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15 September 2018**Daily News Pedia****SC: Welfare panels can't evaluate dowry complaints**

Supreme Court judgement to scrap family welfare committee which was established to look into the crimes related to IPC section 498A in 2017.

IPC Section 498: Deals with domestic violence and cruelty towards women by the husband or his family members and the person who practices cruelty, or demands the dowry would be accountable to be prosecuted criminally.

Family welfare committee was entrusted with

Empowered to interact with parties involved in family disputes. Police cannot make an arrest until the report is submitted by the panel. The law provides for an anticipatory bail provision as well.

However, in the recent judgement the court has said the formation of family welfare committee is not justified because.

- It is an extra judicial authority and they cannot exercise statutory function.
- Their duties and action are beyond the scope of law.
- Scope for delay and harassment of women in genuine cases
- Lack of transparency in working of welfare committee.

Note: Due to rampant misuse of Section 498A, the court has in 2017, ordered to form family welfare committee under District Legal Service Authority. It is also said that statutory provision will provide the guidelines for the police regarding registration of FIRs in this matter and not the court.

Source: The Hindu.

Govt. moves to stabilise rupee

The government announced to take necessary steps to cut down non-essential imports and increase exports. The condition that FPI (foreign portfolio investment) in a single corporate entity cannot exceed 20% of its corporate bond portfolio will be reviewed. Government has exempted masala bond (bonds issued outside India but denominated in Indian Rupees) until March 31, 2019, from withholding tax. The government said it will review the mandatory hedging (reduce the risk of adverse price movements in an asset) condition for infrastructure loans borrowed under the external commercial borrowing (ECB) route. Presently there is no compulsion on borrowers to hedge these loans. Manufacturing companies borrowing up to \$50 million through ECBs will be able to do so only for a one-year term as against the three-year term allowed earlier.

Source: The Hindu.

Leprosy-free - tag for India

Supreme Court has questioned the 'leprosy-free' tag for India.

Leprosy, also known as Hansen's disease is a chronic infectious disease caused by *Mycobacterium leprae*. It usually affects the skin and peripheral nerves. The mode of transmission of leprosy is still not known. India was declared leprosy-free on December 31, 2005.

National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP) is a centrally sponsored health scheme under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and is considered to be the largest leprosy eradication plan in world.

Supreme Court Judgment: India has underestimated leprosy and diverted funds meant to eliminate the curable disease for 18 long years. Only 543 districts of the total 642 districts in the country have achieved the World Health Organization-required prevalence rate of less than one case of leprosy for 10,000 persons.

Source: The Hindu.

National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) study on AIDS

According to figures released by National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) it said it would not be an easy battle to end the disease as there are still around 21.40 lakh people living with HIV in India, with the prevalence among adults stood at 0.22 per cent.

Study report: This epidemic is high in some geographical regions and population groups. The report has noted that the rate of decline in annual new HIV infections has been relatively slower in recent years. The impact of the HIV/AIDS control programme has been significant, with more than an 80 per cent decline in estimated new infections from the epidemic's peak in 1995.

Note: The objective of HIV estimations is to provide updated information on the status of the HIV epidemic in India at the national and State/Union Territory level. Estimations of adult HIV prevalence, annual new infections (HIV incidence), AIDS-related mortality, and prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) needs are produced as outcomes of HIV estimations. The modelled estimates are needed because there is no direct reliable way of measuring these core indicators, which are used to track the epidemic monitor and evaluate response around the world.

Source: The Hindu.

Great Indian Bustard (GIB)



It is state bird of Rajasthan, while found in Gujarat, Maharashtra and Karnataka also.

Rajasthan has the biggest population of GIB around 120-150. Rajasthan government launched Project Great Indian Bustard in 2013 to save them

The GIB locally known as godawan in Rajasthan. Bishnois communities in Rajasthan working towards the protection of the bustard and other species.

Great Indian Bustard under Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Sewan grassland landscape is the natural habitat of GIB

Source: Google.

EDITORIAL

To Read

EESL to Facilitate Implantation of 5 Lakh Solar Water Pumping Systems In ISA Member Countries.

Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL), a joint venture of PSUs under the Ministry of Power, has been selected by the International Solar Alliance (ISA) to facilitate implementation of 5,00,000 Solar Water Pumping Systems.

These Solar Water Pumping Systems will be rolled out in ISA member countries that are participating in its 'Scaling of Solar Application for Agricultural Use' programme.

EESL will be responsible for the implementation of the programme in the participating countries that include India, Bangladesh, Sudan, Uganda, Senegal and Mauritius, among others.

ISA, an alliance of more than 121 countries, has aggregated demand for over 500,000 Solar Water Pumping systems from 13 member countries. ISA's first programme – 'Scaling of Solar Application for Agricultural Use' aims to promote decentralised solar applications for agricultural and rural use.

Rajneesh Rana, General Manager, EESL said: "We look forward to replicating the success of our ongoing solar projects and agricultural pumps programme in the ISA member countries. We will leverage the wealth of our experience in implementing large-scale energy-efficiency and renewable energy programmes in India and combine that experience with ISA's long-term vision."

"Our aim is to help farmers in getting easy and affordable day-time access to irrigation. This is a major step towards decentralised power solutions that also help in reducing carbon emission," he said.

ISA, which is an international inter-governmental treaty-based organisation headquartered in Gurugram, aims to provide a platform for prospective member countries to collaborate and address the identified gaps through a common agreed approach.

EESL is implementing multiple energy efficiency projects across sectors, including LED, buildings, smart-meters, streetlights, solarisation of agricultural feeders, solar lamps, agricultural pump sets, and electric vehicles. EESL's approach of aggregation of demand and efficient bid management leads to reduction in procurement costs

MAINS QUESTION

Q: ISA should open its membership to all countries across the geography. The inclusion of new members, like US and China, would help member countries have access to more advance technology and finances. Analyze.

PRELIMS QUESTIONS

1. Choose the incorrect statement related to Great Indian Bustard.

- a. It is state bird of Andhra Pradesh.
- b. Great Indian Bustard is under Schedule 2 of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- c. Sewan grassland landscape is the man made habitat of GIB
- d. All the above.

Answer: D.

Explanation: It is state bird of Rajasthan, while found in Gujarat, Maharashtra and Karnataka also. Rajasthan has the biggest population of GIB around 120-150. Rajasthan government launched Project Great Indian Bustard in 2013 to save them. Great Indian Bustard under Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Sewan grassland landscape is the natural habitat of GIB

2. National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP) is a centrally sponsored health scheme under the

- a. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- b. Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- c. Ministry of Urban Affairs.
- d. All the above.

Answer: A

Explanation: National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP) is a centrally sponsored health scheme under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and is considered to be the largest leprosy eradication plan in world.

3. Which of the following statements is/are correct about International Solar Alliance (ISA)?

1. All countries between tropics of Cancer and Capricorn can join International Solar Alliance (ISA).
 2. It will function from the National Institute of Solar Energy in India, Gurgaon.
- a. Only 1
 - b. Only 2
 - c. Both
 - d. None

Answer: C

Explanation: International Solar Alliance (ISA) is conceived as a coalition of solar resource rich countries to address their special energy needs.

- ISA will promote solar technologies and investment in the solar sector to enhance income generation for the poor and global environment.
- ISA will develop innovative Financial Mechanisms to reduce cost of capital
- It will formulate projects and programs to promote solar applications.
- Also it will build a common Knowledge e-Portal and facilitate capacity building for promotion and absorption of solar technologies and R&D.

YesUPSC