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CURRENT AFFAIRS



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‘Mob Lynching’

- Bills passed by at least four states in the last four years against ‘mob lynching’ are yet to be implemented, as the central government believes under the ‘Indian Penal Code’ (IPC). Lynching is not defined as a crime.
- States that have passed bills against ‘mob lynching’ include Jharkhand, Rajasthan, West Bengal and Manipur.

Today Current Affairs

Reasons for delay in passing of bills: The Hindu Analysis

- In 2019, the Ministry of Home Affairs, informing the Lok Sabha, said that the Ministry has received ‘Bills passed by the State Legislatures and reserved by the Governor for the consideration of the President.
- The President has to act in accordance with the advice given by the Council of Ministers in the matter of such law. The Council of Ministers in these matters is represented by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- Bills passed by the state are scrutinized by the home ministry on three grounds – inconsistency with central laws, deviation from national or central policy, and legal and constitutional validity.

Recent incidents of mob lynching: The Hindu Analysis

- In December 2021, a man was arrested for allegedly attempting to disrespect Sri Guru Granth Sahib, the holiest book of Sikhism, at the Sri Harmandir Sahib Gurdwara (Golden Temple) in Amritsar by Sikh Sangat (devotees of Sikhism) Lynching was done.
- In 2021, a 23-year-old student leader was allegedly murdered by a mob in Assam.
- In October 2021, a man was allegedly lynched, his limbs amputated and left to die at the Singhu border, the site of farmers' protest against the 'Three Agricultural Laws'.
- In August 2021, a bangle seller in Indore was thrashed by a mob for allegedly hiding his identity. The man somehow survived and was later sent to judicial custody.
- In May 2021, a 25-year-old man from Gurugram was allegedly lynched when he went out to buy medicine.

Meaning of 'lynching': The Hindu Analysis

- Mob lynching on grounds of religion, race, ethnicity, gender, place of birth, language, eating habits, sexual orientation, political affiliation, ethnicity or any other related basis, or acts of immediate violence or incitement to violence, etc.) is called.
- In this, a guilty is punished by an uncontrolled mob for his crime or sometimes on the basis of mere rumours, without committing the crime, or he is beaten to death.

How are such cases dealt with? Today Current Affairs

- Under the existing 'Indian Penal Code' (IPC), there is no "separate" definition for such incidents. Incidents of lynching are dealt with under sections 300 and 302 of 'IPC'.
- According to Section 302 of the Indian Penal Code, whoever kills any person shall be punished with death or imprisonment for life, as well as with fine. 'Committing murder' is a non-bailable, cognizable and non-compoundable offence.

Guidelines of the Supreme Court in this regard: The Hindu Analysis

- Lynching will be a 'separate offence' and the trial courts should set a strong example for mob lynching by providing maximum punishment if the accused are convicted.
- State governments to authorize a senior police officer in each district to take measures to prevent mob lynching and violence. State governments should identify those districts, tehsils, villages where incidents of mob lynching have taken place recently.
- The nodal officers will present the district level coordination issues related to mob lynching with the state DGP.
- The Central and State Governments will have to broadcast on radio, television and other social media platforms that any kind of mob lynching and involvement in the incident of violence can be punished according to law.
- The Central and State Governments shall broadcast on radio, television and other media platforms about the dire consequences of mob lynching and violence.
- Despite the measures taken by the State Police, the concerned police station will immediately register an FIR in case of incidents like mob lynching.
- State governments will start compensation scheme for the people affected by mob lynching.
- If any police officer or any officer of the district administration fails to perform his duty, it will be treated as willful negligence.

Time Requirement: The Hindu Analysis

- Every time there are incidents of honor killings, hate crimes, witch-murders or mob lynchings, special laws are raised to deal with these crimes.
- But, the fact remains that these offenses are nothing but murders and the existing provisions under IPC and CrPC are sufficient to deal with such offences.
- With the guidelines laid down in the Poonawalla case, we are adequately equipped to deal with mob lynchings. There is a need to make the existing laws and enforcement agencies more accountable to deal with these crimes.

SVAMITVA Scheme

- According to the information provided by the government, a plan is being made to prepare digital maps of all 6,00,000 villages in the country, and under the SVAMITVA scheme, all India 3D maps will be prepared for 100 cities.
- Nearly 1,00,000 villages have been covered in the drone surveys conducted so far and maps of 77,527 villages have been submitted to the states.
- Property cards have also been distributed in about 27,000 villages under the Swamitva scheme.

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Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas – SVAMITVA:

- This scheme was started on 'Panchayati Raj Day' (April 24, 2020). Initially it was launched for only 9 states. Last year this scheme was implemented in all the states.
- Under this scheme, ownership mapping of residential land in rural areas will be done through advanced technologies like drones.
- The objective of this scheme is to revolutionize 'property record maintenance' in India.
- This scheme is being operated by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.
- Under this scheme, land will be measured using drones to record the undisputed records of residential land in villages.
- Property cards will be generated for each property in the village using precise measurements by drone-mapping by the states. These cards will be handed over to the property owners and will be recognized by the Department of Land Revenue Records.

Benefits of this plan: The Hindu Analysis

- Through the official certificate obtained under this scheme, property owners will be able to take advantage of bank loans and other property related schemes on their assets.

- These records relating to village properties will also be maintained at the Panchayat level, so that the taxes associated with the property owners can be collected. The money from these local taxes will be used to build rural infrastructure and facilities.
- As a result of freeing land and residential properties from land-ownership disputes and preparation of an official record, the market value of properties is likely to increase.
- Accurate property records can be used for tax collection, new building and infrastructure construction plans, issuance of permits and thwarting attempts to take illegal possession of property, etc.

Need and importance of planning: The Hindu Analysis

- Considering that many villagers in rural areas do not have documents to prove their land ownership, the need for this scheme was felt then.
- In most of the states, survey and measurement of populated areas has not been done for the purpose of verification/certification of properties in villages. This new scheme has been able to become a tool for empowerment and entitlement, reducing social conflict due to property discord.

Giloy: Ministry of AYUSH

- Recently the Ministry of AYUSH has once again reiterated that Giloy/Guduchi (*Tinospora cordifolia*) is a safe medicine and as per the available data, it does not have any toxic effect on the body.
- Earlier, some sections of the media have once again linked Giloy/Guduchi to liver failure.
- According to the Ministry of AYUSH, the safety of any medicine depends on how it is being used. The dosage of a drug is a major factor that determines the safety of that particular drug.

About Giloy/Guduchi: Today Current Affairs

- Giloy is a shrub growing on the support of trees, which belongs to the 'Menispermaceae' botanical family.

- This plant is endemic to India, but is also found in tropical regions of China, Australia and Africa.
- It is used to treat a variety of problems including fever, infection, diarrhea and diabetes.

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Medicinal applications of Giloy/Guduchi: The Hindu Analysis

- Special attention is paid to its health benefits in the treatment of various metabolic disorders and its potential as an immunity booster.
- It acts as antioxidant, anti-hyperglycemic, anti-hyperlipidemic, hepatoprotective, cardiovascular protective, neuroprotective, osteoprotective, radioprotective, anti-depression, adaptogenic and analgesic, anti-inflammatory, antipyretic, anti-diarrheal, anti-ulcer and anti-microbial and is also seen as an anti-cancer.
- It is used as a major component of medical science for the treatment of metabolic, endocrine and many other diseases while helping to increase human life expectancy.
- It is a popular herb in traditional medicine systems for its wide range of therapeutic applications and its use in the management of COVID-19.

Tarapur Massacre: Bihar

- Recently, the Chief Minister of Bihar has announced to observe February 15 as "Martyr's Day" in memory of 34 freedom fighters killed by police in Tarapur town (now subdivision) of Munger district of Bihar 90 years ago.
- The Tarapur massacre was the biggest massacre by the British police after the Jallianwala Bagh massacre in Amritsar in 1919.

Today Current Affairs

Tarapur Massacre – Today Current Affairs

- On February 15, 1932, a group of young freedom fighters planned to hoist the Indian National Flag at Tarapur Thana Bhawan.
- The police was aware of this plan and several officers were present on the spot.
- A mob of 4,000 pelted stones at the police, injuring a civil administration official.
- The police fired indiscriminately at the crowd in retaliation. After firing about 75 rounds, 34 bodies were found on the spot, although an even larger number of deaths were being claimed.
- Only 13 of the dead were identified.

Reason for protest: The Hindu Analysis

- A wave of mourning and outrage ran across the country due to the hanging of Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru in Lahore on 23 March 1931. The Hindu Analysis.
- Mahatma Gandhi was arrested in early 1932 after the Gandhi-Irwin Pact was repealed.
- By this agreement Gandhiji agreed to participate in a Round Table Conference in London (Congress had earlier boycotted the Round Table Conference) and the government agreed to release political prisoners.
- Congress was declared an illegal organization and Nehru, Patel and Rajendra Prasad were also imprisoned.
- Freedom fighters Srikrishna Singh, Nemdhari Singh, Nirapad Mukherjee, Pandit Dashrath Jha, Basukinath Rai, Dinanath Sahai and Jaimangal Shastri were arrested in Munger. The Hindu Analysis.
- The call by Congress leader Sardar Shardul Singh Kaviswar to hoist the tricolor on government buildings echoed in Tarapur.

Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)

- Recently, an American woman with leukemia has become the first woman (third such case in the world) to be cured of HIV through a donor-derived stem cell transplant. This donor was naturally resistant to the Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) virus.
- Leukemia is a blood cancer caused by an increase in the number of white blood cells in the body.
- It is a group of symptoms or syndromes caused by HIV but not necessarily that a person infected with HIV will definitely get AIDS.

Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)- Today Current Affairs

- HIV attacks CD-4, a type of white blood cell (T-cell) in the body's immune system.
- T-cells are cells that move around the body to detect abnormalities and infections in cells.
- After entering the body, the number of HIV virus increases rapidly and it begins to destroy CD-4 cells, thus seriously harming the human immune system.
- Once this virus has entered the body it can never be removed.
- There is a significant reduction in the CD-4 cells of a person infected with HIV. It is known that the number of these cells in the body of a healthy person is between 500-1600, but in people infected with HIV, the number of CD-4 cells can go below 200.

Today Current Affairs

HIV/AIDS in India: The Hindu Analysis

- According to the India HIV Estimation 2019 report, the trend of estimated adult (15 to 49 years) HIV prevalence in India has been declining since the peak of the epidemic in 2000 and has remained stable in recent years.
- The prevalence of HIV among adult males was estimated at 0.24% and among adult females at 0.20% in the year 2019.
- In the year 2019, 23.48 lakh Indians were infected with HIV and their number was highest in Maharashtra followed by Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

Stem Cells: The Hindu Analysis

- Stem cells are specialized cells that can replicate themselves and transform into different types of cells that the body needs. They have two unique qualities that enable them to do so.:
- They can repeatedly divide to form new cells.
- After dividing, they can transform into other types of cells to form the body.
- There are many types of stem cells and they are found in different parts of the body at different times.

- Cancer and its treatment can damage hematopoietic stem cells. Hematopoietic stem cells are stem cells that transform into blood cells.

Usefulness of stem cells: The Hindu Analysis

- **Research:** It helps to understand the basic biology of how living things work and what happens to different types of cells during disease.
- **Therapy-** to replace lost or damaged cells that the body cannot naturally replace.

What is stem cell transplant? Today Current Affairs

- Stem cell transplant is a medical method that replaces one's stem cells with healthy cells. Replacement cells can be taken either from the person's own body or from another person.
- Bone marrow transplant is also called stem cell transplant or hematopoietic stem cell transplant.
- Transplants can be used to treat certain types of cancer, such as leukemia, myeloma, and lymphoma, and other blood and immune system diseases that affect the bone marrow.

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