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SUPREME COURT TIGHTENS SAFEGUARDS ON ARREST

- The Supreme Court has **progressively** strengthened the constitutional protection available to an arrested person by making the communication of grounds of arrest a meaningful and enforceable safeguard.
- The issue is rooted in **Article 21** (right to life and personal liberty) and **Article 22(1)** (protection against arbitrary arrest and right to legal counsel), read with the statutory safeguards under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (**BNSS**), **2023**.

Provisions Governing Communication of Grounds of Arrest:

- **Article 22(1)** provides that a person arrested cannot be detained without being informed, as soon as may be, of the grounds of arrest and cannot be denied the right to consult and be defended by a legal practitioner of choice.
- Under Section 47 of the **BNSS**, corresponding to Section 50 of the CrPC, an officer arresting a person without warrant must communicate the grounds of arrest.
- However, neither Article 22(1) nor Section 47 BNSS originally prescribed the precise **mode of communication**.

Need for Written Grounds:

- In **Pankaj Bansal vs. Union of India (2023)**, while dealing with arrest under the PMLA 2002, the Supreme Court held that written grounds of arrest must be furnished to the arrested person as a matter of course.
- Merely reading out the grounds orally could create a dispute about whether they were actually communicated.
- Written grounds also enable the accused to consult counsel, understand the allegations and effectively seek bail.
- The principle was subsequently reinforced in **Prabir Purkayastha vs. State (NCT of Delhi) (2024)** in the context of UAPA 1967, with the Court holding that the right to receive written grounds extends across offences and statutes.

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Latest Strengthening - Jaskaran Jeet Singh Deol Case:

- In this case (September 2026), the SC dealt with an arrest where written grounds were not supplied and also considered violation of the **24-hour production requirement** under Article 22(2).
- **Article 22(2)** requires every arrested person to be produced before the nearest Magistrate within 24 hours, **excluding** necessary travel time. Detention **beyond** this period requires the Magistrate's authority.
 - The court held that violation of Article 22(2) can render the arrest and continued detention illegal, strengthening **judicial oversight** over police custody.
- The Court also reaffirmed that -
 - Grounds of arrest are a **fundamental and statutory right**;
 - Violation can invalidate the arrest and subsequent remand;
 - An accused released because of such violation cannot simply be re-arrested at the discretion of the same investigating authority;
 - Where **re-arrest** is sought, the investigating agency must approach the Magistrate, provide the grounds and reasons for the earlier non-compliance, and obtain judicial approval.
- The Court also stressed **accountability** of erring officials; in the case, departmental proceedings were initiated against the concerned police officers (IO).

Conclusion:

- The jurisprudence represents a shift from formal compliance to **substantive protection** of personal liberty.
- It strengthens rule of law, due process, right to legal aid and fair procedure, and protection against arbitrary arrest and custodial excesses.
- Arrest is a serious deprivation of personal liberty; therefore, the State must strictly comply with constitutional and statutory safeguards, and procedural violations cannot be treated as mere technicalities.

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A COMMON LANGUAGE FOR JUSTICE

- A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed before the Supreme Court recently, sought a direction to the Union Government to constitute a commission recommending Hindi as the official language of the Supreme Court.
- The petitioner argued this was firmly grounded in constitutional provisions.

The Supreme Court's Response

- The SC Bench — comprising CJI Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V. Mohana — made several key observations:
 - **Language reforms** are already underway in a phased manner through administrative measures.
 - Justice V. Mohana clarified that granting the relief sought would require a constitutional amendment.
 - The CJI noted the Court is already providing brief descriptions of its reports in Hindi, as part of preserving linguistic diversity and respecting regional languages — with plans to extend this to other regional languages.

The key distinction drawn: Between changing the judiciary's official language regime versus making judicial work more accessible in Indian languages — two very different propositions.

Who Decides? The Constitutional Framework

- **Article 348(1)(a):** Until Parliament legislates otherwise, English is the prescribed language for all proceedings before the Supreme Court and every High Court. Parliament has never enacted a law under this provision to replace English.
- **Article 348(2):** Governor, with President's prior consent, may authorise use of Hindi or another regional official language in High Court proceedings. However, such authorisation does NOT extend to judgments, decrees, orders - these must still be in English.
- **Rajasthan, U P, M P, and Bihar** — each using Hindi in their respective High Courts, subject to presidential consent and other constitutional/statutory safeguards.

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- **Section 7, Official Languages Act, 1963:** Provides an additional mechanism allowing judgments, decrees, or orders in Hindi/regional languages, provided an authoritative English translation accompanies them.

Separation of Powers: Why Courts Can't Simply Order a Change

- The question of who has authority to alter the language regime invokes the doctrine of separation of powers between legislature, executive, and judiciary.
- Generally, courts cannot issue a writ of mandamus compelling Parliament to enact a law, amend the Constitution, or establish a commission for this purpose.
- Such matters fall squarely within Parliament's legislative domain — explaining why the Supreme Court declined to direct the formation of a commission.

The Way Forward: Accessibility Without Replacement

- Analysts argue the solution isn't replacing English with Hindi or any single language, but making **judicial work accessible in multiple Indian languages** while preserving a common working language for consistency.
- **Key initiative — SUVAS:**
 - SUVAS (**Supreme Court Vidhik Anuvaad Software**) is an AI-based translation tool.
 - It enables Supreme Court judgments to be translated into 16 languages.
 - This approach respects linguistic diversity while preserving consistency in how justice is administered.

Conclusion

- The push for Hindi as the Supreme Court's official language runs into a firm constitutional wall — Article 348 reserves this change for Parliament, not the judiciary, and courts have historically insisted on a single working language for coherent proceedings.
- Yet the Court's own incremental steps, from Hindi report summaries to AI-powered translation via SUVAS, suggest a more workable path: not swapping one language for another, but ensuring justice speaks in many tongues even as it is delivered in one.

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SOUTHERN INDIAN OCEAN FISHERIES AGREEMENT



SIOFA | APSOI
Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement
Accord relatif aux Pêches dans le Sud de l'Océan Indien

Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement

- It is an **international fishing agreement** signed in Rome in 2006 and **entered into force in 2012**.
- It is aimed at **enhancing its role in managing ocean resources** and creating opportunities for Indian fishing vessels to operate in the **southern Indian Ocean** while adhering to international regulations.
- **Objectives:**
 - To ensure the **long-term conservation and sustainable** use of the **fishery resources** in the area through cooperation among the Contracting Parties
 - To promote the **sustainable development of fisheries** in the Area
- The SIOFA Agreement covers fishery resources including **fish, molluscs, crustaceans and other sedentary species** within the area, **but excluding highly migratory species** (Annex I of UNCLOS).
- **India and SIOFA**
 - As of now, India is **classified as a Cooperating Non-Contracting Party (CNCP)** to the SIOFA, which limits its participation in decision-making processes since 2022.
 - **Significance to India:**
 - Accession as a **Contracting Party** would enable India to participate fully in these bodies and provide access to scientific data, research programmes, and stock assessments.
 - It will open up **new fishing opportunities** for the **Indian fishers** and entrepreneurs.
 - India will also play a key role in **preserving marine resources**, ensuring their long-term viability and supporting the livelihoods of Indian fishing communities.

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NATIONAL SOCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME



**National
Social
Assistance
Programme**

- It is a fully funded Centrally Sponsored Scheme launched in 1995.
- It extends financial support to individuals living below the poverty line (BPL).
- It is a key social welfare scheme that provides pensions to **vulnerable groups, including the elderly, widows, and persons with disabilities.**

Nodal Ministry: It is implemented by the **Ministry of Rural Development.**

National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) covers Sub Schemes:

- **Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS):** Under IGNOAPS, the Centre provides financial assistance of Rs 200 per month to individuals aged 60–79 years and Rs 500 per month to those aged 80 and above.
- **Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS):** Under IGNWPS, the Centre provides Rs 300 per month to widows aged 40–79 years and Rs 500 to those 80 and above.
- **Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS):** Financial assistance is provided to individuals with severe or multiple disabilities
- **National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS):** Under this the amount of **one-time financial assistance is fixed at Rs 20,000.** This is provided to families after the death of a primary breadwinner aged 18 to 59.

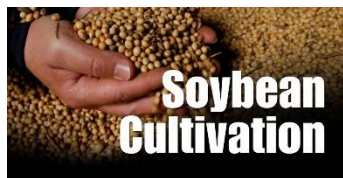
News changes to National Social Assistance Programme

- NSAP will now be known as **Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana,**

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- IGNOAPS has been renamed as **Pradhan Mantri Vridhavastha Pension Yojana**.
- IGNWPS as the **Pradhan Mantri Vidhawa Pension Yojana**.
- IGNDPS as the **Pradhan Mantri Divyangjan Pension Yojana**.
 - Under the Divyangjan pension scheme, a beneficiary in the **age group of 0-79 years** will receive **Rs 375 – up from Rs 300 currently**, while beneficiaries in the **age group of 80 years and above** will get **Rs 625 – up from Rs 500 at present**.
- National Family Benefit scheme as the **Pradhan Mantri Parivar Labh Yojana**.

SOYBEAN CULTIVATION



- Soybean, (*Glycine max*), sometimes called soja bean is an **annual legume of the pea family (Fabaceae)**.
- In agriculture, soybean **enhances soil fertility through nitrogen fixation**.

It is a major crop **cultivated during the kharif season** (July-October) in the rainfed (dryland) areas of central and peninsular India.

Required Climatic Conditions for Soybean:

- **Climate:** Soybean grows well in **warm and moist climate**.
- **Temperature:** A temperature of **5 to 30°C** appears to be the optimum for most of the varieties.
- **Rainfall:** Soybean is **highly sensitive to water stress**, particularly during critical growth phases such as flowering, pod development, and seed filling.
- **Soil:** Well drained **and fertile loam soils** with a pH between 6.0 and 7.5

Major Soyabean Growing States: Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, Karnataka and Chhattisgarh.

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ALPINE MUSK DEER



- The Alpine musk deer (*Moschus chrysogaster*) is a musk deer species found only in Asia.
- It is not a true deer, but rather its family is closely related to Bovidae, the group that contains antelopes, bovines, sheep, and goats.

Alpine musk deer is named for **having an externally visible musk sac** between the male testes. Its fangs grow during mating season and are used for sparring with other males.

Habitat: It inhabits **coniferous and deciduous forests** in the mountain regions.

Distribution: It is mainly found in **India, Nepal, Bhutan and China**.

Characteristics:

- **Behavior:** It is generally **solitary and a crepuscular animal**.
- **Diet:** It is a **ruminant herbivore**, foremost a browser and feeds mainly on forbs, grasses, moss, lichens, and shoots, leaves and twigs of shrubs.

Threats: The main threat to the Alpine musk deer is poaching for its musk, which is used in cosmetic products.

Conservation Status:

- **IUCN Red List:** Endangered
- **CITES:** Appendix I
- **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972:** Schedule I.



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MEASLES



- It is a **highly contagious**, serious airborne disease **caused by a virus**.

Cause: It is caused by a virus in the **paramyxovirus family**.

Transmission of Measles:

- It spreads by contact with **infected nasal or throat secretions** (coughing or sneezing) or breathing the air that was breathed by someone with measles.
- The virus **remains active and contagious** in the air or on infected surfaces for up to two hours.
- The **virus infects the respiratory tract**, then spreads throughout the body, causing severe disease, complications, and even death.

Treatment:

- No **specific antiviral treatment** exists for measles.
 - It can be prevented with a safe **and effective measles-rubella (MR) vaccine** that gives long-term immunity.
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