TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Commonwealth countries at the end of Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in London have adopted Commonwealth Cyber Declaration to take action on cybersecurity by 2020. The declaration is considered as world's largest and most geographically diverse inter-governmental commitment on cybersecurity cooperation.

- ❖ Scientists have discovered a giant mosquito with a wingspan of 11.15 centimetres in China's Sichuan province. The mosquito belongs to the world's largest mosquito species Holorusiamikado. This mosquito species was first found in Japan and normally have wing span of about eight centimetres. The mosquito mainly feeds on nectar and not on blood.

NATIONAL

Death penalty for child rapists

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved promulgation of Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance to provide death penalty for rapists of girls below 12 years.

WHAT'S IN STORE FOR INNOCENCE KILLERS

Key provisions in the Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance

Rape of a girl under 12 years: 20 years in jail or life imprisonment or death

Gang-rape of a girl under 12 years: Imprisonment for life or death

Rape of a girl under 16 years: Minimum punishment increased from 10 to 20 years, extendable to imprisonment for life

Gang-rape of a girl under 16 years: Imprisonment for life

Rape of women: Minimum punishment raised from imprisonment of 7 years to 10 years, extendable to life

- Dedicated manpower for investigation of rape cases
- Probe and trial each to be completed in two months
- No anticipatory bail for accused in rape or gang-rape of a girl under 16 years

STATE OF CRIME

On avg, 4 women report rape every hour in India, according to national crime statistics

ONLY FOR RAPE CASES

New fast track courts, new posts of public prosecutors, special forensic kits for hospitals, police stations, special forensic labs in each state/UTs

- ❖ The ordinance amends Indian Penal Code (IPC), Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act 2012 and Indian Evidence Act of 1872.

- This Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance also has also provision for maintaining national database of rapes and profile of sexual offenders by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

- This data will be regularly shared with States/UTs for monitoring, tracking and investigation of rape cases by police.
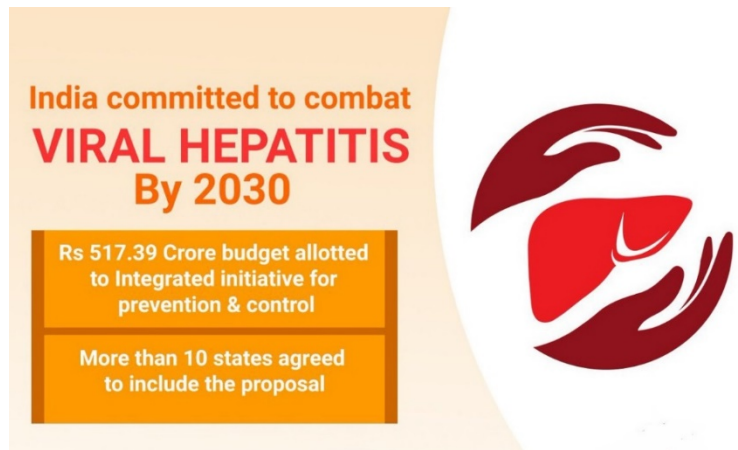
Justice Rajesh Bindal committee Recommendations

- The Committee headed by Justice Rajesh Bindal has submitted its report on legal issues related to inter country removal & retention of children and its recommendations to the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

- The Committee has recommended that the Government may establish an 'Inter Country Parental Child Removal Disputes Resolution Authority' (ICPCRDRA).

- The authority
  - Will be chaired by retired High Court Judge and shall have members from Legal and Social sector background along with representatives from key Ministries.
  - Has been envisaged to provide a one window solution in cases of inter country removal and retention of Children which is arising because of parental issues.

- Along with its recommendation, The Committee has also submitted draft legislation - International Child Abduction bill to the Government.

- Currently, there is no specific legislation in India addressing issues related to abduction of children from and into India because of parental issues in abroad.

Inter country child abduction- Hague Convention

- Law Commission of India (LCI) had prepared draft legislation titled "The Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction Bill, 2016 to address the issue and support India's accession to Hague Convention on Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction 1980.

- 94 states are party to Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction 1980

- India is not signatory to it (as country has to have domestic law in place before it can become signatory).

- The convention is applicable to any child, up to age of 16 years who is habitual resident of any of member states.

Integrated Initiative for Prevention & Control of Viral Hepatitis

❖ The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has decided to roll out 'Integrated initiative for prevention & control of viral hepatitis' under National Health Mission (NHM) for prevention and control of viral hepatitis.

❖ Hepatitis means inflammation of the liver. Hepatitis is most often caused by a virus and There are 5 types of viral Hepatitis in Common. Those are Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, and Hepatitis C, Hepatitis D, Hepatitis E.

India committed to combat VIRAL HEPATITIS By 2030

Rs 517.39 Crore budget allotted to Integrated initiative for prevention & control

More than 10 states agreed to include the proposal

❖ Viral hepatitis is recognised as public health problem worldwide. India is committed to ending it by 2030.

Protected Area Permit regime

❖ Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has relaxed six-decade-old protected area permit (PAP) regime to allow foreign tourists to access border areas of Nagaland, Mizoram and Manipur for five years with effect from April 1, 2018 with protected area permit (PAP).

❖ However, citizens from Pakistan, China and Afghanistan, will remain to be banned from all PAP areas, including Nagaland, Mizoram and Manipur.

❖ Under Foreigners (Protected Areas) Order, 1958, all areas falling between Inner line and International Border of some states have been declared as protected areas.

❖ The protected areas currently include whole of Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Sikkim, besides parts of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan and Jammu and Kashmir.

❖ Some parts of Sikkim fall under protected area regime while others under restricted area regime.

ENVIRONMENT

Diu Smart City

❖ Diu Smart City has become the first city in India to run on 100% renewable energy during daytime.

❖ With this, it has set new benchmark for other cities to become clean and green.

❖ Diu was importing 73% of its power from Gujarat until last year.

❖ With these renewable energy initiatives, the Diu has been saving about 13,000 tonnes of carbon emissions every year.

STATES

GI tag to Adilabad dokra and Warangal Dhurries

❖ Chennai based Geographical Indication Registry has awarded Geographical Indication (GI) Tag to two craft forms from Telangana viz. Adilabad Dokra and Warangal Dhurries.

❖ Adilabad Dokra is form of ancient bell metal craft practiced by Woj community native to Adilabad district of Telangana. They use ancient casting technique called cire perdue - lost wax casting technique.

❖ Warangal Dhurries is popular traditional thick cotton rug in which weavers create beautiful patterns and dye them using vegetable colours, which are washed in flowing water after the printing process.

Prototype Intelligent Traffic Management Solution

❖ Bengaluru Smart City is testing prototype of an intelligent traffic management solution in collaboration with the Electronics City Township Authority (ELCITA) to improve traffic management in the city.

❖ It aims to provide traffic information of Bengaluru to traffic management officials and help improve management of commuter traffic.

- ❖ Intelligent Traffic Management Solution involves capturing video streams from several cameras and processing them using artificial intelligence.

- ❖ This will help in automation of traffic management tasks such as vehicle detection, traffic density estimation and control of traffic lights for real - time performance.

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