

NEWS TODAY

Ministry of Home Affairs reviews implementation of three new criminal laws in ICJS 2.0

Ministry asked National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) to facilitate complete implementation of three new criminal laws in the ICJS 2.0 (Inter-operable Criminal Justice System 2.0).

- Emphasis should be placed on using of applications like **eSakshya** (assists in managing evidence), **Nyaya Shruti** (electronic judicial proceedings), **eSign and eSummons** in every state UT.
- Alerts should be generated for all criminal cases at predefined stages and timelines, **expediting the investigation process**.
- NCRB should create a **data rich platform** to benefit the Investigation Officers and other stakeholder of Criminal Justice System.

About ICJS

ICJS was conceptualised by the e-Committee of Supreme Court of India and is being implemented as a project under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

- **Objective:** Enable seamless transfer of data and information among different pillars of the criminal justice system (see infographic).
- **Focus:** Integration of **Crime and Criminal Tracking Networks and Systems (CCTNS)** with **e-Courts and e-Prisons** database, and with other pillars of judiciary like Forensic Labs, Fingerprints and Prosecution.
 - ⊕ It aims to achieve “one data once entry” across all the pillars.
- **Implementation:** By NCRB in association with National Informatics Centre (NIC).
- **Timeline:** Phase-I (2018-2022), Phase-II (2022-23 to 2025-26).



Other Initiatives for leveraging Technology in Criminal Justice System

- **Safe City Project** sanctioned in first phase in 8 cities to aid smart policing.
- **National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS)** to facilitate rapid and accurate identification of individuals.
- **Strengthening of DNA Analysis Units** in Central and State Forensic Science Laboratories.
- **Common Integrated Police Application (CIPA)** to automate processes at police stations.

Results of Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE) for 2023-24 released

It has been released by **National Statistics Office, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** for the reference period October 2023 – September 2024.

About ASUSE

- **Objective:** To measure various economic and operational characteristics of unincorporated non-agricultural establishments in manufacturing, trade and other services sector (excluding construction).
- **Purpose:** Input for policymaking, supporting national accounts statistics & requirements of key ministries, data-driven decisions etc.

Key findings

- **Number of Establishments** in the sector increased to **7.34 crore**, representing a **12.84% growth** from 2022-23.
 - ⊕ **Percentage of female-owned proprietary establishments increased to 26.2%** from 22.9% in 2022-23, indicating an increase in female entrepreneurship.
- **Gross Value Added (GVA)** contribution grew by **16.52%** (at current price), driven by growth in **other services sector**.
- Sector employed **more than 12 crore workers** and **GVA per worker**, which is a measure of labour productivity, increased by **5.62%** (in current prices).
- **Percentage of establishments** using internet have also **grown to 26.7%** from 21.1% in 2022-23, reflecting a strong trend toward digital adoption.

About Unincorporated Sector Enterprise

- A producer unit which is **not incorporated as a legal entity separate from the owner**.
- **Assets used** in such enterprises **do not belong to the enterprises but to the owners**.
- They **cannot engage in transactions or enter into contractual relationships** with other economic units nor incur liabilities on their own behalf.
- **Owners are personally liable** for any debts or obligations incurred in the course of production.

Significance of unincorporated non-agricultural sector: Contributes to **employment generation & GDP**; promotes **entrepreneurship**; **backbone for incorporated sector** by reinforcing its role in the domestic supply value chain etc.

South Korea becomes 'Super-Aged' Society

Recently, South Korean Ministry of the Interior and Safety has formally declared that South Korea has become a "super-aged" society as the share of its population aged 65 or over surpassed 20%.

- This makes South Korea only the **second country in Asia, after Japan**, to become a 'Super-Aged' Society.
- According to the UN, a country is defined as "aging" when the share of people aged 65+ is above 7%, "aged" when it is 14% or more, and "super-aged" when it exceeds 20%.

Status of Ageing World

- Global population aged 60+ was **1 billion in 2020**, projected to reach **2.1 billion by 2050**.
- Population aging, initially seen in **high-income countries like Japan**, is accelerating in **low- and middle-income countries**, where two-thirds of the elderly will live by 2050.

India

- India's elderly population will **exceed 20% of the total by 2050**. (UNFPA 2023)

Challenges with ageing society

- **Economic:** Shrinking workforce, rising healthcare costs, increased expenditure on social security systems, etc.
- **Social:** Families face increased caregiving responsibilities, need to bridge generational gaps and maintain social cohesion, etc.
- **Infrastructure:** Urban spaces need to be made more age-friendly, accommodation of reduced mobility by transportation system, etc.

Steps Taken

- Global**
 - **UN - Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (2002):** Promotes better quality of life for older adults.
 - **WHO Global Strategy (2016-2020):** Focuses on healthy aging and age-friendly environments.
 - **UN SDGs:** Address aging through Goals 3 (Health) and 10 (Reduced Inequality).
 - **UN Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021-2030)**
- India**
 - **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)** for public health insurance
 - **National Policy for Older Persons, 1999**
 - **Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007**
 - **National Programme for the Health Care for the Elderly (NPHCE):** preventive, curative, and rehabilitative treatment.

Government of India observed Good Governance Day

Good Governance Day (GGD) is observed on December 25 each year, since 2014, on the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

- **Good governance** can be referred to as an effective and efficient process of decision making and the process by which decisions are implemented keeping the amelioration of citizens as the topmost priority.
- The UN outlines eight traits of Good Governance - Participatory, Consensus-Oriented, Accountable, Transparent, Responsive, Efficient and Effective, Equitable and Inclusive, and Follows Rule of Law.

New Initiatives

Observing GGD, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions launched some key initiatives:

- **Viksit Panchayat Karmayogi:** Part of broader 'Prashasan Gaon Ki Aur' campaign, it aims to strengthen Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) through innovative tools and capacity-building frameworks.
 - ⊖ Piloted in Odisha, Assam, Gujarat, and Andhra Pradesh, it leverages **e-learning platforms, AI-powered chatbots, and mobile apps** to bridge knowledge gaps and enhance service delivery.
- **Single Simplified Pension Application Form:** Revolutionizes pension processing with end-to-end digitization through the integration of e-HRMS (Electronic Human Resource Management System) with Bhavishya (online pension sanction & tracking system).
- **Compendium of Pension Related Instructions, 2024:** Consolidates all updated rules, procedures, and guidelines related to pensions.

Challenges to Good Governance in India: Corruption, lack of accountability, criminalization of politics, low level of awareness of rights and duties, ineffective implementation of laws etc.

Other Initiatives taken for Good Governance

- **Good governance index:** Assesses the status of governance in the states.
- **PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation):** Platform for monitoring government programs.
- **Mission Karmayogi:** Creating competent civil services.
- **Digital Public Infrastructure:** Improving access to basic government services.
- **Welfare Schemes** including Jal Jeevan Mission, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), Ayushman Bharat etc.

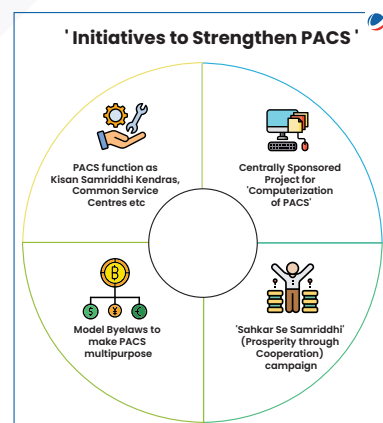
Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation inaugurated 10,000 newly established M-PACS

Recently, 10,000 newly established Multipurpose Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (M-PACS), along with dairy and fisheries cooperative societies were inaugurated.

- Union Government aims to establish **2 lakh new PACS** within the next 5 years.

About PACS

- **About:** Grass root level credit institution of the short-term co-operative credit structure.
- **Functions:** Deals with the rural (agricultural) borrowings, collection & repayments of loans, undertaking distribution & marketing functions etc.
 - ⊖ Serves as the final link between the ultimate borrowers and the higher financing agencies (Scheduled Commercial Banks, NABARD etc.).
- **Membership:** Individual farmers, artisans, and members of other weaker sections of the society as shareholder.
- **Regulation:** Registered under **Cooperative Societies Act**, and administered by concerned State Registrar of Cooperative Societies (RCS).
 - ⊖ They are **outside purview of Banking Regulation Act, 1949** and are not directly regulated by RBI.
- **Significance:** Promotes **financial inclusion; building block of the cooperative banking system; brings farmer communities closer to institutional credit**, inputs, market, value addition, etc.



Challenges faced

- **Organizational weaknesses** in terms of **inadequate geographical coverage** and weaker credit units.
- **Inadequate financial resources** in relation to short & medium-term credit needs of rural economy.
- **Outstanding large over-dues (NPAs)** of more than 40% of demand and credit outstanding.
- **Others:** Absence of well-trained human resources, lack of digital infrastructure, etc.

Prime Minister lays foundation stone of Ken-Betwa River Linking National Project

Recently, Prime Minister laid foundation stone of Ken-Betwa Linking Project (KBLP), country's first river interlinking project under the National Perspective Plan, in Khajuraho (Madhya Pradesh).

- **National Perspective Plan (NPP)** was prepared by the then Union Ministry of Irrigation (now Ministry of Jal Shakti) in August 1980.
- Under NPP, **National Water Development Agency (NWDA)** has identified 30 links (16 under Peninsular Component & 14 under Himalayan Component) for Feasibility Reports.

Significance of River Interlinking

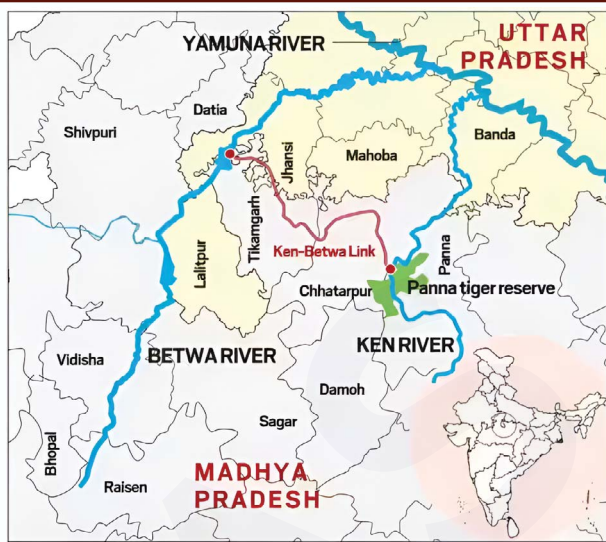
- **Irrigation Facility:** NPP aims to benefit 35 million hectares of irrigation.
- **Hydro power Generation:** Can potentially help in generation of ~34000 MW of hydropower.
- **Water Security:** Increasing water availability for drinking and industrial purposes.
- **Inland waterways:** Used as waterways for navigation.
- **Others:** Flood and drought management, development of **agro-based industries, employment generation** in construction phase and afterwards, development of **tourism, etc.**

Concerns with River Interlinking

- **Environmental Impact:** May lead to disturbances in complex nature cycles that can have far-reaching adverse impact on monsoon and biodiversity.
- **Social Cost:** e.g., Polavaram Link project, part of the interlinking of Mahanadi-Godavari-Krishna-Pennar-Cauvery-Vaigai rivers, has affected around 1 lakh families, with 80% being tribals.
- **Others:** State water disputes, international disputes particularly with Himalayan Rivers, etc.

About KBLP

- Envisages transfer of water from Ken to the Betwa River through the construction of the **Daudhan Dam** and the canal linking the rivers.
- Phase I of KBLP involves construction of **Daudhan dam complex** and subsidiary units such as Low-level Tunnel, **Ken-Betwa Link canal**, and **powerhouses**.
- Phase II of project involves construction of **Lower Orr dam, Bina Complex project, and Kotha Barrage**.



Also in News



National Consumer Day

Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution launches some key initiatives on **National Consumer Day 2024**.

- Every year, **National Consumer Day** is celebrated on 24th December commemorating the receipt of Presidential assent for Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

Key Initiatives Launched

- **'Jago Grahak Jago App,' 'Jagruti App,' and 'Jagruti Dashboard'** to protect Consumers from Dark Patterns.
- **National Legal Metrology e-Mapp**, which enhances transparency, efficiency, and accountability in governance and operations.
- **Revamped National Consumer Helpline Portal (NCH 2.0)** offers faster grievance resolution, multilingual support, and AI-powered features.



Kilauea Volcano

Recently, **Kilauea volcano** erupted on **Hawaii's Big Island**.

- 99% of gas molecules emitted during a volcanic eruption are **Water Vapor (H₂O), Carbon Dioxide (CO₂), and Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂)**.
- Remaining 1% is comprised of small amounts of hydrogen sulfide, carbon monoxide, hydrogen chloride, hydrogen fluoride etc.

About Kilauea volcano

- **About:** Among one of world's most active volcanoes.
- **Location:** Southeastern part of the island of Hawaii, Hawaii state, U.S.
- **Features:**
 - ⊖ The **Volcano's summit** has collapsed to form a **caldera**, a broad shallow depression.
 - ⊖ Its **slopes merge with those of the nearby volcano Mauna Loa** (present in Hawaii's Volcanoes national park).



Excess Grant

Recently, Public Accounts Committee (PAC) flagged excess spending by four ministries in the Union Government.

About Excess Grant

- **Article 115 of the Indian Constitution** provides for supplementary, additional, or excess grants.
- **Excess grants:** The President shall cause to be laid before both Houses of Parliament a demand if **any money has been spent** on any service during a financial year **in excess of the amount granted for that service and for that year**.



1924 Belgaum Congress Session

Centenary of 1924 Belgaum Congress Session is being celebrated in Belagavi (earlier Belgaum), Karnataka on December 26-27.

About 1924 Belgaum Congress session

- It was 39th Session of the Indian National Congress and was the only session presided over by Mahatma Gandhi.
- **Significance**
 - ⊕ Discussed his dream of 'Swaraj' and 'Sarvodaya'.
 - ⊕ Revamped organisational structure and functioning of congress with 90% fee cut, focusing on social change, etc.
 - ⊕ Held separate conferences against untouchability.
 - ⊕ Strong resolutions were passed to stress upon Hindu-Muslim unity, paid social service, and making khadi spinning mandatory.



Landslide Lake

Recently, some experts have raised concerns over nondescript pond, created by landslide, growing into a massive lake in less than a year in the Kumaon-Himalaya range in Uttarakhand.

About Landslide Dam Lake

- **Formation:** Created as a result of a broad range of mass movements in different geomorphological settings.
- **Process**
 - ⊕ **Formation of dam:** Due to result of earth slumps & slides, mudflows, rock and debris avalanches in areas where narrow river valleys are bordered by steep and rugged mountain slopes.
 - ⊕ **Formation of lake:** Behind the dam as a result of the continuous inflow of water from the river.
- **Associated phenomenon:** Landslide dam outburst floods (LDOF).



Cholera

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), Yemen is the most affected country globally by cholera.

About Cholera

- Cholera is an acute diarrheal infection caused by consuming food or water contaminated with the bacterium *Vibrio cholerae*.
- Most people with cholera have no or mild symptoms and can be treated with oral rehydration solution.
 - ⊕ It can be fatal if treatment is not quickly accessible.
- Population's access to safe Water, Sanitation And Hygiene (WASH) is essential to prevent cholera.
- The Oral Cholera Vaccine (OCV) can help prevent and control cholera.



Communist Party of India

December 26, 2024 marks the Communist Party of India's (CPI) its 100th foundation day.

About CPI

- **Foundation:** Kanpur (then Cawnpore) Conference of December 1925 marked the foundation of CPI.
 - ⊕ Conference met under the presidency of Singaravelu Chettier.
- **Reasons for formation:** Growing dissatisfaction with British imperial rule and global ideological shift post-Russian Revolution of 1917.
- **Prominent leaders:** M.N. Roy, Abani Mukherji, etc.
- **Key Contributions in freedom struggle**
 - ⊕ M.N. Roy was the first to propose the idea of a constituent assembly to draft Constitution of free India in 1934.
 - ⊕ Played instrumental role in organizing worker's and peasant's movements and organizations such as All India Kisan Sabha, etc.



United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF)

Recently, UN Secretary General paid tribute to Brigadier Amitabh Jha, who was serving with United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) at Golan Heights.

About UNDOF

- **Headquarters:** Camp Faouar (Syrian side of the Golan Heights).
- **Genesis:** Established by UN Security Council (UNSC) resolution 350 (1974), following the 1974 Disengagement of Forces Agreement between Israel and Syria.
- **Mandate:** Maintain the ceasefire and supervise the area of separation – a demilitarized buffer zone – as well as the area of limitation – where Israeli and Syrian troops are restricted – in the Golan.
 - ⊕ Mandate is renewed every 6 months by UNSC and has been renewed till June 2025.
- India is third largest military contributor to UNDOF.



Kaveri Engine

Kaveri engine, developed by Gas Turbine Research Establishment under DRDO, has been cleared for inflight testing, marking a major step in India's aerospace self-reliance.

About Kaveri Engine project

- **Initiation:** The Kaveri engine project began in the late 1980s to power the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas.
 - ⊕ Later, DRDO focused on developing a dry version of the Kaveri engine for UAV applications.
- **Current Capability:** The dry Kaveri engine produces 49-51 kN of thrust, suitable for UAVs like the Ghatik stealth UCAV.
- **Significance:** Marks a strategic achievement, enhancing India's self-reliance in aero-engine technology.



Archaea

Study of archaea have given scientists clues to survival strategies of microorganisms by adapting to harsh conditions with the help of their Toxin-Antitoxin (TA) systems.

- TA Systems are found in many bacteria and archaea, and are usually composed of a toxin that inhibits an essential cellular process and an antitoxin that counteracts its cognate toxin.

About Archaea

- Archaea are organisms consisting of a single cell without a nucleus.
- Archaea form one of the three domains of life; the others are bacteria and eukaryotes.
- They inhabit a wide range of habitats, including extreme environments such as near rift vents in deep sea or heat springs.



AHMEDABAD



BENGALURU



BHOPAL



CHANDIGARH



DELHI



GUWAHATI



HYDERABAD



JAIPUR



JODHPUR



LUCKNOW



PRAYAGRAJ



PUNE



RANCHI