


NEWS TODAY


India signed \$400 million loan with Asian Development Bank (ADB) for subprogram 2 of the Sustainable Urban Development and Service Delivery Program

- The Program aims to support the government's urban reform agenda for improving the quality of urban life through
 - ⊖ Creation of high-quality urban infrastructure
 - ⊖ Assured public services
 - ⊖ Efficient governance systems
- Sub-programme 2 supports the reforms initiated by the states and the urban local bodies (ULBs) in operationalising the national flagship programme of **Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0**
 - ⊖ **AMRUT 2.0** is targeted for universal access of water supply and sanitation and to ensure urban water security through reducing water losses, recycling treated sewage for non-domestic use etc.
- Earlier ADB had approved **Subprogram 1 in 2021 with a financing of \$350 million.**
 - ⊖ While Subprogram 1 established national-level policies and guidelines to improve urban services, Subprogram 2 supports investment planning and reform actions at the state and ULB levels.
- **Need for such program**
 - ⊖ **Urbanization in India:** Urban population 2nd largest in the world at 498 million in 2021, is projected to increase to about 600 million by 2030.
 - ⊖ **Insufficient urban service delivery:** Indian cities score low on the Ease of Living Index.
 - ⊖ **Insufficient urban investments** and low financial capacity of urban local bodies.




Asian Development Bank

Manila, Philippines



About: It envisions a **prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific**, while sustaining its efforts to **eradicate extreme poverty in the region.**

Established: 1966

Membership: 68 members (49 are from within Asia and the Pacific). 

Other Information:

- ⊖ ADB assists its members, and partners, by providing loans, technical assistance, grants, and equity investments to promote social and economic development.
- ⊖ ADB's 5 largest shareholders are **Japan, USA, China, India and Australia.**

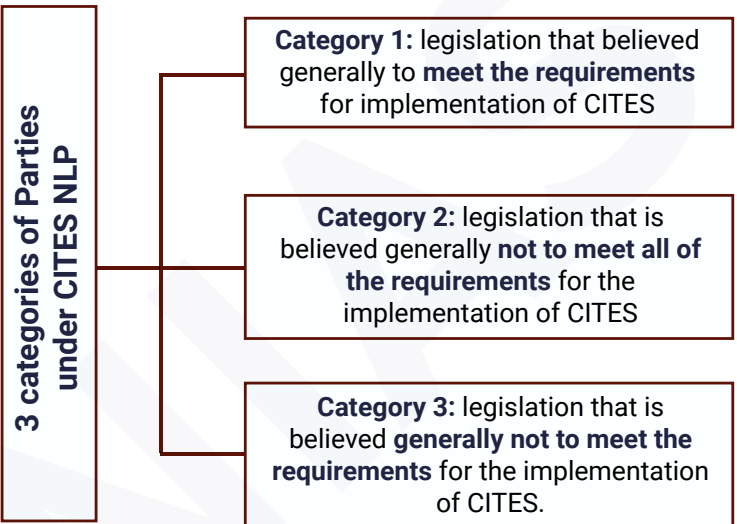
Parliamentary Standing Committee (PSC) on Home Affairs submitted reports on the three bills aimed at reforming criminal laws

- The three bills include:
 - ⊖ **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023** replacing the **Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860.**
 - ⊖ **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita 2023** replacing the **Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1973.**
 - ⊖ **Bharatiya Sakshya Bill 2023** replacing the **Indian Evidence Act, 1872.**
- These bills were subsequently referred for further examination to the PSC.
- These bills aim to **address large pendency in courts, timely justice delivery, erasing colonial legacy, increasing conviction rates etc.**
- **Key highlights of report (see the table)**

Key Provision in bills	Key recommendations
➤ Section 377 of IPC has been deleted which is relating to unnatural sex against the order of nature.	➤ Partially retain section 377 of IPC in gender-neutral form
➤ Section 497 of IPC relating to adultery has been deleted as Supreme Court read down the provision.	➤ Retain the offence of adultery by making it gender neutral
➤ 6 types of punishments to which offenders are liable under the provisions of Sanhita are Death; Imprisonment for life, Imprisonment, Forfeiture of property; Fine; and Community Service.	➤ Empower judicial magistrates to impose community service as punishment
➤ Enable online/electronic FIR registration	➤ Allow online FIR only through State-specified modes
➤ Use of Handcuffs during arrest	➤ Restrict the use of handcuffs for economic offences
➤ Admissibility of Electronic or Digital Record	➤ Mandate proper handling of electronic and digital records

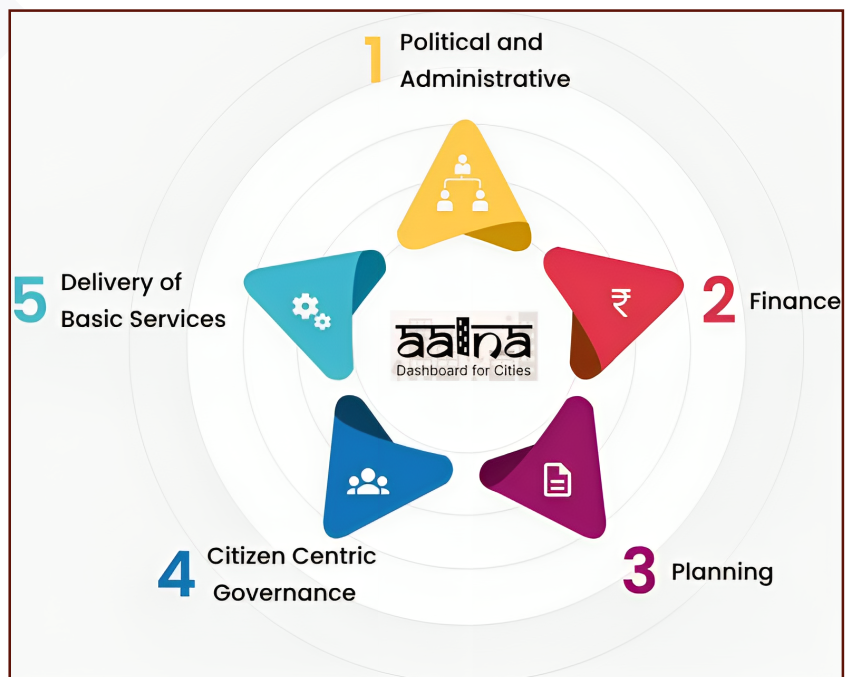
77th CITES Standing Committee meeting removed Red Sanders from Review of Significant Trade (RST)

- CITES RST is a process where Standing Committee closely examines a country's species exports to ensure compliance with CITES.
 - ⊙ **Noncompliance** may lead to **disciplinary actions** through **trade suspensions**.
 - ⊙ India has been under RST process for Red Sanders **since 2004**.
 - ◆ **Removal from RST** will help farmers growing Red sanders enter the supply chain of legitimate trade.
- **Exemption** from RST has been **attributed to**, among others, the **2022 amended to Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972**.
 - ⊙ Amendment **incorporated provisions of CITES** as mandated under the CITES **National Legislation Programme (NLP)**.
 - ⊙ **As a result**, CITES Standing Committee has now moved India from Category 2 to Category 1.
 - ◆ **Under NLP, based on compliance level** Parties could be placed in any of the **three categories** (refer to the box).
- **About Red Sanders**
 - ⊙ **Distribution:** Endemic to **tropical dry deciduous forest of Eastern Ghats** and referred to as **'the pride of Eastern Ghats'**.
 - ⊙ **Conservation Status-** IUCN Red List (Endangered), CITES (Appendix II), Wildlife Protection Act (Schedule IV).
 - ⊙ **Other feature:** Plants heartwood is heavily impregnated with **red dye called 'santalin', for which it is valued**.
- **CITES** (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) is an **international agreement between governments**.
 - ⊙ Its aim is **to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten the survival of the species**.



Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs launches 'AANA Dashboard for Cities' portal

- Pioneering portal will provide **information on status and progress of cities on five broad thematic areas** (refer infographics).
 - ⊙ **Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)** across country can **voluntarily submit their key data** including audited accounts, self-reported performance metrics on a regular basis.
 - ⊙ Ministry through **Digital India Corporation (DIC)** will provide **handholding to ULBs / States in the data submission process**.
 - ◆ DIC provides **strategic support to Ministries/Departments for carrying forward Digital India Mission**.
- **Key objectives of portal:**
 - ⊙ **Healthy Competition:** ULBs can now see how their ULB is faring vis-a-vis other ULBs.
 - ⊙ **Inspiration:** Motivation for ULBs to identify the possibilities available for improvement.
 - ⊙ **Learning:** Opportunity for ULBs to learn and implement best practices from peers.
- **Need for the portal:** Critical data on single platforms would be helpful for **planning new schemes and making policy decisions**.
- **About ULBs**
 - ⊙ **Constitutional body:** **74th (1992) Constitution Amendment Act** recognises ULBs as **third tier of government** and categorises them based on population size as:
 - ◆ **Nagar Panchayats** for 'rurban' areas.
 - ◆ **Municipal Councils** for smaller urban areas.
 - ◆ **Municipal Corporations** for metropolitan areas.
 - ⊙ **Functions:** **18 specific functions enumerated in 12th schedule** of Constitution.
 - ⊙ **Term:** **5 years** (re-election is scheduled within six months of completion of term).



Centre suggested States to implement Model Prisons and Correctional Services Act, 2023

- Model Act aims to **holistically address all relevant issues relating to prison administration.**
 - ⊖ It replaces **Prisons Act (1894)** and assimilates relevant provisions of **Prisoners Act (1900)** and **Transfer of Prisoners Act (1950)**.
- **Features of Model Act**
 - ⊖ **High Security Prison:** Independent **self-sufficient prison** with strengthened security systems and **independent Court complex**, etc. for gangsters, hardened criminals, etc.
 - ⊖ **Directorate of Prisons and Correctional Services:** For implementing prison policies and coordinating various prisons and correctional services.
 - ⊖ **Classification of prisoners:** Broad categories of prisoners include **Civil; Criminal; Convicted; Undertrial; Detenues; Habitual Offenders; Recidivists.**
 - ⊖ **Segregate accommodation:** For various categories of prisoners and for attending to special needs of women/transgender, etc.
 - ⊖ **Staff welfare wing:** To be established by Head of Prisons and Correctional Services to aid Government for welfare measures for prison staff.
 - ⊖ **Use of Technology:** Computerize the entire prison administration and integrate the database with the Interoperable Criminal Justice System.
 - ⊖ **Use of electronic tracking devices:** For prisoners who are granted leave.
 - ◆ **Jammu and Kashmir police** recently introduced **GPS tracker anklet** for monitoring a terror accused out on bail.
 - ⊖ **Prisoners' Health Care:** All prisoners will have access to **adequate, gender-responsive health care facilities.**

Governance of Prisons in India

- ⊖ **Prisons/ Persons detained therein** is a 'State' subject in the Constitution.
- ⊖ However, given the **significance of prisons in the Criminal Justice System**, the **Ministry of Home Affairs** has been providing regular guidance and support to the States and UTs on the matter.

Government e-marketplace (GeM) surpassed ₹2 Lakh Crore in Gross Merchandise Value (GMV)

- GMV of ₹2 Lakh Crore in less than eight months of FY 2023-24 has been crossed, which surpasses the total GMV inscribed at the end of last fiscal year (2022-23).
- GeM is the **Public Procurement Portal for procurement** of goods and services for all Central Government and State Government Ministries, Departments, Public Sector Units (PSUs) and affiliated.
 - ⊖ The purchases through GeM by Government users have been authorized and made mandatory by the Ministry of Finance.
- **Significance of the GeM Portal**
 - ⊖ Make the public procurement process **transparent, efficient and inclusive.**
 - ⊖ **Save the exchequer's money**
 - ◆ GeM has enabled the government to save over ₹45,000 crore since 2016.
 - ⊖ Provides the **opportunity for MSEs, startups and women entrepreneurs.**
- **Initiatives taken by GeM**
 - ⊖ **Womaniya initiative** to showcase products made by women entrepreneurs and women self-help groups [WSHG], and spur Women's entrepreneurship
 - ⊖ **Green Gold Collection** to showcase a range of bamboo accessories for potential use in the construction sector and exquisitely handcrafted bamboo handicrafts, etc.
 - ⊖ **Sustainable public procurement of products and services** in association with the United Nations Environment Program.



Also in News



Chikungunya

- US. has approved **world's first vaccine** for chikungunya named Ixchiq. It contains **live, weakened version of the chikungunya virus.**
- **Chikungunya**
 - ⊖ It is a **viral disease transmitted by Aedes mosquitoes.**
 - ⊖ **Fever, arthralgia and rash** are common symptoms.
 - ⊖ **First identified in Tanzania in 1952**, and generally seen in **Africa, southeast Asia and parts of Americas.**
 - ⊖ It can be **passed from a pregnant mother to an unborn child** and can be fatal to newborns.
 - ⊖ So far there is **no treatment.**
 - ⊖ It is included in India's **National Vector Borne Diseases Control Programme.**



Char Dham Pariyojana

- A portion of an **under-construction Silkyara tunnel** (between **Silkyara and Dandalgaon**) of Char Dham all-weather highway project collapsed in Uttarkashi district, Uttarakhand.
- **Char Dham Pariyojana**
 - ⊖ **Ministry** - Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
 - ⊖ **About** - For connectivity Improvement for **Char-Dham (Kedarnath, Badrinath, Yamunothri & Gangotri)** in Uttarakhand.
 - ⊖ **Significance**
 - ◆ **Decrease the overall time** (30% to 40%) of travel and fuel cost.
 - ◆ **Helps the army in the security** of the Indian border along with China.
 - ◆ **Boost the economy** and industries in Uttarakhand.



Revised IIM rules notified

- Ministry of Education notified Indian Institutes of Management (Amendment) Rules, 2023
 - ⊖ Earlier in Monsoon Session 2023 parliament passed **Indian Institutes of Management (IIM) (Amendment) Act 2023** to amend Indian Institutes of Management Act, 2017.
- **Key highlights of rules**
 - ⊖ **President will now be a Visitor at all IIMs, with powers to**
 - ◆ **Appoint the chairperson of the board of governors**
 - » **Board of governors** is principal executive body of each IIM
 - ◆ Appointment and removal of the directors
 - ◆ **Dissolving the board** for its inability to perform its duties
 - ⊖ Prescribed qualifications for directors.



Hazards of Firecrackers

- Extreme exposure to firecrackers is hazardous as they have **chemicals like:**
 - ⊖ **Strontium** (produces **red** colour): causes **bone growth problems** in children.
 - ⊖ **Barium** (produces **green** colour): causes **damage to nervous system and heart** tremors, weakness, paralysis, etc.
 - ⊖ **Copper compounds** (produces **blue** colour): causes **skin problems, Cancer, hormonal imbalances.**
 - ⊖ **Aluminium** (produces **white** light): Causes **contact dermatitis and bioaccumulation.**
 - ⊖ **Antimony sulphide** (glitter effect): **Carcinogen** and can cause Alzheimer' disease.
 - ⊖ **Barium nitrate and lithium compounds**, also commonly used cause **immediate respiratory stress.**



Thalidomide tragedy

- **Australia will issue a national apology** to all citizens affected by the "Thalidomide tragedy".
- Thalidomide is a **sedative** drug prescribed to pregnant women in order to **relieve pregnancy nausea in the 1950s.**
- It was later found to cause malformation of limbs, facial features and internal organs in unborn children.
- The thalidomide tragedy demonstrated the **need for strictly enforced regulation of drug testing, marketing, dispensing, and use.**



Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)

- **India-OPEC Energy Dialogue** concluded with both parties underscoring importance of fostering enhanced cooperation.
- OPEC countries constitute **60% of India's total crude imports.** India is the world's 3rd largest importer of crude oil (behind US and China).
- India would account for over **28% of incremental global energy demand** during **2022-2045 (World Energy Outlook, 2023).**
- **About OPEC**
 - ⊖ **OPEC, is an inter-governmental organization of 13 major oil producing countries.**
 - ⊖ They constitute **approximately 80 % of the world's proven oil reserves and around 40% of global oil production.**
 - ⊖ **Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela** are the founding members.



Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) 1967

- The Ministry of Home Affairs bans 9 Meitei extremist groups as "unlawful associations" under UAPA.
- UAPA is an **Act for prevention of certain unlawful activities** of individuals and associations, and for dealing with terrorist activities.
 - ⊖ **UAPA empowers Central Government to declare association to be unlawful** through official gazette notification.
- Under UAPA act, Cases can be investigated by both State police and National Investigation Agency (NIA).
- It provides for tribunal to review or to hear an appeal against the ban.



Euclid Space Telescope

- **First images from Euclid space telescope** were released recently.
- Euclid is a **European Space Agency mission designed to unlock the secrets of dark matter and dark energy.**
 - ⊖ **Universe** is composed of **normal matter** (Visible constitute about 5%) **Dark matter** (about 25%) and **Dark energy** (about 70%).
 - ◆ Unlike normal matter, **dark matter does not interact with the electromagnetic force.**
 - » **Dark matter does not absorb, reflect or emit light, making it extremely hard to spot.**
 - ◆ **Dark energy** is the name given to the **unknown energy source that is causing our Universe's expansion to accelerate.**

Personality in News



Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh (1795- 1857)

- He was born in a **Zamindar family** at Sonakhan (Raipur district) of Chhattisgarh.
- His **father's name was Ramasai** who belonged to **Binjhar tribe.**
- He **spearheaded 1857 war of Indian independence** in Chhattisgarh and known as "**the 1st Chhattisgarhi freedom fighter**".
- He was arrested in **1856 for looting a trader's grain stocks and distributing it amongst poor** in a severe famine year.
- In **1857, he escaped prison, raised an army of 500 men, and fiercely resisted British before being hanged.**
- Chhattisgarh's **International Cricket Stadium** is named after him.
- **Values:** Valour, Compassion, Courage of Conviction, etc.



Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh
(1795- 1857)



AHMEDABAD



BHOPAL



CHANDIGARH



DELHI



JAIPUR



JODHPUR



GUWAHATI



HYDERABAD



LUCKNOW



PRAYAGRAJ



PUNE



RANCHI



SIKAR