

10 August, 2023

Coastal Aquaculture Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2023

Context: The Coastal Aquaculture Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2023 has been approved by both Houses of the Parliament of India.

Highlights:

- **Empowering Small Farmers:** Coastal aquaculture reaffirmed as CRZ-permitted; eases multi-agency clearances for marginal farmers.
- **Exemptions and Clarity:** Allows hatcheries in CRZ's No Development Zone (NDZ); replaces harsh penalties with civil fines for non-compliance.
- **Environment-Friendly Practices:** Encourages eco-friendly aquaculture (cage culture, seaweed, etc.); focuses on disease-free stocks; limits antibiotics.
- **Ease of Business:** Simplifies operational processes; adjusts registration for changes; boosts administrative efficiency.
- **Environmental Compliance:** Sets emission standards; enforces "Polluter Pays Principle"; restricts sensitive area aquaculture.
- **Growth and Achievements:** Triples shrimp production in 9 years (3.22L tons to 11.84L tons); seafood exports double (Rs 30,213 Cr to Rs 63,969 Cr); shrimp exports surge by 123% (Rs 19,368 Cr to Rs 43,135 Cr).
- **Addressing Ambiguities:** Resolves CRZ-notification conflicts; fosters progressive, clearer legislation.
- **Sustainable Vision:** Introduces best practices, diversification, and safe products; amplifies income and employment.
- **Economic Impact:** Supports small farmers; fuels exports; sparks aquaculture-based jobs and entrepreneurship.
- **Legislative Milestone:** Coastal Aquaculture Authority (Amendment) Bill passes; promotes efficient regulation and industry growth.

Coastal Regulation Zones

- **CRZ-I (Ecologically Sensitive Areas):** Limited construction permitted for specified projects such as Department of Atomic Energy; no new construction in ecologically sensitive zones like mangroves, coral reefs, and biosphere reserves.
- **CRZ-II (Developed Areas within Municipal Limits):** Buildings allowed on the landward side of hazardous line; other activities like desalination plants permitted; follows guidelines for construction.
- **CRZ-III (Undisturbed and Rural Areas):** No development allowed within the No Development Zone (0-200m from High Tide Line); restricted zone (200-500m) allows activities like local community housing, certain projects, and traditional activities; aims to preserve relatively undisturbed areas.
- **CRZ-IV (Aquatic Area from Low Tide Line to Territorial Limits):** Traditional fishing by local communities is permitted; strict prohibition on untreated sewage or solid waste disposal in the aquatic area.
- **Island Protection Zone Notification:** Issued under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, to safeguard the unique ecosystems of Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep islands from potential threats.

Solar Power Capacity of India

Context: According to a reply in the Parliament, the total installed capacity of India is 70.1 GW.

- **Solar Potential Assessment:** National Institute of Solar Energy projects India's solar potential at 748 GW, considering 3% wasteland coverage with Solar PV modules.
- **Ambitious Renewable Goals:** India aims for 175 GW renewable capacity by 2022 and 500 GW by 2030, marking the world's largest expansion plan in renewable energy.
- **Solar PV Leadership:** India ranks second in Asia and third globally for new solar PV capacity (13 GW added in 2021); fourth in total installations (60.4 GW), surpassing Germany (59.2 GW) for the first time.
- **Leading solar energy producers in India:** Rajasthan (17839.98 MW), Gujarat (10133.66 MW), Andhra Pradesh (4552.12 MW), Tamil Nadu (6892.81 MW), Karnataka (9050.59 MW).

Operational Schemes

- Solar Park Scheme targeting 40,000 MW capacity across at least 50 Solar Parks.
- Scheme for 12,000 MW Grid-Connected Solar PV Power Projects with Viability Gap Funding (VGF).
- Grid-Connected Solar Rooftop Power Plants installation.
- Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM) for decentralized solar power plants, stand-alone solar pumps, and solarization of agriculture pumps.
- Production-linked incentive scheme under "National Programme on high efficiency Solar PV Modules."
- Green Energy Corridor Scheme for intra-state transmission system development.

Financial Assistance:

- **Solar Park Scheme:** Up to Rs. 25 lakh per Solar Park for DPR preparation and Rs. 20 Lakh per MW or 30% of project cost for park infrastructure.

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- **CPSU Scheme Phase-II:** Viability Gap Funding (VGF) support up to Rs 55 lakhs per MW to CPSUs/Govt. Organizations selected through bidding.
- **Grid-Connected Rooftop Solar PV Power Projects:** Central Financial Assistance (CFA) up to 40% for residential capacity up to 3 kWp, and up to 10% incentives for Discoms.
- **PM-KUSUM scheme:** Procurement Based Incentive (PBI) for DISCOMs, CFA for stand-alone solar pumps and solarization of agriculture pumps.
- **PLI Scheme for high-efficiency Solar PV Modules:** Production Linked Incentive based on sales, performance parameters, and local value addition.
- **Green Energy Corridor Scheme:** CFA of 40% in Phase-I and 33% in Phase-II of DPR or awarded cost.

INTERPOL Global Academy Network

Context: The INTERPOL Global Academy Network has welcomed the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Academy as its new member.

Overview

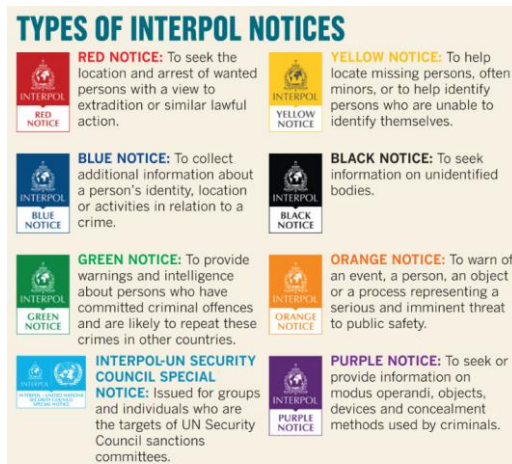
- This network fosters collaboration among law enforcement training institutions worldwide.
- The CBI Academy is the 10th member to join this network.
- The collaboration offers high-quality capacity building, capability development, and training opportunities to police personnel globally.
- Indian police personnel stand to benefit from this partnership, along with law enforcement officials from around the world.

INTERPOL Global Academy Network

- The INTERPOL Global Academy Network began in 2019 to strengthen INTERPOL's global approach to Law Enforcement Training.
- It supports INTERPOL's mission of fostering a worldwide method for training law enforcement personnel.
- The Network includes members from different regions.
- Its aim is to promote scholarly collaboration among Law Enforcement Training Institutions worldwide.

INTERPOL

- INTERPOL is an intergovernmental organization with 195 member countries.
- Its main goal is to facilitate international police cooperation to combat transnational crime and terrorism.
- INTERPOL's headquarters are located in Lyon, France.
- It operates through National Central Bureaus (NCBs) in each member country, serving as contact points.
- The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) serves as India's designated NCB within the INTERPOL network.



Source: www.interpol.int

NATION GRAPHICS

Nationwide Digital Life Certificate Campaign 2.0

Context: DOPPW has issued guidelines for Digital Life Certificate Campaign 2.0 in November 2023, benefiting 70 lakh central government pensioners.

What are the Guidelines?

- Life Certificates must be submitted annually by pensioners in November (October for those aged 80 and above) to ensure continued pension.
- The Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW) promotes Digital Life Certificate (DLC) for convenience. It began with biometric submission and later introduced Face Authentication technology using Aadhar database for smartphone-based submission.
- A successful nationwide campaign took place in November 2022 across 37 cities, issuing over 35 lakh DLCs.
- Another campaign is planned for November 2023 in 100 cities, targeting 50 lakh pensioners. Comprehensive guidelines issued for all stakeholders.
- Guidelines include nodal officers, awareness through banners/posters, doorstep banking utilization, Android-equipped bank staff, camps, and home visits.
- Pensioners' Welfare Associations encouraged to hold DLC camps, DoPPW teams will assist pensioners, and social media platforms will be used for awareness.

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Digital Life Certificate (Jeevan Praman)

- Launched on November 10, 2014, Jeevan Pramaan offers a biometric-driven digital solution for pensioners.
- This service is open to retirees from Central, State, and other Government bodies, encompassing over three crore former government and PSU workers.
- After retirement, pensioners must submit life certificates to authorized agencies like Banks or Post offices to receive pension.
- Traditionally, this involves personal presence or a certificate from a former employer.
- Jeevan Pramaan enables digital submission of proof for pension continuation, eliminating the need for physical presence or employer certificates.
- However, remarried or re-employed pensioners must still follow the conventional process for life certificate submission to their Pension Disbursing Authority.
- **Working:**
 - Jeevan Pramaan utilizes Aadhaar-based biometric authentication for pensioners.
 - When authentication succeeds, a Digital Life Certificate is generated and stored in the Life Certificate Repository.
 - Pension Disbursing Agencies can conveniently access the certificate online.

NEWS IN BETWEEN THE LINES

Decarbonization



What is Decarbonization?

Decarbonization means reducing or removing the release of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases into the environment, typically by shifting to cleaner energy sources and more environmentally friendly practices.

UN Goal 7: Ensure affordable, reliable, sustainable energy for all.

Fossil Fuel Dependency: 82% energy from fossil fuels.

Challenges of Decarbonization:

- Solar/Wind Insufficient: Not enough affordable energy.
- Critical Minerals Demand: Clean-energy minerals demand rising.
- Geopolitical/Environmental: Mining challenges, global concentration.

Nuclear Power's Role:

- 10% Global Electricity: Nuclear cuts gas, CO2 emissions.
- Reliable Grid: Provides continuous power, lower integration costs.

Small Modular Reactors (SMRs):

- Compact, Safe: Lower core damage, radiation risk.
- Repurpose Sites: Use existing infrastructure, save land.
- Cost Efficient: Factory-made, less overrun risk.
- Future Projection: Affordable, around \$60-90 per MWh.

Ayushman Bharat- Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana



Background:

PMJAY: Centre's flagship health insurance scheme.

Ministry: The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Launch Date: February 2018

Coverage: Coverage of Rs.5 lakh per family for both secondary care (non-super specialist) and tertiary care (super specialist) medical services.

Audit Unveil and Verification Issues:

Exposed by the Comptroller and Auditor-General (CAG), the scheme has revealed irregularities and raised concerns about beneficiary verification processes.

Verification Process:

- Ministry stated mobile numbers aren't used for beneficiary verification.
- Beneficiary identified through Aadhaar-based e-KYC.

CAG Findings:

Cases: Treatment for deceased patients, multiple people using same Aadhaar or invalid mobile numbers.

Example: 7.5 lakh beneficiaries linked to a single cellphone number (9999999999).

Tamil Nadu: 4,761 registrations with just seven Aadhaar numbers.

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Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organisation



What is Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization?

The Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) is a collaborative international effort among Amazon basin countries to promote sustainable development and safeguard the Amazon rainforest.

ACTO Establishment:

- **Foundation through ACT:** The Amazon Cooperation Treaty (ACT) was signed on July 3, 1978, and revised in 1998, forming the basis for collaboration.
- **Inception of ACTO:** ACTO was inaugurated in 1995 to enhance the execution of the treaty's objectives.
- **Permanent Secretariat:** To strengthen its organizational presence, a Permanent Secretariat was established in Brasilia in 2002.

Member Countries:

- Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname, and Venezuela.
- Signed a joint declaration in Belém, Brazil, to address Amazon-related challenges.

Summit Highlights:

- Held in Brazil, focused on saving the Amazon rainforest.
- Aims to prevent the rainforest from reaching a "point of no return."

New Drugs and Clinical Trial Rules (2023)



Amendment to Rules:

Amended by the Government of India, the New Drugs and Clinical Trial Rules (2023) aim to minimize animal usage in research, particularly in drug testing.

Objective:

One significant objective of the rules is to reduce the reliance on animal testing in research, particularly in drug development processes.

Limited Predictability for Human Response:

Animals' responses to drugs can differ from humans due to biological differences.

Example: Thalidomide caused human birth defects despite passing animal tests.

Steps by Other Countries:

- European Union (2021): Resolution for non-animal alternatives in research, regulatory testing, and education.
- United States (2022): FDA Modernization Act 2.0 allows non-animal systems for drug testing.
- South Korea (2022): 'Vitalization of Development, Dissemination and Use of Alternatives to Animal Testing Methods' bill introduced.
- Canada (June 2023): Amended Environmental Protection Act to minimize vertebrate animal use in toxicity testing.

AUKUS



What is AUKUS?

AUKUS stands for "Australia, United Kingdom, United States Security Partnership." It is a trilateral security alliance formed between Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Formation: Trilateral security partnership among Australia, UK and US.

Focus: Enhance defense and security cooperation, especially in the Indo-Pacific region.

Submarine Deal: Australia to acquire nuclear-powered submarines with US and UK technology.

Strategic Goals: Strengthen regional security, deter threats, promote stability in Indo-Pacific.

Diplomatic Tensions: Cancellation of France's submarine deal led to tensions.

Global Alliances: Reflects evolving global alliances and partnerships.

Perceptions Vary: Different stakeholders view AUKUS differently, impacting regional stability and multilateral cooperation.

World Bio Fuel Day



Observance Date:

World Bio Fuel Day is observed annually on August 10th.

Commemorating Sir Rudolf Diesel:

The day commemorates the contributions of Sir Rudolf Diesel, the inventor of the diesel engine.

Significance of Biofuels:

The event underscores the global significance of biofuels in the energy landscape.

National Policy on Biofuels:

- Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas launched it in 2018.
- Underwent further amendments in June 2022.

Aim: Reduce reliance on petroleum imports by promoting domestic biofuel production.

UFI (Universal Forces Industries Pvt. Ltd):

Role: Collaborator in Prime Minister's vision for bamboo-based ethanol production.

Establishment: Founded in 1996.

Expertise: Leader in modern process technology with over 27 years of experience.

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Places in News Keeladi

Clientele: Serves over 150 patrons globally.

Certifications: ISO 9001:2015, IBR, ASME.

Location: Keeladi is situated 12 km southeast of Madurai in Tamil Nadu.

Political Boundaries: Located within the political boundaries of Tamil Nadu, an Indian state.

Physical Features: Positioned near the Coimbatore area, known for its geological resources including crystal quartz.

Recent Discovery: Archaeologists unearthed a crystal quartz weighing unit from the Sangam era at Keeladi.

Unique Design: The crystal unit has a spherical shape, measuring 2 cm in diameter and 1.5 cm in height, weighing 8 grams.

Additional Finds: Excavations also revealed a terracotta hopscotch, an iron nail, black and red ware, red-slipped ware, and an earthen snake figurine.

Historical Significance: Historians and archaeologists are intrigued by the find as most weighing units from the past were made of stones.

Current Excavations: Keeladi is currently undergoing its ninth phase of excavations, initiated by Chief Minister MK Stalin in April.

Sangam Era Extension: Ongoing excavations have extended the timeline of the Sangam Era from 300 BCE to 600 BCE in Tamil Nadu.

Southern India



POINTS TO PONDER

- ❖ Which types of conjunctivitis spread between people? -Viral and Bacterial.
- ❖ What is the name of Novo Nordisk's effective obesity drug? -Wegovy
- ❖ On which river's bank is Louvre Palace situated? -Seine
- ❖ Besides Paris, where is an official Louvre museum located in Asia? -Abu Dhabi
- ❖ Who performed the orbit reduction manoeuvre of Chandrayaan-3? -ISTRAC

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