



THE HINDU



GS Paper 2-Governance

Forty-four years after Dehuli massacre of 24 Dalits, three given death sentence





KEY POINTS

- The debate on judicial discretion in India's death penalty began in 1972, with key rulings in 1980 and 1983 defining the 'rarest of rare' doctrine. Section 303 was struck down in 1983, and in 2022, the Court sought a more uniform approach for mitigating circumstances. Judicial discretion remains a key factor in its application.





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GS Paper 2-Governance

'Right to development a priority under fundamental rights'

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court set aside, in separate judgments on Monday, a National Green Tribunal (NCT) order and a Madras





KEY POINTS

The Supreme Court overturned two rulings halting Auroville's development, emphasizing the balance between the right to a clean environment and the right to development. It upheld the validity of the Auroville Foundation's Master Plan and ruled that the construction did not violate environmental laws, as the contested area was a man-made plantation, not a forest.



GS 2-Health

National Wildlife Health Policy takes shape, five years after Covid outbreak

NIKHIL GHANEKAR
NEW DELHI, MARCH 18

FIVE YEARS after Covid-19 was declared a pandemic, caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus that likely jumped from bats to humans possibly through an intermediary animal host, the Centre is reviewing an interim draft of a National Wildlife Health Policy (NWHP) that has proposed integrated wildlife disease surveillance, research and setting up of new diagnostic labs, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

Following a ministerial review

per the government, the concept of One Health – which focuses on approaching human, animal and environmental health together – has assumed importance.

The NWHP will align with the Centre's National One Health Mission, which coordinates cross-sectoral efforts for pandemic preparedness, integrated disease control and disease outbreak responses.

Wildlife acts as a reservoir of pathogens and thus monitoring their health, in the wild and in captivity, has become an imperative. As per government data, India has a network of 1,014 pro-

Central Zoo Authority (CZA) is anchoring the policy drafting, the office of the Principal Scientific Adviser has driven the consultations with subject experts, and the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay is supporting these agencies in the policy formulation. A core working group consisting of these three bodies and private consultancy firm Ernst and Young worked on the policy formulation.

Seven working groups gave key recommendations on themes ranging from disease surveillance and wildlife health research to capacity building and regulatory framework, it has been gathered.

marine and avian ecosystems

The National Referral Centre for Wildlife (NRC-W), whose foundation stone was laid by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Junagadh, Gujarat on March 3, will serve as a key hub of the new framework on wildlife health management. NRC-W will act as a referral centre to investigate wildlife mortalities, outbreak events and also facilitate disease diagnostics, treatments, and could be one of the nodal authorities for surveillance.

A national wildlife health database and a wildlife health information system are two of the

KEY POINTS

- The Indian government is reviewing a draft National Wildlife Health Policy (NWHP) to integrate wildlife disease surveillance, research, and diagnostics, aligning with the One Health concept. The policy aims to improve cross-sector collaboration, establish a wildlife health database, create satellite diagnostic labs, and enhance community engagement, especially in vaccination efforts near protected areas.



PRA



PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA



GS2-IR

Ministry of Commerce & Industry



India-Malaysia MoS Level Bilateral Meeting held in New Delhi

Posted On: 18 MAR 2025 6:53PM by PIB Delhi

KEY POINTS

- India and Malaysia discussed the review of the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA), aiming for its conclusion by 2025. They also addressed trade issues, market access, semiconductor collaboration, service sector cooperation, and BIS's Foreign Manufacturers Certification Scheme. Malaysia is India's 3rd largest ASEAN trading partner, with trade totaling USD 20.02 billion in 2023-24.





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GS2-IR

Ministry of Defence



INDIAN AND FRENCH NAVIES SET FOR THE 23rd EDITION OF BILATERAL NAVAL EXERCISE - VARUNA 2025

Posted On: 18 MAR 2025 6:36PM by PIB Delhi

KEY POINTS

- The 23rd edition of the India–France naval exercise VARUNA, scheduled for 19–22 March 2025, enhances naval cooperation and interoperability. It will feature the aircraft carriers Vikrant (India) and Charles de Gaulle (France), along with their fighter jets, destroyers, frigates, and an Indian Scorpene–class submarine, strengthening the bond between the two navies.





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GS3-Science

Ministry of Electronics & IT



Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and Drone Federation India launch National Innovation Challenge for Drone Research (NIDAR) under SwaYaan initiative

NIDAR Launch Boosts Talent, R&D, and Skill Development in India's Growing Drone Ecosystem

NIDAR offers INR 40 lakhs prize pool and startup incubation, cloud Credits, software support and internship opportunities for student teams

Posted On: 18 MAR 2025 8:56PM by PIB Delhi

KEY POINTS

- MeitY and DFI launched the National Innovation Challenge for Drone Application and Research (NIDAR) under the SwaYaan initiative, focusing on autonomous drones for disaster management and agriculture. Make India a global drone hub by 2030.
- SwaYaan, launched in 2022, aims to train 42,560 people in unmanned aircraft systems, with over 14,000 beneficiaries to date.

