

NEWS TODAY

PARTIES MUST PUBLISH CRIMINAL RECORDS OF CANDIDATES WITHIN 48 HOURS OF SELECTION: SUPREME COURT

- SC was hearing a contempt petition which alleged wilful disobedience of court orders by various political parties during the Bihar assembly elections in 2020.
 - > SC in February 2020 made it **mandatory for all political parties to put up on their websites and publish in two newspapers information regarding the pending criminal cases against candidates** being fielded by them, and the reasons for selecting them.
- **Other directions passed by SC**
 - > Political parties are to **publish information** regarding criminal antecedents of candidates on the **homepage of their websites**.
 - > **Election Commission of India** is to create a **separate cell** to monitor the required compliances.
 - > In case of non-compliance by political party, the ECI shall bring it to the **notice of Court** as being in **contempt of Court's Orders/directions**.
 - > **Directed ECI to create a dedicated mobile application** containing information about criminal antecedents of the candidates so as to enable voters access such information conveniently.
- There are **many forms of criminalisation of politics such as significant number of elected representatives with pending criminal charges against them, booth capturing, the proliferation of non-serious candidates, tampered electoral rolls, and other polling irregularities.**



- In a **related news**, the SC also directed that a **criminal case against an MP or MLA can be withdrawn only after getting the consent of the State High Court** concerned.
 - > The court noted the **misuse of power** by the state governments under **Section 321 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC)** that authorises a prosecutor to seek withdrawal of a criminal case against the accused.

NATIONAL FACT SHEET GLOBAL YOUTH TOBACCO SURVEY (GYTS-4), INDIA, 2019 RELEASED

- Survey was conducted by **International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS)** under **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)**.
 - > The objective of the survey was to **provide information on tobacco use, cessation, second-hand smoke, access and availability, exposure to anti-tobacco information, awareness and receptivity to tobacco marketing, knowledge, and attitudes.**
- **Key findings**
 - > **42% decline in tobacco use** among 13-15 years school going children in last decade.
 - > Use of any form of tobacco **higher among boys than girls**
 - > Tobacco use among school going children (13-15 years) – **highest in Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram & lowest in Himachal Pradesh and Karnataka.**
 - > **More than 29% of students** exposed to **second hand smoke.**
 - > 38% of cigarette, 47% of bidi smokers and 52% of smokeless tobacco users **initiated the use before their 10th birthday.**
- **Determinants of tobacco consumption in India**
 - > Price and availability
 - > Appealing innovative products and marketing strategies
 - > Lack of awareness about the effects
 - > Socio-economic factors



- **About GYTS**
 - > **World Health Organization (WHO)**, spearheaded by Tobacco Free Initiative (TFI), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and Office on Smoking and Health at the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (OSH-CDC), developed GYTS.
 - > It is a standard instrument to assess smoking and smokeless tobacco prevalence among youths age 13–15 years, studying in grades 8 to 10.
 - > **In India, three rounds of the GYTS has been conducted** in the past in 2003, 2006 and 2009.

MNRE LAUNCHES INTEREST SUBVENTION SCHEME FOR ENERGY BIOMETHANATION PROJECTS

- United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) launched the Global Environment Facility (GEF)-funded **loan interest subvention scheme** that provides financial assistance to **innovative waste to energy** biomethanation projects and business models.
 - The industrial organic waste-to-energy bio-methanation projects are generally **capital intensive and financially sensitive** to both operating costs, including waste availability, and revenue.
 - **GEF** (established on the eve of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit) is the **largest multilateral trust fund** focused on **enabling developing countries to invest in nature**, and supports the implementation of major international environmental conventions.
 - A GIS (Geographic Information System)-**based inventory tool** of organic waste streams was also unveiled.
 - The tool provides **district level estimates of available urban and industrial organic wastes** and their energy generation potential across India.
 - MNRE is promoting **all the technology options** available for setting up projects for **recovery of energy in the form of Biogas/BioCNG/Electricity from agricultural, Industrial and urban wastes** of renewable nature such as municipal solid wastes, vegetable and other market wastes.
 - **Waste-to-Energy (WTE) technologies**(refer to infographic).

BIOMETHANTION

Anaerobic (without free oxygen) digestion of organic materials which is converted into biogas containing mostly methane (~60%), carbon dioxide (~40%) and other gases.

INCINERATION

Complete combustion of waste (Municipal Solid Waste or Refuse derived fuel) with the recovery of heat to produce steam that in turn produces power through steam turbines.

GASIFICATION

Uses high temperatures (500-1800° C) in the presence of limited amounts of oxygen to decompose materialsto produce synthetic gas (a mixture of carbon monoxide (CO) and hydrogen (H₂)).

PROLYSIS

To break down combustible materials in the absence of oxygen, producing a mixture of combustible gases (primarily methane, complex hydrocarbons, hydrogen, and carbon monoxide), liquids and solid residues.

NATIONAL COMMISSION OF PROTECTION OF CHILD RIGHTS (NCPCR) SURVEYS FINDS GAPS, WANTS ALL MINORITY SCHOOL UNDER RTE

- The report aimed **to study the impact of exemption in Article 15(5) with regard to Article 21A of the Constitution of India on education of children of minority communities**.
 - 86th amendment (2002) inserted Article 21A which made Right to Education a fundamental right for children between 6-14 years.
 - 93rd amendment inserted **clause 5 in Article 15** and facilitated the **formulation of special provisions by the State, for members of the SCs, STs and socially and educationally backward classes, for admission to all educational institutions, including private unaided institutions, but except minority institutions**.
- **Key findings**
 - **Largest number of out-of-school children** (1.1 crore) belonged to the **Muslim community**.
 - Minority schools are **catering to less than 8% of the minority children population**.
 - **62.5% of students** in minority schools **belonged to non-minority communities**.
 - **Only 8.76%** of the students in minority schools **belong to socially and economically disadvantaged background**.
- **Recommendation**
 - Expand the coverage of **RTE Act to Madrasas**
 - Introduce **General Education subjects in Madrasas**
 - **Expand coverage of scholarships**
 - Currently, only Government affiliated institutions receive scholarships.
 - Ensure retention of students

○ NCPCR is a **statutory body under the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005** under the administrative control of the Ministry of Women & Child Development.

➢ Its mandate is to ensure that **all Laws, Policies, Programmes, and Administrative Mechanisms are in consonance with the Child Rights** perspective as enshrined in the Constitution and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

LOK SABHA PASSES AMENDMENT BILLS ON HOMOEOPATHY, NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR INDIAN SYSTEM OF MEDICINE

- National Commission for Homoeopathy (Amendment) Bill, 2021, proposes to amend the National Commission for Homoeopathy Act, 2020 **to provide a medical education system that improves access to quality and affordable medical education**.
 - **It specifies that all powers exercised and functions performed by the Board of Governors** (as under the 1973 Act) will be **deemed to have been done under the 2020 Act** and will **continue to remain in force**.
 - The 2020 Act replaced the Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973 wherein the Central Council of Homeopathy (set up by 1973 Act) was replaced with a National commission for regulating homoeopathic education and practice.
- National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (Amendment) Bill, 2021, **seeks to repeal the Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970 and help make available the Indian system of medicine professionals across the country**.
 - **It specifies that all powers and functions of the Board of Governors** (as under the 1970 Act) will be **deemed to have been done under the 2020 Act** and will **continue to remain in force**.

CORRUPTION IN FCI MAY SLIP OUT OF CONTROL, WARNS HOUSE PANEL

- Standing committee report titled, "Procurement, Storage And Distribution Of Foodgrains By Food Corporation Of India" was recently tabled in parliament.
- Analysis of data from report shows that India **lost ₹406 crore worth of grains procured** by the government due to damage during storage in state-run granaries in the past three years. Besides, **cereals worth ₹1.39 crore** were stolen or pilfered between 2017 and 2021.
- FCI's direct procurement is **less than 5%**. All operations are **conducted by State Agencies**.
- **Key recommendations:**

Area	Recommendations
Decentralised Procurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Take vigorous steps to motivate the remaining States to adopt DCP Scheme so that the cost of distribution can be saved and the benefit of MSP reaches every doorstep. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Even after 23 years of its inception, the Decentralized Procurement Scheme (DCP) has been undertaken only by 8 States for wheat and 15 States for rice.
Construction of Godowns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Department/FCI should make sincere efforts to expedite completion of on-going godown construction projects particularly in J&K, NE States, Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep Islands. ● Mini godowns should be created in different parts of the States/UTs.
Damaged Foodgrains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Take adequate scientific storage measures. ● Fix responsibilities on officials/officers for accrual of damaged foodgrains.
Corruption in FCI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strengthen its vigilance mechanism in coordination with the States/UTs and take stringent punitive action, if found guilty. ● FCI staff may be transferred after a fixed period to avoid creation of vested interests. ● Efforts should be made for early disposal of pending cases.

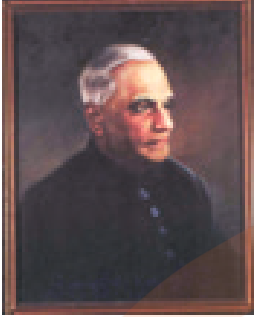
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 <p>Post Devolution Revenue Deficit (PDRD) Grant</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance released 5th monthly installment of Post Devolution Revenue Deficit Grant of Rs.9,871 crore to 17 States. ● About PDRD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Provided to the States under Article 275 of the Constitution. ➢ Aim is to help the states to meet the gap in Revenue Accounts post devolution. ➢ Eligibility of States to receive this grant and the quantum of grant was decided by fifteenth finance Commission (FFC) based on the gap between assessment of revenue and expenditure of the State.
 <p>Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Government has made a provision for opening of KVK in each of the rural districts across the country. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Till date, 725 KVKs have been established across the country. ● KVK aims at assessment of location specific technology modules in agriculture and allied enterprises, through technology assessment, refinement and demonstrations. ● Lately, KVKs have been strengthened with infrastructural facilities like, pulses seed hubs, soil testing kits, micro-irrigation systems, Integrated Farming Systems units, farm machineries etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ KVK scheme is 100% financed by the Government.
 <p>Presence of water on moon</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ISRO home-grown instrument aboard Chandrayaan-2 has detected unambiguous presence of hydroxyl and water molecules on the Moon with the precision of differentiating between the two. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Chandrayaan-2's predecessor Chandrayaan-1, launched in 2008, was among the lunar craft that conclusively picked up signatures of water on the Earth's only natural satellite. ● Remote detection of water and/or hydroxyl signatures on the lunar surface is of significant importance as it provides clues to understand the various sources and water production mechanisms.
 <p>Marburg virus</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Guinea, in western Africa, have confirmed a case of the Marburg disease ● About Marburg <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ It is highly virulent disease that causes haemorrhagic fever, with a fatality ratio of up to 88%. ➢ Belongs to same family as Ebola virus. ➢ First outbreak was in 1967 in Germany and Serbia simultaneously. ➢ Humans catch this infection through prolonged exposure to mines or caves inhabited by Rousettus bats. ➢ It can spread through human-to-human transmission via direct contact of infected people, and with contaminated surfaces and materials.



Al-Mohed Al-Hindi 2021

- First naval exercise between **India and Saudi Arabia**.
 - Though planned in 2019, couldn't be taken forward due to Covid 19 pandemic.
 - Comprises a number of shore and sea-based drills to be held at Jubail port.



Varahagiri Venkata Giri

- The President of India paid homage to Shri V.V. Giri, former President of India, on his birth anniversary.
- About V.V. Giri:
 - He was a **leading freedom fighter, veteran labour leader, able statesman and great parliamentarian**.
 - He was **fourth President of India from 1969 to 1974**.
 - After the death of former President Zakir Hussain in May 1969, Giri, who was the vice-president at that time, assumed the role of acting President.



Places in news

Mazar-i-Sharif (Afghanistan)

- **India will temporarily relocate India-based personnel from the consulate in Mazar-i-Sharif.**
 - The decision came after the Government gave an **urgent call for evacuation of all Indian Nationals** from the Afghan city in a special flight.



Bergen (Norway)

- **INS Tabar**, as part of the ongoing deployment, had entered Bergen harbour.
- In a **landmark first**, the Indian Navy **participated** in a **Maritime Partnership Exercise** with the Royal Norwegian Navy.

