

## SHORTNEWS:

### 1. OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT, 1923

**NEWS:** Haryana-based YouTuber Jyoti Rani was booked under **Sections 3 and 5 of the Official Secrets Act** and **Section 152 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita** for allegedly **spying for Pakistan** by sharing sensitive information with a **Pakistani High Commission official**.

#### About Official Secrets Act, 1923 (OSA)

- **Colonial Origins:** The **Indian Official Secrets Act (Act XIV), 1889** was introduced by the British to **suppress dissent** and **muzzle newspapers** critical of colonial policies.
- **Amendments:** The Act was tightened in **1904** under **Lord Curzon's tenure as Viceroy of India** and was replaced by a **comprehensive version in 1923, still in force today**.
- **Coverage:** The law covers a broad range of offences, such as **wrongful communication of official secrets, codes, passwords, sketches, plans, and other classified materials**.
- **'Secret Information':** The Act **does not define what constitutes "secret information."**
- **Applicable:** It applies to **all Indian citizens**, including government servants, both **within and outside the country**.
- **Section 3 Of the OSA: Deals with penalties for Spying.**
  - **Covers:** Unauthorized access to prohibited areas, making or sharing sensitive material useful to an enemy.
  - **Punishment:** Up to 14 years for defence-related offences.
    - Up to 3 years in other cases.
- **Section 5: Deals with Wrongful Communication.**
  - **Covers:** Unauthorized or careless disclosure of secret information.
  - **Culpability:** Both sender and receiver are culpable under the Act.
  - **Punishment:** Up to 3 years imprisonment, or fine, or both.

#### About Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023

- It is India's **new criminal code** that **replaces the Indian Penal Code (IPC)** and aims to modernize and reform the criminal justice system.
- **Section 152 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita:** Deals with **'Act endangering sovereignty, unity and integrity of India.'**

#### Kaleshwaram Commission

**Context:** The **Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose Commission of Inquiry** has sent a notice to former chief minister of Telangana, K Chandrashekar Rao.

## About Kaleshwaram Commission/Justice P.C. Ghose Commission

- The **Kaleshwaram Commission**, headed by retired Supreme Court Justice P.C. Ghose, has been **constituted by the Telangana government to investigate alleged irregularities in the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP)**, one of India's largest irrigation initiatives

## About Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP)

- It is the world's largest multi-stage lift irrigation project on the confluence of Pranahita River and Godavari River, located in Bhupalpally district, Telangana
- It was inaugurated in 2019 and envisioned to **lift water from the Godavari** to supply irrigation, drinking water, and industrial use **across large parts of northern Telangana.**

## 2. INDIA – A LEADING POTATO PRODUCER

**NEWS:** According to scientists from the **International Potato Center (CIP)**, India is on track to overtake China and become the **world's top potato producer.**

### About Potato

- Potato (***Solanum tuberosum***) is one of the most important **food crops globally.**
- A temperate crop, but grown **under subtropical conditions in India.**
- **Known as: the “poor man's friend”** due to its **affordability and widespread use.**
- Grows well in **loamy & sandy loam soils rich in organic matter.**
- **Major potato producing states:** Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar.
- **Important varieties of Potato:** Kufri Jyoti, Kufri Giriraj, Kufri Pukhraj, Kufri Sindhuri.
  - In Indian potato cultivation, “Kufri” refers to a series of potato varieties developed for high yield, disease resistance, and adaptability.
- **Industrial Uses**
  - Used in starch and alcohol production.
  - Potato starch (farina) is used in laundries & textile mills.
  - Converted into **processed food items like chips, sliced potatoes, and shredded potatoes.**

### Potato Production statistics

- **Current Status:** India is currently **the second-largest potato producer globally.**
- **Top 3 producers globally:** China, India, and Ukraine (According to FAOSTAT database 2023)

### 3. JAROSITE

**NEWS:** Recently, Indian researchers studied **six jarosite veins** from Kachchh, Gujarat **and conducted Luminescence Testing as to how much light jarosite emitted due to stored radiation energy.**

#### What is Jarosite?

- Jarosite is a **yellow-brown mineral** that contains potassium, iron, and sulphate.
- It is commonly **found on Mars and in arid, salty regions on Earth, like Kachchh in Gujarat.**
- **Importance of Jarosite for Mars Studies: There is a possibility that jarosite can act as a natural clock to date past events on Mars, such as dust storms or floods.**

#### Key Findings

- **Resilience to High temperature :** Jarosite survives **extreme heating** and remains detectable **despite high temperatures.**
- **Dating Planetary Events**
  - Absorbed radiation measured between 590 and 2,600 gray (SI unit).
  - This means **jarosite can record geological events up to 25,000 years old.**

### 4.16TH CENTURY INSCRIPTION IN HAVERI DISTRICT OF KARNATAKA

**NEWS:** A 16th Century **sculptural inscription** was discovered near **Chandrashekara temple Haveri district of Karnataka.**

#### About the Inscription

- **Dated:** The inscription is dated **Saka 1461, Vikari, Bhadrapada su.5, which corresponds to August 18, 1539 CE**
- **Language:** The inscription is in the **Kannada language**
- **Sculptural Inscription:**
  - **The Text:** It was **inscribed on a stone slab, stating that 6,307 people had perished due to bara or drought.**
  - **Sculpture:** The sculpture depicts a **person carrying a basket containing two or three bodies** on his head.
- **Significance:**
  - **Record:** The inscription is the first such **historical record of a humanitarian disaster** caused by a natural calamity in India.
  - The discovery is hailed as a **significant addition to India's epigraphic heritage.**
  - It could also help **researchers trace climatic patterns and demographic changes** based on such records.