

2024



THE HINDU **EDITORIAL** WEEKLY COMPILATION

20/05/2024 to 25/05/2024



20/05/2024

Minor Girl Victim Support Scheme

The new support scheme for minor pregnant girl victims under the POCSO Act is criticized for its misleading name, inclusiveness issues, and inconsistencies with existing guidelines.



On the day of November, in 2023 the Ministry of Women and Child Development introduced a program called the "Support Program for Victims covered by Sections 4 & 6 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012." This initiative aims to offer assistance to pregnant girls who are victims providing both immediate and long term support services. However there seems to be a disconnect between the name and scope of the program causing confusion and inconsistencies. Initially designed for girls who were abandoned or orphaned the program now encompasses all girl victims under POCSO. Despite this reach certain crucial aspects such as addressing the rights of girls over 18 or those choosing to remain with their families have not been adequately considered. Moreover there are discrepancies, between the provisions of this program and existing laws and guidelines concerning examinations and the role of Child Welfare Committees. While offering assistance the program falls short in understanding the intricate needs of these victims. The Ministry's data collection, planning processes lack consistency and adequacy. In essence, well-meaning significant revisions are necessary for this program to effectively support and safeguard girl victims in a manner.

21/05/2024

Judicial Adjudication

The Supreme Court of India faces critical scrutiny over the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) and its potential constitutional violations amidst concerns of legislative overreach and political motives.



The Supreme Court of India is planning to review the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) and its accompanying regulations to ensure they comply with the constitution. The recent CAA regulations have left uncertainty regarding the status of individuals whose citizenship applications are rejected, leading to worries about detention. Concerns have been raised by petitioners about the requirement for abandoning citizenship, which could introduce ambiguity and go against the essence of the Act. It should not be practice to invalidate laws or regulations unless there are constitutional reasons. Recent legislative developments aimed at fulfilling agendas pose a risk to principles. Cases like *Vijay Thakur vs Union of India* (2024) and *Anoop Baranwal vs Union of India* (2023) illustrate the judiciary's difficulties in interpretation. The enactment of legislation should be swift and clear with the judiciary playing a role in upholding the Constitution and safeguarding democracy particularly when faced with laws that target groups or undermine democratic values. Judicial wisdom and watchfulness are crucial, in preserving integrity amid legal challenges.

A close-up photograph of a woman with a green headscarf and a nose ring, smiling warmly while holding a newborn baby. The baby is wrapped in a pink and white patterned cloth. The image is partially overlaid by an orange banner on the right side.

22/05/2024

Ensuring Safe Motherhood

The need to address pre-eclampsia and other maternal health issues through comprehensive screening and awareness programs like IRIA's "Samrakshan."

Spotlighting the critical importance of perinatal care, the article emphasizes safeguarding both mothers and new-borns. It highlights the need to address congenital anomalies and neurological challenges in new-borns through improved antenatal and perinatal care.

Pre-eclampsia, a hypertensive disorder of pregnancy, is identified as a significant cause of maternal and neonatal morbidity and mortality. Pre-eclampsia can lead to severe complications such as heart disease, stroke, and long-term cardiovascular issues for the mother. Despite its severity, post-partum cardiovascular health remains under-researched. India's National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) data reveals alarming rates of perinatal and neonatal mortality, underscoring the economic and moral imperative to address these issues. Comprehensive screening, including maternal history, biomarkers, and colour Doppler ultrasound, is called for to manage high-risk pregnancies effectively. The Indian Radiological and Imaging Association (IRIA) has launched the "Samrakshan" program to reduce pre-eclampsia rates and improve pregnancy outcomes. The initiative focuses on raising awareness, community engagement, and sustained leadership to ensure safe motherhood and reduce the incidence of pre-eclampsia from 8-10% to 3% by the decade's end.

23/05/2024

Vegetable Price Volatility

The significant impact of tomato, onion, and potato price volatility on India's inflation, emphasizing the need for effective policy interventions to stabilize prices.

The article discusses the significant role of three key vegetables—tomato, onion, and potato (TOP)—in influencing India's inflation rates as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI). These vegetables, despite having a combined weightage of only 2.2% in the CPI basket, significantly impact both food and headline inflation due to their high price volatility. In FY2023-24, vegetable prices surged by about 15% year-on-year, with tomato prices spiking by 202% in July 2023, contributing 18.1% to headline inflation. The article highlights the coefficient of variation (CoV) for TOP, which stands at 5.2, indicating extreme volatility compared to other food groups and the overall CPI. This volatility is attributed to various factors, including market forces, weather conditions, and supply chain disruptions. The author argues for policy interventions to stabilize prices, such as improving agricultural value chains, better pricing for farmers, and enhanced cold storage facilities. Additionally, the lack of Minimum Support Price (MSP) for these crops and the abrupt lifting of export bans ahead of elections are criticized for failing to address the underlying issues. The article underscores the need for long-term measures to protect both farmers and consumers from the adverse effects of price volatility.



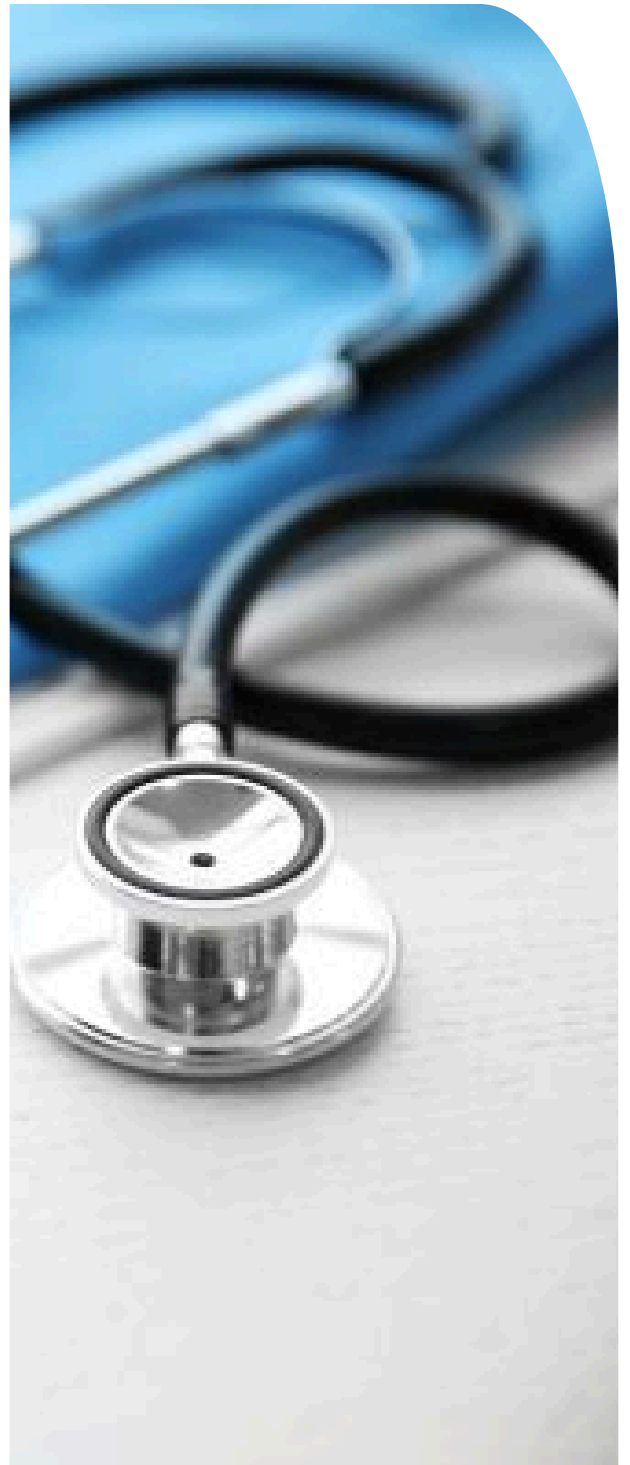
24/05/2024

Doctors and Consumer Protection

The debate centers on whether doctors should be exempt from the Consumer Protection Act, weighing patient grievance recourse against potential demoralization of medical professionals.

The discussion centers on whether doctors should be exempt from the Consumer Protection Act (CPA). The conversation explores the implications of including medical professionals under the CPA. One perspective supports the Supreme Court's decision to revisit the 1995 case, arguing that doctors, as service providers, should be included under the CPA. It emphasizes that medical services cannot be equated with other consumer services due to the inherent complexities and risks in medical practice, asserting that patients should have recourse for grievances against medical negligence through the CPA.

The opposing viewpoint highlights the challenges doctors face with the CPA, arguing that the Act is primarily designed for sectors like insurance and banking. Applying it to medical professionals can demoralize doctors and complicate their practice. This perspective suggests a separate regulatory body to handle medical grievances, ensuring a balanced approach to protect both patients and doctors. It stresses the need for streamlined processes to handle malpractice claims without undermining the medical profession. The discussion concludes with a call for a nuanced approach to address the issue, considering both patient rights and the practical realities of medical practice.



25/05/2024

46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting

India supports a regulatory framework for Antarctic tourism at the 46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting to protect the continent's environment, while ensuring future tourism opportunities are preserved.

Delegates from over 60 countries gathered in Kochi, Kerala, for the 46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM), which includes 29 voting 'Consultative Parties' and non-voting observers. This year's key agenda focuses on introducing a regulatory framework for Antarctic tourism, a proposal backed by 'like-minded' countries, including India. Antarctica, devoid of indigenous populations, has seen a surge in tourism, with visitor numbers rising from 8,000 in 1993 to 105,000 in 2022, surpassing the number of scientific personnel. Concerns over the environmental impact of increased tourism, such as pollution and accidents, have been raised since 1966. These issues threaten the continent's unique biodiversity. Despite the minimal number of Indian tourists currently visiting Antarctica, the potential for increased tourism due to growing prosperity remains. India supports the regulation of tourism to protect the continent's pristine environment but must ensure that future opportunities for tourism are not compromised. The overarching anxiety among nations is the potential influence of increased presence from one country on future territorial claims, despite the treaty's commitment to non-territorial claims.

