

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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Topic: Fundamental Duties

Operationalise Fundamental Duties: Ravi

The Hindu Bureau

CHENNAI

Governor R.N. Ravi on Sunday urged young lawyers to think of ways to operationalise the 11 Fundamental Duties as enshrined in the Constitution.

He was addressing law students at the valedictory of the Madras Bar Association (MBA) National Moot Court Competition. He said the duties have very noble ideals.

The team from School of Law, SASTRA, comprising final-year students G. Shivashankar, K.R. Sarva Easwaran and Meenakshi Raman, won the competition.

Madras Bar Association president V.R. Kamalanathan and secretary D. Sreenivasan spoke.

Fundamental Duties

- The idea of Fundamental Duties is inspired from the Constitution of Russia.
- These were incorporated in Part IV-A of the Constitution by the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976 on the recommendations of Swaran Singh Committee.
- Originally 10 in number, one more duty was added through the 86th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2002. All the eleven duties are listed in Article 51-A of the Constitution (the sole Article in Part-IV-A).
- The fundamental duties serve as a reminder to citizens that while enjoying their rights, they have also to be quite conscious of duties they owe to their country, their society and to their fellow-citizens.
- ► However, like the Directive Principles, the duties are also non-justiciable in nature.

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List of Fundamental Duties

- 1. To abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag and the National Anthem;
- 2. To cherish and follow the noble ideals that inspired the national struggle for freedom;
- 3. To uphold and protect the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India;
- 4. To defend the country and render national service when called upon to do so;
- 5. To promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India transcending religious, linguistic and regional or sectional diversities and to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women;
- 6. To value and preserve the rich heritage of the country's composite culture;

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- 7. To protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife and to have compassion for living creatures;
- 8. To develop scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform;
- 9. To safeguard public property and to abjure violence;
- 10. To strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity so that the nation constantly rises to higher levels of endeavour and achievement; and
- 11. To provide opportunities for education to his child or ward between the age of six and fourteen years (added by the 86th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2002).

Topic: Wildlife

Indian black honeybee is a Western Ghats discovery

SPECIAL

Roshni R.K.

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A new species of endemic honeybee has been discovered in the Western Ghats. The new species has been named *Apis karinjodian* and given the common name Indian black honeybee.

The finding has been published in the September issue of *Entomon*, a peer-reviewed journal brought out by the Associa-

tion for Advancement of Entomology.

The research team behind the discovery comprised Shanas S. from Kerala Agricultural University's Integrated Farming Systems Research Station, Karamana, here; Anju Krishnan G., a Ph.D. research scholar from the Zoology Department of S.N. College, Cherthala (affiliated to the University of Kerala); and Mashhoor K. from the EMEA College of Arts and Science, Malappuram. It is after a gap of more than 200 years that a



A taste of honey: Apis karinjodian is found from the central to southern Western Ghats.

new species of honeybee has been spotted in the Western Ghats. The last honeybee described from India was *Apis indica* in 1798 by Fabricius. Although Fabricius named the Indian bee *Apis indica*, it was not considered a valid species till now. The research team

restored the status of *Apis* indica based on a new measure for species discrimination in honeybees termed 'Radio-Medial Index (RMI).'

They obtained high-resolution photographs of the type specimen from the Natural History Museum, Copenhagen, Denmark, to prove the distinct identity of *Apis indica*, which led to the discovery of *Apis karinjodian*.

Apis karinjodian has evolved from Apis cerana morphotypes that got acclimatised to the hot and humid environment of the Western Ghats. Molecular analysis of mitochondrial DNA was also carried out and molecular sequence data available in the public open database NCBI-GenBank also helped confirm the species status of the new honeybee. The research work took more than three years.

The distribution of *Apis karinjodian* ranges from the central Western Ghats and Nilgiris to the southern Western Ghats, covering the States of Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

Topic:Wildlife

Camera traps give hope for snow leopard in Kashmir

- ► Snow leopards act as an indicator of the health of the mountain ecosystem in which they live, due to their position as the top predator in the food web.
- Habitat.
 - ✓ Mountainous regions of central and southern Asia.
 - ✓ In India, their geographical range encompasses:
 - ✓ Western Himalayas: Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh.
 - ✓ Eastern Himalayas: Uttarakhand and Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh.
- Hemis National Park is the biggest national park in India and also has a good presence of Snow Leopard.

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Status:

- The snow leopard is listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN–World Conservation Union's Red List of the Threatened Species.
- It is listed in Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972.
- Project Snow Leopard (PSL): It was launched in 2009 to promote an inclusive and participatory approach to conserve snow leopards and their habitat.

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Topic: Climate Change

- The 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference, more commonly referred to as Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC, or COP27,is being held as the 27th United Nations Climate Change conference, and occurs from 6 November until 18 November 202 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt
- The conference has been held annually since the first UN climate agreement in 1992.
- It is used by governments to agree on policies to limit global temperature rises and adapt to impacts associated with climate change

COP-27 puts climate compensation on agenda for first time

This won't guarantee compensation or necessarily acknowledge liability, but is intended to lead to a conclusive decision no later than 2024'

SHARM EL-SHEIKE

elegates at the COP-27 climate summit in Egypt agreed after late-night talks to put the delicate issue of whether rich nations should compensate poor countries most vulnerable to climate change on the formal agenda for the first time.

For more than a decade, wealthy nations have rejected official discussions on what is referred to as loss and damage, or funds they provide to help poor countries cope with the consequences of global warming.

COP-27 President Sameh Shoukry told the plenary that opens this year's two-week United Nations conference attended by more than 190 countries the decision created "an institutionally stable space" for discussion of "the pressing issue of funding arrangements".

At COP-26 last year in Glasgow, high-income nations blocked a proposal for a loss and damage financing body, instead supporting a three-year dialogue for funding discussions.

No guarantee

www.

The loss and damage discussions now on the COP-27 agenda will not guarantee compensation or necessarily acknowledge liability, but are in-



Future proofing: Delegates attending the opening ceremony of the COP-27 meeting in Sharm El-Sheikh in Egypt on Sunday. AFP

tended to lead to a conclusive decision "no later than 2024", Mr. Shoukry said.

The issue could generate even more tension than at previous conferences this year as the Ukraine war, a surge in energy prices and the risk of economic recession have at once added to governments' reluctance to promise funds and poor nations' need for them.

Negotiations on Saturday night before the agenda's adoption "were extremely challenging," Harjeet Singh, head of global political strategy at the non-profit Climate Action Network International, said. "Rich countries in the first place never wanted loss and damage to be on the agenda."

Some criticised the dismissive language on liability, but although weaker than hoped, getting the issue formally on the agenda will oblige wealthier na-

tions to engage on the

topic.
"They rightly expect
more solidarity from the
rich countries, and Germany is ready for this, both in
climate financing and in
dealing with damage and
losses," German Foreign
Minister Annalena Baerbock said in a statement.

Protective shield

Germany wants to launch a "protective shield against climate risks" at the conference, an initiative it has been working on with vulnerable states such as Bangladesh and Ghana.

Bangladeshi-based environmental research body, the International Centre for Climate Change and Development said it was "good news" loss and damage was officially on the

"Now the real work begins to make finance a reality," Salmeel Huq, director of the centre, said.

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