

November 24th news:

International:

Latin America is world's most violent region for women: UN

According to United Nations, Latin America and the Caribbean is the most violent region in the world for women. Organization issued report on 23rd November, highlighting Central America and Mexico as particularly dangerous.

- In a report presented in Panama, UN Women and the UN Development Programme (UNDP) found...
- Assaults on women persisted in the region despite severe laws aimed at curbing the phenomenon
- The issue of violence against women in Latin America is critical
- It's the most violent region in the world against women outside of conflict contexts
- The rate of sexual violence against women outside of relationships is the highest in the world in the region, and the second-highest for those who are in, or were in, a couple, the report stated
- Three of the 10 countries with the highest rates of rape of women and girls were in the Caribbean
- The report added one third of women worldwide have been a victim of violence in their relationship or of sexual violence by people outside their relationship.

National:

Two Leaves' symbol goes to unified AIADMK

The Election Commission on 23rd November allotted the AIADMK's "two leaves" symbol to the Panneerselvam-Palaniswami combine, holding that it enjoyed majority in the party's legislative and organisational wings. Putting an end to almost an year-long dispute between warring factions, the Commission said it was of the view that "the petitioners group led by E. Madhusudhanan, O. Panneerselvam and S. Semmalai, and also supported presently by the impleading applicant E.K. Palaniswami, the present Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, enjoys support of majority members in the legislative and organisational wings.

Indian Forest (Amendment) Ordinance, 2017 ordinance promulgated

According to Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Harshvardhan, the Government has promulgated the Indian Forest (Amendment) Ordinance, 2017 to exempt bamboo grown in non-forest areas from definition of tree, thereby dispensing with the requirement of felling/transit permit for its economic use.

Bamboo, though, taxonomically a grass, was legally defined as a tree under the Indian Forest Act, 1927. Before this amendment, the felling and transit of bamboo grown on forest as well non-forest

land attracted the provisions of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 (IFA, 1927). This was a major impediment for bamboo cultivation by farmers on non-forest land.

Major objective of the amendment is to promote cultivation of bamboo in non-forest areas to achieve twin objectives of increasing the income of farmers and also increasing the green cover of the country.

Economy:

Prime Minister launches Umang app

Prime minister Narendra Modi has launched Umang mobile application, an integrated platform for government to citizen services. Umang- an acronym for "unified mobile app for new age" e-governance - currently hosts around 162 services from 33 government departments of central and state governments. The app has been developed by the ministry of electronics and information technology (MEITY).

President approves bankruptcy code ordinance

An ordinance that bars wilful and habitual defaulters from bidding for stressed assets was promulgated with tough provisions to prevent any attempts by them to regain control of companies in difficulty. President Ram Nath Kovind on 23rd November signed the ordinance that amends the Insolvency and Banking Code (IBC) 2016 which was sent to him by the Union Cabinet on 22nd November.

The Code, which became operational in December last year, provides a market-determined and time-bound insolvency resolution process. Over 300 cases have already been approved by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) to be taken up under the law, implemented by the corporate affairs ministry.

Approval for membership in EBRD

Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved India's Membership for European Bank for Reconstruction & Development. Membership of the EBRD would enhance India's international profile and promote its economic interests and contribute to an improved investment climate in the country.

Persons in news:

Shubhangi Swaroop: Bareilly's Shubhangi Swaroop became the first-ever female pilot to be inducted into the Indian Navy. Swaroop who has been appointed in the Naval Armament Inspection (NAI) branch will now undergo pilot training at Dundigal Air Force Academy near Hyderabad. She is among the 328 cadets who passed out from the Indian Naval Academy's first batch of female officers.