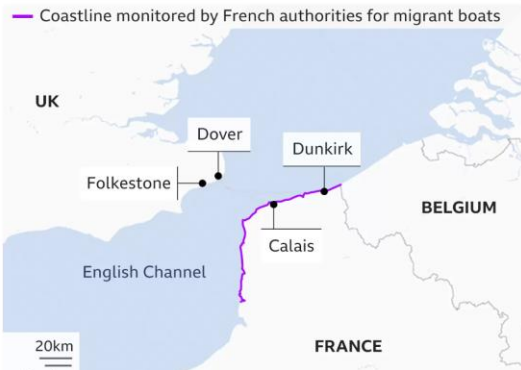


Migration through English Channel

Migrants now setting off across the Channel from a wide stretch of the French coast



Who are the migrants and where are they from?

- In the first six months of 2022, more than half were from three countries:
- 18% came from Albania
- 18% from Afghanistan
- 15% from Iran

What is the Rwanda plan?

- The government wants to send some asylum seekers to Rwanda for their claims to be processed.
- It argues this will deter people who arrive in the UK through what it calls "illegal, dangerous or unnecessary methods".
- However, the numbers crossing the Channel have continued to rise since the policy was announced.
- The plan was widely condemned by charities and campaign groups, who have launched a series of legal challenges.
- The policy is currently on hold until a decision is reached in the courts.

What happens when people arrive in the UK?

- Most of the people who come by boat claim asylum on arrival in the UK. An asylum seeker is a person who has applied for the right to seek shelter and protection in another country.
- Asylum seekers have an initial interview and if their case is accepted they can apply to remain in the UK.
- However, recent changes to immigration law mean an asylum claim can be rejected if the applicant has a connection to a safe third country.

THE HINDU

Section 125 and 125A and RPA 1951

- As per Section 125 of the Representation of the People's Act 1951 and Sections 505 1) and 153(A) of the IPC, membership in the House ceased to exist after the court was sentenced to three years in jail.
- Section 125 in The Representation of the People Act, 1951
- 1[125. Promoting enmity between classes in connection with the election. Any person who in connection with an election under this Act promotes or attempts to promote on grounds of religion, race, caste, community or language, feelings of enmity or hatred, between different classes of the citizens of India shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both.
- Section 125A in The Representation of the People Act, 1951

- 1[125A. Penalty for filing false affidavit, etc. A candidate who himself or through his proposer, with intent to be elected in an election.
- fails to furnish information relating to sub-section (1) of section 33A; or
- gives false information that he knows or has reason to believe to be false; or
- conceals any information, in his nomination paper delivered under sub-section (1) of section 33 or in his affidavit which is required to be delivered under sub-section (2) of section 33A, as the case may be, shall, notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine, or with both.

THE HINDU

Death penalty

- The following observations of the Court are significant: “It is also a fact that in all cases where imposition of capital sentence is a choice of sentence, aggravating circumstances would always be on record, and would be part of [the] prosecutor’s evidence, leading to conviction, whereas the accused can scarcely be expected to place mitigating circumstances on the record, for the reason that the stage for doing so is after conviction. This places the convict at a hopeless disadvantage, tilting the scales heavily against him.” (Emphasis supplied).
- The three-judge Bench decision seems to have gone beyond sentencing incongruities when it observes: “This court is of the opinion that it is necessary to have clarity in the matter to ensure a uniform

approach on the question of granting real and meaningful opportunity, as opposed to formal hearing to the accused/convict on the issue of sentence.” (Emphasis supplied).

- In *Manoj and Ors. vs State of M.P.*, said: “trial court must take into account the social milieu, the educational levels, whether the accused had faced trauma earlier in life, family circumstances, psychological evaluation of a convict and post-conviction conduct, were relevant factors at the time of considering whether the death penalty ought to be imposed upon the accused.
- The future shape of the mission to humanise criminal justice will ultimately depend upon two things.
- The first is the composition of the larger Bench and the inclination of the judiciary to continue in its onward creative path, as the CJI retires on November 8.
- Second, the extent to which society is prepared to broaden the horizons of meaningful hearing, even to the earlier guilt-determination stage.

THE HINDU

COP27

- Despite nervousness in making bold commitments in these uncertain times, a breakthrough must be made in rectifying decades of lopsided emissions by rich countries
- Just as problematic is the continuous and heavy burning of fossil fuels by the top five emitters China, the United States, India, Russia, and Japan as well as Southeast Asian countries taken together.
- India’s reliance on fossil fuels is extremely high. High GDP growth, India’s biggest

goal, just cannot be achieved in the face of runaway climate change.

- The country has set a target date of 2070 for net zero. China is the world's leader in renewable energy, but its share of coal and gas in energy production remains over 70%, with the country continuing to finance massive fossil fuel-based infrastructure.
- China has announced net zero for 2060
- Energy is responsible for about three-fourths of GHGs in the air, and low-carbon energy needs to lead the decarbonisation of the global economy. India's plan for decarbonisation, even if very gradual at present, will nevertheless need to see a massive switch to renewable energy.
- Electric power has made progress in adopting renewables in its energy mix, but a far bigger switch from fossil fuel is needed for domestic heating and cooling.
- Factors in the way of a more ambitious adoption of renewables such as solar and wind include the variability in their generation due to weather conditions, weak transmission grids, and poor financial conditions of power distribution companies.

THE HINDU
