

# NEWS TODAY

## ELECTION COMMISSION'S (EC'S) eCAMPAIGNING MANDATE CLICKS WITH SOCIAL MEDIA COMPANIES

- Due to the **ongoing pandemic and associated health risks**, recently EC **banned physical rallies** for upcoming state elections till January 15 while **allowing virtual campaigns** through social media platforms.
  - > **With billions of users** on platforms like Facebook, Youtube etc., Social media has **emerged as an important medium of election campaigns**.

Benefits of eCampaigning	Some concerns raised
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Promote open discourse</b> through direct communication between leaders and constituents.</li> <li>○ <b>Connect beyond campaigning</b>, i.e. share information on everything from policy to personal life. The voters also get the option of direct interaction.</li> <li>○ <b>Benefit political newcomers</b> by providing a level playing field and a wider reach.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Monitoring of eCampaign</b> due to limited EC resources and diverse social media platform.</li> <li>○ Social media platforms <b>might favour a specific party and accord prominence to its content</b> over others through its algorithms.</li> <li>○ <b>Increased inequality risk</b> due to importance of money and connections to amplify reach on social media.</li> <li>○ <b>Other Concerns:</b> Monitoring proxies used by political parties; control hateful campaigns, fake news, users Privacy, etc.</li> </ul>

### Present Regulation in India

- **Candidates** need to **submit authentic social media account details** at the time of nomination.
- **Rules of pre-certification** of political advertisements are **applicable** on social media platforms.
- **Provisions of Model Code of Conduct** are applicable on **content posted**.
- **Inclusion of Social media expenditure in final expenditure** statement on advertisement.
- **Social Media Cell** set up by ECI for monitoring.

## CRIMINAL LAW REVAMP: UNION HOME MINISTER ASKS CJI, MPS, CMS FOR VIEWS

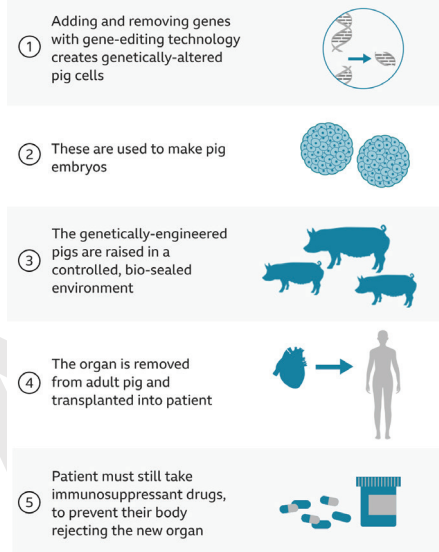
- Suggestions are sought **to amend Indian Penal Code (IPC) 1860, Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) 1974 and Indian Evidence Act (IEA) 1872**.
  - > Last year, **Ministry of Home Affairs set up a committee** to recommend reforms in criminal laws.
  - > Various committees including **Malimath, Menon have suggested reforms** in overall criminal justice system.
- Need for criminal law reform is felt so as **to adapt them in accordance with the contemporary needs** and aspirations of people, **to speed up trials and to improve investigative mechanisms**.
- Possible areas of reforms:**
  - > **Identifying rights of crime victims:** Victim and witness protection schemes, increased victim participation in criminal trials suggest increased role of victims in criminal justice system.
  - > **Construction of new offences and reworking** of the existing classification of offences: For instance, liability questions in offences need a fresh look.
  - > **New types of punishments** like community service orders, restitution orders, and other aspects of restorative and reformative justice could also be brought in this fold.
  - > **Principled sentencing:** At present judges have discretion to decide quantum and nature of sentence to be imposed and often sentence convicts differently for crimes of same nature and/or gravity.

- **IPC governs all criminal acts and the punishments** they ought to be charged with.
- **CrPC states how the police machinery is to function** as far as investigation and **procedure is to be followed by courts** during investigation and trial.
- **IEA governs admissibility of evidence** in courts of law.

# IN A FIRST, U.S. SURGEONS TRANSPLANT PIG HEART INTO HUMAN PATIENT

- Recently, doctors **transplanted the heart from a genetically modified pig to a patient**, a highly experimental surgery to use animal organs for life-saving transplants.
  - This is considered as a **breakthrough surgery to solve the organ shortage crisis**.
- Experts have been **turning to xenotransplantation to bridge the organ shortage gap**.
  - Xenotransplantation involves** the transplantation, implantation, or **infusion into a human recipient of live cells, tissues, or organs from a nonhuman animal source**.
  - Pigs are increasingly being used as their organs are anatomically similar to those of humans** and are more tuned for genetic engineering.
- Concerns raised**
  - Medical implications:** Even well-matched human donor organs can be rejected after they are transplanted - and with animal organs the danger is likely to be higher.
  - Animal rights:** Many animal rights groups oppose modifying genes of animals for such transplants.
  - Religion:** Some faiths have strict rules on animals, making such transplants difficult for patients.
  - Ethical issues:** Difficulties of informed consent, Clinical trials over humans as the technology is still emerging etc.

## Genetically engineering pigs as organ donors



# WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM (WEF) RELEASED GLOBAL RISKS REPORT 2022

- Report, published annually, is based on Global Risks Perception Survey and **highlights key risks emanating across five categories:** Economic, Environmental, Geopolitical, Societal, and Technological.
- Key findings**
  - Vaccine inequality and resultant uneven economic recovery risk** has compounded social fractures and geopolitical tensions.
    - E.g. Poorest 52 countries with 20% world population have only 6% vaccination.
  - Economic Stagnation:** By 2024, developing economies (excluding China) will have fallen by 5.5% below their pre-pandemic expected GDP growth.
  - Growing dependence on digital systems** with increasing cybersecurity threats.
    - E.g. 435% increase in ransomware in 2020.
  - Worsening of Climate change impact** with 200 million projected climate refugees by 2050.
  - Space as a new frontier of divergence** with 5 new government-developed space stations by 2030.
  - Increasing pressure to transition to net-zero economies** could have severe short-term impacts, such as putting millions of carbon-intense industry workers out of jobs or triggering societal and geopolitical tensions.
- Implications of risks**
  - Increasing polarisation and resentment** within societies on income disparities.
  - Drive for regional convergence** among countries at the expense of global integration.
  - Worker deficits and demand shocks** from constrained migration.

## Top 5 Global Risks

- Climate Action Failure,
- Extreme Weather,
- Biodiversity loss,
- Social Cohesion Erosion, and
- Livelihood crisis

## Top 5 India Risks

- Fracture of interstate relations,
- Debt crises in large economies,
- Widespread youth disillusionment,
- Failure of technology governance, and
- Digital inequality

# SUPREME COURT APPOINTED COMMITTEE PROPOSES TREE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY IN EVERY STATE

- Committee was constituted in March 2021** to recommend on various aspects including:
  - Assessing value of trees cut for development projects** on non-forest land.
  - Specifying the species of trees in categories** based upon their environmental values considering the age and girth of the trees etc.
- Key recommendations**
  - Setting a tree conservation authority at state and local levels** for overseeing compensatory afforestation and to act as custodians of public-owned trees on non-forest land.
  - A National Model Act** to codify the functions, powers and composition of tree conservation authority at various levels, to enable public participation, etc.
  - Identify eco-sensitive sites** with a minimum threshold beyond which land diversion and tree felling should not be allowed.
  - National research project to **conduct a species-specific tree ecosystem service valuation** to arrive at their net present value (NPV).
  - Cost of tree planting should be assessed once in three years and a uniform unit price** (not less than ₹200 per square cm) to be made applicable across the state.
  - Protect trees from harms** due to electric wires, cables, advertisers and the public in general.

## ALSO IN NEWS



### World Bank released Global Economic Prospects Report

- **Key Highlights:**
  - **Global economic growth will dip sharply** from 5.5% in 2021 to **4.1% in 2022 and 3.2% in 2023**.
  - India's annual growth is projected to be **8.3% in the current fiscal year, 8.7% in 2022-23, and 6.8% in 2023-24**.
  - **Flags risks specific to South Asia:**
    - **Emergence of Omicron** could hinder economic activity with mobility restrictions and lower external demand;
    - Region remains **vulnerable to climate-induced increases** in poverty, disease, child mortality and food prices.



### Colombo Security Conclave (CSC)

- First CSC Virtual Workshop on **"Developing Regional Cyber Security Capabilities on Defensive operations, Deep/Dark Web handling and Digital Forensics"** was hosted by the National Security Council Secretariat.
- CSC is the **renamed version of National Security Advisor (NSA) Level Trilateral** on Maritime Security (of 2011) with **India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Mauritius, Maldives and Seychelles as members** and Secretariat at Colombo.
- It helps member nations **to build capacity on common security threats** effectively **through its four pillars of cooperation:**
  - Maritime Safety and Security, Terrorism and Radicalization, Trafficking and Organized Crime and Cyber Security and Protection of Critical Infrastructure.



### Henley Passport Index

- Index lists the world's passports according to the **number of destinations their holders can access without a prior visa**.
- **It is released by Henley & Partners**, a global leader in residence and citizenship planning.
- **India's passport power has improved** this quarter compared to 2021. It now **ranks 83rd** (90th rank last year).
- **Japan and Singapore top** the index.



### Bio-Cleaning

- Art restorers in Italy **worked to rid a priceless Michelangelo Painting** (famous Italian sculptor, painter and architect) **of centuries of accumulated dirt and grime**.
- Bio- cleaning technology is **based on the use of safe environmental microorganisms**, including Bacteria, Archaea, and Eukaryotes, **for cultural heritage (CH) restoration**.
  - During 1980s **researchers in U.S. first used the bacteria Desulfovibrio vulgaris** to clean a monument.
- **Advantages over chemical methods:** Risk free, performance simplicity, adhesion capabilities, cheap and ready to use etc.



### Kochi's Water Metro Project

- Kochi has become the **first city with a water metro project** as it launches the first in a series of **battery-powered electric boats** in the city.
- It **will connect 10 islands along a network of routes** with a fleet of fast, electrically propelled hybrid ferries.
- Project intended to introduce **modern, energy-efficient, environment-friendly and safe boats** with low wake and draft characteristics at a high frequency **to increase ridership**.



### Power Plant flexibilisation

- Flexibilisation is the new paradigm in thermal power generation, which is **aimed at handling the fluctuations in renewable supply by converting baseload stations into flexible generators**.
- **It entails following challenges -**
  - It **reduces the efficiency of plants** and **increases the risk of failures/trips** due to frequent start-ups and shutdowns.
  - Furthermore, it **reduces the useful life of assets and increases cost of operations**.



### Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM)

- **DRDO successfully flight tested** the final deliverable configuration of MPATGM.
- The indigenously developed anti-tank missile is **a low weight, fire & forget missile and is launched from a man portable launcher**, integrated with thermal sight.
- The missile has **miniaturised infrared imaging seeker and advanced avionics** for on-board control and guidance.

 <p><b>BrahMos</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>An extended range sea to sea variant of BrahMos Supersonic Cruise missile</b> was tested from INS Visakhapatnam.</li> <li>• <b>BrahMos is a universal long range supersonic cruise missile</b> system that can be launched from land, sea and air. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ BrahMos has been <b>jointly developed by DRDO and NPOM, Russia</b>.</li> <li>➤ Name represents <b>Brahmaputra and Moskva rivers</b>.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• It is a two stage missile with a <b>solid propellant booster engine</b> as first stage and <b>liquid ramjet</b> as second stage. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ It operates at <b>fire and forget principle</b>.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
 <p><b>Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PM will inaugurate a <b>new campus of CICT in Chennai</b>.</li> <li>• CICT is <b>an autonomous organization under Ministry of Education</b> and contributes to <b>promotion of classical Tamil</b> so as to establish the ancientness and uniqueness of Tamil language.</li> <li>• CICT is constituted specifically for <b>carrying out higher research Classical Tamil at international levels</b>. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ It also <b>aims to translate and publish Thirukkural (written by Thiruvalluvar)</b> in various Indian as well as 100 foreign languages.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Classical languages in India:</b> Tamil, Telugu, Sanskrit, Kannada, Malayalam and Odia.</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Personalities in News</b></p>	<p><b>Swami Vivekananda (12 January 1863 - 04 July 1902)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Born as Narendranath Datta in Calcutta, He was a <b>philosopher, spiritual leader, reformer and chief disciple of Ramakrishna Paramhansa</b>.</li> <li>• He <b>introduced the world to Hinduism and its philosophies of Vedanta and Yoga</b> through his famous 1893 <b>speech at World's Parliament of Religions in Chicago</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Personality Traits:</b> A true karma Yogi, egalitarian with virtues of compassion, rationality and emotional intelligence.</li> <li>• <b>Significant Contribution:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Wrote <b>four classics - Jnana-Yoga, Bhakti-Yoga, Karma-Yoga, and Raja-Yoga</b> - as his <b>treatises on Hindu philosophy</b> and the teachings of <b>Vedanta</b>.</li> <li>➤ He spread the message of <b>Universal Peace and Brotherhood</b>.</li> <li>➤ He founded the <b>Ramakrishna Mission at Belur Math in 1897</b> for social service and humanitarian activities.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



/c/VisionIASdelhi



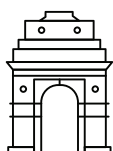
/Vision\_IAS



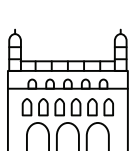
/visionias\_upsc



/VisionIAS\_UPSC



DELHI



LUCKNOW



JAIPUR



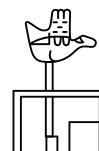
HYDERABAD



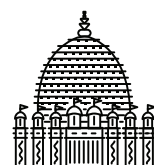
PUNE



AHMEDABAD



CHANDIGARH



GUWAHATI