



**April-04**

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ The 5th India Maize Summit 2018 was held at FICCI in New Delhi to harness the potential of maize and technological innovations. The purpose of the summit is to promote producer aggregation and to create linkages with farmers by exploring opportunities in agri-marketing.

## **National**

### **SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act**

- ❖ In an attempt to curb the misuse of SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities Act, 1989) and protect honest public servants Supreme Court gave the following verdict,
  - An arrest is not mandatory under the SC/ST Act, and the automatic arrest has been scrapped.
  - The court further directed that public servants can only be arrested with the written permission of their appointing authority.
  - This was to protect public servants and private employees from arbitrary arrests under the Atrocities Act.
  - Supreme Court also ruled that before arresting a public servant under the Act, a preliminary investigation by an officer not below the rank of deputy superintendent is a must.
- ❖ Union law ministry is preparing to file a review petition against the Supreme Court's ruling on the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 that puts a stop to immediate arrests in complaints filed under its provisions.
- ❖ Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act was enacted in the year 1989.

### **SC & ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act**

- ❖ It is a comprehensive law which not only defines atrocities against SCs and STs but also makes several rules, regulations etc. for proper protection of these vulnerable classes.
- ❖ One of the provisions of the law states that public servant (non SC/ST) neglecting his duties related to SCs/STs will be punished with imprisonment for a term of 6 months to 1 year.



- ❖ Ministry of Social Justice is the nodal ministry to enforce the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

### **Mercer's Quality of Living Ranking 2018**

- ❖ According to the Mercer's 20th Quality of Living Ranking 2018, Hyderabad and Pune have been jointly ranked at 142, making the best Indian cities to live in among the list of 450 cities around the world.
- ❖ They were closely followed by Bengaluru (149), Chennai (151), Mumbai, (154), Kolkata (160), with New Delhi (162) taking the last spot.
- ❖ Vienna has taken the top spot for the ninth consecutive year. Zurich took the second spot, while Auckland and Munich jointly hold the third place.
- ❖ In the fifth spot was Vancouver, which is the highest-ranked city in North America.
- ❖ Singapore (25) and Montevideo (77) are the top cities in Asia and Latin America, respectively.
- ❖ This year, Mercer has provided a separate ranking on city sanitation, which analyzed waste removal and sewage infrastructure, levels of infectious diseases, air pollution, water availability and quality of the cities.
- ❖ Honolulu topped the city sanitation ranking, followed by Helsinki and Ottawa that took the second place.
- ❖ The capital of Bangladesh, Dhaka (230) and capital of Haiti, Port au Prince (231) took the bottom spot on the ranking.
- ❖ Among Indian cities, Bengaluru took the top spot as it was ranked 194, closely followed by Chennai (199) and Pune (206).
- ❖ Kolkata and New Delhi ranked among the bottom five cities worldwide and were placed at 227 and 228, respectively.

### **Constitutional Validity of Polygamy and Nikah-Halala**

- ❖ The Supreme Court has agreed to examine the constitutional validity of the prevalent practices of polygamy and 'nikah halala' among Muslims and sought responses from the Centre and the Law Commission.
- ❖ Seven months after declaring triple talaq unconstitutional, the SC has decided to set up a Constitution bench to rule on the Muslim practices of polygamy and nikah halala.



- ❖ A PIL has been filed in the Supreme Court challenging the constitutional validity of practice of polygamy and Nikah-Halala under Muslim Personal law.
- ❖ The PIL claims that the provisions of Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Act, 1937 in so far as it recognizes and validates the “sinful form” of Nikah-Halala and polygamy.
- ❖ It grossly injures the fundamental rights of married Muslim women and offends Article 14 (Right to Equality), Article 15 (Prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth) and Article 21 (Right to Life) of the Constitution of India for being against public order, morality and health.

### Polygamy and Nikah-Halala

- ❖ A Muslim husband is allowed to have more than one wife.
- ❖ Under Nikah-Halala, if a Muslim woman after being divorced by her husband three times at different instances wants to go back to him, then she has to marry another person and then divorce the second husband to get re-married to her first husband.

### **A relook on polygamy**

- The SC considered the petitioners' submission based on its 2017 judgment where it had kept open the issue of polygamy and 'nikah halala' while quashing triple talaq

- The petitioners contended that IPC provisions apply to all Indian citizens, and that 'nikah-halala' is rape under IPC Section 375, while polygamy among Muslims is an offence under Section 494



- The petition also pointed out that while Muslim law allows a man to have multiple wives by way of polygamy, the same permission is not extended to Muslim women

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