



05 September 2024

National and International News

<p>Aparajita Women and Child (West Bengal Criminal Laws Amendment) Bill, 2024</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The West Bengal Assembly passed the Aparajita Women and Child (West Bengal Criminal Laws Amendment) Bill, 2024 aiming to enhance the safety of women and children. The Bill will be effective starting September 5, 2024. <p>Key Elements of the Bill: The Bill introduces harsher penalties for crimes such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of the death penalty for five offences — rape, rape by a police officer or public servant, rape causing death or sending victim to persistent vegetative state, gang rape, and being a repeat offender. A key provision of the Bill mandates the completion of investigations in rape cases within 21 days of the report being filed. <p>Establishment of Fast-Track Courts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Special Courts: To expedite the delivery of justice, the Bill mandates the establishment of fast-track courts to exclusively handle cases of sexual violence. <p>Aparajita Task Force:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specialised Task Force: The Bill calls for a district-level Aparajita Task Force, headed by a Deputy Superintendent of Police, to investigate cases related to women and children's safety. <p>Protection of Victims' Identities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Privacy Measures: Provisions in the Bill ensure the protection of victims' identities throughout the legal process, safeguarding their dignity and privacy.
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Brunei



Context:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in **Brunei's capital, Bandar Seri Begawan, for an official visit.**
- The visit was at the invitation of His Majesty **Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah.**
- Brunei holds an important place in India's **'Act East' Policy and its broader Indo-Pacific Vision.**

Significance of the Visit:

- This is the first time an **Indian Prime Minister is making a bilateral visit to Brunei.**
- The visit is significant as it aligns with the **40th anniversary of diplomatic relations between India and Brunei.**

About:

- **Location:** Northern coast of Borneo, Southeast Asia
- **Capital:** Bandar Seri Begawan
- **Borders:** Surrounded by Malaysia (Sarawak) and the South China Sea.
- **Area:** 5,765 sq km (2,226 sq mi)
- **Coastline:** 161 km along the South China Sea
- **Major Districts:** Brunei-Muara, Belait, Tutong, and Temburong.

AgriSURE Fund

Context:

- Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Union Minister for Agriculture, launched the AgriSURE Fund in New Delhi on 3rd September 2024.

About:

- AgriSURE is an innovative initiative designed to support agricultural and rural start-ups through technology-driven, high-risk, high-impact ventures.
- The fund is a pioneering step aimed at revolutionizing India's agricultural sector, focusing on start-up growth and fostering innovation.

Fund Structure:

- The AgriSURE Fund is a blended capital fund worth **₹750 crore.**
- Contributions include **₹250 crore each from the Government of India and NABARD,** with the remaining



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	<p>₹250 crore mobilized from banks, insurance companies, and private investors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The fund is registered under SEBI's Category II Alternative Investment Fund (AIF), aimed at driving investments in agriculture and rural enterprises.
<p>Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PM Narendra Modi to launch "Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari" on 6th September 2024 in Surat, Gujarat. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aim: to promote community participation in water conservation as part of the Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain campaign. <p>Jal Shakti Abhiyan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launched in 2019 in 1,592 blocks across 256 water-stressed districts in India. Initially suspended in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. <p>Revival through "Catch the Rain":</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2021, PM Modi introduced "Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain" with the theme "Catch the Rain – Where it Falls, When it Falls." The campaign now covers all blocks in both rural and urban areas nationwide, becoming an annual event. The fifth edition of the campaign was launched on 9th March 2024, with the theme "Nari Shakti se Jal Shakti."



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33% Quota for Women in Police Force

Context:

- The Rajasthan government, led by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), has approved 33% reservation for women in the State police force.

Key points:

- This decision will be implemented by amending the State Police Subordinate Service Rules of 1989.
- Many states have taken steps to implement the 33% reservation policy. For instance, states like Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana have officially adopted this target.
- However, the actual representation of women in these states remains significantly below the target, with many states reporting figures closer to 10-20% as of recent data.

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