



May - 13

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Vice President of India, released a book titled “The Struggle for Police Reforms in India: Ruler’s Police to People’s Police” authored by a former IPS officer, Prakash Singh.

TAMIL NADU

Property tax Increase

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government, which increased the property tax in all urban local bodies last month, has decided to increase it annually.
- ❖ The New bill require the municipal councils to take action to enhance the property tax annually.
- ❖ The new provision the Bill seeks to include in the Chennai City Municipal Corporation Act, 1919; the Tamil Nadu District Municipalities Act, 1920; the Madurai City Municipal Corporation Act, 1971; and the Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation Act, 1981.

Tamil Nadu Urban Local Bodies Act - 1998

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government tabled a Bill in the Assembly that seeks to revive the Tamil Nadu Urban Local Bodies Act, 1998.
- ❖ It is a common Act for all urban local bodies that has remained suspended for over 20 years.
- ❖ On revival of this Act, all Corporation laws, including the Tamil Nadu District Municipalities Act, 1920 and the Tamil Nadu Urban Local Bodies (Suspension of Operation) Act, 2000 would stand repealed.

Appointment of V-C for medical varsity

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government introduced a Bill in the Assembly to empower itself to appoint the Vice-Chancellor of Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University.
- ❖ The Gujarat University Act, 1949, and the Telangana (Andhra Pradesh) Universities Act, 1991, have empowered the respective State governments to appoint the V-Cs.
- ❖ At present, the Governor is also the Chancellor of the State universities,



- ❖ The Governor makes the appointment of V-Cs from a panel of three names recommended by a selection committee.

NATIONAL

Kalam Website

- ❖ Lok Sabha Speaker, Om Birla has launched the one-of-its-kind literary initiative Kalam website of the Prabha Khaitan Foundation (PKF) to support and encourage vernacular literature.
- ❖ The aim of Kalam is to popularize Hindi literature and provide a platform for veteran and young authors and poets to talk about their writings and love for vernacular literature.

Supreme Court on sedition law 124A

Evolution of the law

Sedition is a cognisable, non-bailable and non-compoundable offence under Section 124A of Indian Penal Code

BEFORE INDEPENDENCE

1870: The section on sedition is introduced by the British to the IPC

The British rulers used the law to muzzle demands for freedom. For instance, Bal Gangadhar Tilak was the first person to be convicted of sedition in colonial India.

AFTER INDEPENDENCE

1948: In discussions, Indian leaders agree to drop "sedition" from the Constitution

1949: "Sedition" is no longer part of the Indian Constitution adopted on November 26 this year. However, Section 124A remains in the IPC

1951: Nehru govt brings in first amendment under Article 19(1)(a), and puts in "reasonable restrictions" on the right to free speech

1974: Indira Gandhi govt makes Section 124A a cognisable offence that authorises police to make arrests without a warrant

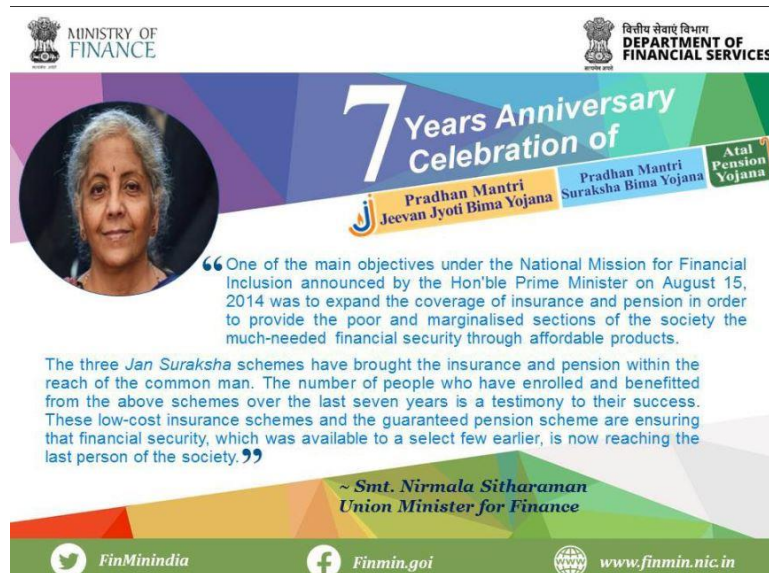
PRESENTLY

2019 data shows that sedition cases rose by 25% and arrests by 41% over the previous year. However, only 3% of cases led to convictions

- ❖ The Supreme Court suspended pending criminal trials and court proceedings under Section 124A (sedition) of the Indian Penal Code.
- ❖ It was argued in court that about 13,000 people were already in jail under the sedition provision.
- ❖ Section 124A says a person commits the crime of sedition, if he/she brings or attempts to bring in hatred or contempt, or excites or attempts to excite disaffection towards, the government established by law in India.

- ❖ It can be by words, either spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation, or otherwise.
- ❖ It prescribes the maximum punishment of life imprisonment.
- ❖ The law on sedition was not there in the original IPC, which came into force in 1862.
- ❖ It was added to the Code in 1870 and its ambit was expanded in 1898 with a view to crush the freedom movement.

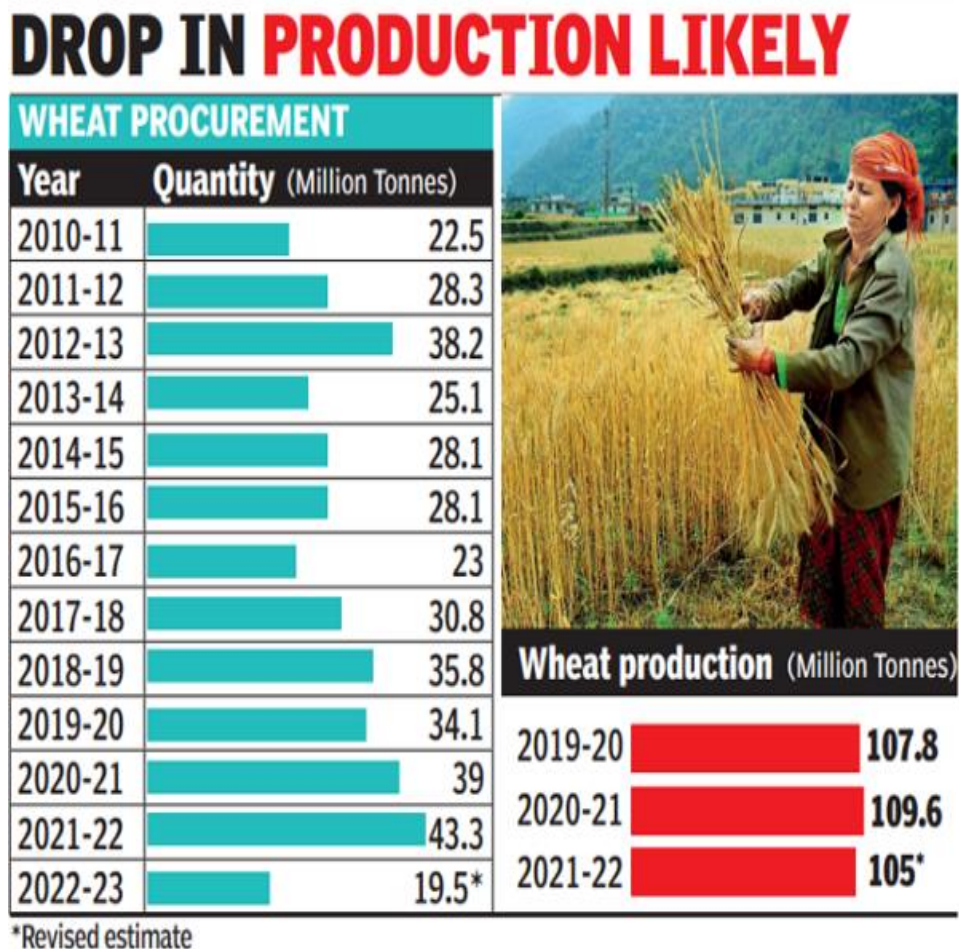
7 years of PMJJBY, PMSBY, and APY



- ❖ Social security schemes Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) and Atal Pension Yojana (APY) have completed seven years of their launch.
- ❖ These three schemes were launched by Prime Minister on May 9, 2015 in Kolkata.
- ❖ PMJJBY is a life insurance scheme.
- ❖ It offers coverage for death due to any reason.
- ❖ Any individual in the age group of 18-50 years having a savings bank or a post office account are eligible to enrol under the scheme.
- ❖ PMSBY is an accidental insurance scheme.
- ❖ It offers coverage for death or disability due to accident.
- ❖ Any individual in the age group of 18-70 years having a savings bank or a post office account is eligible to enrol under the scheme.

- ❖ APY is an initiative of the Government to provide financial security for the people in the unorganized sector.
- ❖ All bank account holders in the age group of 18 to 40 years are eligible.
- ❖ The contributions to APY differ, based on pension amount chosen.

15-year low Wheat Procurement



- ❖ Wheat procurement by government agencies is set to dip to a 15-year low in the current marketing season, from an all-time high scale last year.
- ❖ It is expected that 18.5 million tonnes (mt) of wheat will be procured this time by government agencies.
- ❖ This will be the lowest since the 11.1 mt bought in 2007-08.
- ❖ Rise in export demand mainly fuelled by Russia – Ukraine war.
- ❖ The war has led to skyrocketing prices and a further increase in demand for Indian grain.



- ❖ Farmers find it more profitable to export now.
- ❖ Lower production due to the sudden spike in temperatures from the second half of March when the crop was in the grain-filling stage, with the kernels still accumulating starch, protein and other dry matter, has taken a toll on yields.

INTERNATIONAL

Hong Kong's Next Leader

- ❖ John Lee Ka-chiu, a former security chief has recently been elected as the next leader of Hong Kong.
- ❖ This move is being widely regarded as the Chinese government's move to tighten its grip on the city.
- ❖ Carrie Lam is being replaced by John Lee.
- ❖ The Hong Kong National Party was banned under Lee's watch.
- ❖ It was the first party that supported independence for Hong Kong after the British handed the region to China in the year 1997.
- ❖ This party was banned in the year 2018.

Arabian Travel Market



**arabian
travel market[®]**

HYBRID

Dubai: 9 - 12 May 2022

Virtual: 17 - 18 May 2022

- ❖ The Ministry of Tourism, is going to participate in the Arabian Travel Market (ATM), Dubai -2022 as part of its Incredible India brand line.



- ❖ It also aims to market India as a “Must See, Must Visit” tourist destination.

ECONOMY

5.58 Bn transactions in UPI

- ❖ Unified Payments Interface (UPI), India’s flagship digital payments platform, has recorded 5.58 billion(bn) transactions worth Rs 9.83 trillion in April 2022.
- ❖ This is the highest ever number of transactions recorded by UPI.
- ❖ Compared to April 2021, the transaction volume increased by 111% and the transaction value increased by nearly 100%.

ON THE RISE

■ Value (trillion) ■ Volume (billion)

