



Reassignment of NIA and Habeas Corpus Cases | Jammu & Kashmir | 03 Sep 2024

Why in News?

Recently, [NIA \(National Investigation Agency\)](#) and [Habeas Corpus](#) cases at the J&K High Court were reassigned to a new bench in Srinagar following a series of rulings by Justice Sreedharan.

Key Points

- **Roster Change:** An order modified the existing roster for **NIA and Habeas Corpus cases**, shifting them from Justice Atul Sreedharan's bench to a **new Special Division** Bench of Justices Rajnesh Oswal and Mohammad Akram Chowdhary.
 - A roster is a systematic plan for **assigning tasks to members of a High court** to increase efficiency.
- **Rarity of Shift:** Midway shifting of cases from a particular bench to a completely new bench is a rare occurrence.
- **Significant Rulings of Justice Sreedharan:**
 - [Public Safety Act, 1978 \(PSA\)](#) Case: Justice Sreedharan in July 2024 imposed a fine on the District Magistrate for vague and confusing reasoning in a preventive detention case.
 - **Fundamentalism Ideology:** He challenged the labeling of a detainee as a "fundamentalist" and clarified its meaning in context in the **August, 2023 case**.
 - **Policeman Bail Case:** Granted bail to a policeman charged with murder due to a delayed trial, citing a violation of [Article 21](#).
 - **Fahad Shah Case:** Questioned the application of [UAPA \(Unlawful Activities Prevention Act\)](#) charges against journalist Fahad Shah, noting insufficient evidence of incitement to violence.

Habeas Corpus

- It is a Latin term which literally means **'to have the body of'**. Under this the court issues an order to a person who has detained another person, to produce the body of the latter before it. The court then examines the cause and legality of detention.
 - This [writ](#) is a bulwark of individual liberty against arbitrary detention.
 - The writ of habeas corpus can be issued **against both public authorities as well as private individuals**.
 - The writ, on the other hand, is not issued where the:
 - detention is lawful,
 - the proceeding is for contempt of a legislature or a court,
 - detention is by a competent court, and
 - detention is outside the jurisdiction of the court.
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Landslide in Vaishno Devi Track | Jammu & Kashmir | 03 Sep 2024

Why in News?

Recently, a [landslide](#) occurred on the new track to the Vaishno Devi shrine in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district, affecting the route near Panchi, 3 km ahead of Bhawan.

Key Points

- **Vaishno Devi Temple:** Temple is located at **5,200 feet** in the Trikuta mountains, sees over one crore visitors annually, with a **12 km trek** from Katra.
 - **Key Landmarks:** Darshani Deodhi, Banganga, Chara Paduka, Indraprastha, Adhkuari, Garbha Joon, Himkoti, Haathi Matha, Sanji Chhat Bhavan, Sher ka Panja and Bhairon Mandir.
- **Reasi,** a town and notified area committee in Jammu and Kashmir, situated on the **bank of the Chenab River**. It was part of the **Bhimgarh state** established by **Bhim Dev** in the **8th century AD**.
 - Bhimgarh State, centered in Reasi, remained independent **until 1822** when [Raja Gulab Singh](#) unified the small states in the region.

Landslide

- A landslide is a geological phenomenon involving the **downward movement of a mass** of rock, soil, and debris on a slope. This movement can vary in scale from small, localised shifts to massive and destructive events.
- Landslides can occur on **both natural and man-made slopes**, and they are often triggered by a combination of factors such as heavy rainfall, [earthquakes](#), volcanic activity, human activities (such as construction or mining), and changes in groundwater levels.

