



## Current Affairs of the Day

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#### ➤ Polity & Governance:

1. SC dismisses review petitions challenging verdict on adultery
2. 'Nasha Mukht Bharat' or drug-free India campaign

#### ➤ International Relations:

1. Russia agrees to speed up defence deals

### PAPER 3:

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1. Centre unveils new rules to regulate exotic animal trade



## Russia agrees to speed up defence deals

### Key Points:

- Russia has agreed to quickly address some urgent defence requirements sought by India and this was discussed during the recent trip of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.
- The long-pending deals for **AK-203 assault rifles and Ka-226T light utility helicopters** were also discussed in a review of the entire gamut of defence cooperation.
- There is some progress on the AK-203 assault rifle deal which has been held up over pricing.
- The deal was for over 7.5 lakh rifles, of which one lakh would be imported and 6.71 lakh rifles manufactured by a joint venture (JV) Indo-Russian Rifles Private Ltd. (IRRPL) at Korwa in Uttar Pradesh.
- Several MoUs have already been signed with domestic companies by RH for localising assemblies such as fuselage, blades, radio station and landing gear.
- Mr. Singh was on a four-day visit to Moscow from June 21 for the 75th anniversary of the Victory Day Parade, during which he held talks with Russian Deputy Prime Minister Yury Borisov.
- The request comes against the backdrop of tensions with China along the Line of Actual Control and the large-scale mobilisation undertaken by the armed forces in response to the massive Chinese build-up.

### Significance:

- The deal for 200 Ka-226T utility helicopters remains stuck over the level of indigenisation. To reach the indigenisation percentage as specified by the tender, Russia and India are evaluating the possibility of using Indian aviation materials in the production in India, which will give the programme a new indigenisation angle and also an impetus to the domestic aero industry.
- Another significant feature of the project is going to be the transfer to India of a number of crucial helicopter engineering technologies, including the unique coaxial scheme technologies.



- India will have the choice to integrate domestic avionic and weapons. Of the 200 helicopters, 60 will be imported directly and the remaining will be manufactured by a JV between Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. and the Russian Helicopters (RH).

### S-400 by 2021-end:

- However, on the S-400 deal, the sources said the deliveries would start by the end of 2021 as scheduled and it was difficult to accelerate the deal any further.

## Centre unveils new rules to regulate exotic animal trade

### Key Points:

- The Environment Ministry's wildlife division has introduced new rules to regulate the import and export of 'exotic wildlife species'.
- Currently, it is the Directorate-General of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce, that oversees such trade.
- Under the new rules, owners and possessors of such animals and birds must also register their stock with the Chief Wildlife Warden of their States.

### Select animals:

- Officials of the Wildlife Department will also prepare an inventory of such species and have the right to inspect the facilities of such traders to check if these plants and animals are being housed in salubrious conditions.
- Additionally, stockists will have six months to declare their stock.
- The advisory, issued earlier this month, also says 'exotic live species' will mean animals named under Appendices I, II and III of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) of Wild Fauna and Flora.
- It will not include species from the **Schedules of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972**.
- The **CITES** is part of a multilateral treaty that includes plant, animals and birds under varying categories of threat of extinction and which will be jointly protected by members of the International Union for Conservation of Nature. India is a signatory to this.



- According to **World Wildlife Crime Report 2016** of the UN, criminals are illegally trading products derived from over 7,000 species of wild animals and plants across the world.

### ‘Global threat’

- In its first global report on the illegal wildlife trade, released last week, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) described wildlife trafficking as a “global threat”, which also has links with other organised crimes such as modern slavery, drug trafficking and arms trade.
- The illegal trade is estimated to generate revenues of up to \$23 billion a year.
- India continues to battle wildlife crime, with reports suggesting that many times such species are available for trade on online market places.
- The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau is an organisation that is tasked with monitoring illegal trade.

## SC dismisses review petitions challenging verdict on adultery

### Key Points:

- The Supreme Court has refused to review its 2018 judgment which decriminalised adultery.
- A five-judge Review Bench, led by Chief Justice of India Sharad A. Bobde, upheld a September 2018 Constitution Bench which had struck adultery out of the penal statute book.

### The original judgment:

- The original judgment was by a Constitution Bench, led by then chief justice Dipak Misra, which found that Section 497 (adultery) of the Indian Penal Code cannot “command” married couples to remain loyal to each other for the fear of penal punishment.
- Two individuals may part if one cheats, but to attach criminality to infidelity is going too far, Justice Misra had observed in his separate opinion.
- The court had reasoned that there was no data whatsoever to support claims that abolition of adultery as a crime would result in “chaos in sexual morality” or an increase of divorce.



- Section 497 treats a married woman as the commodity of her husband, the Bench had held.
- Adultery is not a crime if the cuckolded husband connives or consents to his wife's extra-marital affair. Section 497 treats a married woman as her husband's "chattel".

## 'Nasha Mukh Bharat' or drug-free India campaign

- **26th June** – International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking
- **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** launched drug-free India campaign – 'Nasha Mukh Bharat'.
- Annual anti-drug action plan (2020-21) would focus on **272 most affected districts** and launch a three-pronged attack combining efforts of Narcotics Bureau, Outreach/Awareness by Social Justice and Treatment through the Health Dept.

### Aim/Objectives:

- It will focus on institutional support and also on community outreach programmes in the districts identified by Narcotics Control Bureau.
- Change in the strategy against drugs – from institutional level to level of society.
- It will launch campaigns in schools and colleges to prevent drug abuse among youth.

### Integrated Rehabilitation Centre for Addicts (IRCA):

- It is funded by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- It provides composite/ integrated services for the rehabilitation of the substance dependent person.
- IRCA is responsible for preventive education and awareness generation which target groups (vulnerable and at risk groups) in their neighborhood.
- IRCA envisages total recovery of the addicted person leading to his socio economic rehabilitation through an appropriate combination of individual counseling.



According to **2020 World Drug Report** released by United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) –

- Economic hardship caused by the pandemic may push people into making drugs for a living.
- Adverse impact of pandemic could lead to an increase in the number of people resorting to illicit activities.