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15 September 2023

International & National News

**Activists raise concerns over legal loophole pertaining to sexual assault of animals**



**Context**

Animal rights activists across India have expressed their concern at the absence of any provision to address sexual crimes against animals in the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023 Bill that seeks to repeal the Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860.

**Key points**

- While the 2018 judgment removing portions of Section 377 of the IPC decriminalised sex between consenting same-gender adults, it did not address the question of bestiality.
- Currently, Section 377 of the IPC provides for punishment of those found engaging in bestiality.
- It states, "Whoever voluntarily has carnal intercourse against the order of nature with any man, woman or animal, shall be punished with imprisonment for life, or with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine."

**Note:** The meaning of BESTIALITY is sexual relations between a human being and a lower animal.

**National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC)**



**Context**

A Central team of officials from NCDC is expected to visit Maruthonkara and Ayancheri areas in Kozhikode district of Kerala where two persons died due to Nipah infection recently.

**Key points**

**National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC):**

- It is an institute under the Indian Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- The Director, an officer of the Public Health sub-cadre of Central Health Service, is the administrative and technical head of the Institute.
- Headquarters: New Delhi.
- It functions as the nodal agency in the country for disease surveillance facilitating prevention and control of communicable diseases.



বাংলা



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**Constitution articles dealing with language**

### Context

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that simple and clear Hindi words should be used in office work, adding that the principle of language change says that “language moves from complexity to simplicity”.
- The Minister said that the Hindi language had played an unprecedented role in uniting the country during the difficult days of the Independence movement, instilled a feeling of unity in a country divided into many languages and dialects, and played an important role in carrying the freedom struggle from east to west and north to south in the country.

### Key points

- Article 343 of the Indian Constitution talks about the Official language of the Union
- Article 344 talks about Commission and Committee of Parliament on official language

**SC joins National Judicial Data Grid**

### Context

- Real-time data on the filing and disposal of cases in the Supreme Court will now be available at the fingertips of the common man, just a click of a mouse away.
- **Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud** announced the onboarding of the Supreme Court on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)

### Key points

- The **NJDG portal is a national repository of data** relating to cases instituted, pending and disposed of by the courts across the length and breadth of the country.
- The onboarding of Supreme Court’s case data on the NJDG is based on the ‘open data policy’.
- Data will be uploaded on the NJDG on a real-time and daily basis..

**All reported births, deaths to be digitally registered from Oct. 1**

### Context

All reported births and deaths in the country will be digitally registered on the Centre’s portal from October 1, 2023.

### Key points

- The Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Act, 2023 that paves the way for digital birth certificates will come into effect from October 1.



বাংলা



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The digital birth certificates will be a single document to be used for admission to educational institutions, applications for driving licence, government jobs, passports or Aadhaar, voter enrolment, and registration of marriage, and others.</li> <li>• The centralised database will also update the National Population Register (NPR), ration cards, property registration, and electoral rolls.</li> </ul>
<p><b>National Population Register (NPR) and Census</b></p>	<p><b>National Population Register (NPR):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The National Population Register (NPR) is a register of usual residents of the country.</li> <li>• It includes both Indian citizens as well as a foreign citizen.</li> <li>• According to the Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003, a usual resident is a person who has resided in a local area for the past 6 months or more or a person who intends to reside in that area for the next 6 months or more.</li> <li>• It is being prepared at the local (Village/sub-Town), sub-District, District, State and National level under provisions of the Citizenship Act 1955 and the Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003</li> </ul> <p>The Census is the enumeration of the population of the country and it is being conducted at an interval of 10 years</p> <p><b>NPR vs Census</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The decennial census is the largest single source of a variety of statistical information on the different characteristics of the people of India.</li> <li>• While NPR only contains demographic information, more details are required for the census like information on demography, economic activity, literacy and education, and housing and household amenities among others.</li> </ul>
<p><b>PMMSY: bridging gaps in the fisheries sector</b></p>	<p><b>Context</b></p> <p>India is now counted among the world's top three countries in fish and aquaculture production</p> <p><b>PM Matsy Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is a flagship scheme for focused and sustainable development of the fisheries sector in the country with an estimated investment of 20,050 crore for its implementation during 2020-21 to 2024-25 as part of Aatmanirbhar Bharat package.</li> </ul>



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- Ministry: Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying

### Aim:

- To bring about a blue revolution through sustainable and responsible development of the fisheries sector in India.
- To double the incomes of fishers and fish farmers, reducing post-harvest losses from 20-25% to about 10% and the generation of gainful employment opportunities in the sector.

### Implementation:

- It is implemented as an umbrella scheme with two separate components namely
- Central Sector Scheme: The project cost will be borne by the Central government. The entire project/unit cost will be funded by the Government of India (GoI) (i.e., 100% GoI Funding).
- Centrally Sponsored Scheme: All the sub-components/activities will be implemented by the States/UTs and the cost will be shared between Centre and State.
- North Eastern & Himalayan States: 90% Central share and 10% State share.
- Other States: 60% Central share and 40% State share.

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