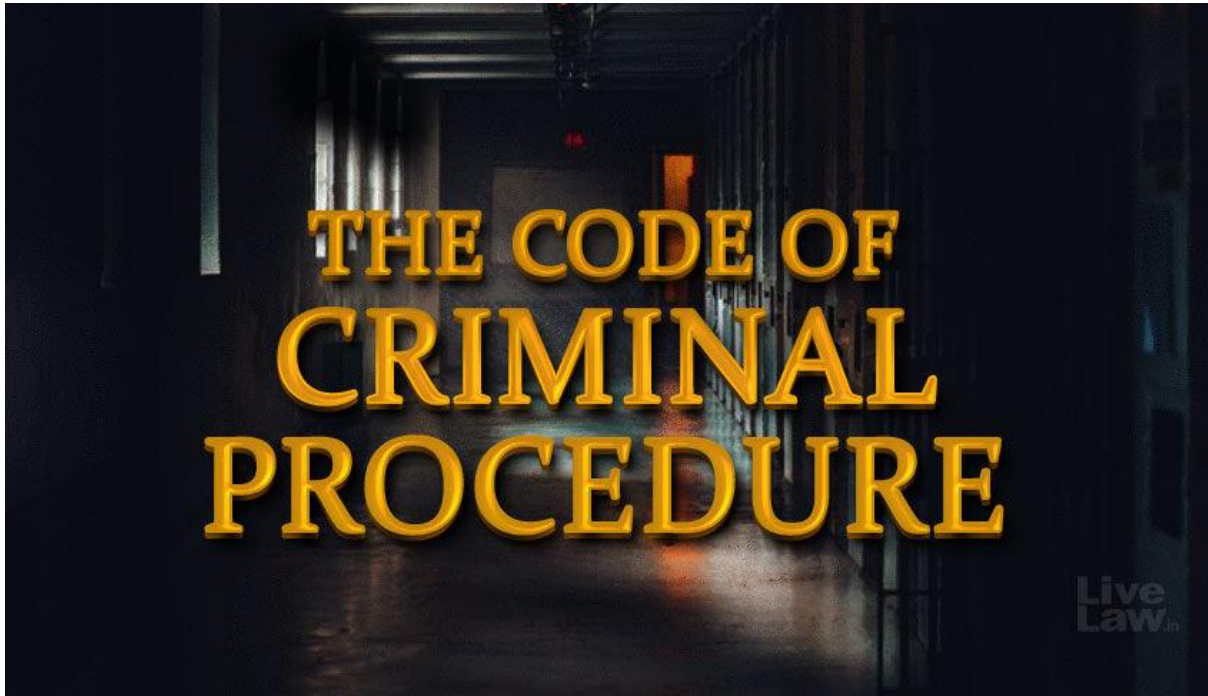


UPSC CURRENT AFFAIRS NOTES 17-03-2024

82 of Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC)

The Supreme Court recently held that an accused would not be entitled to pre-arrest bail if the non-bailable warrant and the proclamation under Section 82(1) Cr.P.C. is pending against him.



About Section 82 of Cr.P.C

It provides for the issuing of a proclamation in a case where the court has reason to believe that the person has concealed himself or has absconded in order to evade the execution of warrants issued against him.

The court may form its opinion suo motu from the material on a record or on the presentation of evidence by the prosecution.

Through a written proclamation, the court orders the accused to appear at a specific place, and a specific time should be given; it should not be less than 30 days from the date of publishing of the proclamation.

It can only be invoked as a matter of last resort where the power of issuing warrants has been exhausted by the court.

The provisions under this section are not for punishing the accused but have the sole purpose of compelling him to appear before the court.

Therefore, a proclamation cannot be issued without first issuing a warrant.



The issuing of the proclamation cannot be done in an arbitrary manner, but there should be reasons recorded by the court to substantiate the order of the proclamation.

Subsection (2) of Section 82 deals with the procedure through which a proclamation is issued. The provision provides that the proclamation shall be published as follows:

It is read in some conspicuous place in the town or village where the accused person ordinarily resides.

It is affixed at some conspicuous part of the house where such a person ordinarily resides. It can also be fixed in some conspicuous part of town or village.

It shall be affixed at a conspicuous part of the courthouse.

The proclamation can also be circulated through a daily newspaper circulated in the place where the person ordinarily resides.

Proclaimed Offender:

A person who is accused of serious offences under the Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860, if he fails to appear as per the requirements of the proclamation, the court can declare him a proclaimed offender after inquiring into the matter.

A police officer can arrest a person who has been declared a proclaimed offender without any warrant.

Even a private person can arrest a proclaimed offender and present him to the nearest police station.

The title of proclaimed offender ceases to exist as soon as the person is arrested or otherwise becomes capable of being presented before the court.

Section 174A of the IPC, 1860, also provides that where a person has been declared a proclaimed offender under Section 82 of the CrPC, he shall be liable for a term of imprisonment that may extend to seven years and shall also be liable to a fine in tandem with such a punishment.

Difference between Proclaimed Offender and Proclamation

A proclamation is a notice to the accused, who is believed by the court to have absconded or concealed himself to evade execution of warrants, whereas, proclaimed offender is a title that is conferred upon a person against whom a proclamation has been published and also who have committed a serious offence.



The title of a proclaimed offender is declared after an inquiry is conducted by the court, in which the court has to confirm that such a person has been intentionally in hiding to evade the execution of warrants.

The title of proclaimed offender opens up the person to penal liabilities and also to other disqualifications.

Also Read:

Section 319 of the Code of Criminal Procedure

Section 125 of the Criminal Procedure Code

Evolution of Criminal Laws in India

Q1) What is the difference between summons and warrants?

The Court in criminal proceedings has two prominent ways to secure the appearance of a person before it, which are namely issuing of summons and issuing of warrants. When a summons is issued, it becomes the duty of the person to appear himself before the court, whereas, in the execution of a warrant, generally a police officer is ordered to arrest the person and produce him before the court.

ATMOSPHERIC TESTBED

Recently the first phase of India's Atmospheric Research Testbed in Central India (ART-CI) was inaugurated at Silkheda in Sehore district, located about 50 km northwest of Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh.

The ART is an open-field, focused observational and analytical research programme at Silkheda.

The facility aims to conduct ground-based observations of weather parameters like temperature, wind speeds, etc. and in-situ (on-site) observations of the transient synoptic systems – like low-pressure areas and depressions that form in the Bay of Bengal – during the southwest monsoon season from June to September.

Studying these systems and their associated cloud parameters will be used to generate high volumes of data over a long period.

It can then be compared with the existing weather models so that improvements can be made to obtain accurate rainfall predictions.

The setup at ART will also be used for calibrating and validating various satellite-based observations, part of weather predictions and forecasting.

Development of ART



Spread over 100 acres, the ART has been developed by the Ministry of Earth Sciences for Rs 125 crore.

The Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, is in charge of the operations.

Under the first phase, remote sensing-based and in-situ measurements using 25 meteorological instruments have commenced.

In the second phase, ART will deploy instruments such as a radar wind profiler and balloon-bound radiosonde, and soil moisture and temperature measuring equipment.

Importance of Atmospheric Research Testbed

At present, 45% of India's labour force is employed in the agriculture sector. Much of Indian agriculture is rain-fed, as is cultivation along the Monsoon Core Zone (MCZ), which spans the central India region from Gujarat to West Bengal. The southwest monsoon season accounts for 70 per cent of the country's annual average rainfall (880mm).

Throughout India, the majority of Kharif cultivation is undertaken between July and August, which see an average monthly rainfall of 280.4mm and 254.9mm (1971–2020 average), respectively.

During this four-month-long season, several rain-bearing synoptic systems, namely the low pressures or depressions, develop in the Bay of Bengal.

Inherently, these systems move westwards/northwestwards over to the Indian mainland and pass through the MCZ, causing bountiful rainfall.

Important to have data about monsoons over central India

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) issues rainfall forecasts for the country's four homogeneous regions – north, west, east and south peninsular India. In addition, it issues a special rainfall forecast for the MCZ, which is considered India's food bowl.

However, there is still limited understanding about the role of these synoptic systems, their associated cloud physics, cloud properties and their overall role in enhancing the monsoon rainfall.

Central India, therefore, acts as a natural laboratory for scientists and meteorologists to perform a hands-on study of the Indian monsoons.

They can record data and make observations about the allied systems, clouds, and other associated physical and atmospheric parameters.

Additionally, climate change is driving erratic rainfall patterns in the tropical regions, like India. It has also strengthened the low-pressure systems, which are



aided by high temperatures. This results in very heavy rainfall recorded along their trajectory during the monsoons.

Now, with ART, scientists will be able to generate and obtain long-term observations on cloud microphysics, precipitation, convection, and land-surface properties, among a host of other parameters.

This information will be assimilated and fed into the numerical weather models to enhance forecast output, especially the rainfall forecasts. More accurate forecasts will ultimately help the farming community plan their activities better. The ART has been established at Silkheda, a location that falls directly in line with the path of major rain-bearing synoptic systems.

This will facilitate direct monitoring and tracking.

Besides, the locality is pristine and free of anthropogenic and other pollutants, making it the best site in central India for setting up sensitive, high-end meteorological instruments and observatories for recording data.

Instruments are ART equipped with

To obtain continuous observations of convection, clouds, and precipitation, and monitor the major modes of variabilities, the ART is equipped with over two dozen high-end instruments, radars and more.

At 72 metres, ART will house India's tallest meteorological tower.

Some of the instruments deployed are an aethalometer for performing aerosol studies, a cloud condensation nuclei counter, a laser ceilometer to measure cloud sizes, a micro rain radar to calculate raindrop size and its distribution, and a Ka-band cloud radar and a C-band doppler weather radar to help track the movement of rain-bearing systems over this zone.

Pandavula Gutta

Recently, Pandavula Gutta has been officially recognised as the sole Geo-heritage site in Telangana.

About Pandavula Gutta

It is a geological marvel older than the Himalayan hills.

It is located in Jayashankar Bhupalpally district in Telangana is home to many prehistoric habitation sites.

This site was first discovered in the year 1990.

It is rich in terms of number of paintings, rock shelters and its habitation, right from the mesolithic to medieval times.

The paintings feature geometrical designs and impressions in green, red, yellow and white pigment colours.



These cave paintings offer a rare glimpse into the prehistoric man's rock art identified on walls and ceilings of caves, rock shelters and isolated boulders. The rock art paintings depict wild life like Bison, Antelope, Tiger, Leopard etc. Other shapes like swastika symbol, circles and squares, weapons such as bows, arrows, sword and lancer etc are present in these paintings.

What is a Geo-heritage site?

“Geoheritage” is a generic but descriptive term applied to sites or areas of geologic features with significant scientific, educational, cultural, or aesthetic value.

Scientifically and educationally significant geoheritage sites include those with textbook geologic features and landscapes, distinctive rock or mineral types, unique or unusual fossils, or other geologic characteristics that are significant to education and research.

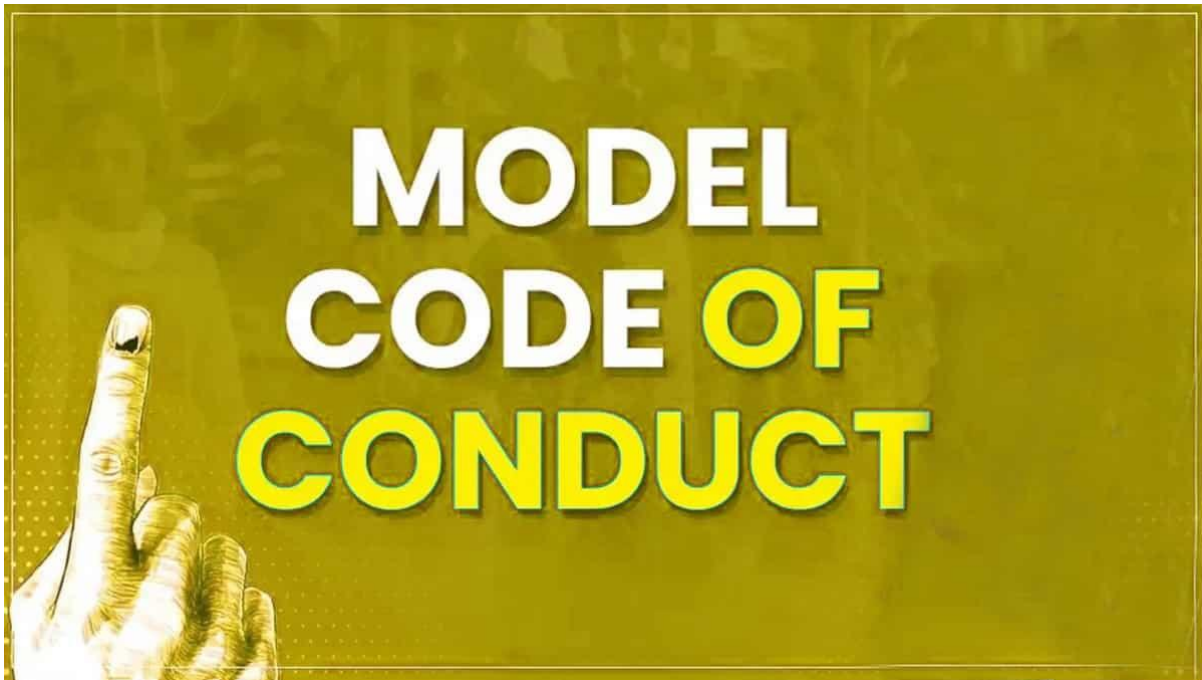
Culturally significant geoheritage sites are places where geologic features or landscapes played a role in cultural or historical events.

Aesthetically significant geoheritage sites include landscapes that are visually appealing because of their geologic features or processes. Many geoheritage sites can be tourist destinations and provide local and regional economic benefits.”(Geological Society of America).

These are rock carvings (rock paintings are called pictographs) made by pecking directly on the rock surface using a stone chisel and a hammerstone.

Model Code of Conduct

Chief Election Commissioner of India asked all political parties to strictly adhere to the Model Code of Conduct (MCC), which lays down a list of dos and don'ts for leaders and parties ahead of elections.



About Model Code of Conduct

It traces its origins back to the assembly elections in Kerala in 1960.

It serves as a set of conventions unanimously agreed upon by all stakeholders involved in the electoral process.

Its primary objective is to ensure that campaigns, polling, and counting proceed in an orderly, transparent, and peaceful manner.

Additionally, it serves as a mechanism to curb any misuse of state machinery and financial resources by the ruling party.

It does not possess any statutory backing but has been upheld by the Supreme Court on multiple occasions.

What Activities Are Prohibited After Implementation of MCC

Ministers and other authorities are barred from announcing any financial grants or making commitments once the elections are announced, as per the guidelines of the election panel.

Once the dates for the Lok Sabha elections are announced, ministers and other authorities are also restricted from laying foundation stones or initiating projects or schemes of any kind, except civil servants.

No project or scheme that may sway voters in favor of the ruling party can be announced after the enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct.

Additionally, ministers are prohibited from using official machinery for campaign purposes.



Official visits must not be combined with any electioneering activities after the enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct.

Furthermore, the use of official machinery or personnel for electioneering purposes is strictly forbidden.

Ministers and other authorities are not allowed to sanction grants or payments from discretionary funds once the elections are announced.

The utilization of official machinery or personnel for electioneering is strictly prohibited, as per the guidelines of the Election Commission of India (ECI).

Government accommodations should not serve as campaign offices or be used for holding public meetings for election propaganda by any party, as prohibited by the poll body.

The Election Commission of India (ECI) prohibits the issuance of advertisements at the cost of the public exchequer in newspapers and other media during the election period.

The misuse of official mass media for partisan coverage of political news and publicity regarding achievements to favor the ruling party should be strictly avoided, as noted in the MCC guidelines.

Election Commission is a permanent and independent body. By Article 324 of the Constitution of India, it is vested with the power of conducting elections to – Parliament, State Legislatures, Office of President and Vice-President of India.

ULLAS Initiative

The Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL), Ministry of Education, Government of India, is set to conduct the Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Assessment Test (FLNAT) as part of the ULLAS - Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram on 17th March 2024, across 23 states

About ULLAS Initiative

The Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society (ULLAS) initiative is poised to revolutionise education and literacy across the nation.

It is done by fostering a learning ecosystem that reaches every individual, bridging the gaps in basic literacy and critical life skills.



It imparts basic education, digital and financial literacy and critical life skills to citizens aged 15 and above who lost on the opportunity to go to school. It is being implemented through volunteerism.

The objectives of the scheme is to impart not only Foundational Literacy and Numeracy but also to cover other components which are necessary for a citizen of 21 st century such as

Critical Life Skills (including financial literacy, digital literacy, commercial skills, health care and awareness, child care and education, and family welfare);

Vocational Skills Development (with a view towards obtaining local employment);

Basic Education (including preparatory, middle, and secondary stage equivalency)

Continuing Education (including engaging holistic adult education courses in arts, sciences, technology, culture, sports, and recreation, as well as other topics of interest or use to local learners, such as more advanced material on critical life skills).

ULLAS app was launched which is a user-friendly and interactive app available both on android and ios.

It will serve as a digital gateway for learners to engage in diverse learning resources through the DIKSHA portal of NCERT.

The ULLAS app can be used for registration of learners and volunteers either through self-registration or by surveyors.

It is a national platform for school education, an initiative of the National Council for Education Research and Training (NCERT), Ministry of Education. It provides e-content for schools via an online portal and a mobile application. It was developed based on the core principles of open architecture, open access, open licensing, choice and autonomy.

Shipra River

A performance audit conducted by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) on the degradation of the Shipra River, threw up a host of significant findings.

About Shipra River

The Shipra, also known as the Kshipra, is a river in Madhya Pradesh state.

It is a perennial river and is considered as sacred as the Ganga River by the Hindus.



Course:

Origin: It originates in the Vindhya Range from a hill called Kakri-Tekdi, which is in the north of Dhar and situated at a distance of 11km from Ujjain.

This river is 195km long, out of which 93km flow through Ujjain.

It flows across the Malwa Plateau to join the Chambal River.

Religious Significance:

The Puranas, or ancient Hindu texts, put forward that the Shipra originated from the heart of Varaha, Lord Vishnu's incarnation as a boar.

Also on the banks of the Shipra is Sage Sandipani's ashram or hermitage, where Krishna, Lord Vishnu's eighth incarnation, had studied.



It finds mention not only in ancient Hindu texts but also in Buddhist and Jain scriptures.

The holy city of Ujjain is located on the right bank of the Shipra River. The famous Kumbha Mela takes place in the ghats of this city, once every 12 years, a yearly celebration of the river goddess Kshipra.

Major Tributaries: Khan and Gambhir

The tributaries of the Chambal include KShipra, Choti Kalisindh, Sivanna, Retam, Ansar, Kalisindh, Banas, Parbati, Seep, Kuwari, Kuno, Alnia, Mej, Chakan, Parwati, Chamla, Gambhir, Lakhunder, Khan, Bangeri, Kedel and Teelar.