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CHANGING CITIZENSHIP RULES

- On July 13, 2026, in Sabitri Dey @ Swasthi Dey vs Union of India, the Supreme Court set aside 27 Gauhati High Court judgments concerning alleged illegal migration.
- The Supreme Court warned that depriving a person of citizenship without following proper legal procedure can have severe consequences for that person's life.
- It also reiterated that even when a person's country of origin is disputed, protections under Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution continue to apply.
- The article describes India's citizenship framework as having gradually shifted from jus soli - citizenship by place of birth - toward jus sanguinis - citizenship through descent or blood relationship.
- Citizenship is described as more than a legal status: it carries legal and political rights, representation and benefits, and also shapes a person's sense of identity and belonging.
- » Two proposed measures of national identity
 - The article discusses the ideas of holy land and fatherland as two proposed bases of national identity/citizenship.
 - The "holy land" formulation, by tracing religion to ancestral origins, is described as including Hindus, Sikhs, Jains and Buddhists while excluding some other religious minorities.
 - According to the source's discussion of Article 5, persons born in India, persons with a parent born in India, and persons who had ordinarily resided in India for at least five years when the Constitution came into force could qualify for Indian citizenship, subject to the constitutional conditions.
 - The source also states that the Constitution gave Parliament power to make future citizenship laws.
 - Thus, at the commencement of the Constitution, India's citizenship arrangements reflected elements of both jus soli and jus sanguinis.
- » Post-Independence developments
 - The Citizenship Act, 1955 developed the legal framework further. For persons born after January 26, 1950, citizenship by birth was linked increasingly to the citizenship status of parents.
 - Other routes included citizenship by descent, registration, naturalisation and incorporation of territory.
 - Following the Assam student movement and the Assam Accord, Section 6A was added specifically for Assam.
 - Migrants from East Pakistan, now Bangladesh, who entered Assam between 1966 and 1971 were subject to a special registration framework, while those who had migrated before 1966 could receive citizenship under the stated conditions; post-1971 entrants were treated as illegal migrants under that framework.
 - The article notes a further change in 1987 relating to citizenship by birth.
 - In 2003, the Citizenship Act introduced the expression "illegal migrant". For children born in India after the later amendments, citizenship by birth became more closely dependent on the citizenship or migration status of both parents.

- Rules amended in the mid-2000s also empowered district authorities in specified circumstances to register certain migrants seeking permanent settlement.
- The source refers to a rule under which district authorities could register specified minority Hindu migrants from Pakistan who had entered India earlier and wished to settle permanently.
- It notes that constitutional provisions concerning migration from Pakistan did not originally classify migrants by religion.
- In 2015, the Passport (Entry into India) Rules, 1950 were amended to exempt certain Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians from Bangladesh and Pakistan who had entered India because of religious persecution, even when they lacked valid documents.
- A corresponding exemption was introduced under the Foreigners Order for specified non-Muslim communities from Bangladesh and Pakistan.
- The article interprets these changes as a movement away from the earlier secular conception of citizenship toward a religion-linked framework, later formalised more clearly through the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019.

» Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019

- The CAA, 2019 created a religion-specific fast-track route to citizenship for certain migrant communities, and it triggered large protests across India.
- It provided an accelerated naturalisation path for specified Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians from neighbouring countries covered by the Act.
- Such migrants were protected from certain criminal proceedings associated with unlawful entry, and the prescribed period of residence for naturalisation was reduced from 11 years to 5 years for eligible groups.
- The article links the CAA debate with the National Register of Citizens (NRC), which had been implemented in Assam and has at various times been proposed for wider national application.

ADVISORY BOARDS RECONSTITUTED

- Advisory Boards examine detention orders passed under preventive-detention laws such as the National Security Act and the Goondas Act.
- Boards functioning in Chennai and Madurai review whether preventive-detention laws have been properly invoked and provide their opinion to the government.
- Detainees may also challenge their detention before the relevant Advisory Board.
- The Tamil Nadu Government has reconstituted these Boards.
- The Chennai Advisory Board will be chaired by retired High Court judge V. Bharathidasan, with retired judges P. Kalaiyarasan and V. Parthiban as members.
- The Madurai Advisory Board will be chaired by retired High Court judge K. Kalyanasundaram, with retired judges N. Aadhinathan and G. Ilangoan as members.

MAJOR FLOODING IN NEPAL

- A trans-Himalayan river system is described as being known by different names: Bhoj/Bhote-type names in Tibet, Bhote Koshi in Nepal, and the Gandak/Narayani system in India, with the source giving a total river length of about 720 km.
- A large glacier-related lake in Tibet breached after intense melting, sending a sudden surge of water into the Nepal river system.

- The river originates in the Tibetan plateau, passes through Nepal and then flows toward Bihar and Uttar Pradesh in India.
- The source notes that glaciers near Zhangzhagbo/Zhangzangbo formed a large high-altitude lake, located at about 26,286 feet above sea level, which suddenly breached.

River course shown in the source diagram

River	Description
Lende Khola River (Tibetan Himalayan Region)	The Lende Khola River originates in the Tibetan Himalayas.
↓	
Bhote Koshi River	The Lende Khola River reaches the Nepal–Tibet border and flows downward through Rasuwagadhi, where it becomes the Bhotekoshi River.
↓	
Trishuli River	The Bhotekoshi River flows southward and joins the Trishuli River.
↓	
Confluence at Devghat (with Kali Gandaki River)	The Trishuli River joins the Kali Gandaki River at Devghat.
↓	
Narayani River (in Nepal)	After this confluence, the river is known as the Narayani River.
↓	
Gandak River (in India)	The Narayani flows southward from Nepal and enters India. After entering India, it is called the Gandak River.
↓	
Confluence with the Ganga (Bihar)	The Gandak River flows through Bihar and joins the River Ganga.

» Bihar placed on alert

- The Kosi and Gandak are major tributary systems linked with Nepal and Bihar.
- Because the rivers originate in the Himalayas and carry water south through Nepal into India, severe flooding in Nepal can create downstream flood risk in Bihar.
- Bihar was therefore placed on alert following the Nepal flood event.

TAMIL-MEDIUM CANDIDATES - BENEFIT CAN BE USED ONLY ONCE

- Under the new law, a person can avail the 20% preferential reservation for Persons Studied in Tamil Medium (PSTM) only once.

- A person who has already obtained a government job through the Tamil-medium preference cannot use the same preference again for another government appointment.
- The new rule does not apply to direct-recruitment notifications issued before publication of the new law in the Gazette - that is, before August 11, as stated in the source.
- Tamil-medium candidates receive 20% preferential reservation in Tamil Nadu government recruitment.
- To claim it, a candidate must have studied in Tamil medium throughout the educational stages required for the post. If a degree is the prescribed qualification, the source states that the candidate must have studied in Tamil medium from Class I through Class X, Plus Two and the degree course.

HYDROGEN TRAIN COMPLETES 6,000 KM

- The 10-coach train can carry about 2,600 passengers and operates between Jind and Sonipat in Haryana.
- The source describes it as the longest hydrogen train currently in operation.
- With a 3,200-horsepower propulsion system, it is also described as one of the world's most powerful hydrogen trains.
- Hydrogen is used because it is considered a clean fuel. Hydrogen trains operate quietly, have zero tailpipe carbon emissions and can reduce dependence on diesel.
- The train has so far completed around 6,000 km of operation.
- India has set a target related to net-zero carbon emissions, and the hydrogen-train initiative forms part of the transition toward cleaner transport.
- The train's direct by-product is primarily water vapour.
- The source compares it with a conventional diesel-electric multiple unit and states that the hydrogen train's 6,000-km operation has avoided about 36,444 kg of CO₂ emissions, based on the figures cited in the article.

"CRITICALITY" ACHIEVED - NUCLEAR MILESTONE

- India reached a major milestone in its nuclear programme when the indigenously designed and built Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) at Kalpakkam in Chengalpattu district achieved a sustained nuclear chain reaction - criticality - for the first time on April 6.
- Criticality is the condition in which a self-sustaining, controlled nuclear-fission chain reaction begins and releases steady energy.
- It is the essential first step toward producing heat and ultimately electricity from a reactor.
- The achievement is described as India's formal entry into the second stage of its three-stage nuclear-power programme.
- India has limited uranium reserves but very large thorium resources, particularly in coastal sands of Tamil Nadu and Kerala.
- The source states that India's thorium resources could theoretically support very large-scale electricity generation for centuries.
- Unlike ordinary thermal reactors, the PFBR uses mixed uranium-plutonium oxide fuel.
- In the breeder process, uranium-238 is converted into plutonium-239, enabling the reactor to create additional fissile fuel.
- The reactor is ultimately designed to support a transition toward the use of thorium-232.
- Through conversion, thorium-232 can be transformed into uranium-233, which would serve as the fuel for the third stage of India's thorium-based nuclear programme.

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- Spent fuel from the fast breeder reactor can be reprocessed and recycled back into the reactor system, paving the way for larger use of India's thorium resources in the third stage.
- Fast breeder reactors use liquid sodium as coolant and plutonium-based fuel, technologies that involve substantial safety and engineering challenges.
- The source states that Indian scientists have developed indigenous capabilities for handling liquid sodium and describes PFBR criticality as a major technological milestone.
- The article calls hydrogen a fuel of the future and states that on June 26 a nuclear-energy-assisted hydrogen production facility was inaugurated at Kalpakkam.
- Hydrogen is produced by using high-temperature processes to split water, with the source referring to a copper-chlorine cycle.

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