

DAILY PT POINTERS

21st December, 2023



HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu: GS2-Polity and Governance (Page 1)

Parliament proceedings | Lok Sabha passes Bills to replace British-era criminal laws

New laws are designed for the next 100 years, will remove colonial imprint, says Home Minister; terrorism included in a separate category; sedition dropped; mob lynching to invite death penalty

December 20, 2023 07:15 pm | Updated December 21, 2023 07:34 am IST - New Delhi



VIJAITA SINGH

COMMENTS SHARE

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What the laws seek to do

- Introduce changes dealing with offences of terrorism and acts against the State
- Allow the registration of e-FIRs
- Factor in corruption in the election processes
- Make electronic evidence a form of primary proof
- Separately define crimes like mob lynching for the first time
- Include detailed provisions and enhanced punishment for crimes against women and children

- The Lok Sabha passed three amended Bills that seek to repeal and replace criminal laws which date back to colonial times.

The Bills seek to replace the criminal laws that have been in force for more than a century in the country

NEW BILL	OLD LAW
■ Bharatiya Nyaya (Second) Sanhita Bill (BNSS)	■ Indian Penal Code, 1860
■ Bharatiya Sakshya (Second) Bill (BSS)	■ Indian Evidence Act, 1872
■ Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha (Second) Sanhita Bill (BNSSS)	■ Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898

- This criminal law reform brings terrorism offences into a general crime law for the first time, drops the crime of sedition, and makes mob lynching punishable by death.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu: GS1- Art and Culture (Page 8)

Talent on display



- The Kolattam dance is part of a religious offering, where women dancers pay homage to the temple Goddess in many regions of Andhra Pradesh.
- The Kolattam dance is predominantly a dance of women, without involving men.
- The highlight of this dance is using sticks to represent the rhythm of the dance.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu : GS2-Art and Culture (Page 16)

Sahitya Akademi announces awards; Requiem in Raga Janki best English work

THE HINDU BUREAU
NEW DELHI

The award, including a copper plaque and ₹1 lakh prize money, will be presented on March 12, 2024.



- Tamil author Rajasekaran (Devibharathi), Telugu writer T. Patanjali Sastry and Malayalam writer E.V. Ramakrishnan are among those named for the Sahitya Akademi awards for 2023.
 - Nine books of poetry, six novels, five short story collections, three essays and one literary study have won the awards.
 - In the English language category, Neelum Saran Gour has been selected for her novel *Requiem in Raga Janki*, and in Hindi, writer Sanjeev has been named for his novel *Mujhe Pahachaano*.
- **Sahitya Akademi, India's National Academy of Letters**, is the central institution for literary dialogue, publication and promotion in the country and the only institution that undertakes literary activities in 24 Indian languages, including English

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu : GS3-Economy (Page 17)

Disinflation may pave way for interest rate cut: RBI officials

Central bank officials led by Deputy Governor Michael D. Patra say economic activity in India to be sustained by easing input costs, corporate profitability; CPI inflation will ease to 4.6% in the first three quarters of 2024-25, they add



- Disinflation is a temporary slowing of the pace of price inflation.
 - The term is used to describe occasions when the inflation rate has reduced marginally over the short term.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Indian Express : Environment-GSIII

GREENWASHING

Several airlines are under fire for false advertising, and have been accused of 'greenwashing'

EARLIER IN December, the UK ad regulator banned advertisements from Air France, Lufthansa, and Etihad for allegedly misleading consumers regarding the environmental impact of air travel.

This isn't the first time that airlines have come under fire for false advertising about their sustainability efforts and been accused of 'greenwashing'. On Tuesday, a case filed against Dutch airlines KLM for alleged greenwashing through one of their advertising campaigns went to trial in Amsterdam.

What is greenwashing?

Greenwashing is when firms or governments give a false impression that their products or activities are climate-friendly or help in reducing emissions. It may also occur when a company highlights sustainable aspects of a product to overshadow its environmentally damaging activities.

Greenwashing can involve environmental imagery, misleading labels, or hiding all the facts.

What were the ads?

In KLM's case, the company ran an ad-

vertising campaign telling its customers to "Fly Responsibly". Environmentalists sued KLM for false advertising, arguing there is no environmentally friendly way to fly.

In July, Britain's Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) identified three Google ads that suggested the flights operated by Air France, Lufthansa, and Etihad were sustainable. The Air France ad claimed the airline was "committed to protecting the environment" and urged holidaymakers to "travel better and sustainably". The Lufthansa ad suggested its customers would "fly more sustainably" and the Etihad one offered flyers "total peace of mind", mentioning their environmental advocacy. The ASA found that none of the ads corroborated their environmental claims.

How polluting are airlines?

Currently, the aviation industry is responsible for approximately 2.5% of all human-produced CO2 emissions, according to the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's 2022 estimates. This may seem like a modest contribution, but it is set to grow very fast.

ALIND CHAUHAN



What is Greenwashing?

- Greenwashing is when firms or governments give a false impression that all of their products or activities are climate-friendly or help in reducing emissions.
- Moreover, greenwashing may also occur when a company highlights sustainable aspects of a product to overshadow its environmentally damaging activities.
- The term was coined by environmentalist Jay Westerveld in 1986.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Indian Express : Art and Culture-GSI

Bihar to develop Sita's birthplace: history and mythology of Mithila region

EXPERT
EXPLAINS

KISHORE KUNAL

BHAR CM Nish Kumar recently announced a Rs 72-crore development plan for Goddess Sita's birthplace at Punaura Dham in Sitamarhi. His party, JD(U), slammed the Centre for "concentrating too much on the Ayodhya temple and Lord Rama, and doing little for Sita".

Kishore Kunal, former IPS officer and former chairman of the Bihar State Board of Religious Trusts, based on whose report the Punaura Dham was included in the Centre's Ramayana Circuit, quotes the Valmiki Ramayana and other sources to trace Ram and Sita's Bihar links.

What are the mentions of present-day Bihar in the Ramayana?

As a researcher and scholar, I will first go

by the source book, the Valmiki Ramayana, on which are based many subsequent versions of the Ramayana, including Tulsidas's Ramcharitmanas.

The Valmiki Ramayana has used four words to refer to Sita and her birthplace—Vaidehi, Janaki, Sita and Mithilapuri. Mithilapuri is an obvious reference to Mithila region, while Vaidehi and Janaki are names derived from her father, King Janak, also called Videh. Sita herself narrates the story of her birth—she was found in a field being ploughed by Janak—to Anusuya (wife of Rishi Ashi) at Chitrakoot.

Ram and Lakshman are also believed to have visited several sites in Bihar when travelling with Maharshi Vishwamitra. As per Valmiki's account, after leaving Ayodhya, Chitrakoot was their first stop. Their second stop was near the confluence of Ganga and Saryu in the present-day Saran district. The third place they went to was Siddhashram near the Ganga in present-day Buxar.

They later travelled by bullock cart to the confluence of Ganga and Son near Patna (Patna). The Son-Ganga confluence course has shifted away from Patna over the years.



The Punaura Dham temple. Archives



(administrative divisions), earmarking its location and spread, which included the present-day Darbhanga, Madhubani, Sitamarhi, Muzaffarpur, Saharsa, Madhepura, Supaul and some other adjoining areas of Bihar and Nepal.

Which is the birthplace of Sita, the Janaki temple or the Punaura Dham?

Until recently, it was believed that the Janaki Sthan in Sitamarhi, which has a pond and other religious structures, was the birthplace of Sita. But our research for close to 10 years showed that the Janaki temple was built by a sage around 200 years ago, after he claimed to have seen the place in his dream as Sita's birthplace.

Our research, based on Valmiki Ramayana and some travellers' accounts, ruled in favour of Punaura Dham, which also has a 100-year-old temple along with Sitakund, Sita Vatika and Luv Kush Vatika.

When the Centre sought a report from the Bihar government on Sita's birthplace for the Ramayana Circuit, I, with the support of other researchers, submitted the name of Punaura Dham. This has been ac-

cepted by both the state and central governments now. The state's decision to develop Punaura Dham came only after conclusive research.

Statistician and historian Sir William Wilson Hunter (1877), in A Statistical Account of Bengal, Volume 13, says that "Punaura (Punaura), three miles south-west of Sitamarhi, also puts in a claim to the honour of being Sita's birthplace."

What are the Bihar government's plans for Punaura?

The Punaura Development plan includes renovation of the temple, preparing a roofed pradakshina path (path for circumambulation) around it, and developing the Luv Kush Vatika, Sita Vatika, and Sita Kund. A meditation mandap will also come up, and a 3-D film screened to show Sita's life journey.

Besides, the Mahavir Temple Trust will construct a Sita temple inside the Sitakund on a budget of Rs 100 crore.

LONGER VERSION

INDIANEXPRESS.COM/EXPLAINED

Kishore Kunal spoke to Sanjiv Singh

- Punaura Dham:
 - Maa Janaki Janmabhoomi Temple is also known as Punaura Dham in Punaura village of Sitamarhi district of Bihar.
 - It is believed that Mata Sita was born at this place.
 - There is a story related to this that once there was a severe famine in Mithila and the priest there advised King Janak to plow the field. When King Janak was ploughing, an earthen pot came out of the ground, in which Mother Sita was in an infant state.



HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Indian Express : Places in news-GSI

Global crude oil, fuel flows via Suez Canal plunge amid Houthi threat; supplies to India largely unaffected

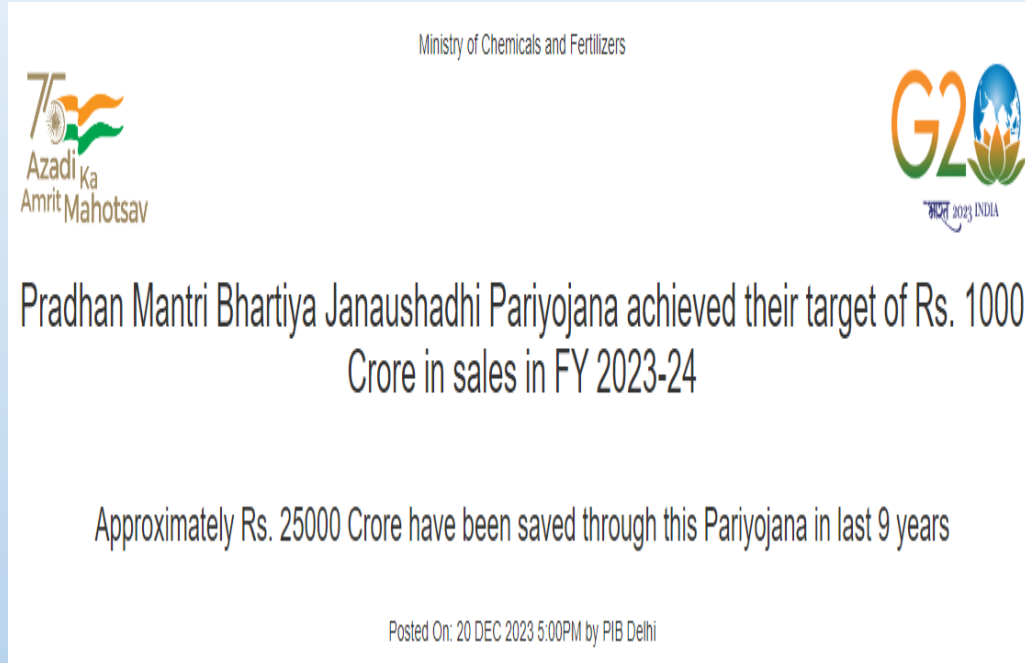
Oil shipments to India have not been impacted so far. This is because a bulk of the country's West Asian crude oil imports do not take that route, and tankers carrying Russian oil do not appear to be under threat from the rebels.

- The Suez Canal (In Arabic: Qanat as-Suways), is an artificial sea-level waterway running north to south across the Isthmus of Suez in Egypt to connect the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea.
- The canal separates the African continent from Asia, and it provides the shortest maritime route between Europe and the lands lying around the Indian and western Pacific oceans.
- It is one of the world's most heavily used shipping lanes.



HEADLINES OF THE DAY

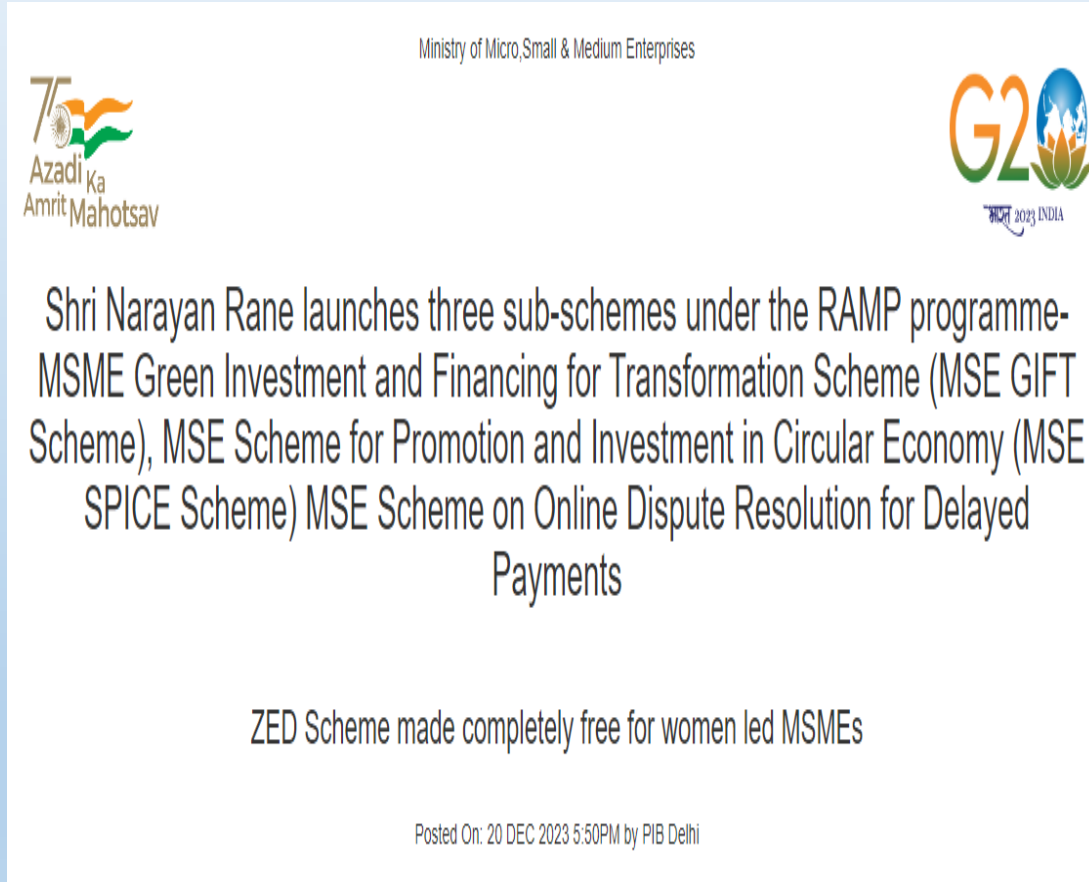
PIB: Health-GSII



- Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)' is a campaign launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals in association with Central Pharma Public Sector Undertakings, to provide quality medicines at affordable prices to the masses through dedicated outlets called 'Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendra'.
- These provide generic medicines at much lesser price. The potency of these medicines are same as compared to expensive branded medicines available in the open market.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB: Economy-GSIII



- Union Minister for MSME launched three sub-schemes under the aegis of the RAMP programme.
 - These are MSME Green Investment and Financing for Transformation Scheme (MSE GIFT Scheme), MSE Scheme for Promotion and Investment in Circular Economy (MSE SPICE Scheme) MSE Scheme on Online Dispute Resolution for Delayed Payments.

RAMP Scheme

- Launched on 30th June 2022 by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, "Raising and Accelerating MSME Productivity (RAMP)" is a Central Sector Scheme by the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises.
- The scheme aims to scale up the implementation capacity and coverage of MSMEs in the States, with impact enhancement of existing MSME schemes.