



Current Affairs of the Day

Researchers discover new frog species



1. Researchers have discovered yet another new frog species from the freshwater bodies of the western coastal plains of India.
2. The frog had been scientifically named *Euphlyctis Jaladhara* with a common name “Jaladhara skittering frog”, suggestive of the frog’s habitat - a small body of water or reservoir.
3. Initially, it was first spotted in freshwater bodies around the Thattekad Bird Sanctuary in Ernakulam, and then multiple populations were identified all along the western coastal plains from Kerala to Gujarat.
4. The amphibians were the “living link between the vertebrate life in water and land” and the new species was predominantly a freshwater frog.
5. They were the first vertebrate organisms to get affected due to water pollution due to their primitive body plan.



Right to wear hijab not under Article 25: Govt

1. Deeming the hijab as an essential religious practise would affect the personal freedom of Muslim women, Karnataka's advocate general Prabhuling Navadagi argued in the high court.

2. Countering the petitioners, Navadagi said the right to wear the headscarf falls under the category of 19(1)(A) and not Article 25 as has been argued by the Muslim students

3. If the wearing of a hijab is recognised as an essential religious practice by way of a court order, all Muslim women would be obligated to wear it, including those who do not want to do so, Navadagi said, representing the state government.

4. It hits at the liberty of that individual. The choice to wear what we want and choose not to wear what we do not want. Every woman of every faith has that choice. There cannot be religious sanction by way of a judicial declaration

5. Arguing further, he said the independent claim of 19(1)(A) cannot go together with Article 25. The consequence of the demand to declare Hijab as an essential religious practice is huge because there is an element of compulsion or else you will be expelled from the community.

What the govt argued

Deeming the hijab an essential religious practice would affect the personal freedom of Muslim women, the Karnataka govt told the HC

ON THE QUESTION OF ARTICLE 19

The demand that the right to wear hijab is part of the right to freedom of speech and expression under Article 19(1)(a) of the Indian Constitution also means that people who do not wish to wear it would have a fundamental right not to wear it, the govt argued

"The right to wear a hijab under Article 19(1)(a) is subject to reasonable restrictions under Article 19(2)... In our case, Rule 11 (of the Karnataka Education Rules) places reasonable restrictions for institutional discipline."

ON HIJAB BEING ESSENTIAL PRACTICE IN ISLAM

The wearing of the hijab was not an essential religious practice of Islam, the advocate general said

"If it is not obligatory, it is not compulsory. What is not compulsory is not essential. Therefore, it does not fall within the realm of essential religious practice."

Reasonable restrictions:

1. In this case, he argued, responding to a specific query by the bench, the question of choice does not arise because it is about school and college uniforms.

2. The demand of the petitioners that the right to wear hijab is part of the right to freedom of speech and expression under Article 19(1)(a) of the Indian Constitution also means that people who do not wish to wear it would have a fundamental right not to wear it, he argued.



3. Going by that argument, if anyone who wants to wear the hijab under the Article is restrained by the government, would it not amount to a violation of a fundamental right, chief justice Awasthi asked.
4. In response, Navadagi argued that there is no ban on wearing the hijab in India. The right to wear a hijab under Article 19(1)(a) is subject to reasonable restrictions under Article 19(2), he said. “ In our case, Rule 11 (of the Karnataka Education Rules) places reasonable restrictions for institutional discipline.”
5. The restrictions on wearing a hijab are limited to classrooms, and not the campus of educational institutes, he clarified.

MCQs	<p>Q1. Which of the following are reasonable restrictions as mentioned in article 19(2) of the Indian Constitution?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Public order 2. Decency or morality 3. Contempt of court 4. Defamation 5. Incitement to an offense <p>Select the correct answer from the codes given below</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. 1 and 4 only b. 1, 3 and 4 only c. 2, 3 and 4 only d. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5
MAINS DAWP	<p>Q1. Discuss systemic challenges to Job creation in India. Suggest ways to increase employment elasticity of Economic growth.</p> <p>Q2. The regulatory atmosphere is a key challenge to the Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, and Comics (AVGC) sector. Discuss reform needed to tap the potential of the sector.</p>