

November - 19

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra was launched across the country to promote the Centre's welfare schemes.
- ❖ The 6th High-Level Meeting of the India-OPEC Energy Dialogue took place at the OPEC Secretariat in Vienna, Austria.
- ❖ A parliamentary committee recommended that the people accused of economic offences should not be handcuffed.
 - It also recommends that Clause 43(3) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (2023) may be suitably amended to delete the words 'economic offences' from the clause.
- ❖ Ashok Leyland delivers India's first batch of 12 liquefied natural gas-powered transport truck named AVTR 1922.
- ❖ Over 15 products including Berinag tea, Lal chawal, Buransh juice and Almora Lakhori mirchis from Uttarakhand have been given the coveted GI tag by the Geographical Indications Registry.
- ❖ Virender Sehwag (IND), Diana Edulji (IND) and Aravinda de Silva (SL) have been inducted into the ICC's Hall of Fame.
 - Edulji became the first Indian woman cricketer to receive this honour.
- ❖ Pablo Picasso's famous painting "Femme à la montre" ("Woman with a Watch") sold for a record-breaking \$139 million at a Sotheby's auction in New York.
- ❖ Former U.K. Prime Minister David Cameron has been appointed as new Foreign Secretary.
- ❖ Indian bowler Mohammed Shami become the first Indian bowler to pick seven wickets in a One Day International (ODI).

NATIONAL

Parliamentary Panel reports on the Indian Criminal Law bills

- ❖ Reports on the three bills which seek to replace the criminal and procedural laws were submitted to the Rajya Sabha Chairman.
- ❖ The three new criminal codes — Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) Bill, 2023, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) Bill, 2023 and Bharatiya Sakshya (BS) Bill, 2023 — will replace the Indian Penal Code, 1860, Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 respectively.

- ❖ The Bills were introduced on August 11 in Parliament and were sent to the parliamentary standing committee on Home Affairs for examination.
- ❖ The BNS Bill, 2023 has increased the number of crimes which can attract the death penalty from 11 to 15, according to a parliamentary panel report.
- ❖ Section 353 of the Indian Penal Code provides for a maximum of two years of prison term and the committee may seek to slash it to one year.
- ❖ It has suggested a minimum imprisonment of six months for individuals selling adulterated food or drinks, coupled with a minimum fine of Rs 25,000.



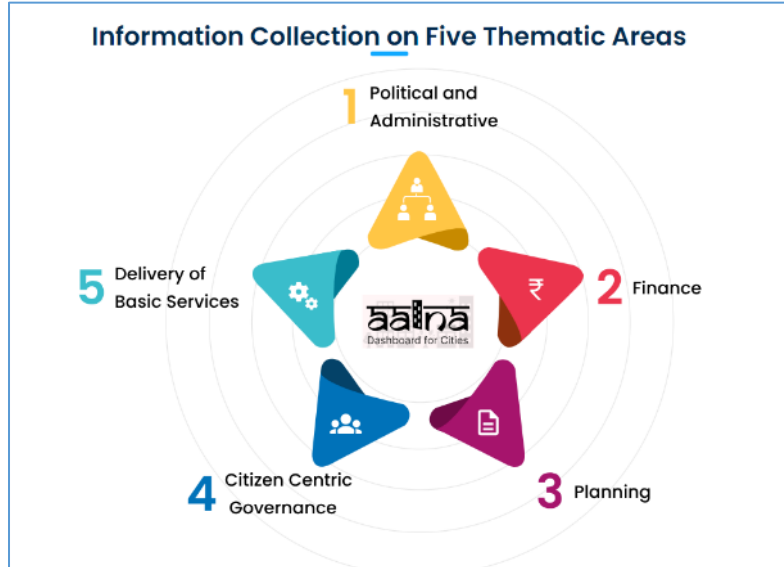
Existing Law	To Be Replaced By	Key Changes
Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860	Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Bill, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It will have 356 sections (instead of 511 sections in IPC)• 175 sections have been amended• 8 sections have been added, and 22 sections have been repealed
Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1973	Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It will have 533 sections (instead of 478 sections in CrPC)• 160 sections have been changed• 9 sections have been added, and 9 sections have been repealed
Indian Evidence Act, 1872	Bharatiya Sakshya Bill, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It will have 170 sections (instead of 167 sections in IEA)• 23 sections have been changed• 1 section has been added, and 5 sections have been repealed



AAINA Dashboard for Cities

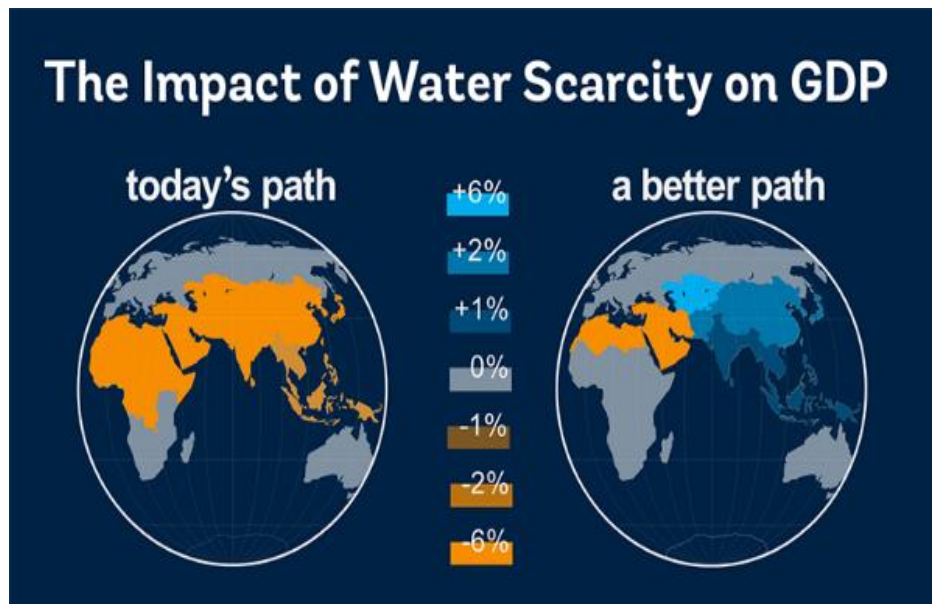
- ❖ The 'AAINA Dashboard for Cities' portal www.aaina.gov.in has been made live by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).
- ❖ Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) across the country can submit their key data on a regular basis, through a simple data entry form on the portal.

- ❖ It aims to create a robust database of the key performance metrics of Urban Local Bodies.
- ❖ It could be accessed by all stakeholders, and subsequently would open for public view once it gets populated.



INTERNATIONAL

Climate change and water scarcity



- ❖ Nearly 350 million children are struggling with “high or extremely high-water scarcity” in South Asia.

- ❖ This is the highest number among all regions in the world.
- ❖ Severe water scarcity has also worsened due to the impacts of climate change.
- ❖ The eight-nation region – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka – is home to more than one-quarter of the world's children.
- ❖ But it has only four per cent of global renewable water.
- ❖ Last year, 45 million children lacked access to basic drinking water services in South Asia.
- ❖ South Asia, was followed by Eastern and Southern Africa and West and Central Africa where 130 million and 102 million children, respectively, are at risk from severe water scarcity.

Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA)



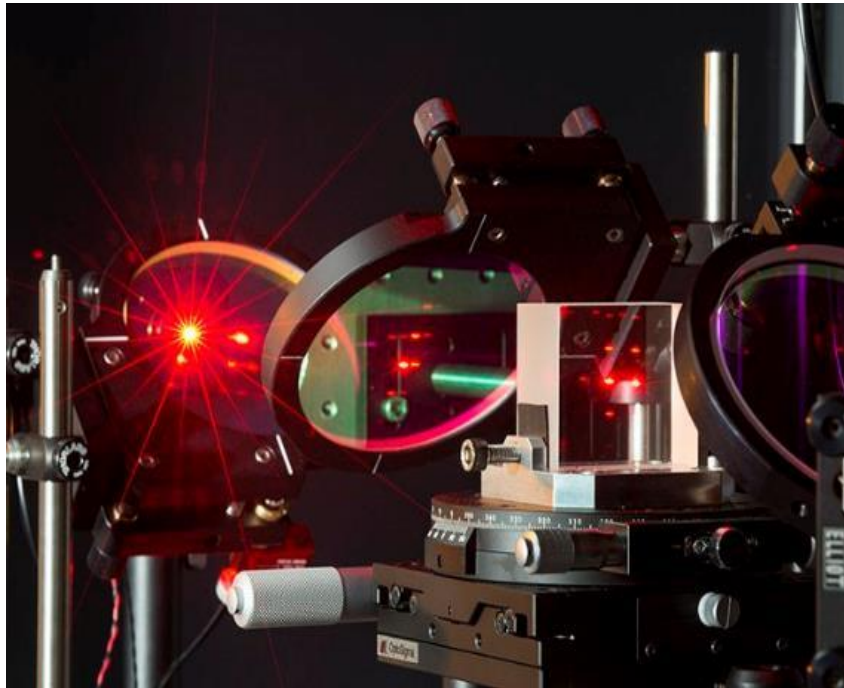
- ❖ India stressed that building networks and partnerships like the IPMDA would be instrumental in ensuring the security and stability of the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
- ❖ The IPMDA was introduced by the Quad group (consisting of India, Australia, Japan, and the US) at the Tokyo summit, 2022.
- ❖ It aims to monitor "dark shipping" and create a more comprehensive and precise real-time maritime overview of partner nations' waters.
- ❖ It focuses on integrating the Pacific Islands, Southeast Asia, and the Indian Ocean region (IOR) in the Indo-Pacific.

- ❖ Dark shipping is a term used to describe a vessel operating with its Automatic Identification System (AIS) turned off.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Vulcan 20-20 Project

- ❖ The UK is set to build the world's most powerful laser, which is said to be a "million, billion, billion" times brighter than the sun.
- ❖ The device known as the Vulcan 20-20, is being built at the Science and Technology Facilities Council, England.
- ❖ It will generate a main laser beam with an energy output of 20 Petawatts (PW) alongside eight high-energy beams with an output of up to 20 Kilojoules (KJ).









ENVIRONMENT

IQAir's AQI Data 2023

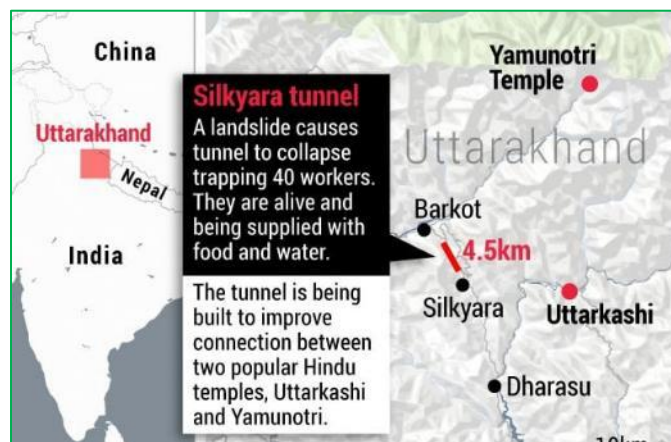
- ❖ This ranking released by Swiss air purifier company, IQAir.
- ❖ Delhi was the most polluted city in the world with an air quality index (AQI) of 287.
- ❖ It is followed by Lahore, Pakistan, at 195.

- ❖ Mumbai, at 153, and Kolkata, 166, were also present among the top 10 of the most polluted cities.
- ❖ The IQAir's AQI measures data from 109 countries, and readings change hourly.
- ❖ Air pollution in parts of Delhi was 30 times the safe limits prescribed by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

	US AQI Level	PM2.5 (µg/m³)	Health Recommendation (for 24 hour exposure)
	Good 0-50	0-12.0	Air quality is satisfactory and poses little or no risk.
	Moderate 51-100	12.1-35.4	Sensitive individuals should avoid outdoor activity as they may experience respiratory symptoms.
	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups 101-150	35.5-55.4	General public and sensitive individuals in particular are at risk to experience irritation and respiratory problems.
	Unhealthy 151-200	55.5-150.4	Increased likelihood of adverse effects and aggravation to the heart and lungs among general public.
	Very Unhealthy 201-300	150.5-250.4	General public will be noticeably affected. Sensitive groups should restrict outdoor activities.
	Hazardous 301+	250.5+	General public at high risk of experiencing strong irritations and adverse health effects. Should avoid outdoor activities.

STATES

Uttarkashi Tunnel Collapse



- ❖ An under-construction tunnel on the Brahmakhal - Yamunotri National Highway in Uttarkashi district partially collapsed.

- ❖ The tunnel is meant to connect Silkyara to Dandalgaon in Uttarakhand's Uttarkashi.
- ❖ It is being built under the Char Dham Road Project and aims to reduce the journey from Uttarkashi to Yamunotri Dham by 26 kilometres.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

The Infosys Prize 2023



- ❖ Infosys Science Foundation (ISF) announced the winners of the Infosys Prize 2023.
- ❖ The winners of Infosys Prize are given in six categories –
 - Engineering and Computer Science - Sachchida Nand Tripathi, IIT-Kanpur,
 - Humanities - Jahnvi Phalkey, founding director, Science Gallery Bengaluru
 - Life Sciences - Arun Kumar Shukla, Professor, IIT-Kanpur
 - Mathematical Sciences - Bhargav Bhatt
 - Physical Sciences - Mukund Thattai, NCBS, Bengaluru
 - Social Sciences - Karuna Mantena, Columbia University.

MISCELLANEOUS

Airgun Surrender Abhiyan initiative

- ❖ The Airgun Surrender Abhiyan initiative of Arunachal Pradesh Government has been selected as India's best success story on wildlife conservation to present in the UNESCO's International Conference on Biosphere Reserves.

- ❖ The Airgun Surrender Abhiyan is an initiative of the Department of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of the state Government.
- ❖ Under the scheme people were invited to voluntarily surrender their Airguns and licensed guns to stop the use of these guns to kill birds and other wild animals.
- ❖ The programme was officially launched on March 17, 2021.



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