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TN CA 29 July 2024

<p>New Criminal Laws</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Bar Council of TamilNadu and Puducherry (BCTNP) opposes the replacement of the Code of Criminal Procedure (Cr.P.C.), Indian Penal Code (I.P.C.), and Indian Evidence Act (I.E.A.) with Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam. The new laws were implemented on July 1, 2024. <p>About:</p> <p>BNSS (Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simplifies criminal procedures, aligning with Article 21 of the Indian Constitution for speedy trials. Introduces digital filing of FIRs and virtual hearings to reduce delays and increase transparency. Focuses on victim protection with timely compensation and support services, emphasizing a victim-centric approach. <p>BNS (Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modernizes substantive criminal law to include cybercrimes, financial frauds, and gender-based violence. Implements proportional sentencing and decriminalizes minor offences to relieve pressure on the justice system. Emphasizes rehabilitation and community service as alternatives to imprisonment, promoting fairness and reformative justice. <p>BSA (Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adapts evidentiary law to technological advancements, ensuring admissibility and reliability of digital evidence. Strengthens witness protection measures to safeguard testimonies and trial integrity. Simplifies evidence collection and presentation to enhance trial efficiency and uphold constitutional standards of fair trials.
<p>Makkaludan Mudhalvar' Scheme</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chief Minister MK Stalin conducted a review meeting on the 'Makkaludan Mudhalvar' scheme. <p>About:</p>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The scheme was launched in December 2023 in urban areas, including municipal corporations, municipalities, and town panchayats.From July 11, 2024, the scheme was extended to rural regions. <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Ensure timely delivery of government services to the people.Simplify the process of accessing these services.
<p>International Mangrove day</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The International Day of the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem, also known as World Mangrove Day, is observed annually on 26 July. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Initiated by UNESCO, this day aims to raise awareness about the critical role mangroves play in coastal ecosystems and the urgent need for their conservation.The date commemorates Greenpeace activist Hayhow Daniel Nanoto, who died in 1998 while advocating for mangrove restoration in Ecuador.The day emphasizes the importance of mangroves in protecting coastlines, supporting biodiversity, and mitigating climate change.UNESCO Declaration: Officially declared on 6 November 2015 during the 38th General Conference in Paris.Unique Habitat: Mangroves grow in saltwater along tropical and sub-tropical coastlines.Global Coverage: Represent less than 1% of tropical forests and 0.4% of total forest areas. <p>Ecosystem Functions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Protection: Shield coastlines from natural disasters and erosion.Biodiversity: Serve as habitats and nurseries for various species.Climate Mitigation: Absorb significantly more carbon than terrestrial forests. <p>Threats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">High Risk: Mangroves face severe threats from exploitation and pollution.Global Mangrove Alliance: 67% of mangroves are degraded or lost, with annual losses of 1%. <p>Significance of World Mangrove Day:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Global Mangrove Alliance (GMA): Aims to increase mangrove cover by 20% by 2030.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Awareness and Cooperation: Annual activities to promote conservation and sustainable management.• No Annual Theme: Unlike other international days, it does not have an annual theme.
Removal of Caste/Community Names from Government Schools in Tamil Nadu	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Madras High Court questioned the impact on society if government schools were named with terms indicating caste or community, such as "Tribal School." <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The court emphasized that using terms like 'Tribal' in school names stigmatizes students, making them feel segregated from others.• It was highlighted that no child should feel inferior due to the name of their school.• The court asserted that stigmatisation of children must not be tolerated by the government or the judiciary. <p>Directive to the Tamil Nadu Government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Chief Secretary of Tamil Nadu has been instructed to take action to remove any community or caste names from government school titles.• All schools should be named simply as "Government School" to promote equality and inclusivity.• The court stressed the importance of granting admission to all children in the locality, without any discriminatory labels.