

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-AUGUST 12,2023

TAMIL NADU

- **The Union Ministry of Home Affairs – has allocated a funding of Rs 561 crore for an integrated urban flood management project for Chennai.**
- ✓ The project aims to re-establish surplus canals for erstwhile minor irrigation tanks in the city, restore eight waterbodies covering 484 acres and install software for the remote operation of surplus regulators during floods.
- ✓ Under the project, the carrying capacity of the Korattur surplus channel, Kathirvedu Thangal Lake, and Puthagaram Lake in the Ambattur zone will also be improved to reduce flood risk.
- ✓ Similarly, surplus water from the Porur tank will be diverted through the Gerugambakkam channel in Kundrathur taluk of Kancheepuram district thereby reducing the flood risks in the Adyar basin.
- ✓ Further, new stormwater drains have also been proposed in flood hotspots based on the recommendation of the V Thiruppugazh Committee.

- **State archaeology department – has unearthed several brick structures during the first phase of excavation being carried out at Porpanaikottai in Pudukottai district**



- ✓ The state archaeology department first spotted a small portion of a brick structure at the excavation site in May this year.
- ✓ The excavations indicated people used rare fragments of western rouletted ware as coins in the game of hopscotch instead of the usual fragments of domestic pottery
- ✓ Further digging revealed a portion of a semi-circular brick structure at 3.8cm below the surface level, which belongs to different timelines, including the Sangam age and the medieval period.
- ✓ Similarly, a linear brick canal of 355cm length was found at 57cm below the surface.
- ✓ In another trench, a separate water channel made of brick was spotted at 32cm from the surface.
- ✓ The Sangam age objects such as black and red ware were found at a depth between 200cm and 300cm.
- ✓ So far, 355 antiques have been identified in the excavation site.

NATIONAL

- **On August 11, Union Home Minister Amit Shah - introduced three bills in the Lok Sabha to overhaul the criminal justice system in the country.**



- ✓ The bills seek to replace the colonial-era statutes - Indian Penal Code, 1860; Code of Criminal Procedure (1898), 1973 and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872.
- ✓ The 3 new bills - Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, and the Bharatiya Sakshya Bill, 2023 - will be sent to the Standing Committee on Home Affairs for further scrutiny and are expected to be tabled in the next session of Parliament.
 - ✓ The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 seeks to consolidate and amend the provisions relating to offences and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto
 - ✓ The Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 aims to consolidate and amend the law relating to Criminal Procedure and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto
 - ✓ The Bharatiya Sakshya Bill, 2023 intends to consolidate and to provide for general rules and principles of evidence for fair trial

- ✓ With these new bills, the government aims to achieve a transformation in the criminal justice system and ensure delivery of justice within a maximum of three years.
- ✓ The Home Minister said the laws that would be repealed were made to “safeguard and strengthen the British”, asserting that the new ones would “transform our criminal justice system”.
- ✓ One of the key changes proposed in the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Bill, 2023, is doing away with the much-misused Section 124A of the existing Indian Penal Code, which deals with the rather loosely defined offence of “sedition”
 - ✓ The Home Minister announced that the sedition law "has been repealed" and it is replaced by Section 150 for acts endangering the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India
 - ✓ He also announced changes in the punishment for sedition.
 - ✓ Under the existing law, sedition is punishable with life imprisonment or with imprisonment which may extend to three years, whereas provisions under the new bill proposed to change it to three to seven years imprisonment.
- ✓ Time-bound trials, introduction of summary trials for petty crimes as well as community service, provision for recording the statements of victims of sexual violence at their house by a woman magistrate are among highlights of the bills

Key provisions of the new IPC bill

- ✓ The new bills also aim to protect women and children, decongest prisons by releasing convicts who have served half their sentence, defines terrorism and mob lynching as new offences and fixes accountability of police personnel for arrests
- ✓ Aiming to protect women and children, the new bills propose changes in punishment for rape and introduce provisions for the death penalty for the rape of minors
 - ✓ It also has provisions for punishment for disclosing the identity of rape survivors.
 - ✓ For gang rape, punishment of 20 years imprisonment or life in jail and for mob lynching, punishment from seven years in jail to death sentence
 - ✓ Besides, marrying a woman by concealing identity or having a sexual relationship under false promises of marriage, promotion or employment will attract up to 10-year imprisonment.
 - ✓ In cases of sexual violence, the statement of the victim and video recording will be compulsory and police will have to provide a status update on a case within 90 days.
 - ✓ The bill has made voyeurism gender-neutral with a jail term of three to seven years.
- ✓ Community service is a new non-custodial punishment that will be available for petty offenses in India for the first time.

- ✓ Some new offences have also been included, such as armed rebellion, subversive and separatist activities or endangering the sovereignty or unity of India
- ✓ The term 'life imprisonment' has been defined as 'imprisonment for natural life'.
- ✓ In the proposed bill, a new provision has been made that death sentences can only be converted to life imprisonment, and life imprisonment can be pardoned only within seven years of punishment.

ALL WILL GET JUSTICE IN MAXIMUM 3 YRS: SHAH


Union home minister Amit Shah on Friday moved **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita** and **Bharatiya Sakshya Bill** in the Lok Sabha to replace the Indian Penal Code, 1860, Criminal Procedure Act, 1898, and Indian Evidence Act, 1872, respectively

TERRORISM defined under the law for the first time. Also, a provision for attaching property of a terrorist

HIT-AND-RUN cases to attract up to 10-year jail term and fine if accused driver flees/fails to report accident to police or magistrate

SPEEDY JUSTICE Police must provide status update on a case within 90 days. Chargesheets to be filed within 90 days; court can extend it for another 90 days. Probe must be finished in 180 days. After trial, judgment to be given in 30 days and uploaded online within 7 days

ORGANISED CRIME to include kidnapping, robbery, vehicle theft, extortion, land grabbing, contract killing, economic offences, cyber crimes among others



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The aim will not be to punish, but to provide accessible & speedy justice to all... goal is to take conviction rate to 90%. Everyone will get justice in maximum 3 yrs

— AMIT SHAH | HOME MINISTER

statements that are likely to cause fear or alarm to the public, or with intent to incite people to commit offences against others

OFFENCE IN PLACE OF WORSHIP to attract up to 5-year imprisonment

NEW PROVISION has been added for snatching










COMMUNITY SERVICE to be one of the punishments for first-time petty offences

SUMMARY TRIAL for cases entailing less than 3 yrs of jail. Move aimed at reducing cases in session courts by 40%

COMMUTING SENTENCES To stop political use of punishment waivers by govts, death sentences can only be converted to life imprisonment, and life imprisonment can be pardoned only with 7 years of imprisonment

- ✓ The new bill defines 'Terrorism' for the first time and allows trials of absconders and fugitives in absentia.
- ✓ Further, a forensic team's visit to a crime scene has been made mandatory if the crime would attract at least seven years of imprisonment.
- ✓ Three mobile forensic science labs are to be present in every district
- ✓ For the first time, filing e-FIRs will be possible.
- ✓ Zero FIR can be registered in any police station and complaint will be sent to the police station concerned in 15 days
- ✓ All courts to be computerised by 2027 and the whole procedure right from filing an FIR to case diary, chargesheet and judgment to be digitised
- ✓ No government can withdraw a case entailing punishment of 7-yr jail or more without hearing the victim

- ✓ Under the proposed laws, chargesheets will have to be filed within 90 days, any extension beyond this, subject to a maximum of another 90 days, can be granted only by the court.
- ✓ After the conclusion of arguments, the judge will have 30 days to give his verdict, which can be extended for another 30 days for specific reasons which will have to be recorded.
- ✓ A maximum of two adjournments can be given and that too not without hearing the other side and recording the specific reasons.

Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (IPC)	Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita (CrPC)	
<p>➤ Sedition/treason repealed. Inciting hatred, contempt, disaffection against 'government' will not invite penal provisions, but anything against 'nation' will be punishable</p> <p>➤ Community service introduced as new form of punishment</p> <p>➤ Terrorism defined for the first time in Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and made a punishable offence</p> <p>➤ Organised crime gets a new section. Unlawful activity by a syndicate made punishable. New provisions added for armed rebellion, subversive activities, separatist activities or acts threatening the sovereignty or unity and integrity of India</p> <p>➤ Obtaining sex on the basis of false promise of marriage, employment, promotion, false identity, etc, a new offence</p> <p>➤ Gangrape to be punishable with 20 years of imprisonment or life imprisonment. Provision of life imprisonment/ death penalty if victim is a minor</p> <p>➤ Lynching to be punishable with minimum 7 years' imprisonment or life imprisonment or death penalty under new provision for crime related to murder on the basis of race, caste, community, etc.</p> <p>➤ Snatching to attract more stringent punishment if it leads to severe injury or permanent disability</p> <p>➤ Initiating children into crime will be punishable with at least 7-10 years of imprisonment</p> <p>➤ Hit-and-run cases resulting in death shall attract imprisonment of either description of up to 10 years, in addition to a fine, if the culprit does not appear before the police/magistrate to disclose the incident</p>	<p>➤ Zero FIR, e-FIR introduced in the law. Any FIR can be registered outside the limit of a police station but within the state and through electronic means</p> <p>➤ Designated police officers in every district and every police station to give notice of any arrest. Crime victim to be informed about the progress of investigation within 90 days</p> <p>➤ Sexual violence survivor's statement to be recorded by a woman judicial magistrate in the presence of a woman police officer at her residence. Parent or guardian of survivor may be present</p> <p>➤ Summary trial made mandatory for less serious cases, such as theft, house trespass. In cases where the punishment is up to 3 years, magistrate may conduct a summary trial after recording reasons in writing</p> <p>➤ 90-day window for further investigation after filing of charge sheet. Extension beyond 90 days will be granted only with the permission of the court</p> <p>➤ Judgment to be given within 30 days after the conclusion of arguments. Period may be extended up to 60 days for specific reasons</p> <p>➤ Only 2 adjournments can be granted by court after hearing objections of the other party, and for specific reasons that must be recorded in writing</p>	<p>➤ Civil servant's prosecution to go ahead if competent authority fails to take a decision on it within 120 days</p> <p>➤ Automatic bail after serving one-third of sentence to first-time offenders. Remission not available to person sentenced to life imprisonment or death sentence</p> <p>➤ Witness protection schemes to be made by state governments. SP-level officer to take a decision on protection, permission from state not required</p> <p>➤ Convicts may be declared proclaimed offenders in case punishment is of 10 years or more (including life sentence and death penalty).</p> <p>New provision made for attachment and confiscation of their property outside India</p> <p>➤ Rules for commutation of sentence laid down - death sentence to life imprisonment, life sentence to imprisonment for 7 years, 7-year sentence to imprisonment for 3 years</p> <p>➤ Proclaimed offenders to be tried in absentia under new provision</p> <p>➤ Confiscation of property related to the proceeds of crime after court order</p> <p>➤ Disposal of case property lying in police stations within 30 days from the date of photography/videography</p>
		
		
		
		
		
		
		
		
		
		

- ✓ The New Bill has included offences of terrorist acts, offences against the state, crimes committed during the elections and organised crime added with deterrent punishments.
 - ✓ Under the proposed laws, bribing voters during elections is a punishable offense with imprisonment of up to one year.
 - ✓ The government has proposed specific provisions to deal with hate speech, seeking to punish such offences related to religion with up to three years in jail and a fine.
 - ✓ The government, in the proposed Bill, has also added clauses related to public servants involved in various crimes.
 - ✓ Separately, to deal with the publishing or circulating of statements, false information or a report that promotes religious, regional, caste or communal hatred, the bill has proposed imprisonment of up to three years.
 - ✓ People committing these offences in a place of worship or an assembly engaged in religious ceremonies or worship can face a jail term of up to five years
 - ✓ Rash drivers who flee after hitting someone – or fail to report it to police or a magistrate soon after the incident – could get up to 10 years in jail.
 - ✓ Currently, there is no such provision in the Indian Penal Code (IPC).
 - ✓ The new IPC bill has also proposed to increase the jail term for death due to rash or negligent driving to seven years and a fine as against “up to two years jail or fine or both” under Section 304A
- ✓ The old IPC had 511 sections and the new bill for IPC has 356 sections.
- ✓ In March 2020, the Central Government had constituted a Criminal Law Reforms Committee to make suggestions to revise IPC, CrPC and the Indian Evidence Act 1872.
- ✓ The Committee was headed by Professor Dr Ranbir Singh, the then VC of National Law University Delhi and consisted of Professor Dr.GS Bajpai, the then Registrar of NLU-D, Professor Dr. Balraj Chauhan the VC of DNLU, Senior Advocate Mahesh Jethmalani and GP Thareja, former District and Sessions Judge, Delhi.
- ✓ In February 2022, the Committee submitted a report to the Government, after taking suggestions from the public
- **On August 11, the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha - were adjourned sine die, bringing an end to the Monsoon session**
 - ✓ During the 12th session of the current 17th Lok Sabha, the Lower House recorded productivity of 45% and Rajya Sabha, a productivity of 63%
 - ✓ In Lok Sabha, Speaker Om Birla announced the adjournment of the House, while Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar declared the adjournment of the Upper House.
 - ✓ A total of 22 bills were cleared by both, the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, in the session that stretched from July 20 to August 11.

- ✓ Lok Sabha, which began on July 20, functioned for 44 hours and 17 minutes in 17 sittings, while Rajya Sabha functioned for 50 hours and 21 minutes in its 17 sittings.



- ✓ On the concluding day, Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar praised former sprint queen P T Usha and S Phangnon Konyak, who created history by becoming the first woman from Nagaland to preside over the proceedings of Rajya Sabha.
- ✓ Among the notable bills that received the Parliament's clearance include the proposed law for digital data protection, amending the services rules of the Delhi government, and amending the law related to regulation of mines and minerals sectors.
- ✓ In addition to the above legislations, three new bills were tabled in the Lok Sabha and are expected to be discussed in the Winter session.
 - ✓ They include The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Bill, which is proposed as a replacement for the Indian Penal Code, The Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, which seeks replacing the Code of Criminal Procedure, and Bharatiya Sakshya Act that aims at substituting The Indian Evidence Act.
- ✓ The discussion on the no-confidence motion, initiated by Congress member Gaurav Gogoi, lasted for nearly 20 hours and saw participation of 60 members.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi responded to the debate on the motion, which was rejected by a voice vote.
- ✓ The session also witnessed suspension from the House of the leader of the Congress party, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, for “gross, deliberate and repeated misconduct” after his remarks in response to PM Modi's remarks
- ✓ The session also saw the return of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who had been stripped of his MP status following a Gujarat court ruling in a 2019 defamation case regarding Gandhi's remarks regarding the 'Modi' surname.

- ✓ Some other important bills that were passed during the session were the Multi State Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Bill, Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, National Nursing and Midwifery Commission Bill, National Dental Council Bill, Jan Vishwas (Amendment) Bill, and the Armed Forces Organisation (Command, Control, and Discipline) Bill.

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **United Kingdom - has announced that it would be allocating funds worth Rs.1 crore (95,000 Pounds) to tackle pro-Khalistan extremism**



- ✓ The United Kingdom's Security Minister Tom Tugendhat has announced new funding to enhance the UK's capability to tackle 'pro-Khalistan extremism'
- ✓ During a meeting with external affairs minister S Jaishankar in New Delhi on Thursday, Tugendhat announced the new funding
- ✓ The £95,000 investment will improve the UK government's understanding of the threat posed by pro-Khalistan extremism, increasing its ability to identify and disrupt extremist narratives and activity
- ✓ The UK and India are already having the joint extremism task force, which aims to enhance cooperation on tackling extremism.
- ✓ It ensures that "all possible actions" are taken against groups and individuals seeking to incite violent extremism, or who are involved in the financing of it.
- ✓ Tugendhat, who is on a three-day trip to India, met national security adviser Ajit Doval in New Delhi on August 11 ahead of travelling to the G20 anti-corruption talks in Kolkata on August 12.

BUSINESS/ECONOMY

- **On August 11, the Lok Sabha - passed amendments to Central, Integrated Goods and Services Tax (GST) laws to levy 28% tax on online gaming.**
- ✓ Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman introduced The Central Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023, and The Integrated Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023 in the Lok Sabha



- ✓ Both Bills were passed by a voice vote, without a debate.
- ✓ State assemblies will now pass similar amendments in their respective GST laws.
- ✓ The amendments pertain to the insertion of a provision in Schedule III of the CGST Act, 2017, to provide clarity on taxation of supplies in casinos, horse racing and online gaming.
- ✓ Similarly, within the IGST Act, an amendment seeks to impose GST on online money gaming provided by offshore entities, besides mandating their registration for GST within India
 - ✓ Access to online gaming platforms located overseas will also be blocked in case of failure to comply with registration and tax payment provisions.
- ✓ The CGST amendment bill defines 'online gaming' as a game on the internet or an electronic network.
- ✓ The amended provisions will be effective from October 1
- ✓ 'Online money gaming' means online gaming in which players pay or deposit money, including virtual digital assets (VDAs), in the expectation of winning money or VDAs, in any event or game etc.,
- ✓ With the amendment to GST law, horse racing, casinos, online money gaming will be treated as actionable claim similar to lottery, betting, and gambling.
- ✓ However, casual online gaming, which does not involve money or any consideration, will not be taxable under GST.
- ✓ Currently, online gaming industry is paying GST at the rate of 18% on platform fees/commission, while casinos are currently paying 28% GST on Gross Gaming Revenue (GGR).
- ✓ In its meeting on July 11, the GST Council approved a levy of 28% GST on full face value of bets in online gaming, casinos and horse racing
- ✓ The slab applies uniformly to both skill and chance-based games.
- ✓ The Council's decision will be reviewed after six months or by April 2024 to see if any change in rule is required