

05/04/2024

TOPICS COVERED

1. Government to record parents' religion to register births (GS Paper I: Human Resources)
2. Revisit these sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (GS Paper II: Legal System or Judiciary)
3. Overkill: On only a 100% recount of VVPATs (GS Paper II: Electoral System)
4. Wide open: On the Candidates chess tournament in Toronto (General Information: State PCS)
5. Universities must budge on college autonomy nudge (GS Paper II: Education)
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Government to record parents' religion to register births (GS Paper I: Human Resources)

Current practice is to record religion of child's family only; the database may be used to update NPR, voter rolls, Aadhaar, ration cards, passports and driving licence; States yet to notify new rules

- The Union Ministry of Home Affairs has drafted Model Rules requiring parents to record their religion and the religion of both parents when registering the birth of a child.
- Previously, only the family's religion was recorded in birth registers.
- The proposed changes will expand the birth report form to include separate entries for the religion of the child, father, and mother.
- Similar changes will apply to **parents of adopted children**.
- The **Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Act, 2023**, mandates the maintenance of a national birth and death database.
- This database may be used to update various official records such as the **National Population Register (NPR)**, electoral rolls, Aadhaar number, ration card, passport, driving license, and property registration.

Digital records

- A law effective from October 1 last year mandates the digital registration of all reported births and deaths in India.
- This registration process is conducted through the Centre's portal for the **Civil Registration System (crsorgi.gov.in)**.
- **Digital birth certificates issued** through this system serve as a single document to verify the date of birth for various purposes, including admission to educational institutions.

- The **Registrar General of India (RGI)** under the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** has proposed replacing existing forms related to the registration of births, deaths, stillbirths, adoptions, and the Medical Certificate of Cause of Death (MCCD) as per the draft rules.
- The **updated MCCD will now include the "history of illness, if any" in addition to the actual cause of death.**

Statistical and legal information

- Birth registers now include two parts: legal information and statistical information.
- **Parents' religion will be recorded for statistical purposes only.**
- **Legal information section now includes recording of Aadhaar numbers, mobile and e-mail IDs of both parents if available.**
- **Address box in the legal information section is more detailed**, including State, district, sub-district, town or village, ward number (if applicable), locality, house number, and PIN code.
- Informant providing the information must provide their Aadhaar and mobile numbers, email address, along with name and address details as previously required.

National database

- The 2023 amendment mandates the Registrar General of India (RGI) to maintain a national-level database of registered births and deaths.
- **Chief Registrars and Registrars appointed by State governments** must share the data of registered births and deaths with this national database.
- The RGI, empowered by the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969, coordinates and unifies the activities of Chief Registrars.
- **Civil Registration System (CRS) functionaries are appointed up to the panchayat level for registering births and deaths.**
- The CRS data is used to compile the annual 'Vital Statistics of India Based On The Civil Registration System' report, which includes information on sex ratio at birth, infant mortality, stillbirths, and deaths at the national level.
- This data is crucial for socio-economic planning, evaluating the effectiveness of social sector programs, and forms the basis of the public health system.

Median age for cancer diagnosis lower in India, says study

The report on Non-Communicable Diseases by Apollo Hospitals also found that one in three people screened had pre-diabetes, one person in four had diabetes, one in 10 had uncontrolled diabetes

- Apollo Hospitals released a report highlighting trends in Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) based on their data.
- The report revealed that the **median age for cancer diagnosis in India is lower compared to the U.S., U.K., and China.**

- In India, the **average age of diagnosis for breast cancer is 52, whereas it is 63 in the U.S. and UK. For lung cancer, the average age of diagnosis is 59 in India, compared to around 70 in the West.**
- The report also indicated an increase in colon cancer cases among younger people, with 30% of colon cancer patients at Apollo Hospitals aged less than 50 years.
- Despite the high burden of cancer among the younger population, India falls behind in cancer screenings.
- **While the screening rate for breast cancer is 74%-82% in the U.S., only 1.9% of people are screened in India.**
- The report raised concerns about extrapolating Western data to India and emphasized the need for local data, citing differences in the threshold for Prostate-Specific Antigen (PSA) blood tests among Indian men.
- The report discussed mental health and metabolic diseases like diabetes, hypertension, and obesity.
- It revealed that three out of four people undergoing health checks at Apollo Hospitals were either obese or overweight.
- **Obesity incidence increased from 9% in 2016 to 20% in 2023.**
- One in three people had pre-diabetes, emphasizing the importance of diet, exercise, and weight loss.
- About one in four individuals had diabetes, and one in ten had uncontrolled diabetes.
- Sleep disorders, particularly obstructive sleep apnoea, were highlighted as a concern, affecting one in four individuals screened for quality of sleep.
- **NCDs contributed to 70% of deaths**, as mentioned by Prathap C. Reddy, Chairman of Apollo Hospitals.
- Preetha Reddy, Vice-Chairperson, emphasized the importance of women taking care of their health.
- Apollo Hospitals launched "ProHealth Score," a digital health risk assessment tool, as part of observing World Health Day.
- The tool evaluates an individual's health and well-being based on factors like family history, lifestyle, and current symptoms.
- Anupam Sibal, Group Medical Director, Apollo Hospitals, also addressed the event.

Sanofi gets approval for alternative inactivated polio vaccine

There is no shortage of polio vaccine from its side, company says

- Sanofi India Limited recently discontinued **its inactivated polio vaccine (IPV)** called ShanIPV in India.
- The company confirmed that there will be no interruption in the availability of IPV vaccine.
- They have obtained approvals for their alternative IPV vaccine called IMOVAX-Polio, which has been used in over 100 countries for more than 40 years.
- IMOVAX-Polio has the same composition and formulation as ShanIPV.

Revisit these sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (GS Paper II: Legal System or Judiciary)

The sections on reporting of a fatal accident, petty organised crime, theft and human trafficking have flaws

- New criminal laws effective from July 1, 2024.
- **Section 106(2) of BNS**, involving **10-year imprisonment for not reporting fatal accidents**, currently on hold.
- Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) paused implementation due to truck driver protests.
- MHA to consult All India Motor Transport Congress before deciding on Section 106(2).
- Other BNS provisions under review:
 - "Petty Organised Crime" (Section 112).
 - "Theft" (Section 303(2)).
 - Human Trafficking (Section 143).

Reporting of a fatal accident, petty crime

- **Reconsideration of Section 106(2):**
 - **Increasing imprisonment from 5 to 10 years for fleeing accidents without reporting seems unfair.**
 - No other law imposes such severe punishment for this offense.
 - **Doesn't prioritize aiding injured victims; applies only to accidents causing death.**
 - Possible benefit: helps with motor accident claims if vehicle details are known.
 - **May conflict with Article 20(3) of the Indian Constitution, which protects against self-incrimination.**

Article 20:

1. **No retroactive laws:** This means that a person cannot be found guilty of an act that wasn't considered a crime when it was committed. In other words, you can't be punished for doing something that wasn't illegal at the time you did it. Also, the punishment for an offense cannot be harsher than what was allowed by law when the offense was committed.
2. **Protection against double jeopardy:** This principle states that a person cannot be tried and punished more than once for the same offense. Once you've been tried and either acquitted or convicted for a crime, you can't be tried again for that same crime, even if new evidence comes to light.
3. **Right against self-incrimination:** This means that nobody can be forced to testify against themselves in court. You have the right to remain silent and not say anything that could be used against you in a court of law.

These protections are important safeguards to ensure fairness and justice in the legal system. They prevent arbitrary punishment, ensure that people are treated fairly under the law, and uphold the right to a fair trial.

- Supreme Court's interpretation in **Nandini Satpathy vs P.L. Dani** suggests compelled testimony goes beyond evidence procured not merely by physical threats or violence but by psychic torture, overbearing and intimidatory methods and the like.

- Introduction of "Petty Organised Crime":
 - New offense in **Section 112 of BNS**.
 - Involves committing various crimes as part of a group or gang.
 - Crimes include theft, snatching, cheating, unauthorized selling of tickets, gambling, selling public examination question papers, or similar acts.
 - Aimed at addressing organized crime by broadening legal coverage to include group activities.
- Offenses like "unauthorized selling of tickets" and "selling of public examination question papers" aren't defined in the BNS and aren't linked to any special Act.
- The phrase 'any other similar criminal acts' in the section is vague and open-ended, leaving interpretation uncertain.
- Theft and snatching can lead to imprisonment for up to three years (Section 303 of the BNS), while theft in a dwelling house or means of transportation can result in up to seven years (Section 305 of the BNS).
- Theft after preparation for causing harm can lead to up to 10 years' imprisonment (Section 307 of the BNS).
- Cheating can result in imprisonment ranging from three to seven years (Section 318 of the BNS).
- The range of 'any other similar criminal acts' is unspecified, potentially including offenses like criminal breach of trust, misappropriation of property, or receiving stolen property.
- However, sentences for these offenses vary from two to 10 years, making it unclear what falls under 'petty organized crime' which has a maximum sentence of seven years.
- Without a specific maximum sentence, this provision may not withstand scrutiny from the Supreme Court, similar to **Section 66A of the Information Technology Act, 2000, which was struck down by Supreme Court in Shreya Singhal vs Union of India (2015) as it found the expression "grossly offensive" used in the Section to be open-ended, undefined and vague.**

Property theft, a specific value

- The offense of theft, as stated in the proviso to **Sub-section (2) of Section 303 of the BNS**, requires reconsideration.
- According to the proviso, if the value of stolen property is less than five thousand rupees and it's the person's first conviction, they'll be punished with community service upon returning or restoring the stolen property.
- This offense is categorized as a non-cognizable offense in the First Schedule to the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS).
- First Schedule to the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) categorises the offence under this category as a non-cognisable offence.
- Making theft of property valued under ₹5,000 a non-cognizable offense could ease police workload but raises legal and practical concerns.
- While ₹5,000 might not affect affluent individuals much, it's significant for low-income earners; a stolen bicycle could be a big loss.
- For instance, a student's stolen bicycle might not prompt police action if it's non-cognizable, leaving them feeling helpless.

- Bicycles are often provided to students by governments to support education, making such thefts impactful.
- Not registering property offenses under ₹5,000 could remove offenders from police surveillance until they commit another offense.
- Legal issues may arise regarding returning stolen property if recovered with other stolen goods.
- If stolen property under ₹5,000 isn't returned by the convict, the court's only option may be imprisonment for up to three years.
- This contrasts with higher-value thefts, categorized as cognizable offenses, where alternative punishments are possible.
- Tweaking definitions and providing alternate punishments could clarify the law and address practical and legal concerns.
- Making theft of property of any value a cognizable offense would require minor changes in the First Schedule to the BNS and resolve various issues.

No discretion to judiciary

"Discretion to Judiciary"

- When a law provides discretion to the judiciary, it means that judges have the flexibility to consider various factors and determine an appropriate punishment or course of action that is fair and just in the specific circumstances of a case.
- Section 303 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) regarding punishment for murder by a life-convict was declared void and unconstitutional by the Supreme Court in **Mithu vs State of Punjab (1983)**.

- **Section 303** of the Indian Penal Code dealt with the punishment for "murder committed by someone who was already serving a life sentence for a previous crime".
- If a person who was already in prison for life committed murder while serving their sentence, Section 303 mandated the death penalty for anyone found guilty under this provision.
- If a life convict committed murder, they would automatically be sentenced to death.
- The **Supreme Court ruled it unconstitutional because it didn't allow judicial discretion, violating Article 21 of the Constitution, which guarantees the right to life and personal liberty.**
- Section 303 of the IPC has been re-introduced as Section 104 of the BNS, now offering either death penalty or life imprisonment (meaning the remainder of one's natural life).
- However, **Sub-sections (6) and (7) of Section 143 of the BNS**, punishing child trafficking on multiple occasions and trafficking by public servants or police officers, also lack judicial discretion, potentially facing the same legality issues.
- These sections of the BNS, including sub-section (2) of Section 106, Section 112, sub-section (2) of Section 303, and sub-sections (6) and (7) of Section 143, need to be revisited before being implemented due to their legal, constitutional, and practical implications.

MAINS PRACTICE QUESTION: GS PAPER II: LEGAL SYSTEM/JUDICIAL SYSTEM

Question: Discuss the significance of judicial discretion in criminal sentencing, with reference to the historical context and legal developments surrounding Section 303 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and its reincarnation as Section 104 of the BNS. Assess the implications of the absence of

judicial discretion in certain provisions of the BNS, such as sub-sections (6) and (7) of Section 143. (150 Words/10 Marks)

ANSWER APPROACH

- Introduce the answer with a brief explanation of Judicial discretion
- Then bring Historical Context and Recent example in Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS),
- Further discuss the Legal, constitutional, and practical implications due to absence of Judicial discretion.
- Conclude with a suggestive note.

ANSWER

Judicial discretion allows judges to consider various factors and circumstances of a case to determine an appropriate punishment that fits the crime and the offender. The significance of judicial discretion in criminal sentencing is paramount for ensuring fairness, equity, and proportionality in the administration of justice. However, the absence of judicial discretion in certain provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), such as (6) and (7) of Section 143, raises concerns regarding the potential infringement of constitutional rights and the risk of disproportionate sentencing.

Historical Context and Recent example in Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS)

- Section 303 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) mandated the death penalty for murder committed by a life-convict, without allowing any discretion to the judiciary.
- This provision was struck down by the Supreme Court in *Mithu vs State of Punjab* (1983) as unconstitutional because it violated Article 21 of the Constitution, which guarantees the right to life and personal liberty.
- The Court held that denying judicial discretion in sentencing amounted to an arbitrary and disproportionate punishment, undermining the principles of fairness and justice.
- However, Section 303 has been reincarnated as Section 104 of the BNS, offering either death penalty or life imprisonment for the same offense. While this addresses the constitutional concerns raised by the Supreme Court, certain provisions of the BNS, including sub-sections (6) and (7) of Section 143, still lack judicial discretion.
- Sub-section (6) of Section 143 imposes life imprisonment for child trafficking on multiple occasions, while sub-section (7) prescribes the same punishment for trafficking by public servants or police officers.
- These provisions do not provide judges with the flexibility to consider mitigating factors or individual circumstances of the case before sentencing.
- As a result, there is a risk of disproportionate punishment and violation of the principles of fairness and proportionality.

Legal, constitutional, and practical implications

- The absence of judicial discretion in these provisions of the BNS raises legal, constitutional, and practical implications. Firstly, it undermines the fundamental right to a fair trial and due process guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution.
- Secondly, it increases the likelihood of arbitrary and disproportionate sentencing, which goes against the principles of justice and equity.
- Thirdly, it limits the ability of judges to tailor sentences to fit the specific circumstances of each case, potentially leading to miscarriages of justice.

Thus, the significance of judicial discretion in criminal sentencing cannot be overstated. While the reincarnation of Section 303 as Section 104 of the BNS addresses some constitutional concerns,

the absence of judicial discretion in other provisions undermines the principles of fairness, equity, and proportionality in the administration of justice. Therefore, it is imperative to revisit these provisions and ensure that they uphold the constitutional rights and principles of justice for all individuals involved in the criminal justice system.

Overkill: On only a 100% recount of VVPATs (GS Paper II: Electoral System)

Verification of a statistically significant sample of VVPAT slips should suffice

VVPAT

- Introduced by Subramanian Swamy vs. Election Commission of India Case 2013.
- **How it Works:** After a voter casts their vote using an EVM, a paper slip containing the selected candidate's name, symbol, and serial number is printed through the VVPAT machine. The voter can visually verify this paper slip to ensure that their vote has been accurately recorded. The paper slip is then deposited into a sealed VVPAT box for later use in audits or recounts if necessary.
- **Verification Process:** Voters are given a brief window (typically around **7 seconds**) to verify the printed paper slip through a transparent window on the VVPAT machine. Once the verification period ends, the paper slip is automatically cut and dropped into the VVPAT box.
- Introduction of VVPAT alongside EVMs hasn't fully addressed concerns about EVM usage in Indian elections.
- Critics suggest maintaining a machine audit trail of all executed commands for more transparency, potentially upgrading existing machines.
- Others argue that VVPATs have introduced new vulnerabilities not present in standalone EVMs, suggesting reworking safeguards to ensure security.
- Some, including political parties like Congress, demand a 100% recount of all VVPATs for full transparency, instead of current sampling methods.
- **Despite concerns about malpractices and EVM hacking, no actual tampering of EVMs has been proven.**
- **Glitches in EVMs have occurred but have been promptly addressed, with no evidence of hacking or manipulation.**
- Sample counting of VVPATs during elections has shown minimal mismatches between VVPAT recount and EVM count, typically due to minor errors.
- **Increasing the recount sample size or focusing on specific constituencies could improve statistical significance.**
- Insisting on a full recount seems excessive and indicates a lack of trust in the EVM system itself.

Wide open: On the Candidates chess tournament in Toronto (General Information: State PCS)

India has a strong contingent at the Candidates chess tournament

- The Candidates chess tournament has started in Toronto, attracting attention worldwide.
- Winners of this tournament, in both the open and women's sections, will qualify to compete for the World Championship.
- Current world champions are Ding Liren and Ju Wenjun from China.



- The tournament will determine challengers for the world titles.
- India is particularly interested as five out of the 16 contestants are Indian players.
- R. Praggnanandhaa, D. Gukesh, and Vidit Gujrathi are competing in the open tournament.



- Koneru Humpy and R. Vaishali are participating in the women's tournament.



- Only Viswanathan Anand has represented India in this prestigious event before, being a five-time world champion.
- India's significant presence reflects its growing strength in global chess.

Notably, **Arjun Erigaisi**, India's highest-ranked player (No. 9), isn't participating in the Candidates tournament.



- **Fabiano Caruana** and **Hikaru Nakamura** are considered the strongest players in the open event of the Candidates tournament.



- **Magnus Carlsen**, the current world champion, has opted out of the World Championship cycle due to lack of motivation.



- Russian player **Ian Nepomniachtchi**, who has won the tournament's last two editions, is another major contender.



- Alireza Firouzja, an Iranian-born French player, poses a challenge for Indian participants.



- R. Praggnanandhaa and D. Gukesh, both teenagers, are participating in their first Candidates tournament and have the potential to surprise strong opponents.
- Koneru Humpy, a former World Rapid champion, is the most experienced Indian player in the tournament and a main contender in the women's section.
- R. Vaishali, Praggnanandhaa's elder sister, is one of the fastest improving female players globally.
- The women's tournament, featuring former World champion Tan Zhongyi of China, appears to be more open compared to the men's event.

Universities must budge on college autonomy nudge (GS Paper II: Education)

Universities need to address the concerns of colleges as autonomy does have a transformative effect on higher education

- The **National Education Policy 2020** aims to transform colleges into autonomous institutions, promoting innovation, self-governance, and academic freedom.
- In April 2023, the University Grants Commission (UGC) introduced new regulations to facilitate this transition.
- The response from colleges seeking autonomous status has been remarkable, with 590 applications received since the launch.
- **Granting autonomy to colleges is crucial for fostering innovation, improving academic quality, and achieving institutional excellence.**

- Autonomous colleges can customize their curriculum to meet the changing needs of students and industries.
- They can experiment with new teaching methods and research initiatives, advancing knowledge and contributing to societal progress.
- **Autonomy promotes accountability and responsibility among colleges, empowering them to make academic and administrative decisions independently.**
- **This empowerment enhances institutional efficiency and fosters a sense of pride and identity within colleges, motivating faculty and staff to excel.**

Rankings prove a point

- The NIRF 2023 rankings highlight the positive impact of autonomy on college performance in India.
- In the 'Colleges Category', 55 out of the top 100 colleges are autonomous institutions, indicating the effectiveness of autonomy in promoting academic excellence and institutional effectiveness.
- **Among the top 10 colleges in the NIRF 2023 rankings, five are autonomous colleges, demonstrating the success of autonomy in achieving academic excellence.**
- The trend towards establishing autonomous colleges in higher education is increasing, with the number expected to soon reach **1,000 across 24 States and Union Territories.**
- States like Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana have a high number of autonomous colleges, with **over 80% of the total count.**
- Even in states with fewer autonomous institutions, such as Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Punjab, and West Bengal, there is a nationwide interest in exploring autonomy's potential to enhance institutional effectiveness.
- The presence of autonomous colleges across regions underscores the growing realization of the transformative effect autonomy can have on higher education in India.

Address the many post-autonomy challenges

- While UGC promotes autonomy for colleges, some universities resist relinquishing control.
- **Universities often impose limitations on autonomy, such as caps on syllabus changes, hindering colleges' ability to innovate.**
- Colleges face delays from universities in recognizing autonomy, hampering efficiency and undermining autonomy's spirit.
- **Universities hesitate to grant full autonomy to colleges, particularly in syllabus design and introducing new courses.**
- This reluctance may stem from **traditional hierarchical governance within universities.**
- **Colleges may face arbitrary fees imposed by universities for affiliation, undermining autonomy and raising transparency concerns.**
- **State Councils for Higher Education should ensure effective implementation of UGC regulations on autonomy.**
- Universities must address concerns of autonomous colleges within higher education reform, streamlining decision-making processes.
- **Collaboration between universities and autonomous colleges is essential for fostering innovation and academic excellence.**

- A conducive environment for autonomy to thrive will drive innovation, excellence, and inclusivity in higher education.
- Effective implementation of autonomy requires cooperation from all stakeholders to overcome challenges and ensure a vibrant higher education ecosystem.

Is the urban water system breaking? (GS Paper I: Water Resources, GS Paper III: Disaster Management)

- Bengaluru, known for its greenery, IT hub status, and pleasant climate, is facing a severe water crisis in 2023.
- The drought of 2023 has exacerbated the water shortage in Bengaluru, impacting other urban and rural areas as well.
- According to the Central Water Commission's weekly bulletin, major reservoirs in southern states like Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana are filled to only 25% capacity or less, despite peak summer approaching.
- The water crisis raises concerns about the urban water system's sustainability and potential breakdown.
- T.V. Ramachandra and S. Vishwanath discuss this issue in a conversation moderated by K.C. Deepika.
- The excerpts of their conversation shed light on the challenges and implications of the water crisis in Bengaluru and other regions.

This is not the first time that a major city in India has been hit by a water crisis. What does it say about the water infrastructure in our cities?

- **T.V. Ramachandra:** Water crises in cities are often due to mismanagement of water resources across the country.
- Bengaluru's water issues stem from unplanned urbanization, with drastic changes in the city landscape over time.
- In 1800, Bengaluru had 1,457 interconnected water bodies and 80% green cover within a 740 square kilometer area.
- Today, 86% of the city is covered by paved surfaces, and the green cover has dwindled to less than 3%.
- Over 40% of Bengaluru's water needs are met by groundwater sources, which should ideally be replenished through porous city landscapes.
- The city relies on the Cauvery river for about 55-60% of its water supply, but the Cauvery watershed has seen a loss of 45% of its forest cover over the past four decades.
- Currently, the Cauvery catchment has only 18% forest cover, with 75% dedicated to agriculture.
- Climate change exacerbates these challenges, further impacting water resources and availability in Bengaluru and beyond.
- **S. Vishwanath:** In the 20th century, water provision institutions were designed as water supply boards.

- There's a need to shift governance paradigms towards water management boards, encompassing various water sources like piped water, rainwater, groundwater, surface water, lakes, rivers, and wastewater.
- Governance should start from river basin institutions, overseeing landscape preservation, deforestation, sand mining, pollution, and agricultural practices.
- It's crucial to prevent irreversible alterations to the landscape that could disrupt river flow or lead to heavy pollution.
- At the city level, institutions must **understand and manage all forms of water as ecological resources**.
- Lessons from Bengaluru and other urban areas highlight the importance of holistic water management approaches in India.

The irony that many are pointing out is that these are the same cities that are inundated during rains. Where are we going wrong?

- **S. Vishwanath:** Water management institutions in Bengaluru operate independently, leading to siloed governance.
- Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board manages piped water supply.
- Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, along with Karnataka Tank Conservation and Development Authority, oversees surface water bodies.
- Groundwater management falls under the Groundwater Authority.
- Wastewater management lacks clear ownership, contributing to floods when it flows into drains or lakes.
- The fragmented approach to water management results from poor planning and design of the landscape
- Concretization and poor road construction are significant issues.
- **Roads hinder hydrological flows, acting as dams and barriers.**
- This impedes the natural movement of water, leading to drainage problems and increased risk of flooding.
- Inadequate road design exacerbates water-related issues in urban areas like Bengaluru.
- **Addressing road construction and concretization practices** is crucial to improving water management and mitigating flood risks.
- **T.V. Ramachandra:** Fragmented governance due to numerous agencies is a primary issue.
- Many state agencies lack competent leadership, hindering effective water management.
- **Rainwater harvesting presents a solution**, as Bengaluru receives 700-850 mm of rainfall annually, providing ample water resources.
- Approximately **70% of Bengaluru's water needs** can be met through rainwater harvesting.
- Rainwater can be harvested through rooftop systems and by rejuvenating lakes to retain rainwater.
- Re-establishing interconnectivity among lakes can prevent flooding by allowing water to move freely.

- Government responses to flooding often involve remodelling stormwater drains, but this can exacerbate issues by concretizing and narrowing the drains, contrary to hydrological principles.

There are two arguments regarding the Bengaluru situation. One is to depopulate the city by creating new centres of livelihood. The other is to create better water infrastructure. Where do you stand on this?

- **S. Vishwanath:** Urbanization in Bengaluru became inevitable after the 1991 economic reforms.
- Bengaluru attracted people due to its climate and economic opportunities.
- Proper planning and infrastructure development can accommodate future population growth.
- The city's failure lies in **its inability to anticipate and manage growth**, especially in the outskirts.
- Optimism lies in **effective resource management, including lakes, aquifers, rainwater, and wastewater treatment, to support the growing population.**
- **T.V. Ramachandra:** Bengaluru has exceeded its carrying capacity, evident from a **1055% increase in concrete area, 18% loss in vegetation, and 79% loss in water bodies over five decades.**
- Lack of effective management has led to this situation, highlighting a significant oversight.
- **Cluster-based development is proposed as a solution to alleviate pressure on Bengaluru.**
- **The goal is to reverse migration by shifting industries to taluk headquarters,** fostering development in other regions.
- Concentrating all resources and opportunities in Bengaluru makes it increasingly unlivable and unsustainable.

Much of the focus is on urban centres. There is not enough attention being paid to regions along the river basins. Isn't it high time that governments start respecting ecosystems away from the cities that ultimately help these cities thrive?

- **S. Vishwanath:** The governance framework needs to focus on protecting the environment at the river basin scale.
- Reports like the **Gadgil and Kasturirangan Committee Reports** aimed at this, but faced rejection due to various reasons.
- Bengaluru's existence is dependent on the health of the Cauvery river; its degradation will adversely affect the city.
- **Citizens should prioritize discussions about ensuring the Cauvery's pristine condition and ample water flow.**
- Environmental destruction is the root cause of issues like water scarcity, overshadowing concerns like piped water or tanker prices.
- Establishing effective institutions and seeking expertise are crucial steps towards managing systems and resources efficiently.

Every time there is a crisis, we see knee-jerk reactions. What should governments do to secure the future of our cities?

- **S. Vishwanath:** Institutions need to possess comprehensive understanding of the problem at hand.
- They should **be capable of accurately defining the issue.**
- Their focus should be on devising **long-term and sustainable solutions.**
- These solutions should address the root causes of the problem rather than providing temporary fixes.
- **Institutions should have the capacity to adapt and evolve** in response to changing circumstances and new challenges.
- **T.V. Ramachandra:** **Accountability within the system is essential** to ensure that institutions operate effectively.
- **Corruption undermines planning efforts and leads to inefficient use of resources.**
- Projects should be implemented based on genuine need and not just to utilize funds.
- **Electing capable and ethical leaders is crucial for promoting transparency and accountability in governance.**
- Addressing corruption and promoting accountability are key aspects of improving the effectiveness of planning and implementation processes.

Question 1: In a cognizable offense, which of the following actions can the police take without obtaining a warrant?

- (A) Arrest the accused
- (B) Search the premises of the accused
- (C) File a chargesheet in court
- (D) Seize evidence from the crime scene

Question 2: Which of the following offenses is most likely to be classified as NON-cognizable?

- (A) Robbery
- (B) Assault causing minor injuries
- (C) Kidnapping
- (D) Dowry Death

Question 3: Identify the primary legal document that defines and classifies cognizable and non-cognizable offenses in India:

- (A) Indian Penal Code (IPC)
- (B) Constitution of India
- (C) Code of Civil Procedure (CPC)

(D) Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC)

Question 4: Article 20 of the Indian Constitution guarantees protection against:

- (A) Ex-post facto laws
- (B) Double jeopardy
- (C) Self-incrimination
- (D) All of the above

Question 5: Which Article of the Indian Constitution is often considered alongside Article 20 when discussing the rights of an accused person?

- (A) Article 14
- (B) Article 19
- (C) Article 21
- (D) Article 22

Question 6: What is the primary purpose of a VVPAT system?

- (A) To prevent multiple voting by a single person
- (B) To increase the speed of counting votes
- (C) To allow voters to verify that their vote was cast correctly
- (D) To provide an electronic record of all votes cast in an election

Question 7: VVPAT was first introduced in India during which of the following?

- (A) 2014 Lok Sabha Elections
- (B) A bye-election in Nagaland in 2013
- (C) 2009 Lok Sabha Elections
- (D) 2019 Lok Sabha Elections

Question 8: Which of the following is TRUE about the VVPAT slip?

- (A) The VVPAT slip contains the name of the voter.
- (B) The VVPAT slip remains visible to the voter for a few seconds.
- (C) The VVPAT slip can be taken home by the voter as proof of their vote.
- (D) The VVPAT slip can be used to challenge the election result in court.

Question:1 In a cognizable offense, which of the following actions can the police take without obtaining a warrant?

- (A) Arrest the accused
- (B) Search the premises of the accused
- (C) File a chargesheet in court
- (D) Seize evidence from the crime scene

Answer: (A) Arrest the accused

Explanation: Police have the power to arrest without a warrant in cases of cognizable offenses, considered more serious in nature.

Question 2: Consider the following offences:

- (1) Robbery
- (2) Assault causing minor injuries
- (3) Kidnapping
- (4) Dowry Death

Answer: (A) Assault causing minor injuries

Explanation: Non-cognizable offenses are generally less serious. Simple assault is more likely to fall into this category compared to the other options.

How many of the above offences is/are most likely to be classified as NON-cognizable?

<p>(A) Only one (B) Only two (C) Only three (D) All the four</p>	
<p>Question: 3 A person reports a theft incident to the police. The police refuse to register an FIR immediately. This scenario is most likely if the theft is classified as a: (A) Cognizable offense (B) Non-cognizable offense (C) Compoundable offense (D) Bailable offense</p>	<p>Answer: (B) Non-cognizable offense Explanation: In non-cognizable cases, the police cannot immediately register an FIR and need to obtain permission from the court before initiating an investigation.</p>
<p>Question: 4 Identify the primary legal document that defines and classifies cognizable and non-cognizable offenses in India: (A) Indian Penal Code (IPC) (B) Constitution of India (C) Code of Civil Procedure (CPC) (D) Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC)</p>	<p>Answer: (D) Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) Explanation: The CrPC is the main legislation governing criminal procedure and outlines the powers of the police and courts in dealing with different types of offenses</p>
<p>Question 5: Article 20 of the Indian Constitution guarantees protection against: (A) Ex-post facto laws (B) Double jeopardy (C) Self-incrimination (D) All of the above</p>	<p>Answer: (D) All of the above Explanation: Article 20 provides all three crucial protections.</p>
<p>Question: 6 Consider the following scenario: A law is enacted criminalizing a specific act. A person is then arrested and punished for doing that act before the law was enacted. This situation violates which provision of Article 20? (A) Protection against unreasonable search and seizure (B) Protection against double jeopardy (C) Protection against ex-post facto laws (D) Protection against arbitrary detention</p>	<p>Answer: (C) Protection against ex-post facto laws Explanation: Ex-post facto laws make previously legal actions punishable, which is prohibited by Article 20.</p>
<p>Question: 7 The 'Nemo Tenetur Prodere Accusare Seipsum' principle, underpinning a key protection within Article 20, translates to: (A) No one can be punished twice for the same offense. (B) Equality before the law. (C) No one is obliged to be a witness against themselves. (D) Right to a fair trial.</p>	<p>Answer: (C) No one is obliged to be a witness against themselves. Explanation: This Latin maxim refers to the right against self-incrimination.</p>
<p>Question: 8 Which Article of the Indian Constitution is often considered alongside Article 20 when discussing the rights of an accused person? (A) Article 14 (B) Article 19 (C) Article 21</p>	<p>Answer: (C) Article 21 Explanation: Article 21 (protection of life and personal liberty) and Article 20 collectively provide a range of protections for individuals accused of crimes.</p>

(D) Article 22	
<p>Question: 9 What is the primary purpose of a VVPAT system?</p> <p>(A) To prevent multiple voting by a single person</p> <p>(B) To increase the speed of counting votes</p> <p>(C) To allow voters to verify that their vote was cast correctly</p> <p>(D) To provide an electronic record of all votes cast in an election</p>	<p>Answer: (C) To allow voters to verify that their vote was cast correctly</p> <p>Explanation: The core function of VVPAT is to provide a paper trail, allowing voters to confirm that their vote on the EVM machine was recorded as intended.</p>
<p>Question: 10 VVPAT was first introduced in India during which of the following?</p> <p>(A) 2014 Lok Sabha Elections</p> <p>(B) A bye-election in Nagaland in 2013</p> <p>(C) 2009 Lok Sabha Elections</p> <p>(D) 2019 Lok Sabha Elections</p>	<p>Answer: (B) A bye-election in Nagaland in 2013</p> <p>Explanation: VVPAT was initially piloted in a limited capacity in a 2013 bye-election before wider implementation.</p>
<p>Question: 11 Which of the following is TRUE about the VVPAT slip?</p> <p>(A) The VVPAT slip contains the name of the voter.</p> <p>(B) The VVPAT slip remains visible to the voter for a few seconds.</p> <p>(C) The VVPAT slip can be taken home by the voter as proof of their vote.</p> <p>(D) The VVPAT slip can be used to challenge the election result in court.</p>	<p>Answer: (B) The VVPAT slip remains visible to the voter for a few seconds.</p> <p>Explanation: The slip shows the candidate's name and symbol, then drops into a sealed box, ensuring secrecy but providing verification for the voter.</p>
<p>Question: 12 In the context of elections, VVPAT can help address concerns about:</p> <p>(A) Manipulation of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs)</p> <p>(B) Voter intimidation</p> <p>(C) Bogus voting</p> <p>(D) Inefficiencies in ballot counting</p>	<p>Answer: (A) Manipulation of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs)</p> <p>Explanation: VVPAT provides a physical paper trail to cross-check EVM results, aiming to reduce the potential for manipulation and increase confidence in the electronic voting process.</p>