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Table of Contents

1. PMLA 2002
2. Standard Time for Moon
3. Clean Economy Investor Forum
4. Revival of a Civil War-Era Law
5. Shakti Festival
6. QS Quacquarelli Symonds
7. FSDR on SDGs
8. Kala Azar
9. International Narcotics Control Boar
10. Curative Petition

TIMES OF INDIA Page 8

PMLA 2002

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Economy)

PMLA adjudicating authority upholds assets attachment of Cong-held AJL

ED Can Now Take Possession Of Properties Worth ₹750Cr, Including Herald House

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The adjudicating authority of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) on Wednesday upheld the attachment of assets worth Rs 750 crore of Congress-held Associated Journals Ltd that was later acquired by Young Indian, a company under majority control of former Congress presidents Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi.

The PMLA adjudicating authority's order will lead to the attached assets, which include the National Herald building in Delhi worth hundreds of crores and other properties of AJL in prime locations across major cities in India, being taken into possession by the enforcement agency.

In its order, the adjudicating authority said it believed that movable assets and equity shares attached by ED are proceeds of crime and linked to the offence of money laundering.

As reported by TOI in Nov last year, ED had attached properties worth Rs 750 crore belonging to AJL, the publisher of National Herald and other party mouthpieces.

The Herald case, in which Gandhis are main accused, is centred on the 'takeover' of AJL, along with its assets of Rs 750cr, by Young Indian allegedly for Rs 50 lakh

Young Indian, which is registered as a charity, has Sonia and Rahul as the only two shareholders. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge is its CEO.

The National Herald money laundering case, in which the Gandhis are the main accused, is centred on the "takeover" of AJL, along with its assets estimated at Rs 750 crore, by Young Indian allegedly for Rs 50 lakh. The attached properties are situated in Delhi, Lucknow and Mumbai and have been estimated at over Rs 661 crore. ED categorised these assets, as well as others worth another Rs 90.2 crore, as "proceeds of crime" — ED's description for illegally acquired properties — in the hands of Young Indian.

"Investigation revealed that Associated Journals Ltd is in possession of proceeds of crime in the form of immovable properties spread across many cities of India to the tune of Rs 661.7 crore and Young Indian is in possession of proceeds of crime to the tune of Rs 90.2 crore in the form of investment in equity shares of AJL," ED had said in Nov last year.

The Gandhis, along with Kharge and others, have been questioned multiple times about the transaction and are on bail in the case along with five other accused.

Congress had then dubbed ED's action as "shameful vendetta politics in a frivolous case". However, ED had said it had initiated money-laundering investigation on the basis of a process issued by the court of metropolitan magistrate of Delhi after taking cognizance of a private complaint (Subramaniam Swamy vs Sonia Gandhi) on June 26, 2014.

Tarun Rawat



The attached assets include National Herald building in Delhi (above) and several others in Lucknow and Mumbai

Context: The PMLA Adjudicating Authority recently upheld the Enforcement Directorate's attachment of approximately Rs 752 crore worth assets belonging to the Congress-promoted National Herald newspaper and associated companies in a money laundering case.

Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002

- **About**: The Act was enacted in a 2002 response to India's global commitment (including the Vienna Convention) to combat the menace of money laundering.
- **Objective:** The statement of objects and reasons of the PMLA Bill of 1999 refers to **various international conventions and instruments dealing primarily with money laundering related to crimes involving drugs and narcotics.**
  - United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988.
  - The Basle Statement of Principles, 1989.
- **Provisions of the Act:**
  - **Section 3 of the Act** defines the offence of money laundering as any attempt, assistance, or involvement in activities related to the proceeds of crime, projecting them as untainted property.
  - **Proceeds of Crime:** Refers to any property obtained directly or indirectly as a result of criminal activity related to a Scheduled Offence, such as: Indian Penal Code, Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, Prevention of Corruption Act.
  - **Actions Against Persons Involved in Money Laundering:** Seizure/Freezing of Property and Records, Attachment of Property.

Punishment (Section 4)

- Rigorous imprisonment for a **minimum of 3 years, extendable up to 7 years.**
- **Fine may also be imposed.**
- Note: For offences related to **Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985:**
- Punishment may extend to rigorous imprisonment for up to **10 years.**

STANDARD TIME FOR MOON

(Syllabus GS Paper 1 – Geography)



A time standard for Moon's surface: what is it and why is it needed?

ALIND CHAUHAN
NEW DELHI, APRIL 10

THE WHITE House has directed NASA to create a time standard for the Moon, which international organisations and private companies can use to coordinate activities on the lunar surface. The space agency has been asked to work with other parts of the United States government to finalise by the end of 2026 the strategy to establish a Coordinated Lunar Time (LTC), according to *Reuters*, which first reported about the project.

First, how does the time standard for Earth work?

Most clocks and time zones are based on Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), which is set by the International Bureau of Weights and Measures in Paris. UTC is essentially an internationally agreed standard for world time.

UTC is tracked by a weighted average of more than 400 atomic clocks placed around the globe. Atomic clocks measure time in terms of the resonant frequencies – the natural frequency of an object where it tends to vibrate at a higher amplitude – of atoms such as caesium-133.

In atomic time, a second is defined as the period in which a caesium atom vibrates 9,192,631,770 times. As the vibration rates at which atoms absorb energy are highly stable and ultra accurate, atomic clocks are excellent for gauging the passage of time.

To obtain their local time, countries subtract or add a certain number of hours to UTC, depending on how many time zones away from the 0 degree longitude meridian – also known as the Greenwich meridian – they are. If a country is to the west of the Greenwich meridian, it has to subtract from UTC; if a country is to the east of the meridian, it has to add.

So why do we need a time standard for the Moon?

Time flows differently on the Moon, and cannot be determined using UTC.

"A fundamental aspect of nature in the universe is that time is not absolute. That seems crazy to us on Earth as our experience of time is that it just constantly ticks by. But if you travelled to the Moon, your clock would be ticking slightly faster... This is a consequence of [Albert] Einstein's Theory of General Relativity which tells us that gravity bends space and time. As there is less gravity on the Moon, time ticks slightly faster there relative to...the Earth," Catherine Heymans, Astronomer Royal for Scotland and a professor of astrophysics at the University of Edinburgh, told *The Indian Express* by email.

Thus, on the Moon, an Earth-based clock will appear to lose on average 58.7 microseconds per Earth day with "additional periodic variations", according to the memo issued by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. This may seem like a tiny discrepancy, but it is enough to create problems for spacecraft trying to dock on the Moon, transfer of data at a specific time, navigation, and communications.

Currently, each lunar mission uses its own timescale that is linked to UTC. "Take the example of two spacecraft, NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO) and ISRO's Chandrayaan-2 Orbiter, which orbit the Moon in roughly similar polar orbits with some overlap. To ensure they do not collide – the probability of this is low, but it can happen – the two mission control teams talk and synchronise their operations standard as needed, based on differences in the way they calculate the orbits and time, etc.," Jatan Mehta, a space exploration writer and author of the *Moon Monday* newsletter, told *The Indian Express*.

While this can work for a handful of independent lunar missions, there may be problems with multiple spacecraft working together at the same time – a situation that will soon become reality. Several countries, including India, have lunar missions lined up. NASA's Artemis program aims to send humans back to the Moon after September 2026, and China and India intend to send their own astronauts to the lunar surface by 2030 and 2040 respectively. A long-term human outpost too, is planned on the Moon.

How will the lunar time standard be established?

The specifics are not clear yet. A White House official told *Reuters* that like on Earth, atomic clocks could be deployed on the Moon. A report by the journal *Nature* published last year said at least three atomic clocks ticking at the Moon's natural pace would have to be put on the lunar surface, the output from which would be combined by an algorithm to generate a more accurate virtual timepiece.

"These clocks have to be placed...at different locations since the Moon's rotation and even local lumps of mass, called mascons, beneath the crust of the Moon affect the flow of time slightly," Mehta said. Mascons or mass concentrations are so dense that they alter the Moon's local gravity field. The output from these clocks can be synthesised to give the Moon its own time, which can be tied back to UTC for seamless operations from Earth.

Even on Earth, atomic clocks tick at different rates because the Earth's rotational speed varies from the equator to the poles, which also affects time. The Earth rotates faster at the equator than at the poles as it is wider at the equator.

Context: The US White House recently instructed NASA to develop a standardized time system for the Moon, facilitating coordination among international bodies and private enterprises operating on its surface.

Why Establish a Time Standard for the Moon?

- **Diverse Time Experience**: Time behaves differently on the Moon compared to Earth due to the effects of gravity, as per Einstein's Theory of General Relativity.
- **Relativity Impact**: Gravity's influence causes time to flow slightly faster on the Moon than on Earth, leading to a need for a specific time standard.
- **Incompatibility with UTC**: The Universal Coordinated Time (UTC) used on Earth cannot accurately measure time on the Moon due to this relativistic difference.

Earth's time Standard Work

- **Coordinated Universal Time (UTC)**: Most clocks and time zones worldwide are based on Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), established by the International Bureau of Weights and Measures in Paris, France.
- **Atomic Clocks**: UTC is maintained through a weighted average of over 400 atomic clocks globally. These clocks measure time based on the resonant frequencies of atoms like cesium-133.
- **Definition of a Second**: In atomic time, a second is defined as the duration in which a cesium atom vibrates 9,192,631,770 times. Atomic clocks provide highly stable and precise measurements of time.
- **Local Time Calculation**: Countries determine their local time by adjusting UTC based on their position relative to the prime meridian (0 degrees longitude), also known as the Greenwich meridian.
- **Time Zone Differences**: Countries to the west of the Greenwich meridian subtract hours from UTC, while those to the east add hours. This adjustment accounts for the Earth's rotation and the division of its surface into time zones.

PIB Apr 10

CLEAN ECONOMY INVESTOR FORUM
(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – IR)

Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) to organise Clean Economy Investor Forum in Singapore

Context: Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) to organise Clean Economy Investor Forum in Singapore.

Clean Economy Investor Forum (CEIF)

- **About:** It is an initiative established within the framework of the IPEF.
- **Investor Convergence**: It convenes the top investors from the region, fostering collaboration and dialogue.
- **Aim**: The primary objective of the Forum is to channel investments towards sustainable infrastructure, climate technology, and renewable energy projects.
- **Annual Event**: The IPEF plans to organize the CEIF annually, with the inaugural event scheduled for June 2024 in Singapore.
- **Managed by**: Invest India, India's National Investment Promotion Agency, the forum holds significance for India's clean economy endeavors.
- **Opportunities for India:** The CEIF offers Indian industries avenues for engagement through specialized tracks like the Climate Tech Track and the Infrastructure Track.

INDO-PACIFIC ECONOMIC FRAMEWORK (IPEF)

- **History:** The IPEF was launched by United States (US) in Tokyo at the QUAD summit on May 23, 2022.
- **Aim:** The framework intends to "advance resilience, sustainability, inclusiveness, economic growth, fairness, and competitiveness" in these economies.
- **14 partners**: Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, United States and Vietnam.
- **The IPEF comprises four pillars of cooperation namely**: Trade, Supply Chain, Clean Economy and Fair Economy.

INDIAN EXPRESS

Page 12

ABORTION LAWS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – Indian Society)

WHY REVIVAL OF 1864 ABORTION LAW COULD RESONATE BEYOND ARIZONA

ARJUN SENGUPTA
NEW DELHI, APRIL 10

THE Supreme Court of Arizona in the United States on Tuesday delivered a landmark decision, reviving a long-dormant law from 1864 that bans nearly all abortions in the state. Doctors prosecuted under the law could be punished with 2-5 years in prison.

Until now, Arizona allowed abortion through 15 weeks of pregnancy.

Revival of a Civil War-era law

Any "person who provides, supplies or administers to a pregnant woman... with intent thereby to procure the miscarriage of such woman, unless it is necessary to save her life", can be prosecuted under the law dating back to the time of the American Civil War (1861-65).

Effectively, the law imposes a ban on abortion from the moment of conception, except in situations where it is necessary to save the mother's life. It does not make exceptions for rape or incest, and does not distinguish between medication-based and surgical abortions.

The enforcement of the law, enacted decades before Arizona's statehood (1912), or the introduction of women's suffrage in the state (effectively 1914), was blocked by a court in Tucson shortly after the US Supreme Court's 1973 *Roe v Wade* decision, which guaranteed women the constitutional right to abortion.

When *Roe v Wade* was overturned in 2022, Arizona's then attorney general, Republican Mark Brnovich, successfully appealed to a state judge to undo the Tucson injunction. The state Court of Appeals again suspended the law, but Arizona's Supreme Court has, in a 4-2 verdict, now allowed for its enforcement, ruling that there is no federal or state law preventing the administration of a near-total abortion ban.

It is still unclear when this law will come into effect. The Arizona Supreme Court has put its ruling on hold for 14 days, with another 45-day delay set to take place in the law's administration due to a 2022 state court order barring the immediate enforcement of pre-statehood abortion bans.

Polarising abortion debate

Abortion has long been one of the most polarising issues in the US. The debate is firmly set along party lines — pro-life Republicans oppose women's right to terminate their pregnancy, while pro-choice Democrats support this right, citing women's bodily autonomy and agency.

Since the *Roe v Wade* decision was overturned by a majority Republican-appointed US Supreme Court, 14 other states — governed by the Republicans — have banned nearly all abortions. In total, 21 US states have banned or restricted abortion earlier in pregnancy than pre-*Roe v Wade*.

As the November presidential election draws closer, the latest ruling might leave an impact in Arizona, an important swing state, and beyond.

With the conflict in Gaza continuing to batter Democratic President Joe Biden's standing among a significant section of his constituents, the party will hope to galvanise its voters on the abortion issue — with rulings such as the one in Arizona providing crucial fodder.

In a major departure from their articulated position, however, Arizona Republicans have also criticised the ruling. "I categorically reject rolling back the clock to a time when slavery was still legal," Matt Gress, a Republican state representative, said in a statement.

Former President Donald Trump, the Republican presidential candidate, said on Monday that abortion laws should be left to the states. He has previously attempted to avoid the issue, warning that it could lead to Republican losses.

(WITH AGENCY INPUTS)

Context: The Supreme Court of Arizona in the United States delivered a landmark decision, reviving a long-dormant law from 1864 that bans nearly all abortions in the state.

Revival of a Civil War-era law in USA

- **Historical Roots:** Dating back to the American Civil War (1861-65), a law prohibits individuals from providing, supplying, or administering substances to induce miscarriage in pregnant women, unless it's to save her life.
- **Historical Context**: Enacted before Arizona's statehood (1912) and the advent of women's suffrage in the state (effectively 1914), this law's enforcement was halted by a Tucson court shortly after the landmark 1973 Roe v Wade decision.

Abortion Law in India

- **Background:** In the 1960s, the Union government constituted the **Shantilal Shah Committee** to prepare a draft for the legalisation of abortion in India.
- **Enactment of MTP Act:** In 1971, the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act was enacted to reduce maternal mortality due to unsafe abortions.
- **Gestation Limit:** The MTP Act set an upper limit of the gestation period to which a woman can seek a medical abortion to 20 weeks.
- **Qualified Practitioners**: Abortion is to be performed only by doctors with specialisation in gynaecology or obstetrics.
- **Section 312 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC)**: A person who "voluntarily causes a woman with child to miscarry" will be jailed for up to 3 years or fined or both.
- **Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act, 2021**: The **Act extends the permissible termination** of pregnancy from **20 weeks to 24 weeks**, providing women with a longer gestation period for making this choice.

PIB

Apr 10

SHAKTI FESTIVAL

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 – Art and culture)

Sangeet Natak Akademi to organize 'Shakti - Festival of Music and Dance' at seven different Shaktipeeths in the country from 9th to 17th April

Context: To rejuvenate the Temple Traditions in the country Sangeet Natak Akademi, under the series of Kala Pravah, is organizing the festival under the title **'Shakti a festival of music and dance'** during the holy Navaratri.

Shakti Festival

- **About**: To rejuvenate the Temple Traditions in the country Sangeet Natak Akademi, under the series of Kala Pravah, is organizing the festival under the title 'Shakti a festival of music and dance'.
  - The Akademi will organize the festival celebrating temple traditions under the title Shakti at seven different Shaktipeeths from 9th to 17th April 2024, in different parts of the country.
- **Organized by**: Sangeet Natak Akademi, Ministry of Culture.
- **7 Sakthipeeths**
  - Kamakhya Temple - Assam
  - Mahalakshmi Temple - Maharashtra
  - Jwalamukhi Temple - Himachal Pradesh
  - Tripura Sundari - Tripura
  - Ambaji Temple - Gujarat
  - Jai Durga Shaktipeeth - Jharkhand
  - Maa Harsidhi Temple - Madhya Pradesh

Sangeet Natak Akademi

- **About**: The national level academy for performing arts set up by the Government of India.
- **Origin**: It was set up by the Indian education ministry on 31 May 1952 and became functional the following year, with the appointment of its first chairman, Dr. P. V. Rajamannar.
- **Awards:** The Akademi Ratna and Akademi Puraskar represent the pinnacle of achievement in the performing arts at a national level.
- **Excellence Standard**: They symbolize the highest standard of excellence attained within the realm of performing arts.
- **Chairman Appointment**: By the President of India for a term of five years.
- **Nodal Ministry**: Ministry of Culture.

THE HINDU

Page 12

QUACQUARELLI SYMONDS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – Social Issues)

IIM-A among world's top 25 for management studies; JNU ranked India's top university

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad is among the top 25 institutions globally for business and management studies, while the IIMs in Bangalore and Calcutta are among the top 50, according to the QS World University Rankings by Subject, announced on Wednesday.

Jawaharlal Nehru University is the highest-ranked university in India in the coveted rankings announced by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), the London-based higher education analytics firm. The university is ranked at 20th position globally for development studies.

The Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences in Chennai is at 24th position globally for dentistry studies.



The JNU campus in New Delhi.

QS CEO Jessica Turner said, "One of the biggest challenges faced by India is educational – providing high-quality tertiary education in the face of exploding demand: this much was recognised by 2020's NEP (National Education Policy), which set the ambitious target of a 50% gross enrolment ratio by 2035. It should, therefore, provide some reassurance that the number of Indian programmes featuring across our 55 subject rankings and five broad faculty areas has increased this year – from 355 to 454."

In a broader Asian regional context, India secured the second spot in terms of the number of universities featured (69), trailing only China (101), and holds the fourth position in the total number of ranked entries (454) after China (1,041), Japan (510) and South Korea (499).

India ranks fifth regionally for the number of top 200 entries.

Context: Recently, IIM-Ahmedabad secured its position among the top 25 institutions worldwide for business and management studies, while both IIM-Bangalore and IIM-Calcutta have also achieved placement within the top 50, as per the QS World University Rankings by Subject.

Key Points of Ranking

- **India's University Ranking**: Jawaharlal Nehru University is the highest-ranked university in India according to QS rankings.
    - JNU secures the 20th position globally.
    - Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences in Chennai achieves the 24th position globally for dentistry studies.
    - **India's Remarkable Progress**: India demonstrates significant progress in the QS World University Rankings by Subject.
- **Strong Research Capability Evident**: A 20% improvement in the Citations per Paper indicator reflects India's strong research capability.
    - QS identifies India as one of the world's most rapidly expanding research centers.
- **Impressive Output:** India's research output surges by an impressive 54% from 2017 to 2022.

QS Quacquarelli Symonds

- **About**: It is a prominent global provider of services, analytics, and insight to the higher education sector worldwide.
- **Focus**: On delivering valuable support and resources to the global higher education community.
- **Mission**: To empower individuals from all over the world to achieve their full potential by facilitating educational success, promoting international mobility, and aiding in career development.
- **10 indicators**: Academic reputation, faculty student ratio, international relation network, international faculty, students, and outbound exchange students etc.

DTE

Apr 10

FSDR ON SDGS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Economy)

Trillions more need to be invested if SDGs are to be rescued: UN report

Context: A new report (FSDR 2024) by the world body has recently emphasized that trillions of dollars are needed to achieve the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which were agreed upon by all United Nations members back in 2015, by the year 2030.

Key Findings of Financing for Sustainable Development Report

- Debt service is projected to reach **$40 billion annually from 2023 to 2025 in the least developed countries (LDC)**, surpassing the $26 billion mark set in 2022.
- The poorest countries allocate 12 per cent of their revenues towards interest payments, a fourfold increase compared to a decade ago.
- In approximately **40 per cent of the world's nations, governments allocate more funds** towards interest payments than crucial sectors like education or health.
- If existing trajectories persist, the **UN forecasts that nearly 600 million individuals will endure extreme poverty beyond 2030**, with a significant proportion being women.

Sustainable Development Goals

- **About:** It is the universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity.
- **Adopted by**: United Nations in 2015
- **Vision**: To achieve a better and more sustainable future for all.
- The 17 SDGs came into force with effect from 1st January 2016 as a part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- **India's Commitment**: India, as a signatory nation, pledged to pursue and accomplish these goals within the framework of the 2030 Agenda.
- **India's Ranking in SDGs**:112 Among 166 Countries for Performance in 2023.
- SDGs **are not legally binding.**



BUSINESS STANDRD

Apr 10

KALA AZAR
(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Sci and Tech)

India achieves target to eliminate visceral leishmaniasis 'Kala-Azar'

Context: India has achieved its target to eliminate visceral leishmaniasis, commonly known as kala-azar, according to data from the National Centre for Vector Borne Diseases Control (NCVBDC).

Kala Azar

- **About:** Visceral leishmaniasis (VL), also known as kala-azar or "black fever", is the most severe form of leishmaniasis and, without proper diagnosis and treatment, is associated with high fatality(95%).
- **Caused by:** Leishmaniasis is a disease caused by protozoan parasites of the genus Leishmania.
- **Symptoms:** Include fever, weight loss, fatigue, anaemia, and substantial swelling of the liver and spleen.
- **Treatment:** Kala-azar Drugs available in India
- **Global status:** VL is the second-largest parasitic killer in the world (after malaria), responsible for an estimated 20,000 to 30,000 deaths each year worldwide.
- **India's Status:** India aims to sustain its momentum over the next three years to receive WHO certification.
    - **Endemic:** Kala-azar is endemic in India, mainly in four states Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

Indian government initiatives

- **National Kala-azar Elimination programme:** To improve the health status of vulnerable groups and at-risk population living in
    - **Target:** To reduce the annual incidence of Kala-azar to less than one per 10,000 populations at block PHC level. (Achieved successfully)
- **The National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP):** An umbrella programme for the prevention and control of vector-borne diseases, including Visceral leishmaniasis, known as kala-azar (KA) in India.
- **ASHA worker:** The ASHA network plays a role in ensuring PKDL patients complete their treatment, which involves a 12-week course of the drug Miltefosine.
- **Global level initiatives:** WHO's new roadmap for 2021–2030 aims to address neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) by preventing, controlling, eliminating, and eradicating a set of 20 diseases categorized as neglected tropical diseases.

ECONOMIC TIMES

Apr 10

INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Internal security)

India's nominee Jagjit Pavadia re-elected to International Narcotics Control Board

Context: India's Jagjit Pavadia was re-elected for a third term for five years from March 2025-2030 to the International Narcotics Control Board.

International Narcotics Control Board

- **About:** It was established in 1968 to monitor the implementation of UN international drug control conventions.
- **Historical Background:** Created by merging the Permanent Central Narcotics Board and the Drug Supervisory Body, the INCB traces its roots back to the 1925 International Opium Convention and the 1931 Convention for Limiting the Manufacture and Regulating the Distribution of Narcotic Drugs.
- **Membership Structure:** Comprising 13 members elected by the Economic and Social Council, the INCB members serve in their personal capacity, not as government representatives.
- Three members with medical, pharmacological, or pharmaceutical expertise are nominated by the World Health Organization, while the remaining ten members are nominated by governments.
- **Functions**
  - The INCB collaborates with governments to ensure adequate drug supplies for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing the diversion of drugs from licit sources to illicit channels.
  - Additionally, it monitors governments' control over chemicals used in illicit drug manufacture and aids in preventing their diversion into illicit trafficking.

INDIAN EXPRESS Front page

Allowing curative plea, how Supreme Court pushes the envelope

APURVA VISHWANATH
NEW DELHI, APRIL 10

SETTING ASIDE the 2017 arbitral award that required the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) to pay nearly Rs 8000 crore to Anil Ambani-owned Reliance Infrastructure, the Supreme Court has expanded the scope of its "extraordinary powers" to intervene beyond constitutionally prescribed processes.

A curative writ petition, that the Supreme Court has invoked in reviving the 2019 Delhi High Court judgment that partially set aside the Delhi Metro arbitration award, is a sparingly used judicial innovation to correct a "grave miscarriage of justice". Constitutionally, a final ruling of the Supreme Court can only be questioned in a review petition, that, too, on narrow procedural grounds.

In 2002, in Rupa Hurra v Ashok Hurra, the SC allowed curative writs as the last resort to correct judgments that are "oppressive to judicial conscience and would cause perpetuation of irremediable injustice."

However, exercising curative jurisdiction in a commercial case pushes the envelope and raises questions on the finality of a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPLAINED PAGE 12

Context: In a landmark move, the Supreme Court has expanded legal recourse by permitting curative writs, emphasizing their role as a final avenue to rectify judgments deemed "oppressive to judicial conscience" and capable of perpetuating irreparable injustice.

CURATIVE PETITION
(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – Polity)

Curative Petition

- **About:** A curative petition represents the final and ultimate recourse available to individuals seeking justice, as guaranteed by the Constitution of India.
    - It becomes applicable once a review plea against a final conviction has been rejected.
- **Background**: The concept of the curative petition originated from a legal case in 2002, known as Rupa Ashok Hurra Vs. Ashok Hurra, which raised the question of whether an aggrieved person has any recourse after the dismissal of a review petition in the Supreme Court.
- **Objective**: The primary aim of a curative petition is to ensure that there is no miscarriage of justice and to prevent any potential abuse of the legal process.
- **Article 137 of the Indian Constitution**: It provides significant support for the concept of a curative petition.
    - Article 137 empowers the Supreme Court of India with the authority to review any judgment it has pronounced or order it has made.
- **SC's Review Power**: This review power applies specifically when the matter pertains to the laws and rules established under Article 145 of the Indian Constitution.

Interference by the Supreme Court in Curative Petition

- **Grounds for Interference**: The interference by the Supreme Court is based on two primary grounds.
    - **Interpretation of Termination Clause:** The first ground revolves around the interpretation of the termination clause in the contract.
    - **Ostensible Ignorance of Material Evidence**: The second ground pertains to the ostensible ignorance of material evidence.

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