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Right to Liberty in the Indian Constitution

Context: AAP Leader Granted Bail on the Grounds That the Right to Liberty is Sacrosanct.

➤ Overview of the Right to Liberty

- The right to liberty is a fundamental right enshrined in Part III of the Indian Constitution.
- Primarily covered under Articles 21, 22, and 19.
- Protects individual freedom and ensures that no person is deprived of their liberty except according to the procedure established by law.

➤ Article 21: Protection of Life and Personal Liberty

- "No person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law."
- **Landmark Judgments:**
 - **Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India (1978):** Expanded the scope of Article 21 to include the right to live with human dignity and the right to privacy.
 - **K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India (2017):** Recognized the right to privacy as a fundamental right under Article 21.

➤ Article 22: Protection Against Arrest and Detention

- **Clause (1) and (2):**
 - Provides **protection against arbitrary arrest and detention.**
 - Every person arrested must be produced before a magistrate within 24 hours.
- **Clause (3):**
 - Provides **protection for those detained** under preventive detention laws.
 - Detained individuals must be informed of grounds of detention and be given an opportunity to make a representation.
- **Landmark Judgments:**
 - **A.K. Gopalan v. State of Madras (1950):** Interpreted Article 22 in the context of preventive detention laws.
 - **Additional District Magistrate, Jabalpur v. Shivakant Shukla (1976):** Considered the scope of Article 22 during the Emergency period.

➤ Article 19: Protection of Certain Freedoms

- **Clause (1) Guarantees the following freedoms:**
 - **Freedom of Speech and Expression** (Article 19(1)(a))
 - **Freedom to Assemble Peacefully and Without Arms** (Article 19(1)(b))
 - **Freedom to Form Associations or Unions** (Article 19(1)(c))
 - **Freedom to Move Freely Throughout the Territory of India** (Article 19(1)(d))

- **Freedom to Reside and Settle in Any Part of the Territory of India** (Article 19(1)(e))
- **Freedom to Practice Any Profession, or to Carry on Any Occupation, Trade, or Business** (Article 19(1)(g))

• Clause (2) to (6):

- The freedoms under Article 19(1) are **subject to reasonable restrictions** on grounds such as:
 - Sovereignty and integrity of India
 - Security of the State
 - Public order
 - Decency or morality
 - Contempt of court
 - Defamation
 - Incitement to an offense

• Landmark Judgments:

- **Romesh Thappar v. State of Madras (1950):** Established the scope of freedom of speech and expression.
- **Kharak Singh v. State of Uttar Pradesh (1963):** Discussed the right to privacy in the context of freedom of movement and residence.

India-Singapore relations

Context: Ahead of PM Modi's visit, India-Singapore relations are set to expand with new partnerships and sectoral cooperation.

➤ Overview

- PM Modi's visit to Singapore ends a six-year gap.
- Celebrates 60 years of diplomatic relations and 10 years of strategic partnership.
- Aims to boost cooperation in digitization, sustainability, advanced manufacturing, health, and connectivity.



➤ Historical background

- **Early Ties:** The relationship dates back over a millennium, with significant commercial and cultural exchanges.
- **Colonial Era:** Sir Stamford Raffles who, in 1819, established a trading station in Singapore on the route of the [Straits of Malacca](#) which later became a crown colony and governed from Kolkata till 1867.
- **Post-Independence Recognition:** India was among the first countries to recognize Singapore after its independence in 1965.

➤ Trade and Economic Cooperation

- **Trade:** In bilateral trade, Singapore was the 6th largest global trade partner of India in 2023-24 with a total trade of \$35.61 billion.

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- **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI):** Singapore is the leading source of FDI into India, contributing with \$11.77 billion in FDI last financial year.
- **Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA):** Signed in 2005, CECA underpins the economic collaboration between the two countries.
- **Recent Developments:** Integration of India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) with Singapore's PayNow in February 2023 for faster remittances.

➤ Defence and Security Cooperation

- **Strategic Partnership:** In 2015, the relationship was elevated to a Strategic Partnership, celebrating 50 years of diplomatic relations.
- **Agreements:** Key agreements include the Defence Cooperation Agreement (2003) and the Naval Cooperation Agreement (2017).
- **Military Exercises:**
 - Navy: SIMBEX
 - Air Force: SINDEK
 - Army: Bold Kurukshetra

➤ Education, Science, and Technology Cooperation

- **Technology Summit:** The 28th DST-CII India-Singapore Technology Summit in February 2022 focused on collaboration in AI, IoT, fintech, healthcare, biotech, smart manufacturing, green mobility, and sustainable urban development.
- **Space Cooperation:** ISRO launched Singapore's first indigenously built micro-satellite in 2011.
- **Digital Infrastructure:** Potential collaboration in digital public infrastructure, such as integrating Singapore's 'Proxtera' with India's Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC).

➤ Cultural and People-to-People Ties

- **Demographics:** Ethnic Indians make up about 9.1% of Singapore's population, significantly contributing to its economic and cultural landscape.
- **Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD):** ASEAN-India PBD was held in Singapore in January 2018, celebrating 25 years of ASEAN-India partnership with the theme "Ancient Route, New Journey."

➤ Cooperation in Infrastructure Development

- **Infrastructure Projects:** Singaporean expertise aligns with India's goals in sustainable development and smart cities. Singaporean companies have been involved in various infrastructure projects in India, including industrial parks, airports, and urban infrastructure.

➤ Future Prospects

- **Semiconductors:** Anticipated increase in cooperation in semiconductor technology.
- **CEO Interactions:** The Singapore visit will include meetings with CEOs and business leaders to further

strengthen economic ties and explore new opportunities.

- **Overall Growth:** The bilateral relationship is set to expand with a focus on new sectors like green hydrogen and digital technology.

B-heavy molasses

Context: Lifting the ban on ethanol from B-heavy molasses and allowing rice usage reflects government confidence amid expectations of bumper monsoon crops.

➤ Overview:

- India received 7.5% above the long-period average rainfall this season leading to uplift of Ban on producing ethanol from cane juice, syrup, or B-heavy molasses as domestic availability of sugar and rice increased.

➤ What is B-heavy molasses?

- B-heavy molasses is a By-product of sugar production from sugar cane or sugar beet
- Contains higher sugar than C-heavy molasses, yielding approximately 290-320 liters of ethanol per tonne. (C-Heavy Molasses (CHM) is a by-product of sugar production, derived from the final extraction of juice from sugar cane or sugar beet.)
- Derived from the second or third extraction of juice.

➤ Characteristics:

- Contains **45-55%** sucrose.
- Thicker and darker than lighter molasses grades.
- Less refined with a higher sugar content.

➤ Uses:

- **Ethanol Production:** A Major feedstock for ethanol and other alcoholic beverages.
- **Animal Feed:** A Supplement for livestock, providing energy and nutrients.
- **Chemical Industry:** A Raw material for chemicals and fertilizers.
- **Biofuel:** Used in biofuel production due to high sugar content.

➤ Economic Importance:

- **Revenue Stream:** Adds value to the sugar industry by providing additional revenue streams.
- **Profitability:** Contributes to the profitability of sugar mills.

➤ Technological Advances in BHM utilization.

➤ Enhanced Fermentation Processes:

- **Yeast Strain Optimization:** Development of specialized yeast strains that improve the efficiency of fermentation processes, increasing ethanol yield from BHM.
- **Fermentation Technology:** Use of advanced fermentation technologies, such as continuous

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fermentation systems, to boost productivity and reduce costs.

➤ Pre-Treatment Technologies:

- **Enzymatic Hydrolysis:** Application of enzymatic hydrolysis to break down complex carbohydrates in BHM, facilitating better sugar extraction and fermentation.
- **Chemical Pre-Treatment:** Use of chemical treatments (e.g., acid or alkali) to enhance the release of fermentable sugars and reduce viscosity for easier processing.

➤ Ethanol Recovery and Purification:

- **Distillation Innovations:** Implementation of advanced distillation techniques, such as **vacuum distillation**, to improve ethanol recovery efficiency and reduce energy consumption.
- **Membrane Technologies:** Adoption of membrane separation technologies (e.g., reverse osmosis) for more effective ethanol purification and concentration.

➤ Integrated Biofuel Production Systems:

- **Co-Production Facilities:** Integration of ethanol production with other biofuel processes, such as biogas production, to maximize resource utilization and enhance overall energy efficiency.
- **Bioreactor Design:** Development of optimized bioreactor designs to improve fermentation conditions and increase the yield and quality of ethanol produced from BHM.
- **Waste Management and Utilization:**
- **By-Product Recovery:** Technologies for the recovery and valorization of by-products from the BHM processing, such as the extraction of valuable compounds or conversion into animal feed.
- **Waste Minimization:** Adoption of technologies to minimize waste generation and enhance the sustainability of BHM processing operations.

NEWS IN BETWEEN THE LINES

Central Board of Film Certification



Recently, the Madhya Pradesh High Court issued a notice to the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) in response to a public interest litigation (PIL) filed against the release of Bharatiya Janata Party MP Kangana Ranaut's film *Emergency*.

About the Central Board of Film Certification:

- The Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), also known as the **Censor Board**, is a **statutory body** in the **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting**.
- It regulates the public exhibition of films in accordance with the **Cinematograph Act of 1952**, the **Cinematograph (Certification) Rules of 1983** and **guidelines from the Central Government**.
- It is made up of a **Chairperson** and **non-official members**, all appointed by the **Central Government**.
- Film certifications include **U** (Universal), **U/A** (Universal with adult supervision for children under 12), **A** (Adults only) and **S** (Special categories like doctors and farmers).
- Its headquarter is located in **Mumbai**.

Digital Agriculture Mission



Recently, the Union Cabinet approved seven major schemes for the agriculture sector with a total outlay of ₹14,235.30 crore, with the most significant being the 'Digital Agriculture Mission'.

About Digital Agriculture Mission:

- The Digital Agriculture Mission (DAM) is a **government initiative to create digital infrastructure for the agriculture sector**.
- Its aims to **encourage and speed up** projects based on cutting-edge technologies, including **AI, blockchain, remote sensing, robots and drones**.
- The mission aims to develop a comprehensive digital infrastructure for agriculture, including **accurate land and crop records**, nationwide farmer and **crop registries**, **georeferenced village maps** and **improved access to financial services**.
- This mission was originally **scheduled to launch in 2021-22**, but was **delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic**.
- The mission is expected to be rolled out over the **next two years (till 2025-26)**, with a budgetary allocation of **Rs 28,00 crore**.

Internal Complaints Committee

Recently, a delayed response by an Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) under the Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal (PoSH) Act forced a PhD student in Delhi to abandon her studies.

About Internal Complaints Committee:

- The Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) is a committee that addresses complaints of sexual harassment in the workplace, **including at universities**.

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	- It is mandated by the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal) Act, 2013, also known as the POSH Act. - The Internal Complaints Committee must be headed by a woman and at least half of its members must be women. - The committee also includes another employee and a third party, such as an NGO worker with five years of experience. - The members of this Committee serve for a maximum of three years from the date of their nomination. - It has powers similar to a civil court and its inquiry process follows the principles of natural justice. POSH Act: - The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, or POSH Act, was passed in 2013 to protect women from sexual harassment at all workplaces in India. - The act covers all women, defines sexual harassment broadly and establishes procedures for complaints, inquiries and actions. - The POSH Act applies to all workplaces in India that employ at least 10 people. - The act replaced the Vishaka guidelines, which were a framework for employers to prevent and redress complaints of sexual harassment.
Central Water Commission 	<i>Recently, the Central Water Commission (CWC) approved Kerala's demand for a safety review of the 129-year-old Mullaperiyar dam in Idukki.</i> About Central Water Commission: - The Central Water Commission (CWC) is a government body that is responsible for the sustainable development and management of India's water resources. - It was established in 1945 by the Government on the advice of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. - It is divided into three wings including River Management Wing (RM), Design and Research Wing (D&R), and Water Planning and Projects Wing (WP&P). - It is headed by a Chairman who is also the Ex-Officio Secretary to the Government of India. - Its headquarter in New Delhi. Mullaperiyar Dam: - The Mullaperiyar Dam, a masonry gravity dam is located in Kerala. - It was constructed across the Periyar River. - The dam is owned and operated by the state of Tamil Nadu under a lease agreement with the erstwhile princely state of Travancore. - The lease agreement, signed in 1886, is a source of contention between Kerala and Tamil Nadu due to concerns over dam safety and water sharing. - It was constructed with limestone and "Surkhi" (burnt brick powder and a mixture of sugar and calcium oxide).

POINTS TO PONDER

- Which state is proposing the Aparajita Woman and Child Bill 2024? – **West Bengal**.
- Who won gold in the men's singles SL3 category at the 2024 Paralympics? – **Nitesh Kumar**.
- In which city is Qala Bakhtiyar located? – **Qala Bakhtiyar is located in the city of Kabul, Afghanistan**.
- Which countries are involved in the conflict over the Donbas region? – **The Donbas region, located in eastern Ukraine, is primarily contested between Ukraine and Russian-backed separatists**.
- Who is the current Chairperson of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)? – **Madhabi Puri Buch**.

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