

30– 03 – 2022

News: Kozhikode to vie for UNESCO ‘City of Literature’ distinction

- Kozhikode was proposed by the Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA) to be branded as a ‘City of Literature’ with the help of UNESCO. It is among the six places that the KILA plans to develop as ‘Creative Cities’. Thiruvananthapuram is vying for the title ‘City of Peace’, Kollam ‘City of Biodiversity’, Kochi ‘City of Design’, Thrissur ‘City of Learning’, and Kannur ‘City of Craft and Folk Arts’.

UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN)

- UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) was created in 2004.
- Currently, over 250 cities make up this network which aims towards a common objective of placing creativity and cultural industries at the heart of their development plans at the local level and cooperating actively at the international level.
- By joining the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN), the cities pledge to share best practices and develop partnerships involving public and private sectors as well as civil society to strengthen the creation, production, and distribution of cultural activities.

- The UNESCO Creative Cities aims to achieve Sustainable Development Goals through innovative thinking and action.
- The network covers seven creative fields: crafts and folk arts, media arts, film, design, gastronomy, literature and music.
- **Mumbai** – Creative City of Film, **Hyderabad** – Creative City of Gastronomy, **Chennai & Varanasi** – Creative City of Music, **Jaipur** – Creative City of Crafts and Folk Arts and **Srinagar** – Creative City of Crafts and Folk arts are the entries from India.

News: PEACE Scheme

- Recently, the Polar Science and Cryosphere (PACER) scheme has been approved for continuation by the Union Cabinet from 2021 to 2026.

Polar Science and Cryosphere (PACER) scheme

- Polar Science and Cryosphere (PACER) scheme comprises of **construction of polar research vessel, construction of the third research base in Antarctica, Indian scientific endeavours in the Arctic, Polar expeditions-Antarctica and Southern Ocean Expedition.**

- It is implemented through the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) under Ministry of Earth Sciences.

Major components of PACER Scheme

- **Understanding of Biogeochemical Processes:** Field based studies were conducted in the lakes of Larsemann Hills, East Antarctica for the understanding of biogeochemical processes in supraglacial environments.
- **IndARC System:** The IndARC mooring system along with the Hydrophone system was successfully retrieved and deployed in Kongsfjorden, Svalbard.
- **Research Studies in Himalayas:** Glaciological field campaigns were carried out in six benchmark glaciers in Chandra basin of Lahaul-Spiti region of Western Himalaya.
- **Winter snow accumulation over the glaciers was recorded** using snow pits and snow corners.
- **Automatic Weather Station (AWS) Systems:** Two new Automatic Weather Station (AWS) systems were installed at Baralacha La, a high elevation site in the arid Spiti region to strengthen infrastructure across the Chandra basin.
- **Southern Ocean Expedition:** The 11th Indian Southern Ocean Expedition was executed successfully.

News: Criminal Procedure (Identification) Bill, 2022

- Criminal Procedure (Identification) Bill, 2022 was presented in the Lok Sabha.

Criminal Procedure (Identification) Bill, 2022

Collection of Samples

- It would allow the police and prison authorities to collect, store and analyse physical and biological samples, including retina and iris scans.
- Resistance to or refusal to allow the taking of measurements under this Act shall be deemed to be an offence under section 186 of the Indian Penal Code.
- It will also seek to apply these provisions to persons held under any preventive detention law.
- It also authorises for taking measurements of convicts and "other persons" for identification and investigation in criminal matters.
- It doesn't define the "other persons" implying its ambit beyond convicts, arrested persons, or detainees.

Power to Record Measurement

- Police personnel up to the rank of Head Constable have been authorised to record the measurements.

- The **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)** will be the repository of **physical and biological samples**, signature and handwriting data that can be preserved for at least 75 years.
- NCRB has also been **empowered to share the records with any other law enforcement agency**.

Significance of the Bill

Making Use of Modern Techniques

- The bill makes provisions for the **use of modern techniques to capture and record appropriate body measurements**.
- The existing law — the **Identification of Prisoners Act** — dated back to **1920 and allowed taking only fingerprint and footprint impressions** of a limited category of convicted persons.

Help Investing Agencies

- The Bill seeks to **expand the “ambit of persons” whose measurements can be taken as this will help the investigating agencies to gather sufficient legally admissible evidence** and establish the crime of the accused person.

Make the Investigation of Crime More Efficient

- The bill provides legal sanction for taking appropriate body measurements of persons who are required to give such measurements and will make the investigation of crime more efficient and expeditious and will also help in increasing the conviction rate.

Issues with the Bill

- It has been argued that the Bill was beyond the legislative competence of Parliament as it violated fundamental rights of citizens including the right to privacy.
- The Bill proposes to collect samples even from protestors engaged in political protests.
- It violates Article 20 (3) of the Constitution. The Bill implied use of force in collection of biological information, could also lead to narco analysis and brain mapping.
- Article 20(3) says that 'No person accused of an offence shall be compelled to be a witness against himself'.
- It also violates human rights provisions as laid out in the United Nations charter.
- Also, the implied use of force in clause 6(1) to take measurements violates the rights of prisoners laid down in a catena of Supreme Court judgements

beginning with A K Gopalan 1950, Kharag Singh 1964, Charles Sobhraj 1978,
Sheela Barse 1983, and Pramod Kumar Saxena 2008.