

'Sharing is Caring'

If you have friends preparing for Civil Services, tell them that they can also receive Updates from PrepMate IAS by sending 'Name' and 'State' through WhatsApp on 75979-00000

### 1. New sections in criminal laws: Cheating is not Section 420 but 318, punishment for murder is Section 103

#### Why in News?

The three new criminal laws came into effect on July 1. The Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (BNSS) will replace the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC); the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) will replace the Indian Penal Code; and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam will replace the Indian Evidence Act.

Passed in parliament last year, the government billed it as an effort to remove colonial influences on India's legal system. Home Minister Amit Shah said last year that the "purpose of older laws" brought in by the British "was to strengthen the British rule". "Its purpose was to punish, not to dispense justice."

"After nearly 150 years, the three new criminal laws are being brought with entirely new perspectives and provisions with a purpose to eliminate the delays in the criminal justice system... we will not see any colonial influence, and they will resonate with the essence of Indian soil, at the core of these (Bills) is the protection of the constitutional rights, human rights, and the self-defence of Indian citizens," Shah said.

#### Important Sections of BNS

The BNS has 358 sections, compared to the 511 in the IPC. Therefore, the longstanding numbering of many criminal charges listed in the IPC has changed. For instance, Section 420, which defined cheating, led to the number '420' becoming a catchall and commonly used term for such crimes. It is now listed as Section 318 in the BNS.

Here is a list of some major criminal charges and how they are numbered in the BNS.

#### 1. Punishment for murder

Previously Section 302 in the Indian Penal Code, the offence is now covered under Section 103 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

#### 2. Attempt to murder

Previously Section 307 in the Indian Penal Code, the offence is now covered under Section 109 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

#### 3. Rape

Previously Section 375 in the Indian Penal Code, the offence is now covered under Section 63 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

#### **4. Gang rape**

Previously Section 376D in the Indian Penal Code, the offence is now covered under Section 70 (1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

#### **5. Cruelty against a married woman**

Previously Section 498A in the Indian Penal Code, the offence is now covered under Section 85 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

#### **6. Dowry death**

Previously Section 304B in the Indian Penal Code, the offence is now covered under Section 80 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

#### **7. Sexual harassment**

Previously Section 354A in the Indian Penal Code, the offence is now covered under Section 75 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

#### **8. Outraging the modesty of a woman**

Previously Section 354 in the Indian Penal Code, the offence is now covered under Section 74 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

#### **9. Criminal intimidation**

Previously Section 503 in the Indian Penal Code, the offence is now covered under Section 351 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

#### **10. Defamation**

Previously Section 499 in the Indian Penal Code, the offence is now covered under Section 356 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

#### **11. Cheating**

Previously Section 420 in the Indian Penal Code, the offence is now covered under Section 318 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

#### **12. Criminal Conspiracy**

Previously Section 120A in the Indian Penal Code, the offence is now covered under Section 61 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

#### **13. Sedition**

Previously Section 124A in the Indian Penal Code, the offence is now covered under Section 152 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

#### **14. Promoting enmity between different groups**

Previously Section 153A in the Indian Penal Code, the offence is now covered under Section 196 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

### **15. Imputations, assertions prejudicial to national integration**

Previously Section 153B in the Indian Penal Code, the offence is now covered under Section 197 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

### **16. Statements conducing to public mischief**

Previously Section 505 in the Indian Penal Code, the offence is now covered under Section 353 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

### **17. Public nuisance**

Previously Section 268 in the Indian Penal Code, the offence is now covered under Section 270 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

Relevance: GS Prelims & Mains Paper II; Governance

Source: Indian Express

## **2. Roads in Ayodhya and Ahmedabad cave-in: What causes road cave-ins — and how can they be avoided**

### **Why in News?**

Heavy rainfall has led to incidents of road cave-ins in several cities in the last few days. For instance, last week, the newly built Ram Path in Ayodhya suffered road cave-ins at multiple spots. Similarly, a road in Ahmedabad caved in, leaving a huge sinkhole.

### **What causes road cave-ins?**



The cave-ins or cavities that look like holes in the ground are a product of the incessant rain. Continuous rain leads to overflowing of drains, which can cause leaks in the pipeline. When a pipeline leaks and water from the pipeline flows into the layers of earth around it, the earth starts to erode and with time, it gets washed away with the water in the pipeline.

Eventually, the portion of the road over it collapses because of the erosion. How long this takes, would depend on the size of the pipelines and the leak.

### **How do you fix the road after a cave-in?**

Once such an incident takes place, authorities concerned stop the flow of the water through the pipelines, which can take some time. They then try to find the leakage in the pipelines. As soon as the location of the leak is established, work on the pipeline starts.

After the work is complete, authorities then fill the cavity with the required material. In smaller cavities, they use gravel while larger ones are filled with sand since it can be compacted easily.

### **How can such cave-ins be avoided?**

To avoid such cavities, the integrity of the pipelines would have to be checked. Engineers suggest that one of the ways that such cave-ins can be avoided includes creating a system

wherein the leakage can be plugged earlier on. Installing a system that checks the flow at the start point and one at the endpoint, would be able to help authorities know that there is a leak. If the leakage is plugged early, the cave-in can be avoided.

Relevance: GS Prelims & Mains Paper III; Disaster Management

Source: Indian Express

### 3. All you need to know about the Iran presidential elections

#### Why in News?

On June 28, Iran held the first round of voting to elect a new President, necessitated by the death of Ebrahim Raisi in a helicopter crash in May. Since neither of the top two candidates — 69-year-old cardiac surgeon Masoud Pezeshkian, a reformist, and 58-year-old hardliner Saeed Jalili — won more than 50% of votes, they will face off in a run-off election on July 5.

What role does the President play in Iran's hybrid theocratic-democratic system, and where do these two candidates stand on various issues?



#### What do terms like “reformist” and “hardliner” mean in Iranian politics?

The reformist-conservative (or “hardliner”) divide in Iranian politics has existed since the beginning of the Iranian Revolution in 1979 and the subsequent formation of the Islamic Republic. Even when Ayatollah Khomeini led the new republic, there were moderate ayatollahs or senior Shia leaders from within

the religious establishment who were critical of his policies.

After Ayatollah Khomeini's death in 1989, there was a tussle for succession between the conservatives and the reformists within the clergy. Similar tussles were seen in elections for Iran's President as well.

During the period when the reformist Mohammad Khatami was President (1997-2005) there was some support for women and university students. He was followed in the presidency by hardliner Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (2005-13) who was not from the clergy, but conservative nonetheless.

Subsequently, reformist Hassan Rouhani (2013-21) came to power, followed by Raisi (2021-24), who was considered a hardliner.

#### What views do the two candidates hold on major issues?

Pezeshkian has stated he will object to oppressive restrictions on women. Like previous reformers, he too wants a better relationship with the West, and believes that Iran's isolation due of Western economic sanctions needs to be ended.

US sanctions against Iran go back to the early days of the Islamic Republic. Iran negotiated with the West to sign the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), or the Iran nuclear deal, in 2015. In exchange for certain limits on Iran developing nuclear weapons, the West agreed to ease some sanctions.

Donald Trump's unilateral withdrawal from the deal in 2018 dealt a blow to the reformists, and served as vindication for the conservatives who were opposed to the outreach to the West. The killing of the senior Iranian general Qassem Soleimani in 2020 by the United States further consolidated the conservative hold on power in Iran. Pezeshkian is also arguing for more liberal policies, but that's not easy to achieve.

Jalili had been part of Iran's nuclear negotiations with the West, but his statements during the campaign suggest that he is no longer in favour of a deal.

Jalili also supports closer relationships with China and Russia. He is part of one of the higher bodies of Iranian politics and security, the Expediency Council, indicating his proximity to the Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

#### **How are the presidential candidates selected?**

Many people apply to become candidates but the establishment oversees the selection process, and only vetted candidates can contest. Most candidates are from the establishment, and only a few reformists can enter the fray.

The Supreme Leader has been indirectly critical of Pezeshkian's position on improving relations with the US. However, these elections are taking place in the aftermath of tumultuous events like the 2022 women's protests, and the position taken by the reformist candidate has a certain resonance.

#### **What is the real extent of the President's power in Iran?**

The final arbiter in the Iranian system is the Supreme Leader, and the President has to negotiate all major policy decisions with him.

The President's position in Iran can be compared to that of a Vice President elsewhere. While he does have a certain amount of executive power and some leeway in the day-to-day running of the system, broader policymaking must be in line with the overall ideology of the republic, and depends upon the President's negotiating capabilities with the Supreme Leader.

Relevance: GS Prelims & Mains Paper II; International Relations

Source: Indian express