

Governor Discretion

- This position has been fortified by a seven Judge Bench of the Supreme Court in *Shamsher Singh & Anr vs State Of Punjab (1974)*, wherein it was held that the discretion of the Governor is extremely limited and, even in such rare cases shall act in a manner that is not detrimental to the interest of the state.
- Furthermore, the Supreme Court has repeatedly held that the Governor shall only act on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers.
- Over time, matters involving an inexplicable delay in exercising powers by various authorities have been brought under the ambit of judicial review by constitutional courts.
- The Supreme Court, in *Keisham Meghachandra Singh vs The Hon'ble Speaker Manipur (2020)*, issued a writ of mandamus to the Speaker of the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly to decide on the disqualification petitions under the 10th Schedule of the Constitution within a period of four weeks.

THE HINDU

China Amends Anti espionage Law

What is China's anti-espionage law?

- The recent amendments are to China's 2014 anti-espionage law. Article 1 of the law says the idea behind the legislation is "to prevent, stop and punish espionage conduct and maintain national security."
- The broad ambit of what constitutes "national security" as well as the law's focus on involving a "whole of society" approach to counter-espionage, including from Chinese enterprises and organizations, evoked concerns among both rights groups and foreign enterprises in China.
- One article of the law mandates that "all State organs, armed forces, political parties, and public groups, and all enterprises and organizations, have the obligation to prevent and stop espionage activities and maintain national security."
- Another article encourages ordinary citizens to take part in national anti-espionage efforts by reporting to the authorities any activity deemed to be suspicious and endangering national security.

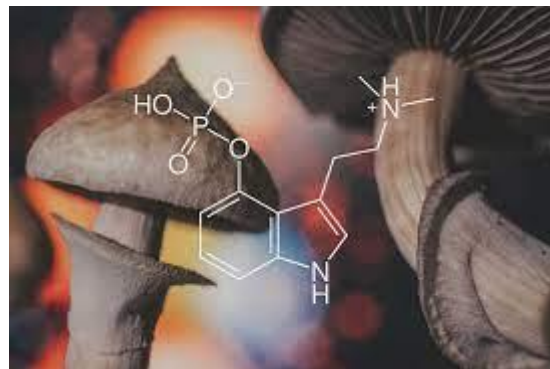
- The latest amendments are the first changes since 2014 and will take effect on July 1, 2023.
- They have further broadened the law's scope, with one of the changes declaring that "all documents, data, materials, and items related to national security and interests" will be protected on par with what are deemed state secrets.
- The definition of espionage has also been expanded to include cyber-attacks.
- Essentially, the transfer of any information deemed by authorities to be in the interest of what they define to be "national security" will now be considered an act of espionage.

THE HINDU

Psychedelics

- Psychedelics are a group of drugs that alter perception, mood, and thought processing while a person is still clearly conscious. Usually, the person's insight also remains unimpaired.
- Psychedelics are non-addictive, non-toxic, and compared to illicit drugs, they are less harmful to the end user. In India, the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act 1985 prohibits the use of psychedelic substances. Ketamine, a dissociative

anesthetic with psychedelic properties, is used under strict medical supervision, for anaesthesia and.



THE HINDU

Terror and technology

- The Union government has instructed service providers to ban 14 applications in Jammu and Kashmir, following recommendations by the Union Home Ministry, officials said.
- Most of these apps are communication platforms that allow encrypted messaging, which, the government said, were used by terror organizations in the region.

THE HINDU

India selling Russian oil

- India leads five countries named as the "Laundromat" countries that buy Russian oil and sell processed products to European countries, thus side-stepping European sanctions against Russia.

- The report also accused Indian sellers and European buyers of possibly “circumventing sanctions” by selling crude products from a refinery in Gujarat that is co-owned by Russian oil company Rosneft.
- India leads five countries named as the “Laundromat” countries that buy Russian oil and sell processed products to European countries, thus side-stepping European sanctions against Russia
- The report also accused Indian sellers and European buyers of possibly “circumventing sanctions” by selling crude products from a refinery in Gujarat that is co-owned by Russian oil company Rosneft.



THE HINDU



AIME

- In a step further in the expanding India-ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) military cooperation, the maiden ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise (AIME) is set to begin on Tuesday, with war games in the South China Sea.

