



30 August, 2024

## Prevention of Money Laundering Act

**Context:** In a judgment, the Supreme Court ruled that under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), bail is the norm and imprisonment is the exception.

### Objectives:

- **Prevention:** To prevent money laundering through stringent measures and monitoring.
- **Detection:** To detect and investigate money laundering cases.
- **Confiscation:** To confiscate property involved in money laundering to deter and disrupt illicit financial flows.
- **International Cooperation:** To facilitate global collaboration in combating money laundering and terrorist financing.

### Historical Background:

- **UN Convention (1988):** Urged countries to prevent laundering of drug crime proceeds.
- **FATF Establishment:** Recommended measures to combat money laundering, adopted by India for PMLA.
- **UNGA Resolutions:** Encouraged enactment of laws to prevent drug money laundering.
- **UN Special Session (2000):** Urged combating money laundering.
- **Palermo Convention (2000):** Called for criminalizing money laundering of crime proceeds.
- **PMLA Enactment:** Implemented under Article 253 of the Indian Constitution to fulfill international obligations.

### Salient Features:

- **Definition (Section 3):** Money laundering involves any attempt to project crime proceeds as untainted.
- **Offences Under PMLA:**
  - **Part A:** Includes offences under various acts such as IPC, Narcotics Act, etc.
  - **Part B:** Includes serious offences with a value of Rs 1 crore or more.
  - **Part C:** Covers trans-border crime-related money laundering.
- **Punishment (Section 4):** Imprisonment from three to seven years and fines.
- **Agency Powers:**
  - **Enforcement Directorate (ED):** Investigates money laundering and property attachment.
  - **Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND):** Processes and analyzes financial transaction data.
  - **Other Agencies:** Local police, CBI, customs, SEBI investigate scheduled offences.
- **Obligations:** Banks and financial institutions must verify and report client transactions.

### Authority Setup:

- **Adjudicating Authority:** Handles jurisdiction and powers.
  - **Appellate Tribunal:** Hears appeals against Adjudicating Authority orders.
- **Special Courts:** Designated courts of sessions for PMLA offences.

### Supreme Court Observations:

- **Strict Bail Conditions:**
  - **Nimesh Tarachand Shah vs Union of India (2018):** Declared unconstitutional for violating Article 14 and Article 21.
  - **Vijay Madanlal Choudhary vs Union of India (2022):** Upheld the strict bail provision as reasonable and aligned with PMLA's objectives.
- **ED's Overreach:**
  - **Pankaj Bansal vs Union of India:** Highlighted inconsistencies and called for fairness.
- **Procedural Violations:**
  - **Pavana Dibbur vs The Directorate of Enforcement (2023):** Noted procedural violations and misuse, stressing adherence to legal standards.

## De-notified Tribes

**Context:** Dhangars, a de-notified and nomadic tribe, in Maharashtra are in tussle with the state over their demand for 'grazing corridors' in the region of their transhumance.

### Who are DNTs?

- **Definition:** De-notified Tribes (DNTs) are communities formerly classified under the Criminal Tribes Acts by the British Raj (1871-1947), later de-notified in 1952.
- **Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic:** Some DNTs were nomadic, moving seasonally for their livelihoods. "Semi-nomad" describes those with less frequent or shorter movements.
- **Population:** South Asia has the largest nomadic population, with about 10% of India's population being de-notified and nomadic.
- **Historical Classification:** Initially labeled as 'born criminal' under the Criminal Tribes Act of 1871, DNTs were de-notified in 1952, but the Habitual Offenders Act continued to affect them.
- **National Commission:** The NCDNT, established in 2003 and reconstituted in 2005, estimated the DNT population at 10.74 crore based on the 2001 Census. A 2014 commission identified 1,262 such communities.

### Status of DNTs in India

- **Population:** Over 10 crore Indians from more than 1,400 communities are de-notified, nomadic, or semi-nomadic.

## Face to Face Centres





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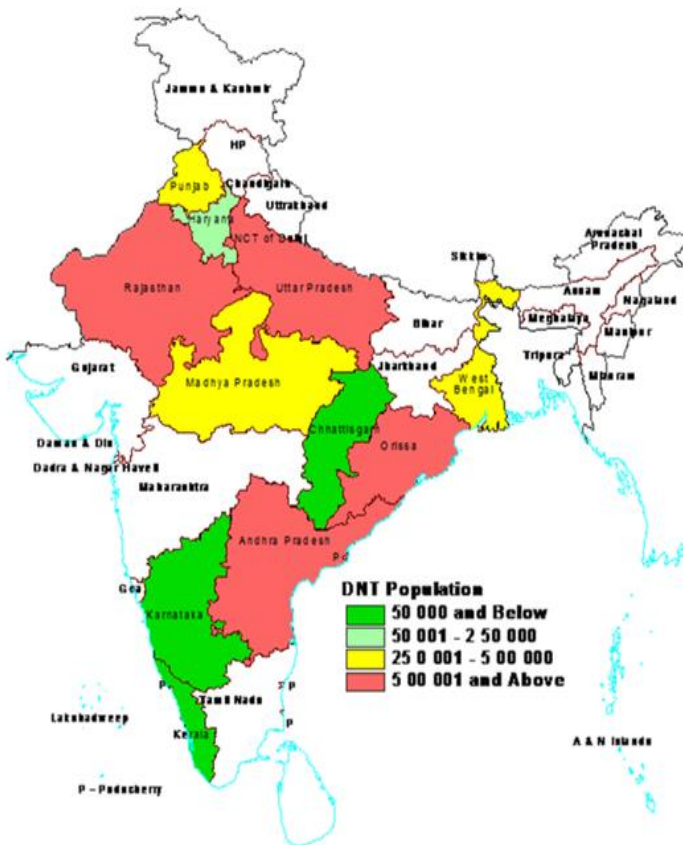
- **National Commission:** In 2014, the National Commission for De-notified, Nomadic, and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (NCDNT) was established for three years to:
  - Prepare a state-wise list of castes.
  - Suggest measures for these tribes by Central or State Governments.
- **Previous Commission:** The NCDNT/Renke Commission (2008) was earlier tasked with identifying and listing DNT communities.

with a ₹200 crore allocation over five years (FY 2021-22 to FY 2025-26)..

- **Components:**
  - **Educational Empowerment:** Free competitive exam coaching for DNT candidates.
  - **Health:** Health insurance through PM Jan Arogya Yojana.
  - **Livelihoods:** Support through National and State Rural Livelihood Missions (NRLM and SRLMs).
  - **Land and Housing:** Financial assistance for house construction through PM Awas Yojana.
- **Implementation:** Managed by the DWBDNCs.
- **Eligibility:** DNT communities with a family income of ₹2.50 lakhs or less and not benefiting from other central/state schemes.

### ➤ History of Deprivation Faced by DNTs

- **Notable Commissions:**
  - Criminal Tribes Inquiry Committee (1947)
  - Ananthasayanam Ayyangar Committee (1949)
  - Kaka Kalelkar Commission (1953)
  - B N Lokur's Advisory Committee (1965)
  - B P Mandal Commission (1980)
  - National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution (2002)
- **Problems Faced:**
  - Social and economic marginalization
  - Low human development index and high relative deprivation
  - Large deprivation from planned development gains
  - Lack of empowerment and social stigma
- **Political and Leadership Issues:** Limited political engagement, lack of vocal leadership, and absence of national leader patronage.



### ➤ Development and Welfare Board for DNTs

- **Recommendation:** The Idate Commission recommended setting up a permanent commission for DNTs.
- **Current Structure:** The government established the Development and Welfare Board for De-notified, Nomadic, and Semi-Nomadic Communities (DWBDNCs) in 2019, chaired by BR Idate, under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, for implementing welfare programs.

### ➤ SEED (Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs)

- **Launch and Allocation:** Launched in February 2022 by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

## Tropical Cyclones

**Context:** The deep depression bringing heavy rain to Gujarat is expected to intensify into a tropical cyclone over the Arabian Sea on August 30, according to the IMD.

### ➤ How a Tropical Cyclone is Formed:

- **Formation Location:** Occurs over warm ocean waters near the equator.
- **Initial Process:** Warm, moist air rises from the ocean surface, creating a low-pressure area.
- **Air Movement:** Surrounding higher-pressure air moves toward the low-pressure area, warming up and rising.
- **Cloud Formation:** Rising air cools, causing water vapor to form clouds.
- **System Development:** The system of clouds and wind spins and grows, fueled by ocean heat.
- **Cyclone Formation:** As wind rotation increases, an eye forms in the center.

## Face to Face Centres

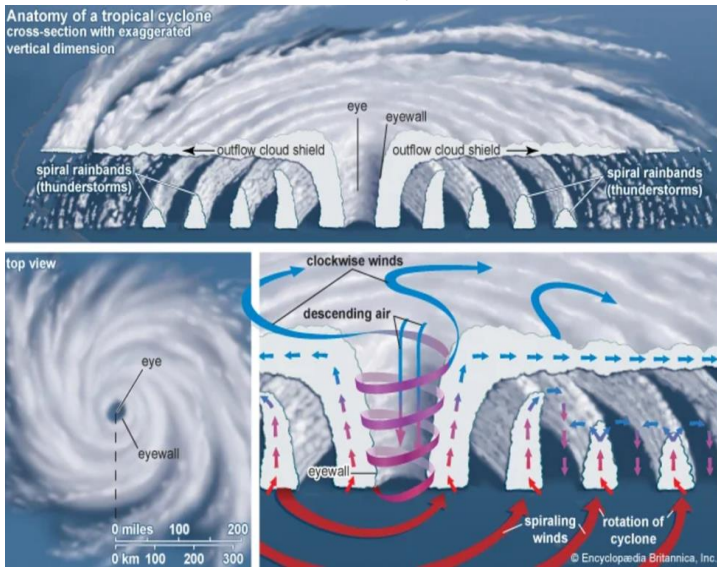




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### ➤ Characteristics of a Tropical Cyclone:

- **Calm Center:** The cyclone's center is calm and clear with very low air pressure.
- **Speed:** Average wind speed is 120 km/h.
- **Isobars:** Features closed isobars, leading to higher wind velocity. (Isobars are lines connecting points of equal pressure on a weather map.)
- **Location:** Develops over oceans and seas.
- **Movement:** Moves from east to west under trade winds.
- **Seasonal:** Occurs seasonally.



### ➤ Cyclone Classification:

- **Depression:** Wind speeds of 31–49 km/h.
- **Deep Depression:** Wind speeds of 50-61 km/h.
- **Cyclonic Storm:** Wind speeds of 62–88 km/h.
- **Severe Cyclonic Storm:** Wind speeds of 89-117 km/h.
- **Very Severe Cyclonic Storm:** Wind speeds of 118-166 km/h.
- **Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm:** Wind speeds of 166-221 km/h.
- **Super Cyclonic Storm:** Wind speeds above 222 km/h.

### ➤ Cyclone Naming:

- **Regional Bodies:** There are five regional bodies for tropical cyclones:
  - ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee
  - WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones
  - RA I Tropical Cyclone Committee
  - RA IV Hurricane Committee
  - RA V Tropical Cyclone Committee
- **Indian Ocean Naming:** The WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones names cyclones in the Indian Ocean.

## NEWS IN BETWEEN THE LINES

### She-Box Portal



Recently, the She-Box portal was launched by Women and Child Development Minister Annpurna Devi in New Delhi.

#### About the She-Box Portal:

- She-Box Portal is a **centralized platform** for registering and monitoring complaints of sexual harassment at the workplace.
- It **provides a facility to file complaints, track their status and ensure time-bound processing** by Internal Committees.
- Complaints **can be registered safely without making personal information** publicly accessible.
- The initiative is aimed at **creating a safer** and more inclusive working environment for women in the country.
- The She-Box portal and the new website of the ministry can be accessed at [shebox.wcd.gov.in](http://shebox.wcd.gov.in) and [wcd.gov.in](http://wcd.gov.in).

### Pacific Islands Forum



Recently, India has reaffirmed its commitment to work closely with Pacific partner countries and the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF).

#### About the Pacific Islands Forum:


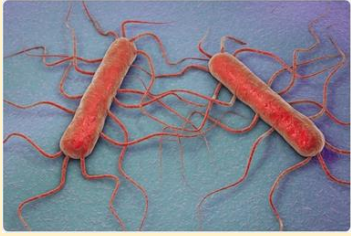
- The Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) was **established in 1971 as a platform for regional cooperation among Pacific nations.**
- It **consists of 18 member countries**, including India, USA, Australia, New Zealand, China, Fiji, Papua New Guinea and several other members of the EU.
- The Forum's **vision is to promote peace, harmony, security, social inclusion** and prosperity in the Pacific region, ensuring that all Pacific peoples can lead free, healthy and productive lives.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It <b>operates under the Framework for Pacific Regionalism</b>, which outlines its strategic visions and objectives, guiding the Forum's work and priorities.</li> <li>The Forum is <b>directed by a Secretary-General</b>, with annual meetings held among the leaders of its member countries to discuss and agree on policies beneficial to the region.</li> <li>It <b>advocates for global climate action</b> and <b>funds resilience efforts</b> through the Pacific Resilience Facility (PRF) <b>to support vulnerable Pacific nations</b>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>INS Arighaat</b></p> 	<p><i>The 'INS Arighaat' submarine was commissioned into the Indian Navy on 29<sup>th</sup> of August, 2024 at Visakhapatnam in the presence of Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh.</i></p> <p><b>About the INS Arighaat:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Indian Naval Ship Arighaat is the second Arihant-Class submarine.</li> <li>It <b>strengthens India's nuclear triad</b>, enhancing its nuclear deterrence and strategic balance in the region.</li> <li>The submarine <b>features indigenous systems</b> and <b>equipment developed by Indian scientists, industry, and Naval personnel</b>, reflecting India's push for 'Aatmanirbharta' (self-reliance) in defence.</li> <li>It is <b>more advanced than its predecessor, INS Arihant</b>, due to the use of advanced design, manufacturing technology and special materials.</li> <li>Its construction involved the use of advanced design and <b>manufacturing technology, detailed research</b> and development, <b>utilisation of special materials, complex engineering</b> and highly skilled workmanship.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Listeria</b></p> 	<p><i>Recently, more than 50 illnesses and nine deaths have been reported due Listeria outbreak in US.</i></p> <p><b>About the Listeria:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Listeria (<i>Listeria monocytogenes</i>) is a <b>type of bacteria</b> commonly <b>found in soil, vegetation, water, sewage</b> and the <b>faeces of animals and humans</b>.</li> <li>Consuming food contaminated with Listeria can lead to an <b>infection known as listeriosis</b>.</li> <li>Most individuals who ingest <b>Listeria-contaminated food</b> do not become ill or show symptoms.</li> <li>The bacteria can <b>remain in the infected person's system for up to two months</b> before symptoms appear, making it challenging to link the infection to specific food consumption.</li> <li>Symptoms of listeriosis may include <b>vomiting, nausea, abdominal cramps</b>, severe <b>headache</b>, constipation and <b>fever</b>.</li> <li>Individuals with compromised immune systems, pregnant women, and elderly people aged 65 and above are particularly vulnerable to listeriosis.</li> </ul>

## POINTS TO PONDER

- Recently, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar inaugurated a state-of-the-art sports academy, sports complex, and sports university in which location on the occasion of National Sports Day? – **Rajgir**
- Which Indian state recently launched the country's first indigenous Monkeypox RT-PCR Kit, developed in collaboration with Transasia Diagnostics? – **Andhra Pradesh**
- Which fishing port in Kerala is set to have its third phase of construction inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi through online mode today on 30<sup>th</sup> August, 2024? – **Arthunkal**
- In which district of Uttar Pradesh did the forest department officials and experts successfully capture the most ferocious wolf as part of "Operation Bhediya" yesterday on 29th of August 2024? – **Bahraich**
- Which municipality in Nepal has been declared by World Health Organisation (WHO) as Nepal's first 'healthy city' and the second healthiest city in Asia? – **Dhulikhel**

## Face to Face Centres

