

Current Affairs of the Day

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1. Crimes against Scheduled Tribes saw 26% rise in 2019: NCRB report

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About Official Secrets Act (OSA)

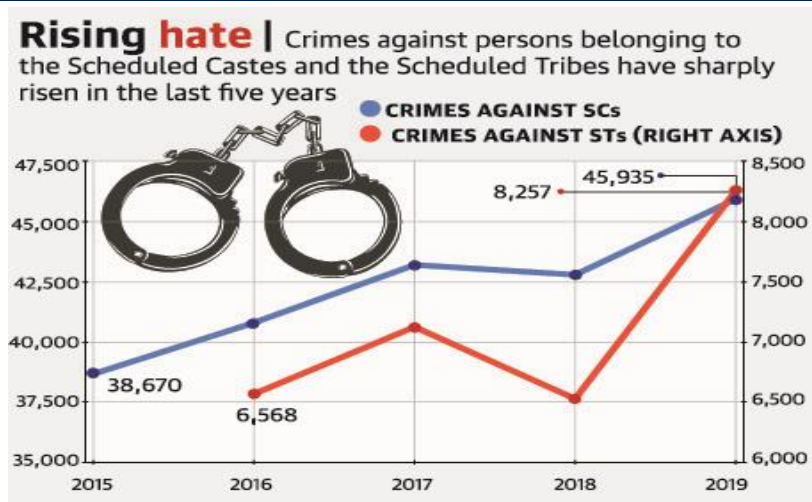
➤ Science & Technology:

1. Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center

Crimes against Scheduled Tribes saw 26% rise in 2019: NCRB report

Key findings:

- Crimes against members of the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and the Scheduled Tribes (STs) saw an increase of over 7% and 26% in 2019 compared with the 2018 figures, according to the annual Crime in India



2019 report published by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) on Wednesday. Due to “non-receipt of data” from West Bengal for 2019, the 2018 data had been used to arrive at national and city-wise figures, the NCRB said.

- A total of 45,935 cases were registered for committing crimes against the SCs, showing an increase of 7.3% over 2018 when 42,793 such cases were recorded. At 11,829 cases, Uttar Pradesh recorded the highest number of crimes against the SCs in 2019, followed by 6,794 cases in Rajasthan and 6,544 cases in Bihar, the report said.

Rape cases:

- In the number of cases of rape of women belonging to the SCs, Rajasthan topped the list with 554, followed by Uttar Pradesh at 537 and Madhya Pradesh at 510.
- A total of 8,257 cases were registered for crimes against the STs, an increase of 26.5% over 2018 when 6,528 such cases were registered. Madhya Pradesh recorded the highest number of cases against the STs as it recorded 1,922, followed by Rajasthan, which recorded 1,797 and Odisha 576. The highest number of incidents of rape of tribal women (358) was registered in Madhya Pradesh.



- A total of 51,56,172 cognisable crimes, comprising 32,25,701 Indian Penal Code ones and 19,30,471 Special and Local Laws crimes were registered in 2019.
- It showed an increase of 1.6% in registration of cases over 2018 (50,74,635 cases), the NCRB said. A total of 4,05,861 cases of crimes against women were registered in 2019 compared to 3,78,236 cases in 2018, showing an increase of 7.3%.

CHRI statement:

- The Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI), a police reforms advocacy group, said few cases were being registered for specific discriminatory action against the SCs and the STs.

Arrest under Official Secrets Act

- Recently, Delhi police has arrested a strategic affairs analyst under the Official Secrets Act (OSA), 1923 for passing information such as the deployment of Indian troops on the border to Chinese intelligence officers.

Value Added Information

Official Secrets Act (OSA):

- OSA broadly deals with two aspects — spying or espionage and disclosure of secret information of the government.
- However, the OSA does not define the secret information.
- Generally secret information includes any official code, password, sketch, plan, model, article, note, document, or information.
- If guilty, a person may get up to 14 years' imprisonment, a fine, or both. Both the person communicating the information and the person receiving the information can be punished under the OSA.

India-Sri Lanka Virtual Bilateral Summit held

- Recently, Indian Prime Minister and Sri Lankan PM held the first-ever India-Sri Lanka Virtual Bilateral Summit.



Key takeaways:

- A grant assistance of 15 million dollars shall be provided to Sri Lanka.
- The grant will assist in deepening people-to-people linkages between the two countries in the sphere of Buddhism.
- They agreed that the Indian side would facilitate the visit of a delegation of Buddhist pilgrims from Sri Lanka in the first inaugural flight to Kushinagar.
- Both sides also agreed to explore opportunities in the areas of Ayurveda and Yoga.
- India and Sri Lanka have reached an understanding to extend the MoU on High Impact Community Development Projects for a five-year period beginning 2020.
- Both leaders agreed to continue the successful Indian housing project and gave instructions to the relevant officials to fast-track the construction of 10,000 houses in the plantation sector.
- Implementation of the 13th Amendment to the Sri Lankan Constitution was also emphasised as it is essential for carrying forward the process of peace and reconciliation and realizing the expectations of Tamils for equality.

Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center

- Recently, the Government of India has created the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center (IN-SPACe).
- It is an independent nodal agency under the Department of Space.

Key takeaways:

- IN-SPACe is to be established as a single-window nodal agency, with its own cadre, which will permit and oversee the activities of private companies.
- **Functions:** (1) Encourage, promote and handhold the private sector for their participation in the Space Sector; (2) Draw up an integrated launch manifest considering the requirements for ISRO, New Space India Limited (NSIL) and private companies; (3) Work out a suitable mechanism to offer sharing of technology, expertise and facilities; (4) Permit establishment of facilities, within ISRO premises, based on safety norms and feasibility assessment.



- The decision of IN-SPACE shall be final and binding on all stakeholders including ISRO and private players will not be required to seek separate permission from ISRO.

Insolvency And Bankruptcy Code (2nd Amendment) Bill passed

- Rajya Sabha passed the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (2nd Amendment) Bill, thereby temporarily suspending initiation of Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process.

Key takeaways:

- It amends the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.
- The Bill seeks to temporarily suspend initiation of the corporate insolvency resolution process (CIRP) under the Code.
- When a default occurs, the Code allows the creditors of the company or the company itself to initiate CIRP by filing an application before the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT).
- The Bill provides that for defaults arising during the six months from March 25, 2020, CIRP can never be initiated by either the company or its creditors.
- The central government may extend this period to one year through notification. The Bill clarifies that during this period, CIRP can still be initiated for any defaults arising before March 25, 2020.

World Bank's Human Capital Index 2020

- Recently, the World Bank released the Human Capital Index (HCI) report for 2020.
- India has been ranked at the 116th position in the HCI 2020.
- Last year India was ranked 115 out of 157 countries.
- India's score increased to 0.49 in 2020 from 0.44 in 2018.

Key takeaways:

- **Parameters Used in HCI:** Health and education data of children for 174 countries up to March 2020.



- It covers 98% of the world's population.
- The pandemic puts at risk the decade's progress in building human capital, including the improvements in health, survival rates, school enrollment, and reduced stunting.
- More than 1 billion children have been out of school and could lose out, on average, half a year of schooling.
- It has created significant disruptions to essential health services for women and children, with many children missing out on crucial vaccinations.
- It has increased income inequality, its economic impact has been particularly deep for women and for the most disadvantaged families, leaving many vulnerable to food insecurity and poverty.