

Daily News Juice

6th Aug, 22

1. Shortest Day in 1960s
2. Ban on Corporal Punishment in schools
3. Opposition to Coal Mining in Hasdeo Aranya region



Explained: The Earth has recorded its shortest day since the 1960s — why are we spinning faster, and what impact can it have?

On June 29, the Earth completed one full spin — a day — in 1.59 milliseconds less than its routine 24 hours.

Written by [Raghu Malhotra](#), Edited by Explained Desk | New Delhi |
Updated: August 5, 2022 2:33:08 pm



On July 26, the day ended 1.50 milliseconds earlier, with the Earth almost breaking the record it set on June 29. (Illustrative/Pixabay)

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Shortest day since 1960s



Relevance: Prelims & GS Mains Paper I

Why in News?

- On **June 29**, the Earth completed one full spin — a day — in **1.59 milliseconds less** than its routine 24 hours. (**A millisecond is one-thousandth of a second**).
- It was the shortest day recorded since the **1960s**, when scientists first began to use the precise atomic clocks to measure the Earth's rotational speed.
- This is not the single such event. There have **been many such events**. For instance, in 2020, the Earth recorded 28 shorter days. However, Earth is not rotating faster on sustained basis.

Trend over long time

- While the Earth has been completing its rotations faster in recent years, when looked at over a much longer period of time, our planet is **actually spinning slower**.
- * Every century, the Earth takes a few milliseconds longer to complete one rotation — and on average, days are actually getting longer.
- * So, **1.4 billion years ago**, a day would have ended in **less than 19 hours**. The reason behind the Earth's slower spin is attributed to the **gravitational pull of the Moon, which causes tidal friction and slows down the Earth's rotations**.

Shortest day since 1960s



Reason for shorter days

- Scientists are not sure. There are **many reasons** which have been hypothesized.
 1. **Surface changes on account of climate change – Melting of ice and changes in ocean circulation.**
 2. **Increase in molten core- Activities that push mass towards the centre of the Earth will hasten the planet's rotation, while anything that pushes mass outwards will slow down the spin.**

Q. Consider the following statements about the rotation of the Earth:

1. The speed of rotation of the Earth determines the length of the day.
2. Over a time period of billion years, the speed of rotation of Earth has slowed down.
3. In the last decade or so, the speed of rotation of Earth has decreased by a constant fraction.

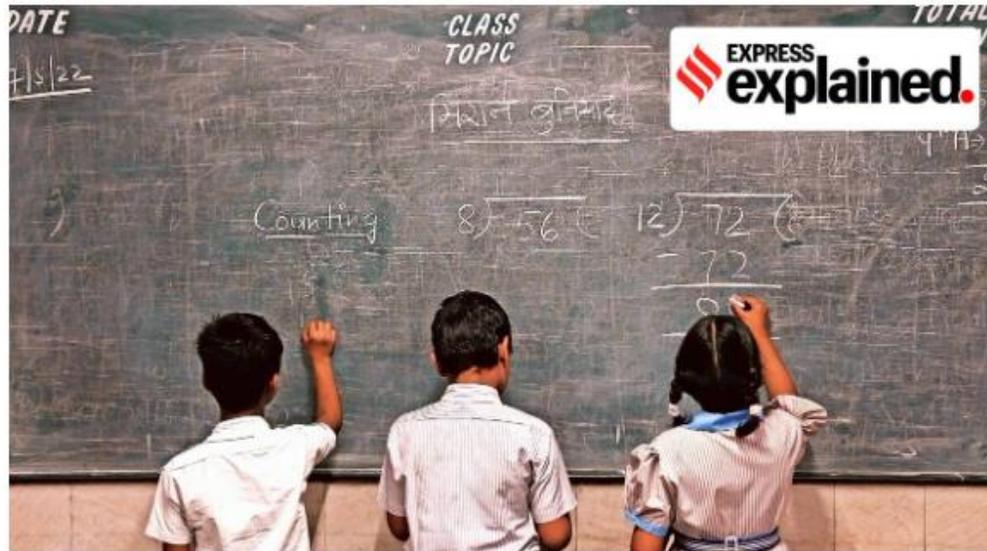
Select the correct answer using code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 2 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Explained: What the law says on protecting children against corporal punishment

By definition, corporal punishment means punishment that is physical in nature. While there is no statutory definition of 'corporal punishment' targeting children in the Indian law, the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 prohibits 'physical punishment' and 'mental harassment' under Section 17(1) and makes it a punishable offence under Section 17(2).

Written by [Alifiya Khan](#), Edited by Explained Desk | Pune |
 Updated: August 1, 2022 10:18:39 pm



Section 75 of the Juvenile Justice Act prescribes punishment for cruelty to children.

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Legal provisions on protecting children against corporal punishment

Relevant for GS Prelims & Mains Paper II; Polity & Governance

Why in news?

- Three private school teachers in Pune have been booked under the Juvenile Justice Act over allegedly thrashing three Class 10 students, and threatening to grade them poorly in internal assessments.

What is corporal punishment?

- ▶ There is no statutory definition of 'corporal punishment' targeting children in the Indian laws. By definition, corporal punishment means punishment that is physical in nature.
- ▶ The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 prohibits 'physical punishment' and 'mental harassment' under Section 17(1) and makes it a punishable offence under Section 17(2).

Physical punishment

- Defined under Guidelines for Eliminating Corporal Punishment in Schools issued by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)
- Physical punishment is understood as any action that causes pain, hurt/injury and discomfort to a child.
- Includes not just hitting but also making children assume an uncomfortable position, forced ingestion of anything or detention in any closed space in the school.

Legal provisions on protecting children against corporal punishment



Mental harassment

▶ Non-physical treatment that is **detrimental to the academic and psychological well-being** of a child.

▶ It includes **sarcasm, calling names and scolding using humiliating adjectives, intimidation, using derogatory remarks for the child, ridiculing or belittling a child, shaming the child** and more.

Legal Provisions

▶ Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 prohibits 'physical punishment' and 'mental harassment' under Section 17(1) and makes it a punishable offence under Section 17(2).

▶ **Section 75** of the **Juvenile Justice Act** prescribes punishment for **cruelty to children**. The punishment would be rigorous **imprisonment upto five years and fine up to Rs 5 lakh**.

▶ If the child is **physically incapacitated or develops a mental illness or is rendered mentally unfit to perform regular tasks or has risk to life or limb**, then imprisonment may extend upto **ten years**.

▶ Corporal punishment is also covered by all the provisions under Indian law that punish perpetrators of **physical harm**. These provisions are same for adults and children.

Q. Which of the following laws have been passed to secure the welfare of children to the exclusion of adults?

1. Right to Education Act, 2009
2. Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015
3. Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005

Select the correct answer using code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 2 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Explained | The coal mining protests in the Hasdeo Aranya region



Shubhomoy Sikdar

AUGUST 04, 2022 22:56 IST

UPDATED: AUGUST 05, 2022 08:39 IST

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PRINT



Why has a private member resolution against coal mining in the Hasdeo forests been passed by the Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly?

The story so far: The Hasdeo Aranya forests are called the lungs of Chhattisgarh. Over the past one year, protests against mining in this region have erupted several times and some still continue to sit-in demanding a complete stop to mining. Amidst this, on July 26, the Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly

The coal mining protests in the Hasdeo Aranya region

Relevant for GS Prelims & Mains Paper III

Hasdeo Aranya forests

- ▶ **Hasdeo Aranya forests** are called the lungs of Chhattisgarh.
- ▶ The Hasdeo Aranya (**Aranya means forest**) lies in the **catchment area of the Hasdeo river** and is spread across 1,878 sq km in **North-Central Chhattisgarh**.
- ▶ **Hasdeo river is a tributary of the Mahanadi river** which originates in Chhattisgarh and flows through Odisha into the Bay of Bengal.
- ▶ The Hasdeo forests are also the catchment area for the **Hasdeo Bango Dam** built across the Hasdeo river which irrigates six lakh acres of land, crucial to a State with paddy as its main crop.
- ▶ Besides, the forests are **ecologically sensitive** due to the rich biodiversity they offer and due to the presence of a **large migratory corridor for elephants**.

Coal Mining Clearance

- ▶ Underneath the Hasdeo Aranya is a coalfield that comprises of **22 coal blocks**.
- ▶ In **2010**, the Centre categorised Hasdeo Aranya to be a “**no-go**” zone for mining. It ruled out mining in any of these blocks. However, only a year later, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (**MoEF**) **granted clearance** for the mining for one coal block.
- ▶ At present, of the **22 blocks**, **seven blocks have been allotted to different companies**.
- ▶ **Mining is ongoing in 2 out of the 7 blocks**. In rest of 5 blocks, it is stopped due to local opposition.



The coal mining protests in the Hasdeo Aranya region

Private Member Resolution

- ▶ An MLA who is not a Minister — whether she happens to be from the ruling party or not — is a private member.
- ▶ A private member resolution can be brought in by a private member and if passed, it becomes an expression of what the House thinks. ✓
- ▶ This is different from a private member bill which would become law in case of approval.
- ▶ on July 26, the Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly unanimously passed a private member resolution urging the Centre to cancel allocation of all coal mining blocks in the ecologically sensitive area.

Impact of resolution

- ▶ Chhattisgarh is ruled by Congress government. The principal opposition party is BJP. The present private member resolution was introduced by MLA from Janata Congress Chhattisgarh (J).
- ▶ Despite the members of both the ruling Congress and the principal Opposition BJP adopting it, the resolution isn't expected to change the status quo.
- ▶ While the Congress says the onus is on the Centre to stop mining, the BJP has been asking the State government to withdraw the clearances it has issued to mine developers and operators

Q. The ecologically sensitive Hasdeo Aranya forests are located in

- (a) South-Eastern Jharkahnd
- (b) North-Central Jharkhand
- (c) North-Central Chattisgarh
- (d) South-Central Chattisgrah

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