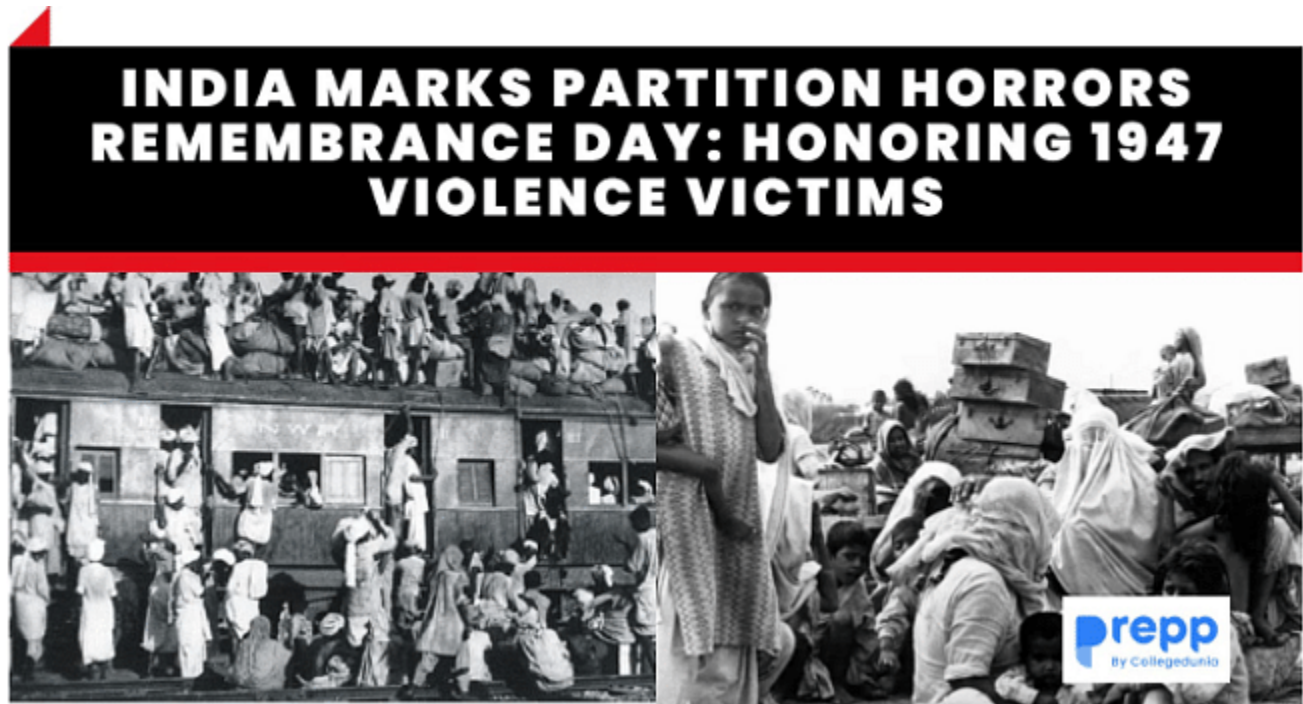


INDIA MARKS PARTITION HORRORS REMEMBRANCE DAY: HONORING 1947 VIOLENCE VICTIMS



- India observes Partition Horrors Remembrance Day to commemorate victims of the 1947 partition violence.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi initiated the day in 2021 to remember millions displaced and lost loved ones.
- Nationwide events include a candlelight vigil in New Delhi, survivor stories in Punjab, and a blood donation camp in Kolkata.
- Modi emphasizes learning from history, promoting unity, and preventing future tragedies.
- Survivors share painful experiences, highlighting the need for peace, harmony, and a brighter future.

NCERT FORMS 19-MEMBER PANEL FOR TEXTBOOK REVISION: NATIONAL CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK ALIGNMENT

NCERT FORMS 19-MEMBER PANEL FOR TEXTBOOK REVISION: NATIONAL CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK ALIGNMENT



- NCERT establishes a 19-member committee, led by MC Pant, to revise school textbooks in line with the National Curriculum Framework (NCF).
- Committee aims to enhance syllabi, textbooks, teaching materials, and learning resources for Classes 3 to 12.
- Diverse panel includes experts from various fields, such as mathematics, arts, economics, sports, policy, and administration.
- Efforts focus on creating an inclusive and contemporary educational framework, embracing cultural and regional diversity.
- Proposed changes from the pre-draft NCF include biannual board exams, semester system for Class 12, and flexible subject options.
- Transformational shift in India's education system anticipated.

ODOP WALL SHOWCASES INDIA'S CRAFTS: EMPOWERING RURAL ARTISANS



- The One District One Product (ODOP) program introduces the 'ODOP Wall' in collaboration with DAY-NRLM.
- Initiative celebrates India's diverse craftsmanship, giving rural artisans a global platform.
- ODOP and DAY-NRLM partnership amplifies cultural significance of products from various districts.
- Program promotes self-reliance, identifies unique products from each district, including handlooms and handicrafts.
- Collaboration boosts sales, visibility of SARAS products, empowering rural Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and women artisans.
- Prime Minister's vision to highlight Indian crafts' uniqueness comes to life through ODOP Wall.

AUGUST 15 INDEPENDENCE DAY: CELEBRATING FREEDOM IN 5 COUNTRIES



- August 15 holds significance for nations worldwide as Independence Day, commemorating freedom from colonial rule.
- India: Marks the end of British colonialism in 1947, celebrated with parades and cultural festivities.
- South Korea: Remembers liberation from Japanese rule in 1945 with patriotic events.
- North Korea: Observes the end of Japanese occupation in 1945, marked by ceremonies.
- Bahrain: Celebrates its independence from British protection in 1971 with vibrant displays.
- Liechtenstein: Commemorates the Treaty of 1866, establishing sovereignty, through local customs.
- A global day of freedom, August 15 sees diverse nations honoring their journeys to independence.

CAUVERY WATER SHARING ISSUE

Why in news?

- Recently, the Tamil Nadu government sought the Supreme Court's intervention to make Karnataka immediately release 24,000 cubic feet per second (cusecs) from its reservoirs.
- It also urged the Court to direct Karnataka to ensure the release of 36.76 TMC (thousand million cubic feet) stipulated for September 2023 as per the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT)'s final award of February 2007.
- This was modified by the SC in 2018.

Cauvery river



- Cauvery (or Kaveri) is the largest river in the state and originates at Talakaveri in the Brahmagiri hills of the Western Ghats in Karnataka..
- It is often called the **Dakshina Ganga** (the Ganges of the South) and considered one of the sacred rivers of India.
- The origin of the River Kaveri, is a famous pilgrimage and tourist spot set amidst Brahmagiri Hills near Madikeri in Coorg.
- The tributaries of the Kaveri include:
 - Harangi, Hemavathi (origin in western Ghats joins the river Kaveri near Krishnarajasagar), Lakshmana tirtha,
 - Kabini (originates in Kerala and flows eastward and joins the Kaveri at Tirumakudalu, Narasipur),
 - Shimsha, Arkavati, Suvarnavathi or Honnuholé, Bhavani, Lokapavani, Noyyal, Amaravati.

Cauvery water dispute

- The dispute is related to a long-standing conflict over the sharing of water from the Cauvery River.
- It involves 3 states and one Union Territory: Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka and Puducherry.
- The dispute revolves around how the river water should be distributed among these states for various uses, including irrigation, drinking water, and industrial purposes.
- **Background**
 - This dispute originated for the first-time way back in 1892 at the time of Britishers between the Presidency of Madras and Princely state of Mysore.
 - In 1924 Mysore and Madras reached into an agreement which will be valid for 50 years. Hence, it ceased to be enforced in 1974.
 - Since 1974, Karnataka started diverting water into its four newly made reservoirs, without the consent of Tamil Nadu.
 - This resulted in dispute in post independent India.

Formation of Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal and its final award

- In accordance with Section 4 of the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956, the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) was formed in June 1990.
- After 17 years, the CWDT issued its final award in February 2007, specifying the amount of water that each state should receive during different periods of the year.
- While considering that the total availability of water the Cauvery basin spread across the 4 states/UT is 740 TMC in a normal year, the Tribunal has allocated the water as follows:
 - Tamil Nadu: 419 TMC (which had demanded 512 TMC),
 - Karnataka: 270 TMC (which had demanded 465 TMC),
 - Kerala: 30 TMC, and
 - Pondicherry: 7 TMC
- The final award reserved 10 TMC for environmental purposes and 4 TMC for inevitable outlets into the sea.
- The tribunal mandated the constitution of a monitoring authority to regulate the release of water.

- The final award, however, had not given a detailed formula in situations when there is shortage of water due to insufficient rains.
- It merely said that in such situations, the allocated shares should be proportionally reduced.
- **Subsequent development**
- The government again took 6 year and notified the order in 2013 on the direction of the Supreme Court.
- Later, Tamil Nadu government had approached the Supreme Court with the **special leave petition under Article 136**.
- The Tamil Nadu Government had approached the court because Karnataka government was not following the award of the tribunal.
- **Article 136** makes the Supreme Court highest appellate court. It says that the Supreme Court may, in its discretion can grant special leave to appeal from any judgment, decree, determination, sentence or order passed by any court or tribunal in the territory of India.
- The apex court delivered its judgement in 2018. In its judgement, the apex court declared Cauvery a national asset.
- It largely upheld the water-sharing arrangements finalised by the CWDT.
- As per the judgement, Karnataka would get 284.75 TMC, Tamil Nadu 404.25 TMC, Kerala 30 TMC and Puducherry 7 TMC.
- It also directed the Centre to notify the **Cauvery Management Scheme**.
- The central government notified the ‘Cauvery Water Management Scheme’ in June 2018.
- It constituted the ‘**Cauvery Water Management Authority**’ (CWMA) and the ‘**Cauvery Water Regulation Committee**’ (CWRC) to give effect to the decision.

Why has T.N. approached the SC?

- The CWMA, at its meeting on August 11, **wanted Karnataka** to manage its releases in such a way that 10,000 cusecs of water was realised at Biligundlu for the next 15 days, starting from August 12.
- In other words, Karnataka would have to provide 0.86 TMC a day or 12.9 TMC totally in the 15 days.

- But, what apparently irked Tamil Nadu was the refusal of Karnataka during the meeting to abide by the quantity that was agreed upon at the meeting of the CWRC the previous day.
- Karnataka has contended that lower rainfall in the Cauvery catchment including in Kerala has led to the poor inflow to its own reservoirs.

REMOVAL OF SECTION 377 OF IPC AND ITS CONSEQUENCES

Why in News?

- The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023, the proposed replacement for the Indian Penal Code (IPC), does not contain IPC Section 377 (or an equivalent section), which was read down by the Supreme Court in 2018.

Background:

- The Indian Penal Code was drafted by the first Law Commission which was chaired by **Thomas Babington Macaulay** in 1834. The code came into force in January, 1860.
- The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Bill, 2023 aims to repeal and replace the IPC.
 - The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha and it has now been referred to the Standing Committee.
- The BNS Bill proposes several changes in the existing provisions. **While the IPC has 511 sections, the BNS Bill contains 356 provisions.**

What is Section 377 of the IPC?

- Section 377 of the IPC states:
 - “Whoever voluntarily has carnal intercourse against the order of nature with any man, woman or animal, shall be punished with imprisonment for life, or with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine.”
- The explanation to the provision states that “penetration is sufficient to constitute the carnal intercourse necessary to the offence.”
- For decades, the **LGBTQ community and others argued that this section was discriminatory, and provided legal protection to the harassment and intimidation of gay couples.**

Navtej Singh Johar v. Union of India Case (2018):

- In September, 2018, a five-judge bench of the Supreme Court **unanimously decriminalized consensual sex between two adults irrespective of their gender and partially struck down Section 377 of the IPC.**
- The court referred to those areas of the section that criminalized consensual unnatural sex as “irrational, indefensible and manifestly arbitrary”.
- The court also noted that Section 377 was used as a weapon to harass members of the LGBTQ community, resulting in their discrimination.
- However, in its ruling, the court also made it clear that other aspects dealing with unnatural sex with animals and children still remained in force, and that it was confining its order to consenting acts between two adults.

Introduction of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) Bill, 2023 & Its Likely Consequences:

- The IPC Section 377 offered protection to non-minor males from rape. Now, in the proposed BNS Bill, this section is gone.
- In the IPC, Section 375 defines rape and lists seven notions of consent which, if violated, would constitute the offence of rape by a man. In the proposed BNS, rape is covered under Section 63.
- Critics have pointed out that if the BNS Bill is passed in its present form, groups including male victims of sexual assault, could lose the legal protection accorded to them.
- This, it is argued, is because the **offence of “rape”, as defined in the proposed BNS, is gendered — which means that it can only be committed by a man against a woman.**
- In 2018, when the SC passed its verdict in ‘Navtej Johar’, several police officers had said that the judgment opened up grey areas.
- It was argued that **guidelines were required to deal with cases where, say, a gay man withdrew “consent” and lodged a complaint against their partner.**
- As on date, India’s laws on sexual assault do not recognize men as victims of rape.