

NEWS TODAY

CENTRE INTRODUCED CRIMINAL PROCEDURE IDENTIFICATION BILL 2022

- Bill introduced by the home ministry seeks to authorise **taking biometric measurements of convicts and other persons for the purposes of identification and investigation in criminal matters** and to preserve records.
 - It will **repeal the Identification of Prisoners Act, 1920** which provided for collection of only fingerprints and footprints.
- **Key highlights of the Bill**
 - **Provides legal sanction to the police to collect physical and biological samples of convicts as well as persons accused of crimes** to preserve records for the purpose of their identification.
 - **Defines measurements** to include finger impressions, palm print and foot-print impressions, photographs, iris and retina scan.
 - Record of measurements shall be retained for a period of **75 years from the date of collection**.
 - Proposes **collection of behavioural attributes including signatures, handwriting** or any other examination referred under Section 53 or Section 53A of Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1973.
 - **Empowers National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) to collect, store and preserve records of measurements**, for sharing, dissemination, destruction, and disposal of records.
 - **Law applies to three categories of individuals i.e.** any person **convicted, arrested or held under any preventive detention law**.



Issues with the Bill

- **Violates fundamental rights** of citizens including Article 20(3) and right to life and privacy under Article 21 of Constitution.
- **Lack of clarity** as the expression "other persons" is not defined.
- **Violates Right to be Forgotten**, recognized by Supreme Court in Justice KS Puttaswamy v. Union of India case.

TELECOM SECRETARY RELEASES TEC REPORT- "ROLLOUT OF SMALL CELLS FOR 5G NETWORKS BY LEVERAGING STREET FURNITURE"

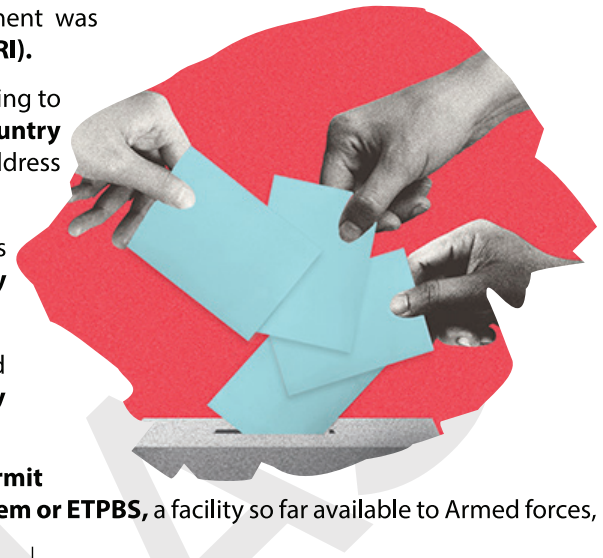
- **Small cell** is a cellular base station that services a **small coverage area** ranging from ten meters to several hundred meters in contrast to a **typical mobile macro cell** that might have a range of upto **several tens of kilometers**.
 - Various types of **street furniture** such as **poles**, advertisement hoardings, bus shelters and towers have been **identified by TRAI** as suitable assets for **deploying small cells**.
- **Different types of 5G small cells:** Femtocells (reach 10 meters), picocells (200 meters), and microcells (around two kilometers).
- **Need of Small cells in the 5G network**
 - **Offloading:** Macro site of the area is **getting congested**
 - **Capacity Enhancement:** The macro site serving the building/ area **is unable to meet the capacity requirements of some parts** of the building/ spot.
 - **For Indoor Coverage** including basements, underground metro tunnels etc.
- **Issues**
 - Absence of a **regulatory framework** on small cells.
 - **Non-uniform implementation of RoW (Right Of Way) rules** by states and municipal bodies.
 - **Stability issues** such as Electric poles strength to bear the load as well as possibilities of toppling of the poles.

Measures to be taken

- Adopting **simplified and streamlined procedures** for building/street furniture permits for small cells;
- Designing norms to facilitate the **acquisition of new sites** and **greater transparency** on **available assets** such as towers, buildings and other structures;

THE MOVE TO EASE VOTING FOR OVERSEAS CITIZENS

- The Union Minister for Law and Justice recently informed that the government was exploring the possibility of allowing **online voting for non-resident Indians (NRI)**.
- **Overseas/NRI Elector is a citizen of India**, who is **absent from the country** owing to employment, education etc, and has **not acquired citizenship of any other country known** as Overseas Voters and are eligible to be registered as a voter in the address mentioned in their Indian passport.
- Under **Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 2010**, eligible voters have been able to vote, **but only in person at the polling station where they have been enrolled as an overseas elector**.
 - The provision of having to visit the polling booth in person has discouraged eligible voters and only a **very low proportion of overseas residents actually registered** or turned up to vote.
- Earlier, the Election Commission of India had approached the government **to permit NRIs to cast their votes through Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System or ETPBS**, a facility so far available to Armed forces, paramilitary forces and government employees serving abroad.



INDIA, SRI LANKA TO FINALISE \$1-BILLION LINE OF CREDIT (LOC)

- India announced a USD 1 billion LoC to Sri Lanka as part of its financial assistance to help the island nation deal with its economic crisis.
 - Line of credit is to be used to **import food, medicines and other essential items** from India.
 - Agreement was signed between the **State Bank of India and government of Sri Lanka**.
 - \$1-billion LoC was the **key component of a four-pillar economic cooperation arrangement** finalised by two sides in December 2021.

• Reasons of the Sri-Lanka crisis

- Shortage of foreign exchange reserves.
- Heavy dependence on imports for essential goods like sugar, pharmaceuticals, fuel, pulses and cereals.
- Covid-19 pandemic hit the lucrative tourism sector.
- Ban on chemical fertilizers to make agriculture 100 percent organic had a negative impact on the economy.



• Impact on India

- **Disruption in Colombo port operations** makes India vulnerable to an increase in costs and congestion issues.
- **Growing presence of China** to help Sri Lanka.
- Imposition of curbs on spot trading and foreign contracts have negative implications for India's exports to the country.
- Increasing refugees.

Measures taken to control crisis

- Banned import of luxury vehicles, chemical fertilisers and food items like turmeric to prevent foreign currency outflows.
- Restrictions on forward contracts of foreign exchange.
- Enhancing Remittance Inflow.
- To boost investors' confidence, the government has made provisions for Special Deposit Accounts.

THE DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2022 INTRODUCED IN LOK SABHA

- **The bill seeks to merge three Municipal Corporations of Delhi (MCD)— South, North and East.**

- It **amends 'The Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957'**, to effectively undo the earlier 2011 amendment to the Act by which erstwhile MCD was trifurcated into separate Municipal Corporation of North, South, and East Delhi.

• Need of the bill

- Unify three municipal corporations into a single, integrated and well-equipped entity for **more efficient delivery** of civic service.
- **Ensure a robust mechanism for optimal utilisation** of resources.
- **Bring greater transparency, improved governance.**
- **To reduce the gap** in the resources available to the three corporations, vis-a-vis their obligations.

• Key highlights of the bill

- **Number of seats in MCD house** is proposed to be **capped at 250**.
- Omits the provision for a Director of Local Bodies.
- **Allows the Centre to appoint a Special Officer** until the first meeting of unified MCD takes place.

- Municipal corporations are established in states by acts of the concerned state legislatures, and in the union territories by the acts of Parliament of India.

- **The 74th Amendment Act, 1992** has inserted **Part IX-A into the Constitution** which deals with administration of Municipalities and Nagar Palikas.

ALSO IN NEWS



The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2022

- The Bill seeks to amend the **Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950** for the inclusion of the Darlong community in the list of Tripura Scheduled Tribes.
 - It proposes the "Darlong" community as a sub-tribe of "Kuki" in the list of Scheduled Tribes in Tripura.
- The tribal communities of Tripura include **Tripuri or Debbarma, Reangs or Brus, Jamatia, Noatia, Uchoi, Chakma, Mog, Lushai, Kuki, Munda, Kour, Oram, Santhal, Bhul, Bhutia, Chaimar or Sermai, Garo, Khasi, Lepcha and Halam**.
 - The Halam community has several small tribal clans within it. Many of these are **linguistically endangered groups like Bongcher, Karbongs etc.**



Shrinkflation

- Shrinkflation is basically a **form of hidden inflation** that involves **reducing the size of a product** while maintaining its sticker price.
 - Rather than increase the price of a product, the company simply offers a smaller package for the same sticker price.
- Raising the price per given amount is a strategy employed by companies, **mainly in the food and beverage industries, to stealthily boost profit margins**



Microplastics in blood

- Scientists have **discovered microplastics in human blood for the first time**, warning that the ubiquitous particles could also be making their way into organs.
 - The tiny pieces of mostly invisible plastic have already been found almost everywhere else on Earth, from the deepest oceans to the highest mountains as well as in the air, soil and food chain.
- It is **not yet clear if these microplastics can cross over from the blood stream to deposit in organs and cause diseases.**



Supercomputer PARAM Shakti

- **IIT Kharagpur has launched PARAM Shakti**, a Petascale Supercomputer.
 - A supercomputer is a very fast computer used in advanced scientific applications.
- PARAM Shakti was **developed under the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM)**.
 - NSM is a **joint initiative of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and the Department of Science and Technology** and implemented by Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) and Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore.
 - NSM envisages empowering our national academic and R&D institutions by installing a **vast supercomputing grid** comprising of more than 70 high- performance computing (HPC) facilities.






Decentralized Waste Management Technology Park

- Wealth Mission in collaboration with East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC), has set up **Decentralized Waste Management Technology Park** at New Jaffrabad.
 - It is a **pilot project** providing end-to-end solutions for waste management.
 - **The park aims for Zero waste, Zero energy and Zero Landfill.**
- **Technologies deployed:**
 - **Xaper** for segregating **fresh mixed municipal solid waste** into compostable, recyclable, combustible, and inert fractions.
 - **'Plasma pyrolysis Unit'** for **thermal disintegration** of carbonaceous material in an **oxygen-starved environment** into environment friendly components.
 - **Gasifier** for gasification of municipal solid waste.



Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities

- **Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment** inaugurated the new office of Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan).
- **About Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities**
 - Set up under erstwhile **Persons with Disabilities Act 1995** and continues to function under **Right of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016**.
 - **Mandate:**
 - **Coordinate** the work of the State Commissioners for Persons with Disabilities,
 - **Monitor utilization** of funds disbursed by the Central Government and
 - Take steps to **safeguard the rights and facilities** made available to the persons with disabilities.

 <p>Hornbill Nest Adoption Program (HNAP)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Nyishi tribe of Arunachal Pradesh celebrated a decade success of HNAP. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > HNAP, launched in 2011 as community-based hornbill conservation programme, operates in the forests outside Arunachal Pradesh's Pakke Tiger Reserve. Hornbills are indicators of the health of a forest, they are seed dispersers and called as 'farmers of the forest'. India is home to nine species, of which four are found in Western Ghats—Indian Grey Hornbill, Malabar Grey Hornbill, Malabar Pied Hornbill and the Great Hornbill.
 <p>Nagpur Oranges</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nagpur Oranges got GI tag in 2014 under Geographical Indication of Goods, (Registration and Protection) Act 1999. They are characterised by unique sweet-sour flavour. This flavour is obtained only under specific soil and agro-climatic conditions of the Vidarbha region. Five characteristics have been used to approve the Nagpur mandarin. These include size, colour, number of seeds and chemical properties of the juice that give it its flavor and aroma.
 <p>Malabar/Moplah Rebellion, 1921</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Indian Council for Historical Research (ICHR) has deferred its decision on a recommendation to remove the 1921 Malabar Rebellion martyrs including Variamkunnaathu Kunhahamad Haji and Ali Musliyar from the list of India's freedom fighters. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Earlier, a three-member panel brought out by the ICHR, is understood to have recommended the deletion as it felt that the 1921 rebellion was never part of the independence struggle but a fundamentalist movement. Moplah riots had been an uprising of Muslim tenants against British rulers and local Hindu landlords.



/c/VisionIASdelhi



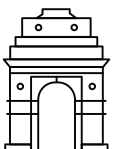
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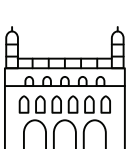
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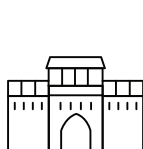
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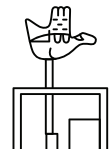
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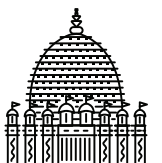
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CHANDIGARH



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