc.
- First Law Commission (1834): It was created under Thomas Babington Macaulay to "modernise laws and the colonial governance of civil society."
 - o It produced draft of Penal Code in 1837, which completely ignored existing Indian laws and instead was founded on British common law.

- Effect of 1857 Rebellion: Formation of IPC was delayed for years as it was undergoing multiple revisions.

- o However, with the Rebellion of 1857 and the British Crown taking over direct control in 1858, IPC was finally enacted in 1860, and came into force in 1862.

- Post enactment of IPC 1860: Over the years, the IPC has been amended to add new offences, amend existing ones and change the quantum of punishment.

Key provisions of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023

- **Community service:** It is proposed to provide (for the first time) community service as one of the punishments for petty offences.
- **Sexual offences against women:** It increases the threshold for gangrape victim to be classified as a major, from 16 to 18 years of age.
 - o It also criminalizes sexual intercourse with a woman by deceitful means or making false promises.
- **Sedition:** It removes the offence of sedition. It instead penalizes the following:
 - o Exciting or attempting to excite secession, armed rebellion, or subversive activities
 - o Encouraging feelings of separatist activities, or
 - o Endangering the sovereignty or unity and integrity of India.

These offences may involve exchange of words or signs, electronic communication, or use of financial means.

- **Terrorism:** It defines terrorism an act that intends to threaten the unity, integrity, security or economic security of the country, or strike terror in the people or any section of people in India or in any foreign country.

- **Organised crime:** It defines organised crime as any continuing unlawful activity including kidnapping, extortion, contract killing, land grabbing, cybercrime etc. carried by an individual or a group, either as a member or on behalf of an organised crime syndicate.

- **Murder or grievous hurt by a group on certain grounds:** When a group of five or more persons acting in concert commits murder or causes grievous hurt on the ground of race,

caste or community, sex, place of birth, language, personal belief or any other similar ground each member of such group shall be punished with,

- o Death or life imprisonment, and a fine, in case of murder.
- o Imprisonment for a term up to seven years, and a fine, in case of grievous hurt.

BHARATIYA NAGARIK SURAKSHA SANHITA 2023

Objective

The Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita 2023 replaces the Criminal Procedure Code, 1973 (CrPC), which provided for the procedure for arrest, prosecution, and bail under various Acts, including the IPC 1860.

Background

- Genesis: CrPC was first enacted in 1861 under British rule and later substituted by fresh Codes successively enacted in 1872 and 1882.
 - o It had undergone several amendments, most importantly in 1898, 1923 and 1955.
- CrPC 1973: The Law Commission of India, in its 41st report, recommended a significant revision of the code, which led to the creation of CrPC 1973.

Key provisions of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita 2023

- **Detention of undertrials:** First-time offender who have completed one-third of the maximum period of imprisonment specified for such offence shall be released on bond.
 - o If an accused has spent half of maximum period of imprisonment specified for an offence, he shall be released by the Court on bail.
 - ✓ This does not apply to offences punishable by death, life imprisonment, and persons against whom proceedings are pending in more than one offence.
- **Medical examination:** Any police officer can request medical examination of the accused in certain cases, including rape cases.

- **Forensic investigation:** It mandates forensic investigation for offences punishable with at least seven years of imprisonment.

o If a state does not have forensics facility, it shall utilise such facility in another state.

- **Signatures and finger impressions:** It empowers a Magistrate to order any person, whether arrested or not, to provide specimen signatures, handwriting, finger impressions and voice samples.
- **Timelines for procedures:** It prescribes timelines for various procedures. For instance, submission of medical reports to investigating officer, giving judgment, informing the victim of progress of investigation and framing of charges.

BHARATIYA SAKSHYA ADHINIYAM 2023

Objective

The Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam 2023 replaces the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 (IEA), which governed the admissibility of evidence in Indian Courts in all civil and criminal proceedings.

Background

- **Genesis:** The Evidence Act was enacted in 1872 with a view to consolidate the laws relating to evidence on which the court could come to a conclusion and pronounce the judgment.
 - o Over the years, the IEA has been amended several times, most recently in 2000 to provide for the admissibility of electronic records as secondary evidence and in 2013, to add provisions related to consent in cases of rape.
- **Primary issue:** The IEA did not address the technological advancement undergone in the country during the last few decades.

Key Provisions of Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam 2023

- **Admissibility of electronic or digital records as evidence:** It provides that the electronic or digital records will have the same legal effect as paper records.
 - o It expands electronic records to include information stored in semiconductor memory or any communication devices (smartphones, laptops), emails, server logs etc.
- **Documentary evidence:** It adds that electronic records will also be considered as documents apart from writings, maps, and caricatures.
- **Oral evidence:** Oral evidence includes statements made before Courts by witnesses in relation to a fact under inquiry. The Act allows oral evidence to be given electronically.
- **Joint trials:** A joint trial refers to the trial of more than one person for the same offence.
 - o The Act adds that a trial of multiple persons, where an accused has absconded or has not responded to an arrest warrant, will be treated as a joint trial.

EXPULSION OF LAWMAKERS

Recently, Lok Sabha in India has expelled one of its members accused of accepting gifts and illegal gratification. Similarly, the US House of Representatives has also expelled one of its members over criminal corruption charges.

- **Expulsion in Lok Sabha:**
 - o Lok Sabha had constituted an ethics committee to probe into the matter of corruption and breach of privilege/contempt of the house.
 - o Ethics Committee report of LS found the member guilty of “unethical conduct” and contempt of the House.
 - o The House accepted the conclusions of the Committee and later passed a motion that supported her expulsion as a Member of Parliament.
- **Expulsion in the US:** An ethics committee report in the USA found the US lawmaker guilty of ‘corruption’ and ‘mispending campaign money’, after which the house expelled him by adopting a motion.

- **Constitutional basis of expulsion:** An MP found guilty of breach of privileges or contempt of the house can be suspended from the house or face expulsion.

o Parliamentary privileges are legal immunities enjoyed by members of legislatures, in which legislators are granted protection against civil or criminal liability for certain actions done or statements made in the course of their legislative duties.

- ✓ Article 105 deals with the powers and privileges of both Houses of Parliament and its members and committees.

- ✓ Article 194 outlines the corresponding powers, privileges, and immunities of State legislatures and their members and committees.

o Contempt of the house is defined as any act or omission

- ✓ which obstructs or impedes either House of Parliament in the performance of its functions, or

- ✓ which obstructs or impedes any member or officer of such House in the discharge of his duty, or

- ✓ which has a tendency directly or indirectly, to produce such results”

o Parliament is the sole authority to ascertain if there has been a breach or contempt of the House, no court is entrusted with this power.

o Article 122 of the Indian Constitution says parliamentary proceedings can't be questioned by the judiciary, although the courts have intervened in some cases.

- ✓ In the Raja Rampal case (2007), the Court upheld the expulsion of Raja Ram Pal but noted that proceedings tainted by substantial illegality are open to judicial scrutiny.

CHIEF ELECTION COMMISSIONER AND OTHER ELECTION COMMISSIONERS ACT, 2023

The President gave her assent to the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Bill, 2023.

- In **Anoop Baranwal vs. Union of India case, 2023**, the SC ruled that the CEC and ECs will be chosen by a committee comprising the **Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, and the Chief Justice of India.**
- The judgement stated that – “This committee would make recommendations and advise the President on Election Commission appointments **until Parliament enacted a separate law on the subject.**”

Key provisions of the Act

The Act replaces the Election Commission (Conditions of Service of Election Commissioners and Transaction of Business) Act, 1991.

- **Aim:** The act seeks to regulate:
 - o the appointment, conditions of service and term of office of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and other Election Commissioners (ECs), and
 - o the procedure for transaction of business by the Election Commission.
- **Selection committee:** The CEC and other ECs shall be appointed by the President on the recommendation of a Selection Committee consisting of:
 - o Prime Minister as Chairperson.
 - o Leader of Opposition/leader of the largest opposition party in the Lok Sabha.
 - o Union Cabinet Minister to be nominated by the Prime Minister.
- **Search Committee:** A Search Committee shall prepare a panel of five persons for consideration of the Selection Committee, for appointment as the CEC and other ECs.

o It is to be headed by the Minister of Law and Justice and comprising two other members not below the rank of Secretary to the Government of India.

- **Eligibility:** The act specifies following eligibility criteria for appointment as CEC and ECs,

- o Persons who are holding or have held a post equivalent to the rank of Secretary to the Government of India and

- o Should be persons of integrity, who have knowledge of and experience in management and conduct of elections.

- **Salary, term of office and reappointment:**

- o Salary: The CEC and other ECs shall be paid a salary which is equal to the salary of a Judge of the Supreme Court.

- o Term of office: The CEC and other ECs shall hold office for a term of six years from the date on which he assumes his office or till he attains the age of sixty-five years, whichever is earlier.

- o Reappointment: The CEC and other ECs shall not be eligible for re-appointment.

About Election Commission of India (ECI)

- **Under Article 324, Election Commission of India (ECI) is an autonomous constitutional authority responsible for administering Union and State election processes in India.**
 - o It administers **elections to the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies in India, and the offices of the President and Vice President** in the country.
- **Constitutional provisions for appointments**
 - o Under **Article 324(2)**, the President of India is empowered to appoint the CEC and the ECs.
 - o Article 324(2) **empowers the President** of India to fix from time to time the **number of Election Commissioners other than the CEC.**

ABROGATION OF ARTICLE 370

A Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court recently upheld the validity of the Union Government's 2019 decision to repeal the special status of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) under Article 370 of the Constitution.

- On August 5th 2019, the President of India promulgated an order- 'Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, 2019', which stated that provisions of the Indian Constitution are applicable in the State.

- o This effectively meant that all the provisions that formed the basis of a separate Constitution for Jammu and Kashmir were abrogated.

- ✓ With this, Article 35A too was automatically scrapped.

- o Parliament also enacted the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act 2019 which bifurcated the State into two Union Territories (UTs).

- The petitioners had challenged the constitutionality of these actions of the Union, against which the recent judgment was given by the Supreme Court.

Article 370: A Historical Context

- **Instrument of Accession (IoA):** In October 1947, Maharaja Hari Singh, the last ruler of J&K signed the IoA through which he agreed to accede his state to the Dominion of India.
- **Temporary provisions for J&K:** Constitution of India came into force on 26th January 1950. Under the Constitution, **Article 370 was placed in Part XXI, titled "Temporary and Transitional provisions"**.
- **Article 370:** Except for defence, foreign affairs, finance and communications, Parliament needed the state government's concurrence for applying all other laws.
 - o Further, it stated that **except Article 1**, which declared India as a 'Union of States', and **Article 370 itself, no part of the Constitution would apply to Jammu & Kashmir**.
 - o **The President of India could make any provisions of the Constitution to apply to this State** with 'modifications' or 'exceptions' but required that such application can be done only in 'consultation with the Government of the State'.
 - o **Article 370 itself could not be amended or repealed—unless the Constituent Assembly of Jammu & Kashmir consented to it.**
- **Article 35A of the Indian Constitution:** It **stemmed out of Article 370** and gave powers to the J&K Assembly to define permanent residents of the state, their special rights, and privileges.

Impacts of Abrogation of Article 370

- **Extension of rights:** All the rights enshrined in the Constitution of India and benefits of all the Central Laws are now available to the people of J&K and Ladakh.
- **No separate symbols/laws:** J&K no longer has its own flag, constitution, and its own penal code (called the Ranbir Penal Code).
- **Ending exclusive property rights:** Abrogation enabled Centre to notify new land laws for the J&K ending the exclusive rights of permanent residents over the land.

- **Social Justice:** Provision given for the SCs and STs in the rest of the country is also now available to the community in J&K.
- **Local Government:** Constitutional status to local government through application of 73rd and 74th Amendments of Constitution to J&K.
- **Rights of women married to non-locals:** Abrogation allowed the issue of domicile certificates to the husbands of local women married to non-locals.

NATIONAL CADET CORPS (NCC)

National Cadet Corps (NCC), the largest uniformed youth organization in the world, celebrated its 75th Anniversary in 2023.

About NCC

- NCC came into existence under the National Cadet Corps Act XXXI of 1948.
- It's a Tri-Services Organization comprising the Army, the Navy, and the Air Wing.
- Headquarter: New Delhi
- NCC Directorate: NCC at the state level is divided into 17 Directorates, in which each state or group of states or UTs forms a Directorate.
 - o The students have no liability for active military service.
- NCC offers three types of certificates based on duration.

15TH ANNIVERSARY OF 26/11 MUMBAI ATTACKS

Israel has listed Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) as a terror organisation to symbolise the marking of 15th year of commemoration of the 26/11 Mumbai attacks.

Improvements made after 26/11

- **Maritime security enhancements:**
 - o 3-layered protection of Indian coastal areas has been strengthened and responsibilities have been clearly delineated.



✓ Indian Navy: Beyond 200 Nautical Miles (NM)

✓ Indian Coast Guard: 12 to 200 NM

✓ Marine Police: Up to 12NM from shore

o Indian Navy was given the overall charge of maritime security while the Indian Coast Guard was tasked with monitoring territorial waters and coordinating with new marine police stations.

o Sagar Prahari Bal (SPB) as a separate division within the navy was formed.

o Fast Interceptor Crafts (FIC) have been inducted by the government for patrol and rescue operations in India's EEZ.

o Sea Vigil, a coastal defence exercise is being carried out by the Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard annually.

- **Better coordination and response**

o Creation of National Investigation Agency (NIA) as a premier agency to investigate and prosecute terrorism-related cases affecting the sovereignty, security and integrity of the country.

o National Security Guard (NSG) hubs have been set up at Kolkata, Chennai, Gandhinagar, Delhi, and Mumbai to ensure a rapid response to terror attacks.

o Intelligence Bureau's Multi Agency Centre (MAC) as a common counter terrorism grid has been strengthened

- **Cooperation from West**

o Sharing of intelligence with Western agencies like the FBI (USA) and MI6(UK) has improved since 2008.

o India's effort at global level, led Pakistan being designated in grey list of FATF which forced it to take action against the terror finance architecture of the LeT etc.

- **Modernisation of police:** Centre is helping the States to gradually reduce the dependence on the Army and the CAPF to control internal security and law and order situations.

About National Investigative Agency (NIA)

- NIA is a **central counter terrorism** specialised agency formed in the backdrop of 26/11.
- **Powers:**
 - Can investigate terror crimes **without special permission from the states.**
 - **Special Courts** can be constituted.
 - **Power to investigate scheduled offences committed outside India** subject to international treaties and domestic laws of other countries.
- **Offences under NIA jurisdiction**
 - Atomic Energy Act, 1962,
 - Unlawful Activities Prevention Act, 1967
- **2019 Amendment added scheduled offences related to**
 - Human trafficking (Sections 370, 370A of IPC)
 - Offences related to counterfeit currency (Sections 489A to 489E of IPC)
 - Manufacture or sale of prohibited arms (Section 25(1AA) of Arms Act, 1959)
 - Cyber crimes (Section 66F IT Act 2000)
 - Explosives Substances Act 1908

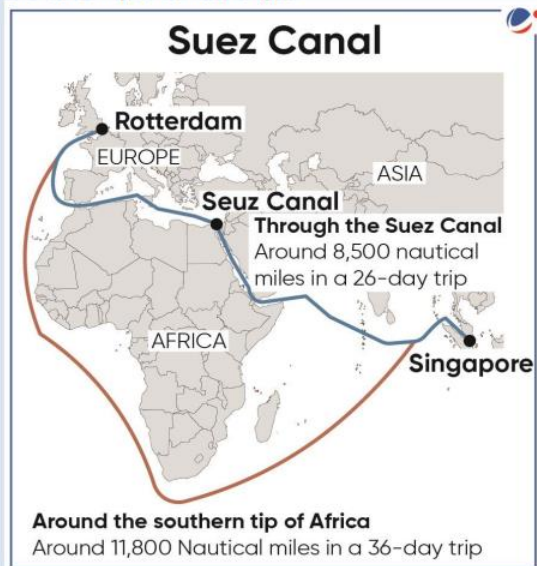
SECURING MARITIME TRADE ROUTES

Several recent incidents in the maritime domain have raised concerns regarding the security of maritime trade routes.

- **Houthi attacks in Red Sea:** Houthi rebels in Yemen are attacking vessels traveling through Bab-el-Mandeb Strait which is south of the Suez Canal (Red Sea) in response to Israel's bombardment of Gaza.
 - MV Chem Pluto ship in the Red Sea was struck by a drone attack on its way to India.
- **Piracy in Arabian Sea:** Malta-flagged vessel MV Ruen was hijacked in the Arabian Sea near Somalia.
 - The Indian Navy played the role of 'first responder' and immediately to stress calls and swiftly deployed Naval Maritime Patrol aircraft to undertake surveillance in the areas.
- Further, Panama is facing its driest rainy season in decades and Fifty percent of ships have stopped using Panama Canal in the last three months due to low water levels.

Suez Canal

- An **artificial sea-level waterway** in Egypt connecting the **Mediterranean and Red Seas**.
- **193 kilometers** in length
- **Shortest route between East and West**.
- **Trade Volume:** In 2020, ~**12% of global trade** passes through it, representing **30% of all global container traffic**.
- Enables the transfer of an estimated **7-10% of the world's oil** and **8% of liquefied natural gas**.



Panama Canal

- ~**80 kilometers long** canal that connects the **Atlantic and Pacific Oceans**.
- Uses a system of **locks compartments** with entrance and exit gates and the locks function as water lifts.
- **The Republic of Panama** owns and operates the Panama Canal.
- **Trade Volume:** Represents approximately 6% of the world trade.



Impact on India

o **Impact on exports:** European Union is 2nd largest destination for Indian exports and the Suez Canal is a key route for export shipping.

- ✓ E.g., India's plan to export 500,000 tonnes of new season basmati rice to Europe and the Middle East can be at risk.

o **Risk to Energy Security:** The Red Sea is a key route for oil and gas shipments.

- ✓ About 65% of India's crude oil imports in FY2023, likely passed through the Suez Canal.

o **Diplomatic Ties:** India maintains positive relations with both Iran and Israel, making it challenging to assess the overall diplomatic landscape.

INTERPOL

The recently concluded 91st General Assembly of the INTERPOL in Vienna, Austria marked 100-year anniversary of the organization.

About International Criminal Police Organization (ICPO -INTERPOL)

- It was formally created in 1923, as International Criminal Police Commission (ICPC).
- In 1956, a modernized constitution was adopted and ICPC became the ICPO – INTERPOL.
- **Headquarters:** Lyon (France)
- **General Assembly:** It is INTERPOL's supreme governing body that meets once a year, comprising representatives from each member country.
- **Membership:** 196 member countries, including India.
 - o India joined INTERPOL in 1949.
- **National Central Bureau (NCB):** Each member country hosts an INTERPOL NCB which is country's focal point for all INTERPOL activities.
 - o Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is the NCB for Interpol in India

COP28

Recently 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28) of the UNFCCC, was held in Dubai, UAE.

About COP28

- COPs are annual conference that takes place to discuss on ways to address the climate crisis.
 - o A crucial part of COP meetings is the review of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), submitted by member countries under Paris Agreement (2015).

- It also marked 18th session of the Conference of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 18) and 5Th session of the Conference of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA 5).
- It also adopted final document called UAE Consensus.

MULLAPERIYAR DAM

- Supreme Court orders Survey of India to assess Kerala's mega parking project Near Mullaperiyar Dam.
- Survey of India will determine if the mega parking project encroaches on Periyar Lake Lease Agreement (1886) territory.
- **Mullaperiyar dam**
 - o It was constructed during 1887-1895 and owned, operated, and maintained by Tamil Nadu Government.
 - o It is located in upper reaches of river Periyar, which flows into Kerala after originating in Tamil Nadu.
 - ✓ The reservoir is within Periyar Tiger Reserve.
- **About the dispute**
 - o The Dam was constructed based on Periyar Lake Lease Agreement (1886) for a lease of 999 years.
 - ✓ Agreement signed between Maharaja of Travancore and Secretary of State for India (during British rule).
 - o Earlier, Kerala Government claimed that dam is unsafe and a threat to people living downstream and pitched for building a new dam.
 - o Whereas, Tamil Nadu government denies it and is utilising the dam to its full capacity after structural strengthening.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT OF WOMEN AT WORKPLACE (PREVENTION, PROHIBITION AND REDRESSAL) (POSH) ACT, 2013

Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 completed 10 years.

About POSH Act

- Consistent with the Vishaka judgment (1997), the Act aspires to ensure women's right to workplace equality, free from sexual harassment.

Key Provisions of the Act:

• **Definitions**

- o **Aggrieved Woman:** It includes all women who work as regular, temporary, adhoc, or on daily wages basis, visiting at workplaces and student.
- o **Workplace:** Government organizations, NGOs, Houses, Private companies, educational institutions, farms etc.
- o **Sexual Harassment at Workplace:** It Includes unwelcome acts such as physical contact and sexual advances, a demand or request for sexual favours, making sexually coloured remarks, showing pornography etc.

• **Responsibilities of Employers**

- o Organize workshops and awareness programs to sensitize employees about the provisions of the Act.

• **Complaints Committees:** All Complaints Committees must have atleast 50 per cent representation of women.

- o **Internal Complaints Committee (ICC):** Employers are required to constitute an ICC at each workplace with to receive and address complaints of sexual harassment.

- o The **Presiding Officer** shall be a woman employed at a senior level at workplace from amongst the employees.

- o **Local Complaints Committee (LCC):** Receive complaints from women working in an organisation having less than 10 workers.

• **Procedure for Filing Complaints:** Any aggrieved women may make in writing a complaint of sexual harassment to the Internal Committee/ Local Committee within 3 months (extendable by 3 months) from the date of incident.

- **Penalties:** If the employer fails to constitute an ICC or does not abide by any other provision, they must pay a fine of up to ₹50,000, which increases for a repeat offence.

GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATION (GI) TAG

- Recently, 4 products from Meghalaya received GI Tag.
 - o Lakadong turmeric: known for its high Curcumin content.
 - o Garo dakmanda: Traditional dress worn by Garo tribe.
 - o Larnai pottery: Black pottery from Jaintia Hills District.
 - o Garo chubitchi: Traditional rice based alcoholic beverage of Garo tribe.

About GI Tag

- o Given by Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- o Administered by Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act of 1999.
- o Once awarded is valid for 10 years.

BOOKER PRIZE

- Irish novelist Paul Lynch won the Booker Prize in 2023 for his 5th novel 'Prophet Song'.

About Booker Prize

- o Founded in 1969, the Booker Prize is open to English-language novels from any country that have been published in Britain and Ireland.
- o It aimed to stimulate the reading and discussion of contemporary fiction.
- o Some Indian-origin authors who won the prize include VS Naipaul (1971), Salman Rushdie (1981), Arundhati Roy (1997), among others.
- **Note:** Booker Prize is given for fiction books written in English only whereas International Booker Prize is awarded for books translated into English.

KHELO INDIA PARA GAMES 2023

- 1st edition of Khelo India Para Games (KIPG) 2023 was organized in December 2023 in Delhi.
- It was held across 7 sports Disciplines: Para Archery, Par Athletics, Para Badminton, Para Table Tennis, Para Powerlifting, CP Football, Para Shooting.
- Its mascot was Ujjwala (a sparrow).
- Haryana topped the KIPG 2023 medal table, followed by Uttar Pradesh.
- KIPG is the latest addition to the government of India's Khelo India initiative, which also includes the Khelo India Youth Games, Khelo India University Games and Khelo India Winter Games.

INDIRA GANDHI PEACE PRIZE, 2023

- Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for 2023 has been jointly awarded to Daniel Barenboim and Ali Abu Award .
 - o They have brought together the youth and peoples of Israel and the Arab World for a non-violent resolution of the Israel-Palestine conflict.

About Indira Gandhi Peace Prize

- o It has been conferred every year since 1986 by Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust.
- o It consists of a monetary award of `25 lakh along with a citation.

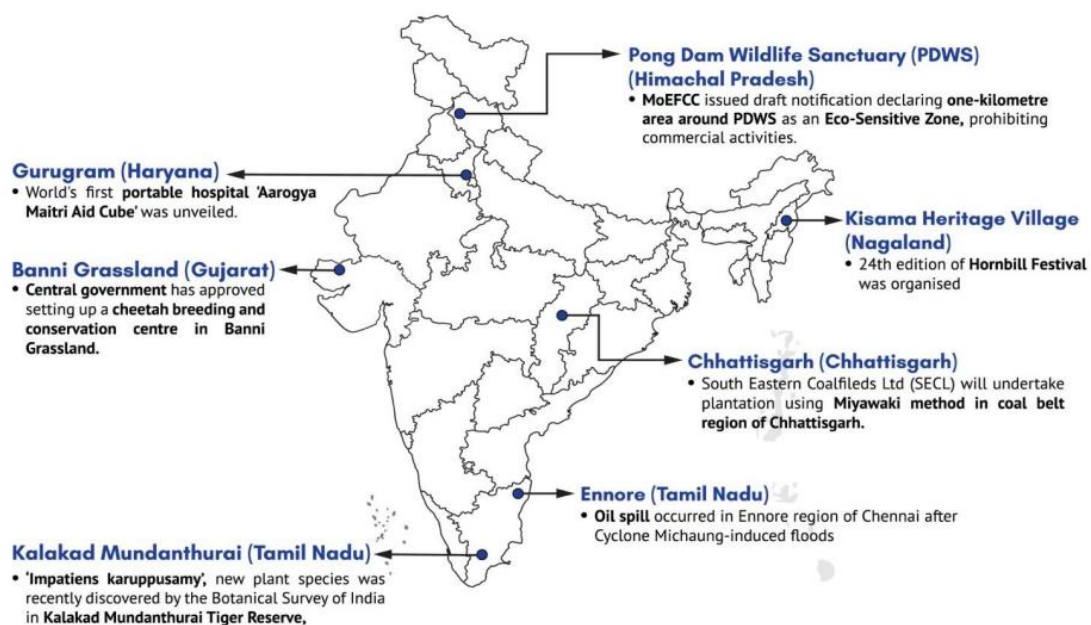
SAHITYA AKADEMI AWARDS 2023

- Sahitya Akademi announced its annual Sahitya Akademi Awards in 24 languages.
 - o Besides 22 languages enumerated in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution.
 - o Akademi has recognised English and Rajasthani as well.

About Sahitya Akademi

- o It is an autonomous body under Ministry of Culture.
- o It was founded in 1954.
- o Registered as a society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.

Places in News: India



Places in News: World

