

Three criminal laws are effective from today (July 1)

The three new criminal laws were passed by Parliament in 2023.

- **Section 106(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS)**, which provides for punishment in **hit and run cases**, has been put on hold.

Significance of new criminal laws

- **Reformative justice:** Such as community service instead of imprisonment.
- **Modernising the justice system:** for ex Indian Penal Code (1860) is outdated and does not reflect current norms of criminal jurisprudence.
- **Seamless flow of information:** Designed to improve coordination and collaboration between parties involved in investigation and judicial proceedings.

New Act	Replacing	Major Points
Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023	Indian Penal Code, 1860	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Community services for petty offense such as including attempted suicide to obstruct public servants' duties. ➤ Sexual acts against women under section 18 are classified as rape, regardless of consent. ➤ Terrorist act is defined as a separate offence.
Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita 2023	Criminal Procedure Code, 1973	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Detention of undertrials: Accused detained for half the maximum sentence must be released on bond, except for death penalty or life imprisonment cases, or those with multiple pending charges. ➤ Signatures and finger impressions: Magistrate of the first class can order an accused person, to give specimen signatures or finger impressions or handwriting or voice samples.
Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam 2023	Indian Evidence Act, 1872	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Electronic and digital records are granted equal legal status as paper documents. ➤ Oral evidence comprises all statements, including electronic ones, permitted or required by the Court from witnesses regarding matters under inquiry.

World Bank approves \$1.5 bn loan to accelerate India's green energy push

This is the **second round of funding** in a series of two operations (First in June 2023) under **Low-Carbon Energy Programmatic Development Policy Operation**.

- **Development Objective:** To accelerate the development of low-carbon energy in India.
- **The operation consists of three pillars:**
 - ⊕ **Promoting green hydrogen (GH)** to strengthen the enabling policies and regulations for GH.
 - ⊕ **Scaling up renewable energy (RE)** to scale up RE penetration in India, reduce RE costs, and improve RE grid integration.
 - ⊕ **Enhancing climate finance for low-carbon energy investments** to launch India's carbon market and to enable private sector investments in low-carbon energy.

Why India is being Supported

- Expected rapid growth in **India's energy demand and huge reliance on coal**.
- Key role of India in **reaching global climate change targets**.
- To support India's **Long-term (Net Neutrality by 2070) and short term targets** (by 2030 under NDCs).
- **Decarbonizing the hard-to-abate** industrial and transport sectors.

Government program to support low carbon energy growth

- **Renewable Energy Missions and Power Market Reforms:** support for large-scale grid-connected Solar Parks; PM KUSUM scheme etc.
- **National Green Hydrogen Mission**
- Incentives to **adopt electric and hybrid vehicles** through FAME Scheme - I & II etc.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – National Indicator Framework (NIF) Progress Report, 2024

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has developed the SDG-NIF in consultation with concerned Ministries, UN Agencies, and other stakeholders.

- ▶ This annual report facilitates monitoring of the **SDGs' progress at national level**.
- ▶ 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is centered around **17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 associated targets**.

Key highlights of SDG-NIF

SDG Goals	National Indicator	2015-16	2023-24
No Poverty	Proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty	24.85%	14.96
	Number of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) provided bank credit linkage (in Lakh)	18.32	14.96
Zero hunger	Gross Value Added in agriculture per worker (in ₹)	61,427	87,609
Gender Equality	Exclusive women SHGs in bank-linked SHGs	88.92%	97.53%
Clean water and sanitation	Percentage of population using an improved drinking water source in rural areas	94.57%	99.29%
Reduced inequalities	Percentage of budget allocated for welfare of SCs and STs	2.86%	6.19%
Sustainable cities and communities	Percentage of wards with 100% door to door waste collection	43%	97%

Progress in other Goals

Health and well-being (Goal 3)

- ▶ **Maternal Mortality Ratio** has declined from 130 per 1,00,000 live births in 2014-16 to **97 per 1,00,000 live births in 2018-20**
- ▶ **Under-five mortality rate** has declined from 43 per 1000 live births in 2015 to **32 per 1000 live births in 2020**

Quality Education (Goal 4)

- ▶ **Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher secondary education** has increased from 48.32 in 2015-16 to 57.60 in 2021-22.



The Ministry of Environment (MoEFCC) approved funds for next phase of Bustard Recovery Program

The conservation program has been running since 2016 for long-term recovery of **Great Indian Bustard and Lesser Florican**.

- ▶ It is implemented by the **Wildlife Institute of India** and the next phase is proposed **from 2024 to 2033**.
- ▶ It includes **habitat development, in-situ conservation**, completion of the **conservation breeding centre**, releasing **captive-bred birds, etc.**

About Great Indian Bustard and Lesser Florican

- ▶ Both are species of **Bustards in India**, and the other two are **Bengal Florican and Houbara Bustard**.

<p>Great Indian Bustard</p>	<p>Conservation Status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Schedule I and IV of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 ▶ IUCN: Critically Endangered ▶ Appendix I of CITES. ▶ Listed under Species Recovery Program. <p>Behaviour and Characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Males play no role in the incubation and care of the young. ▶ A grassland species, endemic to the Indian subcontinent. ▶ Omnivorous and opportunist eaters. <p>Habitat: confined mostly to Rajasthan and Gujarat; Small populations occur in Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.</p>	
<p>Lesser Florican</p>	<p>Conservation Status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Schedule I of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 ▶ IUCN: Critically Endangered <p>Behaviour and Characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ A grassland species, endemic to the Indian subcontinent. ▶ Male floricans are generally shorter and lighter than their female counterparts. ▶ Omnivorous and known for aerial courtship display <p>Habitat: Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, and parts of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Karnataka.</p>	

'Impact of Climate Change on Marginal Farmers' Report by FEED

Report was released by the Forum of **Enterprises for Equitable Development (FEED)** which is dedicated to advocating for marginal farmers.

Key highlights

- **Vulnerability due to extreme weather:** Over 1/3rd of marginal farmers had to cope with **extreme weather events at least twice in five years.**
- **Reduction in agriculture income:** Climate change may reduce annual agricultural income by 15-18% and by 20-25% in unirrigated areas (Economic Survey of 2017- 18).
- **Livelihood Diversification:** Over 86% of farmers altered their occupations due to climate impacts. Alternative livelihood includes **temporal migration, seeking work under MGNREGA,** etc.
- **Hurdles in adoption of CRA practices:** High up-front cost, limited knowledge about options, small land holdings and lack of physical resources are the major hurdles in adoption of **Climate Resilient Agricultural (CRA)** practices.

Key Recommendations

- **Strengthening existing platforms** like the Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture (GACSA) developed by the FAO.
- Shift focus from **land productivity** (grains produced per hectare) to **water productivity** (grains produced per cubic meter of irrigation water).
- Mission mode approach on **Education, Training, Orientation, and Extension Support to farmers.**

Categories of Farmers based on Landholding

- **Marginal:** Less than 1 hectare
- **Small:** 1-2hectare
- **Semi- Medium:** 2-4 hectare
- **Medium:** 4-10 hectare
- **Large:** 10 hectare and above

Also in News



Santhal Rebellion

The 169th anniversary of the Santhal rebellion is celebrated.

- June 30 is celebrated as **Hool diwas every year** in commemoration of rebellion.

About Santhal Rebellion (1855-1856)

- **Leaders:** Siddho, Kanho, Chand, and Bhairav, along with sisters Phulo and Jhano.
- **Location:** Rajmahal Hills
- **Cause:** exploitation and oppression of the Santhals by British colonial authorities and moneylenders.
- **Karl Marx** has referred to it as **India's first organised mass revolution** in his book **Notes on Indian History.**
- **The Santhal Pargana Tenancy Act of 1876** enacted by the British after the rebellion.
 - ⊖ The territories called '**Santhal Paraganas**' were created.
 - ⊖ It became **illegal for a Santhal to transfer land to a non-Santhal.**

'Constitutional Morality' essential to India's diversity: CJI

- Constitutional morality entails **adherence to constitutional norms** that enable the **practice of the Constitution not only in letters but also in spirit.**
 - ⊖ It goes beyond the literal interpretation to **encompass a commitment to constitutional values** such as sovereignty, social justice, and equality.
- British historian **George Grote** first coined the term.
 - ⊖ He emphasised the **balance between freedom and restraint**, where citizens obey constitutional authorities but also have the freedom to criticize them.
- According to the **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar:**
 - ⊖ Constitutional morality is **necessary for the peaceful working of a democratic Constitution.** However, it is **not a natural sentiment.** It has to be **cultivated.**
 - ⊖ A **strong nexus exists** between the form of **administration and the form of the Constitution.**
 - ◆ Thus, it is **possible to undermine the Constitution, without changing its form** by merely changing the form of the administration and making it inconsistent with the spirit of the Constitution.
 - » Therefore, he **favoured prescribing forms of administration in the Constitution itself.**

Some constitutional provisions related to Constitutional Morality

- **Fundamental Rights:** Individuals' rights against the arbitrary use of state power.
- **Fundamental Duties:** Citizens have responsibilities to the nation.
- **Separation of power:** **Judicial review** of legislative and executive actions, **legislative oversight** of the executive, etc.

Supreme Court Judgement related to Constitutional Morality

- **Krishnamoorthy case (2015):** Court emphasised that constitutional morality is essential for good governance.
- **Justice K S Puttaswamy case (2018):** Court reiterated its duty to uphold constitutional morality by nullifying any law or executive action that contravenes the constitution.
- **Navtej Singh Johar Case (2018):** While striking down Section 377 of the IPC, the Court emphasizing **constitutional morality over societal morality.**



Employees' Pension Scheme

EPS scheme has been amended to give **proportionate withdrawal benefits to members with less than six months of contributory service.**

- So far, completing **6 months of contributory service was mandatory** for such withdrawal benefit.

About EPS 1995

- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Labour & Employment.
- **Pension scheme:** EPS is a "**Defined Contribution-Defined Benefit**" Scheme. **Employees' Pension Fund** is made up of **contributions by:**
 - ⊖ **Employer @ 8.33%** of wages; and
 - ⊖ **Central budget @ 1.16%** of wages up to an amount of Rs.15,000/- per month.
- **Withdrawal benefit:** Given to EPS members who leave the scheme before completing 10 years of contributory service.
- **Minimum Superannuation pension:** Rs.1000



Anti dumping duty

India initiates anti-dumping probe into import of glass fibre from China, Thailand, Bahrain

About Anti dumping duty:

- **Dumping** is said to occur when the goods are exported by a country to another country at a **price lower than its normal value.**
 - ⊖ This is an **unfair trade practice** which can have a **distortive effect on international trade.**
- **Purpose:** protect domestic industry from cheap imports.
- The use of anti dumping measures as **an instrument of fair competition is permitted by the WTO Anti-dumping Agreement.**



Shyok River

Five soldiers died after a tank was swept away by Shyok river in Ladakh.

Shyok river

- It is a **right tributary of the Indus River.**
- Originates from the **Rimo glacier** and joined by **Nubra River from the north.**
 - ⊖ **Shyok and Nubra** are the main rivers of **Nubra Valley.**
- Drains northern **Karakoram mountains.**
- Its placer deposit contains **Gold.**
- **Shyok village** on its riverbank is the **last Indian village** on the road to **Daulat Beg Oldie (DBO)**, a military base near the India-China border.



Smart City Mission

Centre government has extended the Smart City Mission timeline till March, 2025.

About Smart City Mission

- **Ministry:** Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).
- It was launched in 2015 as a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme.**
- Aimed at promoting cities that **provide core infrastructure, a clean and sustainable environment,** and a high quality of life through the application of 'smart solutions'.



Eco-friendly supercapacitors

Researchers at Government College for Women, Thiruvananthapuram, have developed a method to produce **activated carbon for supercapacitors** from coconut husks.

- It can be used to attain **sustainable and efficient green solutions for high-performance supercapacitors.**
- **Activated carbon acts as an ideal material for a supercapacitor** because of the high surface area.
- A supercapacitor is an **electrochemical energy storage device,** which can be used to store and deliver charge by reversible adsorption and desorption of ions.



Gandhi Sarovar

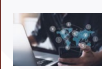
A massive **avalanche hit the Gandhi Sarovar** also known as Chorabari Tal located **near Kedarnath Temple in Uttarakhand.**

Gandhi Sarovar

- Originally known as **Kanti Sarovar.**
- Originates from the **Chorabari Bamak Glacier.**
- It is believed that at this Lake **Lord Shiva imparted the knowledge of yoga to the Saptrishis.**

Kedarnath Temple

- **One of the 12 Jyotirlingas** (dedicated to bhagwan Shiva) in India.
- **A part of the Char Dham circuit in the state** (Yamunotri, Gangotri, and Badrinath are the remaining 3).



Liberalised Remittances Scheme (LRS)

Indians took out \$17 billion in 2023-24 for **overseas travel under the RBI's LRS.**

About Liberalised Remittances Scheme

- **Genesis:** Introduced in 2004
- **Benefit:** all resident individuals, including minors, are allowed to freely remit up to USD 2,50,000 per financial year for any permissible current or capital account transaction or a combination of both.
- There are **no restrictions on the frequency of remittances** under it.
- The Scheme is **not available to corporates, partnership firms, Hindu Undivided Family (HUF), Trusts** etc.

Personality in news



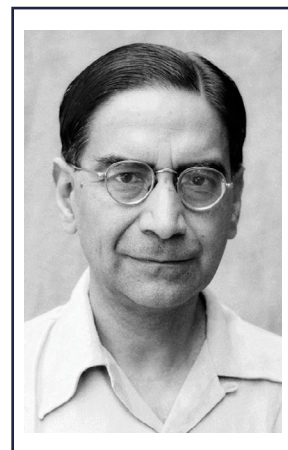
Prasanta Chandra (P.C.) Mahalanobis

On '**Statistics Day** (June 29)', MoSPI launched **eSankhyiki portal** to establish a comprehensive data management and facilitate ease of **dissemination of official statistics** in the country.

- **Statistics Day** celebrates birth Anniversary of **P.C. Mahalanobis.**

P.C. Mahalanobis (1893-1972)

- **Contributions:**
 - ⊖ Founded the **Indian Statistical Institute**
 - ⊖ **Established the National Sample Survey (1950)** and set up **Central Statistical Organisation.**
 - ⊖ Shaped **India's second Five year Plan (1956-61)**, also called the **Mahalanobis Plan.**
 - ◆ It focused on **development of public sector and rapid industrialisation.**
 - ⊖ Gave **Mahalanobis distance**, a statistical measure.
- **Recognition**
 - ⊖ Received **Padma Vibhushan.**
 - ⊖ Establishment of **Mahalanobis International Award** given to individual for lifetime achievements in statistics **in a developing country or region.**
 - ◆ Supported by **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).**



AHMEDABAD



BENGALURU



BHOPAL



CHANDIGARH



DELHI



GUWAHATI



HYDERABAD



JAIPUR



JODHPUR



LUCKNOW



PRAYAGRAJ



PUNE



RANCHI