

12 August 2024

The Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill 2024



Key Points:

- ❖ The Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill 2024 was introduced in Lok Sabha by the Minister of State for Home seeking to amend the Disaster Management Act, 2005.
- ❖ The Bill aims to strengthen the working of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and the State Disaster Management Authorities.
- ❖ **Legal Provision:** The Bill was introduced under Entry 23 in the Concurrent List (Social Security and insurance, employment and unemployment) and followed a report by a task force in 2013.
- ❖ **A Disaster Management Authority for Urban Areas:** The Bill aims to create an Urban Disaster Management Authority for state capitals and large cities having Municipal Corporations except the union territories of Delhi and Chandigarh.
- ❖ **Disaster Database:** The bill seeks to create a disaster database at the national and state level. The Database will include Disaster assessment, fund allocation detail, expenditure, preparedness and mitigation plan, risk register as per risk assessment of its type and severity, etc as may be determined by the Central government.
- ❖ **Decentralised Disaster plans:** The Bill empowers the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and the State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMA) to prepare the disaster plan at national level and State level respectively. Earlier the plans were made by the National Executive Committee and the State Executive Committees.
- ❖ **Statutory Status:** The Bill also provides statutory status to certain pre-Act organisations like the National Crisis Management Committee and the High-Level Committee.
- ❖ **Section 60A:** The section empower the Central and State governments to direct any person to take any action or refrain from taking any action for reducing the impact of a disaster and to impose a penalty not exceeding ₹10,000.

- ❖ **Clarity and Convergence:** The NDMA may also appoint experts and consultants as necessary to perform its functions, also the roles of Authorities and Committees are sought to be defined to strengthen the efficient working of the National Disaster Management Authority and the State Disaster Management Authorities.
- ❖ **Immunity:** The Bill seeks to provide immunity to officials involved in the disaster management from any legal proceedings while discharging functions. **Jurisdiction:** The Bill has limited the jurisdiction to the Supreme Court and High Courts to entertain any suits in respect of anything done in relation to its functions by this Act.

Concerns and Challenges

- ❖ **Test of Constitutionality:** The Bill is brought under Entry 23 of the Concurrent List of Seventh Schedule which deals with “social security and social insurance, employment and unemployment” and not Disaster Management, which does not find mention in the Seventh Schedule.
- ❖ **Multiplicity of Authorities:** The Bill creates more authorities, and multiplicity of authority will give rise to confusion, the bureaucratic muddle should not hamper rescue and relief

work. Example: Due to multiplicity of authority there is a conflict between the Kerala Chief Minister and the Home Minister regarding early warning in the context of Wayanad tragedy.

- ❖ **Encroaching upon State Jurisdiction:** The Bill overlapped with the legislative powers reserved for the States by granting excessive rulemaking power to the Central government through delegated legislation to make rules on specific matters, encroach upon the domain of State legislatures.

Government declares Adichunchanagiri in Karnataka and Choolannuar in Kerala as Peacock Sanctuary



Key Points:

- ❖ Union Minister for Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, Mr. Bhupender Yadav, announced the creation of two new Peacock Sanctuaries in India: Adichunchanagiri in Karnataka and Choolannuar in Kerala. This decision shows the government's ongoing

effort to protect wildlife and the national bird, the peacock.

- ❖ Peacock conservation involves protecting both the Indian blue peacock and the green peafowl. These birds face threats from habitat loss and hunting, so efforts include restoring their habitats and preventing poaching.
- ❖ Peafowl play key roles in ecosystems, such as spreading seeds. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) lists the green peafowl as Near Threatened.
- ❖ Local communities are engaged in these conservation efforts, emphasizing the importance of cultural awareness in protecting these birds, which symbolize beauty and grace across cultures.

National Commission for Women Inaugurates Digital Shakti Center in New Delhi



Key Points:

- ❖ The National Commission for Women has inaugurated the Digital Shakti

Center to combat cyber crimes against women in New Delhi.

- ❖ The centre is a dedicated facility that aims at raising awareness about cyber crimes.
- ❖ It will provide essential technical support for registering and addressing complaints.
- ❖ The commission emphasised that with the alarming rise in cyber crimes such as identity theft, cyberstalking, and sexual exploitation, this initiative is crucial in empowering women to navigate and protect themselves in the digital world.
- ❖ The Digital Shakti Center was inaugurated by the National Commission for Women (NCW) Chairperson Rekha Sharma in collaboration with the Cyber Peace Foundation.
- ❖ Addressing the gathering Ms Sharma noted that there has been a surge in cyber crime cases in India, rising from 52,974 in 2021 to 65,893 in 2022.

India and New Zealand sign customs co-operation arrangement to ease trade between the two countries



Key Points:

- ❖ President Droupadi Murmu held bilateral talks with Prime Minister Christopher Luxon and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister Vinston Peters at Government House in Wellington.
- ❖ Discussions were held on wide range issues including customs co-operation, traditional medicine and renewable energy.
- ❖ India and New Zealand inked the bilateral customs cooperation arrangement which is expected to ease trade between the two countries.
- ❖ New Zealand also ratified the International Solar Alliance paving way for enhanced opportunities for joint research and development in this field.

Kamel Madouri appointed as the PM of Tunisia



Key Points:

- ❖ Tunisian President Kais Saied sacked his Prime Minister Ahmed Hachani without explanation and replaced him with Social Affairs Minister Kamel Madouri.

- ❖ Mr. Hachani had taken office on August 1 last year, replacing Najla Bouden, who was also dismissed without an official reason by Mr. Saied.
- ❖ The President was democratically elected in 2019 but orchestrated a sweeping power grab in 2021 and is now seeking another term in office in elections on October 6.

About Tunisia

- ❖ Capital-Tunis
- ❖ Currency- Tunisian dinar (TND)
- ❖ President- Kais Saied
- ❖ Prime Minister - Kamel Madouri
- ❖ Official language- Arabic



Vinesh Phogat announces retirement from wrestling



Key Points:

- ❖ Indian wrestler Vinesh Phogat from Haryana has announced her

retirement from wrestling a day after she was disqualified from the 50kg category Paris Olympics finals.

- ❖ The seasoned wrestler was disqualified after weighing 100 grams more than the permissible limit in the morning weigh-in ahead of the final.

Neeraj Chopra won Silver at Paris Olympics 2024



Key Points:

- ❖ Neeraj Chopra has won the Silver Medal in the men's javelin throw event with a best throw of 89.45 meters at the Paris Olympics.
- ❖ Following his performance, Chopra became the second male athlete post-independence to win two Olympic medals in an individual event.
- ❖ Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem won gold with a throw of 92.97 meters, setting a new Olympic record and surpassing Denmark's Andreas

Thorkildsen's mark from Beijing 2008.

- ❖ Grenada's Anderson Peters secured bronze with a throw of 88.54 meters

ISRO to launch Remote Sensing EOS 8 Satellite on 55th Foundation Day



Key Points:

- ❖ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will launch its Earth Observation Satellite-08 (EOS-08) on 15 August 2024, its 55th foundation day. The EOS-08 satellite will be launched by ISRO's Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV)-D3.
- ❖ Here, D stands for Developmental. The satellite will be launched from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.

About the Earth Observation Satellite-08 (EOS-08)

- ❖ The EOS-08 is a remote-sensing microsatellite with a mass of around 175.5 kg. It will be placed in a Circular Low-Earth Orbit (LEO) at an altitude of 475 km.
- ❖ The life of the satellite is around 1 year.
- ❖ The satellite will help with ocean surface wind analysis, soil moisture assessment, cryosphere studies over the Himalayan region, flood detection, and inland waterbody detection.

Army conducts 'Parvat Prahaar' exercise in Ladakh



Key Points:

- ❖ The Indian Army has conducted a strategic military exercise, 'Parvat Prahaar', in Ladakh, focusing on highaltitude warfare and operations.
- ❖ The 'Parvat Prahaar' (Mountain Strike) exercise emphasises mountainous and rugged terrains, such as those found in regions like Eastern Ladakh.

- ❖ It is crucial for maintaining the readiness and effectiveness of the Army in the region, which is close to the India-China border.
- ❖ The exercise, which continues for over a fortnight, involves simulating real-world combat scenarios to train soldiers in the unique challenges posed by such terrains. Various arms of the Army, including infantry, armored, artillery, and support units, are participating in this drill.
- ❖ Different kinds of tanks, artillery guns including K9 Vajra, air-defense systems, UAVs, and other aviation assets of the Army are showcasing their operability and war preparedness.
- ❖ The Mountain Strike Corps of the Northern Command, which is responsible for operations in this sensitive region along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), is involved in the exercise.

UNICEF, West Bengal govt join hands to promote fathers' role in encouraging breastfeeding



Key Points:

- ❖ The West Bengal government and UNICEF have joined hands for promoting the involvement of fathers in encouraging new mothers to breastfeed their babies till six months of age.
- ❖ As part of the initiative, workers at Anganwadis have begun to discuss the benefits of breastfeeding with fathers of the newborn and other family members.
- ❖ According to the state Women, Child Development and Social Welfare Department is actively promoting breastfeeding in the backdrop of the findings that 53 percent of mothers still need to exclusively breastfeed their children for the first six months.

President Droupadi Murmu was conferred the Grand-Collar of the Order of Timor-Leste, the country's highest civilian award



Key Points:

- ❖ Murmu, 66, received the award for her achievements in public service and dedication to education, social welfare

and women empowerment, her office said in a post on X.

- ❖ President Murmu said that the honour is a reflection of the ties of friendship between India and Timor-Leste. Murmu arrived in Dili on the last leg of her three-nation visit on Saturday after concluding her trip to New Zealand and Fiji.
- ❖ Murmu's trip is the first-ever presidential visit from India to the Southeast Asian nation. She was warmly received by President Ramos Horta at the airport, her office said. Cheerful children greeted her on the way from the airport.
- ❖ She was also accorded a ceremonial reception and guard of honour in the Presidential Palace, Dili.

Why Odisha is facing a potato crisis, with prices as high as Rs 60 per kg



Key Points:

- ❖ Odisha has been facing an acute shortage of potatoes over the last four weeks, resulting in a steep increase in the price of the staple to a sky-high Rs 55-60/kg.
- ❖ The crisis has become an emotional issue for people, who have directed

their frustrations towards West Bengal, Odisha's primary supplier of potatoes.

- ❖ So, what is behind the potato crisis? And how is Odisha seeking to address the issue?
- ❖ Odisha is heavily dependent on neighbouring West Bengal for its potato requirement. Unfortunately, since mid-July the West Bengal government has banned the supply of potatoes to other states to stabilise the price of the tuber in the state.
- ❖ According to Dilip Pratihar, former secretary of West Bengal Potato Merchants' Association, Bengal has seen a 20 per cent dip in potato production this year, compared to the previous year, due to unseasonal rain in December-January (when the potato crop is sown).
- ❖ But the WB government's move has kept retail prices of the tuber at Rs 25-28/kg. Crucially, West Bengal is among the largest producers of potatoes in India, producing 23.51 per cent of the country's total share in 2021-22, according to the Government of India's Agri Exchange trading platform. This is second only to Uttar Pradesh (29.65 per cent). The potato is largely cultivated in the districts of Medinipur, Hooghly, Bankura, and Bardhaman in north Bengal.

- ❖ Potato production in Odisha is much lower, despite the tuber being a staple in the state like in much of eastern India.
- ❖ According to market sources, potato demand in the state stands at over 13 lakh metric tons (mt) annually.
- ❖ Odisha's own production is only around 3 lakh mt, limited to small pockets in the Kandhamal, Koraput and Kalahandi regions.
- ❖ Odisha is thus forced to service 90% of its potato demand with the help of other states. Earlier failed potato mission This is not the first time Odisha has faced such a supply crunch.
- ❖ In April 2015, the state launched a mission to make Odisha a potato-surplus state. This was to be done by increasing potato production, primarily using a system of incentives, and by strengthening the state's storage and distribution system.
- ❖ Addressing the crisis
- ❖ Both Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and former CM Naveen Patnaik have appealed to West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to open up supplies.
- ❖ Their pleas have so far fallen on deaf ears. To stem the crisis, the Odisha government has decided to procure potatoes from Uttar Pradesh through the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED).

- ❖ Odisha's food supply and consumer welfare minister Krushna Chandra Patra said the decision has been taken to supply potatoes to consumers at Rs 30 per kg.
- ❖ The government has placed an order to procure 300 mt of potatoes in the first phase. Initially, this supply will be made available through government retail shops in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Rourkela, Sambalpur and Berhampur.
- ❖ About Essential Services Maintenance Act (ESMA)
- ❖ **Description:** The Essential Services Maintenance Act (ESMA) is a significant piece of legislation enacted by the Parliament in 1968.
- ❖ **Constitutional Placement:** It falls under list no. 33 in the 7th schedule under the concurrent list of the Indian Constitution.
- ❖ **Purpose:** ESMA is primarily used by states to manage strikes by employees, especially in essential services.
- ❖ **Essential Services:** The Act empowers the government to designate any economic activity or service as 'essential', where disruption would impact the normal life of people.

Former West Bengal CM and CPIM veteran Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee passed away



Key Points:

- ❖ Former chief minister of West Bengal and veteran CPIM leader Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee passed away at the age of 80.
- ❖ Bhattacharjee was a veteran CPI(M) leader, who served as the West Bengal CM from 2002 to 2011, succeeding Jyoti Basu.
- ❖ In 2011, Bhattacharjee lost the assembly election to Mamata Banerjee, ending the CPI(M)-led Left Front's 34-year-long rule in the state.

Quit India Movement Day



Key Points:

- ❖ Every year, on August 9th, India commemorates the Quit India Movement, a pivotal moment in the country's struggle for independence from the British rule.

- ❖ Launched by Mahatma Gandhi in 1942, the movement called for the British to leave India, marking the beginning of the final phase of the freedom struggle.
- ❖ The Quit India Movement, was marked by widespread non-violent protests advocating for an “orderly British withdrawal” from India.
- ❖ Gandhi’s speeches inspired the masses with his call for Indians to be their own guides in the struggle for freedom.

International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples



Key Points:

- ❖ The International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples is observed annually on August 9.

- ❖ The day is intended to raise awareness about the needs of indigenous peoples.
- ❖ The day also gives Indigenous peoples the opportunity to communicate their thoughts and issues on a worldwide scale.
- ❖ Theme 2024 – Protecting the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Voluntary Isolation and Initial Contact

WORLD LION DAY



FUN FACTS

- Lions live in large groups called prides.
- Male lions can weigh over 500 pounds and grow up to eight feet in length.
- Known as the “King of the Jungle,” lions live in grasslands and plains, not jungles.
- Female lions and their sisters live together for life, while males stay with the pride until they reach maturity.
- A lion's roar can be heard from up to five miles away.
- Lions spend about 20 hours a day resting or sleeping.
- Male lions patrol their territories regularly.
- Lions prefer to hunt at night, making it easier to catch prey.



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