

PM-USHA

- Rashtriya Uchcharat Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) was a Centrally Sponsored Scheme to fund State/UTs institutions, with the vision to attain higher levels of access, equity, and excellence in the State higher education system with greater efficiency, transparency, accountability, and responsiveness.
- The first phase of the scheme was launched in 2013 and the second phase was launched in 2018.
- Now, in the light of the National Education Policy, the RUSA scheme has been launched as Pradhan Mantri Uchcharat Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA).
- It covers government and government-aided institutions of the States and UTs.
- As the demand for higher education is increasing continuously over the years, there has been an unprecedented expansion in the number of institutions, universities, and volume of students in the country
- PM-USHA aims to address the key gaps and issues identified in the Evaluation Report of Centrally Sponsored Schemes by the NITI Aayog.
- PM-USHA would be focusing on the following:
 - Equity, Access, and Inclusion:
 - Developing Quality Teaching & Learning processes:
 - Accreditation of Non-Accredited Institutions & Improving Accreditation:
 - ICT-based Digital Infrastructure:
 - Enhancing Employability through Multidisciplinary.

THE HINDU

New bills on criminal laws

- The Centre on August 11 introduced three new Bills in the Lok Sabha that propose a complete overhaul of the country's criminal justice system.
- The Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860 is set to be replaced by the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023.
- The Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1973 will be replaced by the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 whereas the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, will be replaced by the Bharatiya Sakshya Bill, 2023.
- New Bill on IPC repeals the offense of sedition under Section 124A of the IPC.
- However, it has been replaced by another section targeting speech, writing, or any form of communication that incites separatist and subversive activities.
- The process to bring about amendments in criminal laws has been in the pipeline for a while.

- The Parliamentary Standing Committee in its 111th and 128th reports had highlighted the need for reform in criminal laws through the enactment of a comprehensive legislation instead of piecemeal amendments in existing acts.
- It proposes changes to 160 provisions and introduces nine new provisions.

What are the key highlights of the Bills?

- The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Bill, 2023 seeks to replace the IPC by repealing 22 of its provisions, proposing changes to 175 existing provisions, and introducing eight new sections.
- It contains a total of 356 provisions.
- The punishment for all types of gang rape will now include 20 years of imprisonment or life imprisonment.
- The punishment for the rape of a minor will include the imposition of the death penalty. Various offenses have also been made gender-neutral.
- Notably, for the first time capital punishment has been introduced for the offense of mob lynching apart from the offense being made punishable with seven years of imprisonment or life imprisonment.
- The Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita Bill, 2023 will replace the CrPC by repealing nine of its provisions.
- It contains a total of 533 sections.
- A formal provision (Section 230) has been introduced to ensure that a copy of the FIR is made available to the accused and the victim free of cost and within fourteen days from the date of production or appearance of the accused.
- Other changes to expedite the procedure include the facility for an accused person to be examined through electronic means, like video conferencing.
- Summary trials have been made mandatory for petty and less serious cases.
- The magisterial system has also been streamlined
- The Indian Evidence Act will be replaced by the Bharatiya Sakshya Bill, 2023 which proposes changes to 23 provisions and introduces one new provision.
- It contains 170 sections in total.
- The Statement of Objects and Reasons of this Bill highlights that the Indian Evidence Act has been repealed because it fails to 'address the technological advancement undergone in the country during the last few decades.'
- The Bill permits the admissibility of an electronic or digital record as

evidence and will have legal validity as documentary evidence.

- The ambit of what constitutes secondary evidence has also been expanded.

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Air pollution and AMR

- Tiny, invisible particles, 30-times smaller than the breadth of a human hair, wreak havoc on more than 7.5 billion people worldwide.
- This particulate matter, called PM2.5, could drive the world's next public health threat antimicrobial resistance (AMR), when disease-causing bacteria to become immune to the drugs that could once destroy them.
- The air-AMR connection Antibiotic-resistant bacteria and genes travel through food, soil, water, air, and direct contact with sources such as animals.
- The hypothesis is that ARGs, when emitted from, say, hospitals or livestock farms, could latch on to pollutant particles.
- Such particles have been found to contain "diverse antibiotic-resistant bacteria and antibiotic-resistance genes, which are transferred between environments and directly inhaled by humans, causing respiratory -tract injury and infection."

- When suspended in the environment or breathed in, ARGs could enter the bacteria found in the human body and bolster their resistance.
- Air laden with unhealthy amounts of PM2.5 can thus become a highway for transporting antibiotic-resistant bacteria and ARGs.
- More than 7.3 billion people globally and 93% of India's population are exposed to unsafe average levels of PM2.5.
- These particles can spread on fast winds, evaporated water, and dust.

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Factors responsible for the landslide

Tectonic activity

- Intense rainfall
- Deforestation:
- Glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs)
- Steep slope
- Land-use changes:
- Construction activities

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Why depreciation of rs?

- Sell-off of the Equity
- Outflow of Dollars
- Tightening of Monetary Policy

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Hmar community

- Anwaar ul Haq Kakar sworn in as Pakistan's caretaker Prime Minister
- Bangladesh seeks extradition treaty with U.K., trying to bring back Mujibur Rahman's killers.

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