



Policy for Premature Release of Convicts | Jammu & Kashmir | 16 Nov 2024

Why in News?

Recently, the [Supreme Court](#) directed the Government of Jammu and Kashmir to **draft a policy for the premature release of convicts** based on the duration of their imprisonment.

Key Points

- **About the Case:**
 - A Supreme Court Bench addressed a petition filed by former [Central Reserve Police Force \(CRPF\)](#) personnel **sentenced to life imprisonment**.
 - He was **convicted for killing three CRPF personnel** after being publicly reprimanded over a leave-related issue.
 - The accused has **served over 18 years in prison and is seeking premature release**.
- The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir **opposed the petition, citing the absence of a policy for premature release** based on incarceration duration.
- **Court's Observation and Direction:**
 - The Bench remarked that the **lack of a policy is not a valid ground for denial**, as policy formulation falls under the state's domain.
 - The Bench emphasized **the need for an appropriate policy and directed submission of a compliance report by the state counsel**.

Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)

- **About:**
 - The CRPF was **initially established as the Crown Representatives Police in 1939** in response to political turmoil and unrest within the princely states.
 - The force was **renamed the Central Reserve Police Force in 1949**.
 - [Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel](#), the then Home Minister, envisioned a multifaceted role for the CRPF, aligning its functions with the evolving needs of a newly independent nation.
- **Specialised Units:**
 - The CRPF has several specialised units, including the [Rapid Action Force \(RAF\)](#), [Commando Battalion for Resolute Action \(CoBRA\)](#), **VIP Security Wing**, and **Mahila Battalions**.
- **Key Roles and Responsibilities:**

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Untreated Waste in Landfills of Kedarnath | Uttarakhand | 16 Nov 2024

Why in News?

Environmentalists are raising concerns as authorities continue to dump **tonnes of untreated waste at landfill sites** around the [eco-sensitive Himalayan temple of Kedarnath](#).

Key Points

- **Garbage Dumping in Kedarnath:**
 - It was revealed that **49.18 tonnes of unprocessed garbage** were **dumped at two landfill sites** near Kedarnath between 2022 and 2024.
 - Untreated waste generation showed an upward trend, 13.2 tonnes in 2022, 18.48 tonnes in 2023, and 17.5 tonnes so far in 2024.
- **Environmental Concerns:**
 - Activists criticized the **inadequate garbage management system**, emphasizing that the **eco-sensitive Kedarnath region** lacks proper waste treatment facilities.
 - The temple, located at 12,000 feet amid [glaciers](#), requires immediate waste management reforms to preserve the fragile ecosystem.
 - The two landfill sites near Kedarnath are nearing capacity and continued negligence could lead to another tragedy similar to the 2013 disaster in the region.
- **Government and Legal Oversight:**
 - The [National Green Tribunal \(NGT\)](#) and [National Mission for Clean Ganga \(NMCG\)](#) responded to complaints, directing authorities to establish sewage treatment plants in Kedarnath.
 - The NMCG noted that untreated waste from **Kedarnath is polluting the Mandakini River**, a [Ganga](#) tributary, and instructed the Rudraprayag district administration to act.

Eco-Sensitive Zones

- Eco-Sensitive Zones or **Ecologically Fragile Areas** are areas **within 10 kms around Protected Areas, National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries.**
- ESZs are **notified by MoEFCC**, Government of India under [Environment Protection Act 1986](#).
 - In case of places with sensitive corridors, connectivity and ecologically important patches, **crucial for landscape linkage**, even areas beyond 10 km width can also be included in the eco-sensitive zone.
- The basic aim is to regulate certain activities around **National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries** so as to minimise the negative impacts of such activities on the fragile ecosystem encompassing the protected areas.

International Pushkar Fair 2024 | Rajasthan | 16 Nov 2024

Why in News?

Department of Tourism and Department of Animal Husbandry of Government of Rajasthan is hosting the annual [International Pushkar Fair 2024](#), featuring daily sports **competitions and cultural programs** that delight participants.

Key Points

- **Sports Activities:**
 - A cricket match was held at the Pushkar fairground between domestic and foreign tourists, promoting mutual trust and friendship among people.
- **Unique Competitions:**
 - The '**Shan-e-Mooch**' (**grandeur of mustache**) **competition** captivated the audience showcasing the pride of the mustache.
 - The '**Safa and Tilak**' **competition** aimed to connect foreigners with Rajasthan's folk culture and to spread awareness about the local dressing culture.

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