





Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport (KMTT) Project

- The ongoing violence and civil war in Myanmar has also had a direct impact on India's Kaladan project.
- A senior opposition leader of Myanmar has said that this project going on in Paletwa is almost finished.
- This has happened because the junta government has lost control over Paletwa city and it has
 qone into the hands of the Arakan Army.











- **KMTT Project:-**
 - •It aims to provide connectivity between India and Myanmar.
 - •Under this, connectivity will be established from India's Eastern Port (Kolkata) to Myanmar's Sittwe Port and further to North-East India.
- Four Steps:-
 - •From Kolkata to Sittwe port via Bay of Bengal.
 - Sittwe to Paletwa inland (Kaladan River).
 - •From Paletwa to the India-Myanmar border post in Mizoram.
 - •Up to Lawngtlai border (NH 54) in Mizoram.



















Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) **Amendment Bill, 2024**

- Parliament passed the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Bill 2024. Lok Sabha approved it today while Rajya Sabha has already passed it. The Bill will amend the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1974.
- In the bill, many crimes prescribed in the 1974 law have been removed from the category of imprisonment and provision has been made only for fines.
- Initially this bill will be applicable in Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan and Union Territories.





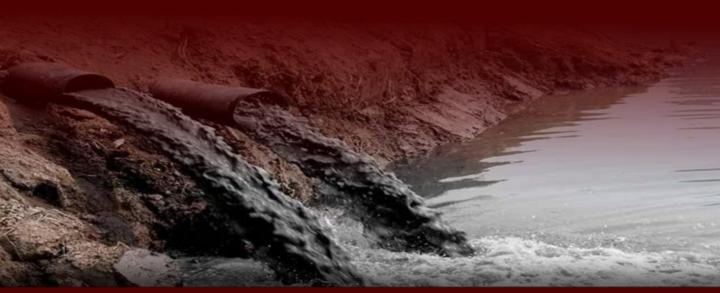








- Establishment of industries for Pollution Control Boards: Through this bill, the Center will also get the power to set guidelines for Pollution Control Boards in the states to grant permission, refuse or cancel permission for setting up industries. In this Amendment Act, all the punitive actions taken against industries for violating standards regarding environmental protection have been simplified.
- Now instead of a jail sentence only fine will be imposed:In all cases of violation, now only fine will be imposed instead of jail sentence.
 Earlier, in some such cases, there was a provision for maximum punishment of up to four years. The bill has decriminalized minor cases related to water pollution and exempted certain categories of industrial plants from legal restrictions.













Major amendments in the law:-

This law originally dates back to 1974, with some major amendments now in place. Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav rejected allegations by some opposition members regarding the bill that it violates the federal structure or would give the Center undue interference in water management in the states. Standards will be set:-



















Standards will be set:-Responding to the nearly one-hour discussion on the bill, Bhupendra Yadav said that due to the 1974 law, many types of obstacles were created in development, which needed to be resolved. This proposed law will prevent political appointments in pollution control boards in the states. States will have to appoint people with expertise on the board, for which standards will be set.

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Environmental Protection Fund:-

Bhupendra Yadav also assured that 75 percent of the fine that will be imposed on industries or individuals causing harm to the environment through water pollution will be given to the states under the Environment Protection Fund. Some rules for how it will be spent will be decided in the coming days.

Criminal provisions were rationalized:-

Bhupendra Yadav said that there should be coordination between easy living and ease of doing business. We believe that once this proposed law is enacted, all issues of water pollution will be dealt with in a much more transparent manner. The objective of the bill was made clear that the amendments have rationalized the criminal provisions, allowing industries and companies to operate without any fear. The punishment will be according to the seriousness of the crime.









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