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**Current
Affairs**



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Govt decision to reconsider provisions of Section 124A of IPC

Centre urges SC not to invest time in examining sedition law

NEW DELHI, May 9: The Centre today told the Supreme Court not to invest time in examining the validity of sedition law as it has decided to go for reconsideration of the provisions by a "competent forum".

The Centre also said it was cognizant of various views, and concerns about civil liberties while being committed to protecting the "sovereignty and integrity of this great nation".

The Ministry of Home Affairs, in an affidavit, referred to the views of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on shedding "colonial baggage" and said he has been in favour of the protection of civil liberties and respect of human

rights, and in that spirit, over 1,500 outdated laws and over 25,000 compliance burdens have been scrapped.

It said the Prime Minister has said that India, as a nation, has to work even harder to shed colonial baggage that has passed its utility which includes outdated laws and practices.

A bench of Chief Justice NV Ramana and Justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli on May 5 had said it would hear arguments on May 10 on the legal question of whether the pleas challenging the colonial-era penal law on sedition be referred to a larger bench for reconsidering the 1962 verdict of a five-judge constitution bench in the Kedar

Nath Singh case.

The affidavit, filed by Mritunjay Kumar Narayan, Additional Secretary of the MHA, said there are divergences of views expressed in the public domain by various jurists, academicians, intellectuals, and citizens in general.

"The government, being fully cognizant of various views being expressed on the subject of sedition and also having considered the concerns of civil liberties and human rights, while committed to maintain and protect the sovereignty and integrity of this great nation, has decided to re-examine and reconsider the provisions of Section 124A of the IPC which can only be done before the competent forum," it said. — PTT

Kedar Nath Singh guidelines?

- In the 1962 Kedar Nath Singh case, the SC upheld the constitutional validity of the sedition law.
- It also attempted to restrict its scope for misuse.
- So, unless accompanied by an incitement or call for violence, criticism of the government cannot be labeled 'sedition'.
- Seven principles in the Kedar Nath Singh ruling specify situations in which the charge of sedition cannot be applied.

What are the key principles in

Kedar Nath Singh ruling?

- The expression 'the Government established by law,' in the Sedition law, has to be distinguished from the persons engaged in carrying on the administration for the time being. ['Government established by law' is the visible symbol of the State.]
- Any acts within the meaning of Section 124-A which have the effect of subverting the Government established by law, or creating disaffection against it, would be

History of Sedition Law in India



- 1 1837 – Thomas Macaulay (Famous for his Macaulay Minute on Indian Education 1835) drafted the Penal Code in 1837.
 - Sedition was placed in the Penal Code 1837 as Section 113.
 - Later, it was omitted, to only be readded in 1870 back in the Penal Code by an amendment introduced by Sir James Stephen.
 - British Raj in India had introduced this section on sedition under the title "Exciting Disaffection".
- 2 IPC Amendment Act of 1898 – It made amendments to the changes brought through the Penal Code in 1870.
 - The current Section 124A is said to be similar to the amendments made to it in 1898 with few omissions made in 1937, 1948, 1950, and by Part B States (Law) Act, 1951.

Presentation of the President's colour to Assam Police

■ Dr LR Bishnoi



The President's colour is the highest honour bestowed upon any military/state police of India in recognition of its exceptional service of at least 25 years rendered to the nation, both in peace and in war. The colour acknowledges the spirit of bravery, courage, commitment, professionalism, integrity and the service to humanity. It is known by many names such as ensign, flag, standards or colours. It is popularly called "Rashtrapati ka Nishan".

The tradition of carrying colours in India has a long and illustrious history dating back to ancient Indian customs. When the military units marched in ancient times, they used to display the king's/queen's 'dhwaj' to proclaim their king's/queen's sovereignty. According to historians, it was a matter of grave humiliation for the army to lose its 'dhwaj' to the enemy whereas, if the army captured the enemy's 'dhwaj', it symbolised a great honour. This tradition continued for a long time, even under British India.

All the king's colours handed over to the Royal Indian Army, Royal Indian Navy and Royal Indian Air Force were kept at the IMA, Dehradun, on January 26, 1950.

On this laying up, the use of all is of the king's/queen's flag/colour was discontinued. The colours were renamed the 'President of the Republic of India's Colours'. The President's colour was first awarded to the Indian Navy, it being the seniormost of the three branches of armed forces, on May 27 1951. Since then it has been awarded to many Army/Navy/Air Force units, State/ UT police, police commissionerates, SAP, CAPFs and training academies for their outstanding services to the nation.

There is an elaborate laid down procedure to approve the proposal of award of President's colours to a state police by a national level committee constituted by the Govt of India. It is a matter of pride for any state police to receive such a rare honour.

So far as the Indian Police is concerned, nine State/UT police forces have been awarded the President's colours – UP (1952), Delhi (1954), Maharashtra (1961), J&K (2003), Tamil Nadu (2009), Tripura (2012), Gujarat (2019), Himachal Pradesh (2021) and Haryana (2022).

Thus, Assam Police has become the country's 9th state to obtain the prestigious President's colour. Union Home Minister Amit Shah will be presenting this colour to Assam Police

on May 10 at a vibrant ceremony at the Nehru Stadium in Guwahati.

The colour consists of a pike and a cloth. The length of the pike including the pike head is 8'7". The size of the coloured cloth is also standardised by the Govt of India. Its dimension should be 3'9" (length), 3" (breath), 4'6" (chord) and 2" (frill). The carrying belt is used to carry the colour. It has a socket and a strap and is dressed like a cross-belt from the right shoulder. The socket should always be at the centre of the body of the 'Ensign Officer'. The President's colour is dipped for the President and the Governor in the state only when 'National Salute' is given.

Colour presentation is a momentous occasion marking the recognition of the achievement of the state police. It is a ceremonious occasion which will be engraved permanently in the memory of all police personnel of the state police. Therefore, the President's colour to a state police force is presented by the President or the Prime Minister or the Union Minister of Home Affairs.

There are laid down procedures for the ceremony of presentation of colours. The colour presentation parade is called the 'Alankaran Parade'. The strength and sequencing of the parade are also standard-

ised. The main steps include the formation of parade behind the fort wall, sounding of marker calls by the burglars, marching parade to the inspection line, handing over of parade to the parade commander, arrival of cased colours, presenting compliments to the DGP/VVIP/VIP, review of the parade by the VVIP, formation of the hollow square, piling of drums, consecration of the colour, presentation of colour, reformation of the parade on inspection line, ceremonial march-past both in slow and quick time, advance in review order, speech by VVIP, return of colours and 'Niskarman' of the parade.

Colour to Assam Police was designed by Uday Kumar in a way to represent the ethos and motto of the State police. The colour has a map of ravishing Assam with 36 stars representing the number of districts of the State. It has a majestic horned rhino, the pride of Assam on the left bottom, and the insignia of Assam Police on the right bottom with a motto 'janahitjanasewarthe'. The border with golden frill adds to its beauty.

To make people aware of colours Assam Police kick-started with 'Ride of Pride' in the run-up to the presentation of the President's colour. The 'Ride of Pride' bike rally led by Anand Mishra, IPS, was flagged off

by DGP BJ Mahanta in Dhubri on May 2. The eight-day ride traversed through 27 districts across the State covering a total distance of 2055 km. Moreover, many other programmes like cyclothon, walkathon, quiz contest, sports and police-public meetings were organised to celebrate this historic occasion. The people of Assam joined the celebration with enthusiasm. They not only showered floral petals on the bikers and greeted them with *gamusas* but also lighted *diyas* and put *tilaks* on the foreheads of the police personnel as a mark of their love and respect. During these events, Assam Police succeeded in striking a chord with the people, as corroborated by the large turnouts.

The Assam Police has consistently been engaging with citizens over drug abuse and many other issues. These periodical deliberations helped in bridging the gap between the people and police. The citizenry is no more reluctant to be an active stakeholder in the peace process. Assam Police remains committed to working towards peace and development under the leadership of Chief Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma. Assam Police has always remained and will continue to be on the side of peace.

(The writer is Spl. DGP (T&AP) cum- IGP (BTAD), Assam)

The President's Colour Award is the highest honour that can be given to any 'military unit' of the country. The presentation of this award is an acknowledgment of the unit's praiseworthy service.

Assam will be the 10th state in the country to receive the President's Colour Award as a recognition of exceptional performance in controlling crime, tackling insurgency, ensuring security of lives and property, and maintaining law and order in the state.

Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana, Gujarat and Tripura are the other states which have received the President's Colour Award so far. Delhi is the only Union Territory to bag this prestigious award.

Gunotsav in State schools from May 11 to June 4



STAFF REPORTER

held in three phases.

GUWAHATI, May 9: In a bid to revive the school education sector that had taken a severe beating during the Covid-19 pandemic and contribute towards overall development of students, the Assam government will celebrate Gunotsav-2022 across the State from May 11 to June 4.

A total of 42,50,224 students from 46,000 schools will participate in the programme. Under the initiative of the Department of Education and Axom Sarba Siksha Abhiyan Mission, this year Gunotsav will be

The main objective of Gunotsav is to identify learning gaps of each child and ensure quality education with grade-specific learning outcomes. It also seeks to assess the performance of schools on areas such as scholastic, co-scholastic, availability and utilization of infrastructure, community participation, etc.

Addressing a press conference in this connection here today, Education Minister Dr Ranaj Pegu said the initiative would indicate learning gaps, especially during Covid-19 and design effective strategies to bridge the gaps.

“Through Gunotsav we want to ensure greater participation of all stakeholders – teachers, students, administrators and communities, and enhance accountability among them for quality education. Supporting the school and education system as a whole so as to improve the quality of education and ensuring better functioning of schools is another objective,” he added.

Gunotsav will be conducted in all the 33 districts of the State, covering all government/provincialized/teagarden management schools of elementary and secondary levels.

Evaluation will be conducted for classes I to IX and for the purpose 18,752 external evaluators will be deployed across the State.

The entire government machinery, including the Chief Minister, ministers, MLAs, Chief Secretary, senior IAS, IPS and IFS officers, and Class I and Class II officers of the State will visit schools as external evaluators for evaluation of the performance of children and schools.

“They will play the role of a mentor or guide for the school and will be a source of inspiration and motivation for the students,” Dr Pegu said. External evaluators will

have to register themselves in the online portal for Gunotsav and update their profile.

There will be both self-evaluation and external evaluation and evaluation will be for two days for each school. Self-evaluation (reading skill and school evaluation) will be conducted by schools on the first day of Gunotsav.

“The exercise will generate awareness among teachers, students, parents, community and other stakeholders on importance of quality education and positive feeling towards the government school system,” he said.

Quality of education is a major concern of the state Government. In order to achieve the same the state Government has planned to implement 'Gunotsav-celebrating quality' from the academic year ,2017

Goal of Gunotsav :

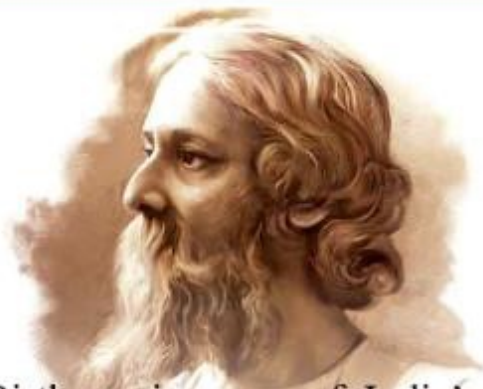
- 1 Ensuring quality elementary education with improved learning outcome.

Key Features of Gunotsav:

- 1 To create a spirit of a high priority to quality education among all stakeholders.
- 2 Ministers, IAS,IPS,IFS officers, Class-I & II officers will visit schools and take part in the process of evaluation.
- 3 Actionable feedback of learning gaps, common errors, misconceptions, strong & weak competencies will be taken into consideration for policy formulation.

The programme was expected to bring about the following results :

- 1 Tracking academic performance of each child across all subjects throughout the elementary cycle.
- 2 Indication of learning gaps of child
- 3 Designing and implementing remedial strategies based on the identified learning gaps.
- 4 Enhancing learning of students through timely regular feedback and support and bring about improved learning outcomes.
- 5 Increase retention rate and reduce dropout rate.
- 6 Generation of awareness and greater participation among all stakeholders.
- 7 Ensuring better school functioning.



Rabindranath Tagore

- Birth anniversary of India's **first Nobel Award** winner **Rabindranath Tagore** was observed on May 7th.
- He is popularly known as '**Gurudev**'.
- He was influenced by the classical poetry of **Kalidasa** and started writing his own classical poems.
- He released his **first collection of poems** under the pen name '**Bhanusimha**' at 16 years of age.
- He wrote the National Anthems of **India and Bangladesh**.
- He wrote the song **Banglar Mati Banglar Jol** (Soil of Bengal, Water of Bengal) to unite the **Bengali** population after the **Bengal partition in 1905**.
- He started the **Rakhi Utsav** where people from **Hindu and Muslim** communities tied **colourful threads on each other's wrists**.
- He renounced the knighthood that had been given to him by Lord Hardinge in 1915 in protest of the violent Amritsar massacre in which the British killed unarmed Indian citizens
- In 1913, he became the first Indian to receive a Nobel Prize in Literature for his novel 'Geetanjali'

Daily MCQ for APSC CCE

Consider the following statements regarding High Court

- I. Indian Constitution has provisions that proceeding of every High Court shall be in English language.
- II. The President of India may authorize the use of the Hindi language or any other language in the proceeding of a High Court.

Select the correct statements using the codes

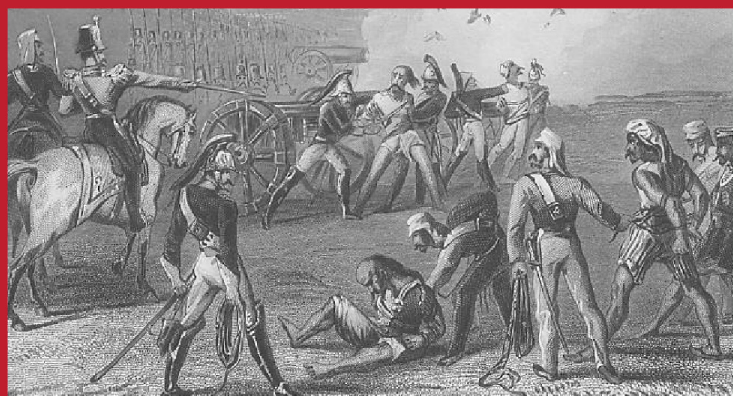
- A. I only
- B. II only
- C. Both I and II
- D. Neither I nor II

Correct Answer: A. I Only



CURRENT AFFAIRS

1857 Revolt & Massacre at Ajnala Latest Discovery & Findings



Video Link: <https://youtu.be/XEvCnClb--8>

News Details:

The Indian Express:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/amritsar/genetic-proof-indian-soldiers-punjab-ajjala-gangetic-plains-7891150/>

The Print: <https://theprint.in/india/slaughtered-ten-by-ten-how-1857-martyrs-shot-by-british-firing-squad-were-found-in-punjab-well/941414/>