



Current Affairs of the Day

Modi launches Ujjwala 2.0 scheme

1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the second phase of the Ujjwala gas connection scheme for the poor and said that it would provide the biggest relief to lakhs of migrant worker families in the country.
2. Under Ujjwala 2.0 (Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana), migrant workers would no longer have to struggle to get address proof documents to get the gas connections.
3. Now migrant workers would only be required to submit a self-declaration of their residential address to get the gas connection, he added.

Parties get 48 hours to publish candidates' criminal records

1. The Supreme Court warned Parliament that the nation is losing patience with the advent of criminals in politics even as it imposed fines on major political parties, including the BJP and the Congress, for covering up from voters the criminal past of the candidates they fielded in the Bihar Assembly poll last year.
2. The court had directed political parties to publish the criminal history if any, of their election candidates on the homepage of their websites under the caption 'Candidates with criminal antecedents' within 48 hours of their selection.
3. The nation continues to wait and is losing patience. Cleansing the polluted stream of politics is obviously not one of the immediate pressing concerns of the legislative branch of the government.
4. The court said it did not take political parties much time to flout its February 2020 judgment, which directed them to prominently publish the criminal antecedents of their candidates in newspapers and on social media accounts, including Twitter and Facebook.
5. In a series of directions to make the right of information of a voter "more effective and meaningful", the court further ordered the Election Commission



of India to launch a dedicated mobile app for voters to get details of the criminal history of the candidates at the touch of a button.

6. The Commission should also form a separate cell to monitor political parties on their compliance with the court's judgment.

LS clears Bill restoring States' rights to specify OBC groups

1. The Lok Sabha passed the 127th Constitution Amendment Bill, 2021, with unanimous support from the House and not a single vote against, with the government stating that there was a need for careful examination of the demand made by several Lok Sabha MPs to remove the 50% cap on reservation currently in place.
2. In the Indra Sawhney case, the court has observed that the limit can be increased beyond the 50% but only in certain special circumstances. The government is aware of the wishes of the members.
3. The Minister said the current Constitution Amendment Bill was historic legislation as 671 castes in the country would benefit from it and restore the States' rights to make their own list of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and should be considered as the 105th Constitution Amendment Bill after being renumbered.