



C.A Dated On 20-07-2018

General Studies-2

Proposal to Change Sedition Law

The Ministry of Home Affairs has written to the Ministry of Law and Justice to request the Law Commission of India to study the usage of the provisions of Section 124 A (Sedition) of IPC and suggest amendments, if any.

The Law Commission has undertaken the examination of Section 124 A and is considering the scope and ambit of the law on sedition, in order to ascertain under what circumstances it can legitimately be invoked.

About Sedition Law:

Section 124-A of the Indian Penal Code, in its current form, stipulates that

Whoever, by words, either spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation, or otherwise, brings or attempts to bring into hatred or contempt, or excites or attempts to excite disaffection towards the Government established by law in India, shall be punished with imprisonment for life, to which fine may be added, or with imprisonment which may extend to three years, to which fine may be added, or with fine.

Israel 'nation state' law

The 'nation state' law passed by Israel's Parliament amid strong protests by Opposition lawmakers, has raised concerns about its commitment to peace in the region.

What is the Law about?

The legislation, which will become one of Israel's powerful Basic Laws that have constitutional status, lays down that "Israel is the historic homeland of the Jewish people and they have an exclusive right to national self-determination in it".

The law strips Arabic, the first language of 1.8 million citizens, of its national language status;



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states that Jerusalem, "whole and united", is its capital;

and vows to "promote and encourage" the establishment and consolidation of Jewish settlements, which it sees as a national value.

Concerns:

By providing exclusive right to national self-determination only to the Jewish people and by downgrading Arabic's status, the law sends a clear message.

The new Basic Law sets the stage for that transition, challenging the basic concepts of equality, which even Israel's declaration of independence promised to all its inhabitants.

The emphasis on Jerusalem and the promise to promote settlements pose a direct threat to any peace process with the Palestinians.

Besides, if Israel sees Jewish settlements as a national value and continues to promote them in the Palestinian territories, it cannot command confidence when it says it is still committed to the two-state solution.

The law further erodes the credibility of Israel's professed support of an independent Palestinian state.

General Studies -3

Cabinet approves determination of Fair and Remunerative Price payable by Sugar Mills for 2018-19 sugar season



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Keeping in view the interest of sugarcane farmers, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane for sugar season 2018-19 at Rs. 275/- per quintal.

Background:

The FRP has been determined on the basis of recommendations of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) and after consultation with State Governments and other stake-holders.

Recommended FRP has been arrived at by taking into account *various factors* such as:

cost of production, overall demand-supply situation, domestic and international prices, inter-crop price parity, terms of trade prices of primary by-products, and likely impact of FRP on general price level and resource use efficiency.

IAF participation in Ex Pitch Black 2018

The Indian Air Force for the first time is participating with fighter aircraft in Exercise Pitch Black 2018 (PB-18), which is scheduled from 24 Jul 18 to 18 Aug 18 in Australia.

Ex Pitch Black is a biennial multi-national large force employment warfare exercise hosted by the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF).

Advantages of Such Exercises:

The exercise will provide unique opportunity for exchange of knowledge and experience with these nations in a dynamic warfare environment.

Participation in multinational air exercise assumes importance in view of the continued engagement of the IAF with friendly foreign countries.

Over the last decade, IAF has been actively participating in operational exercises hosted by various countries, wherein collaborative engagements undertaken with the best air forces in the world.



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During the transit to Australia, IAF contingent will also have constructive engagement with Indonesian and Malaysian Air Forces.

Privatisation of Defence Production

The Government is promoting privatisation in Defence Production.

Till June 2018, Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP) has issued 379 licenses to 230 Indian Companies for manufacture of various licensable defence items.

Apart from this, one manufacturing license has also been issued by Ministry of Home Affairs for Small Arms and ammunitions.

FDI Rule in Defence Sector:

As per extant Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy, in defence sector, foreign investment upto 49% is permitted under automatic route.

Foreign investment beyond 49% (upto 100%) is permitted through government approval in cases resulting in access to modern technology in the country or for other reasons to be recorded.

FDI limit for defence sector has also been made applicable to Manufacturing of Small Arms and Ammunitions covered under Arms Act 1959.

Further, foreign investment in defence sector is subject to other conditions of extant FDI Policy as amended from time to time.

Progress Achieved:

So far, 41 FDI proposals / Joint Ventures have been approved for manufacturing of various defence equipment both in public and private sectors,

FDI amounting to US \$ 5.13 million has been received in the Defence Industry Sector from April 2000 to March 2018.



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Grievance Redressal Officers for processing the complaints/information under e-way Bill System

As per the decision of the GST Council, e-way bill system has been rolled-out in a staggered manner across the country.

E-way bills are getting generated successfully and till 17th July, 2018, more than Thirteen Crore and Fifty Lakh e-way bills have been generated which includes Six Crore and Fifty Lakh E-way bills for Intra-State movement of goods.

Grievance Redressal Officers have been appointed by both the Central and State Governments under the provisions of e-way bill rules for processing the complaints/information uploaded by taxpayers/transporters regarding detention of their vehicle.

About E-way Bill:

EWay Bill is an electronic way bill for movement of goods which can be generated on the eWay Bill Portal.

Transport of goods of more than Rs. 50,000 (Single Invoice/bill/delivery challan) in value in a vehicle cannot be made by a registered person without an e-way bill.

Alternatively, Eway bill can also be generated or cancelled [through SMS](#), Android App and by Site-to-Site Integration(through API).

When an e-way bill is generated a unique e-way bill number (EBN) is allocated and is available to the supplier, recipient, and the transporter.

India's Arctic Mission:

Three decades after its first mission to Antarctica, the government is refocusing priorities to the other pole — the Arctic—because of opportunities and challenges posed by climate change.

Steps Taken:

This month, it has renamed the National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research (NCAOR) — since 1998, charged with conducting expeditions to



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India's base stations to the continent — as the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research.

It's also in talks with Canada and Russia, key countries with presence in the Arctic circle, to establish new observation systems, according to a source.

Now, India only has one Arctic observation station near Norway.

More expeditions

While annual missions to maintain India's three bases in Antarctica will continue, the new priorities mean that there will be more expeditions and research focus on the other poles.

Reasons :

Climate change,, person familiar with deliberations, was a decisive factor in India re-thinking priorities.

Sea ice at the Arctic has been melting rapidly — the fastest in this century.

That means several spots, rich in hydrocarbon reserves, will be more accessible through the year via alternative shipping routes.

India's Present engagement in Region:

India is already an observer at the Arctic Council — a forum of countries that decides on managing the region's resources and popular livelihood .

In 2015, set up an underground observatory, called IndARC, at the Kongsfjorden fjord, half way between Norway and the North Pole.

About Arctic Council

The **Arctic Council** is a high-level [intergovernmental](#) forum which addresses issues faced by the [Arctic](#) governments and people living in the Arctic region.

The member states consist of the following:

- Canada



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 - Greenland
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