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Current Affairs - 26 November 2025

WHAT IS OBSTRUCTIVE SLEEP APNEA (OSA)?



they sleep.

- It is the most **common sleep-related breathing disorder**.
- People with OSA repeatedly stop and start breathing while they sleep.
- These **breath pauses** are known as **apneas**.
- There are several types of sleep apnea. OSA occurs when the throat muscles relax and block the airway.
- This happens off and on many times during sleep.
- Loud snoring is a telltale symptom of OSA. Anyone at any age can have OSA. But it's **most common in middle-aged and older adults**.
- This condition has significant **implications for cardiovascular health, mental well-being, quality of life, and driving safety**.
- **Treatment** for OSA may include:
 - Making **lifestyle changes** like **sleeping position adjustments** (not sleeping on your back) or **maintaining a weight that's healthy** for you.
 - Using a **continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) machine**.
 - Wearing **oral appliances** (mouthpieces).
 - Undergoing **surgery**.

Key Facts about Parkinson's Disease:

- It is a **progressive neurodegenerative disorder** that **primarily affects movement**.
- It **causes nerve cells** (neurons) in parts of the brain to **weaken**, become damaged, and die, leading to symptoms that include problems with movement, tremor, stiffness, and impaired balance.
- As symptoms progress, people with PD may have **difficulty walking, talking, or completing other simple tasks**.



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- **Who Does It Affect?**
 - The disease usually occurs in **older people**, but younger people can also be affected.
 - **Men are affected more** often than women.
 - The **cause** of PD is **unknown** but **people with a family history** of the disease have a **higher risk**.
 - **Exposure to air pollution, pesticides, and solvents** may increase risk.
 - People with PD **often develop** a “parkinsonian gait.”
 - This includes a **tendency to lean forward, taking small, quick steps as if hurrying** (called festination), and **reduced swinging in one or both arms**.
 - They may have **trouble initiating movement** (called “start hesitation”) and **stop suddenly as they walk**, freezing in place.
 - **Diagnosis:** Currently, **no blood laboratory or radiological tests are available** to diagnose Parkinson’s disease.
 - **Treatment:** There’s **no cure** for this disease, but treatments can help significantly improve your symptoms.

WHAT IS OPERATION PAWAN?



- It was launched by the Rajiv Gandhi government in 1987, sending the **Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF)** to Sri Lanka to help quell the civil war between the **Tamil and Sinhala communities**.
- It was **India's first major overseas military campaign** post-Independence.
- It was launched **under the Indo-Sri Lanka Accord, 1987**.
- It involved sending Indian troops into Sri Lanka to **disarm the Tamil militant groups**, including the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), and restore peace.
- One of the most notable martyrs of Operation Pawan was **Major Ramaswamy Parameswaran**, a Param Vir Chakra recipient.



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- ‘Operation Pawan’ formally ended in 1990 with the withdrawal of the IPKF.
- Although Sri Lanka has constructed a memorial acknowledging the IPKF’s role, the operation **did not receive formal commemoration at the National War Memorial** (Rashtriya Samar Smarak) in New Delhi.
- For decades, veterans and families sought formal recognition. **In 2025, the Army finally acknowledged** their long-overlooked sacrifice.

SATPURA TIGER RESERVE



- **Location:**
 - It is located in **Madhya Pradesh**.
 - It is situated in the **Satpura ranges**.
 - It lies **south of the river Narmada**.
- The tiger reserve comprises three protected areas,
 - **Satpura National Park**
 - **Bori Wildlife Sanctuary**
 - **Pachmarhi Sanctuary**.
- **Vegetation:** It mainly consists of **mixed deciduous forest** with a variety of flora typical of the Central Indian Highlands.
- **Flora:** It includes teak, bamboo, Indian ebony, various acacias, wild mango, Indian gooseberry, satinwood, etc.
- **Fauna:** It is home to a wide range of wildlife, including **tigers, leopards, sloth bears**, Indian gaurs (bison), and sambar deer.

Key Facts about Denwa River:

- It is a lifeline river of **Satpura National Park**.
- This river originates from the south-eastern part of the Hoshangabad district in **Madhya Pradesh**.
- It flows from **east to west** before joining the **Tawa River**.



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DRAFT SEEDS BILL 2025 - KEY PROVISIONS

- India's seed sector has undergone a massive transformation since the 1960s, through advances in biotechnology, hybridisation, commercial seed processing, and international trade.
- According to the Agriculture Ministry, in 2023-24, the national requirement for seeds was 462.31 lakh quintals, while availability reached 508.60 lakh quintals, creating a surplus of 46.29 lakh quintals.
- Industry associations have argued that the 1966 Act is outdated and ill-equipped to deal with new scientific and commercial realities.

Regulatory Architecture Proposed Under the Bill

- **Clear Definition of Stakeholders**
 - The Bill defines key actors, farmer, dealer, distributor, and producer, as separate entities engaged in seed use and trade. This creates regulatory clarity across the supply chain.
- **Central and State Seed Committees**
 - Two statutory bodies are proposed:
 - Central Seed Committee (27 members)
 - State Seed Committees (15 members)
- The Central Committee will recommend standards such as:
 - Minimum germination levels,
 - Genetic and physical purity,
 - Traits and seed health norms,
 - Additional quality parameters.
- The State Committees will advise on the registration of seed producers, dealers, nurseries, and processing units.

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Quality Control and Registration Systems

- **Mandatory Registration of Seed Processing Units**
 - All processing units must register with the State government. This ensures quality control but may increase operational costs for small seed entrepreneurs.
 - To ease compliance for companies operating across multiple States, a **Central Accreditation System** may be introduced, merit-based, transparent, and uniform.
- **National Seed Variety Register**
 - The Bill creates the office of a Registrar responsible for maintaining a National Register of Seed Varieties under the Central Seed Committee.
 - Field trials to determine the Value for Cultivation and Use (VCU) are also standardised in the Bill.
- **Seed Testing Laboratories**
 - Central and State seed testing laboratories will be strengthened to:
 - Analyse genetic purity, Assess germination and health parameters,
 - Assist in compliance monitoring.
- **Role of Seed Inspectors**
 - Seed inspectors will have search-and-seizure powers under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, ensuring stronger enforcement against violations.

Concerns Raised by Farmers' Organisations

- Farmers' unions, including the All India Kisan Sabha, have criticised the Bill for:
 - Potential increase in seed costs, enabling large companies to engage in “predatory pricing.”
 - Risk to seed sovereignty, as centralisation may favour multinational and domestic seed corporations.
 - Dilution of biodiversity protections, arguing that the Bill conflicts with global treaties such as the CBD and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food & Agriculture.
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SUPREME COURT QUESTIONS GOVT ON FAILURE TO PREVENT CUSTODIAL TORTURE

- Custodial torture in India is a widespread and systemic human rights violation involving physical and psychological abuse of individuals in police or judicial custody.
- Despite the high number of custodial deaths each year, conviction rates remain extremely low, reflecting deep-rooted impunity and weak accountability mechanisms.
- Prisoners' dignity and fundamental rights are protected under international law.
- The **UN Charter (1945)** emphasizes humane treatment, and the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)** safeguards individuals from torture, cruel treatment, and enforced disappearances, ensuring security and dignity.
- **Scale of the Problem**
 - Custodial torture—both physical and psychological—remains widespread and systemic. NHRC reported 2,739 custodial deaths in 2024, up from 2,400 in 2023.
 - Marginalised groups—Dalits, Adivasis, Muslims, daily-wage earners—are disproportionately targeted.
 - Accountability is abysmal: Zero convictions in 345 judicial inquiries (2017–2022) despite arrests and charge sheets.
- **Why Custodial Torture Persists?**
 - **Absence of Specific Anti-Torture Law** - India lacks a dedicated legislation criminalising torture as per global standards. Although India signed UN Convention Against Torture (UNCAT, 1997), it has not ratified it.
 - **Culture of Impunity** - Police personnel often shield each other, discouraging accountability. Systemic misuse of coercive interrogation methods remains widespread.
 - **Systemic and Institutional Failures** - Overworked police forces, inadequate training in non-coercive techniques. Weak prison infrastructure and insufficient oversight mechanisms.



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- **Weak Legal Protection for Victims** - Fear of retaliation and lack of legal aid prevent victims from reporting abuse.
- **Legal & Judicial Safeguards**
 - **Article 14:** Ensures that all individuals are treated equally, reinforcing that law enforcement agencies are not above the law.
 - **Article 21:** Right to life includes protection from torture.
 - **Article 20(1):** Prohibits conviction for acts that were not offences when committed and guards against excessive or arbitrary punitive actions.
 - **Article 20(3):** Protection against self-incrimination.
 - **D.K. Basu Guidelines (1997):** Mandate arrest memo, medical exam, identification of police officers, etc.
- **New Criminal Laws**
 - **Section 120, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS)** - Criminalises causing hurt or grievous hurt to extract confessions or information through violence or coercion.
 - **Section 35, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS)** - Requires that all arrests and detentions follow legally valid, clearly documented procedures.
 - **Section 22, Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA)** - Declares confessions obtained under inducement, threat, coercion, or promise as legally inadmissible.

Supreme Court Pulls Up Centre for Ignoring CCTV Directions

- The Supreme Court expressed displeasure that only 11 States/UTs had filed compliance affidavits regarding the installation of functional CCTVs in police stations.
 - The Union government had not filed its response either.
 - **Debate on CCTVs and Security Concerns**
 - The Centre argued that CCTV installation outside police stations could be counter-productive, citing security concerns.
 - The court disagreed, referring to **live-streamed** police stations in the U.S. and the need for more open correctional facilities to reduce overcrowding.
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DECODING PERSONALITY RIGHTS IN THE AGE OF AI

- Actors Abhishek Bachchan and Aishwarya Rai Bachchan have sued Google and YouTube in the Delhi High Court, accusing them of hosting AI-generated videos that depict them in fabricated — sometimes explicit — scenarios.
- They argue that such deepfakes violate their personality rights, damage their reputation, and threaten financial interests.
- The case also seeks safeguards to prevent these fake videos from being used to train future AI models.
- The issue underscores how **generative AI** blurs the line between real and fake, challenging existing legal protections over one's identity — name, image, likeness, and voice.
- Personality rights, rooted in privacy, dignity, and commercial autonomy, were not designed for the scale and speed of AI manipulation.
- Deepfakes now fuel misinformation, extortion, and loss of public trust, revealing a growing need for stronger legal and ethical safeguards to prevent the misuse and commodification of human identity.
- This article highlights how the rise of generative AI and deepfakes is challenging traditional personality rights in India and across the world.

The Evolving Legal Landscape of Personality Rights in the Age of AI

- **India's Hybrid and Reactive Approach**
 - India follows a hybrid model rooted in dignity (**Article 21**) and property-like control.
 - Personality rights are not codified but recognised through landmark judgments:
 - **Amitabh Bachchan v. Rajat Nagi (2022)**: Affirmed personality rights.
 - **Anil Kapoor v. Simply Life (2023)**: Banned AI misuse of Mr. Kapoor's likeness and "Jhakaas".



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- **Arijit Singh v. Codible Ventures (2024):** Protected his voice from AI replication.
 - While the IT Act and 2024 Intermediary Guidelines tackle impersonation and deepfakes, challenges remain due to anonymity, global data sharing, and limited enforcement capacity.
 - **United States: Property-Based ‘Right of Publicity’**
 - The U.S. treats personality rights as commercial property that can be licensed or transferred.
 - Key developments:
 - **Haelan Labs v. Topps (1953):** Separated publicity rights from privacy rights.
 - **ELVIS Act, Tennessee (2024):** Prohibits unauthorised AI cloning of voices and likenesses.
 - **Litigation against Character.AI** highlights risks of AI chatbots inducing self-harm or impersonating therapists; courts have rejected First Amendment immunity claims.
 - **European Union: Dignity and Consent Framework**
 - The EU’s GDPR mandates explicit consent for processing personal and biometric data.
 - The EU AI Act (2024) classifies deepfakes as high-risk, requiring transparency, labelling, and disclosure to prevent manipulation and deception.
 - **China: Stricter Consumer-Focused Enforcement**
 - Chinese courts emphasise preventing deception:
 - A 2024 Beijing ruling held synthetic voices must not mislead consumers.
 - Another case awarded damages to a voice actor whose AI-replicated voice was sold without consent — affirming voice as personality property.
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