

JULY

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MK Yadav Sir

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Google's latest: CCI backed Amazon in Android probe

Moves SC, alleging the tribunal ignored relevant evidence

SHIVANI SHINDE & SOURABH LELE
Mumbai/ New Delhi, 6 July

Google, in its latest appeal to the Supreme Court, has said the Competition Commission of India (CCI) is protecting Amazon's interests after having complained that India's anti-competition body (CCI) had copied part of a European Commission ruling against it for allegedly abusing the market dominance of Android.

The latest twist to the Google-CCI case comes as Google filed an appeal in the Supreme Court on June 26, against the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal's (NCLAT's) March 29 order. The tech giant's contention is that the NCLAT failed to apply the "effect analysis" part in the CCI order.

In its appeal, which *Business*

ANDROID UPDATE

■ **October 2022:** CCI slaps ₹1,338 crore fine on Google for "abusing its dominant position" in Android market, orders 10 changes in business model

■ **December 2022:** Google appeals in NCLAT seeking a stay on the CCI order

■ **March 2023:** NCLAT quashes four of 10 CCI directives, upholds penalty

■ **June 2023:** Both CCI and Google challenge NCLAT's order in Supreme Court

■ **July 2023:** Google accuses CCI of protecting Amazon through its directives



Standard has seen, Google said: "The Tribunal correctly held that an effects analysis is required to establish a contravention of Section 4 (abuse of dominance) of the Competition Act, but did not properly apply this test to

the Commission's Order. Had the Tribunal applied the effects test, it would have found that Google's agreements were incapable of causing any anticompetitive effects."

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Context: Google has accused India's antitrust body of ordering changes to its business model "only to protect" rival Amazon, which complained about its struggles to develop a modified version of the Android system due to Google's restrictions, legal papers show.

- Google has approached India's Supreme Court to quash the Competition Commission of India's (CCI) October order asking the company to make 10 changes to its business model after the CCI found it abused its dominant position in the market with its Android operating system, which powers 97% of India's smartphones.

Competition Commission of India

- **About:** It is a statutory body of the Government of India responsible for enforcing the Competition Act, 2002, constituted in March 2009.
 - The Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969 (MRTP Act) was repealed and replaced by the Competition Act, 2002, on the recommendations of the Raghavan committee.
- **Objective:** To eliminate practices having adverse effects on competition, protect the interests of consumers and ensure freedom of trade in the markets of India.
- **Composition:** consists of one Chairperson and six Members who shall be appointed by the Central Government.
 - **Eligibility criteria of members of CCI:** The Chairperson and every other Member shall be a person of ability, integrity and standing and who, has been, or is qualified to be a judge of a High Court, or, has special knowledge of, and professional experience of not less than 15 years in international trade, economics, business, commerce, law, finance, accountancy, management, industry, public affairs, administration or in any other matter which, in the opinion of the Central Government, may be useful to the Commission.
 - **Tenure:** The Chairperson and other Members shall be whole-time Members.
- **Functions:** The commission is a quasi-judicial body which gives opinions to statutory authorities and also deals with other cases.

Competition Act, 2002

- **About:** The Competition Act was passed in 2002 and has been amended by the Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007.
- **Objectives:** The Act prohibits anti-competitive agreements, abuse of dominant position by enterprises and regulates combinations, which causes an appreciable adverse effect on competition within India.
- **Establishment of CCI and CAT:** In accordance with the provisions of the Amendment Act, the Competition Commission of India and the Competition Appellate Tribunal have been established.
 - The government replaced the Competition Appellate Tribunal (COMPAT) with the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) in 2017.

Amended H-1Bs must for new job site

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Mumbai: A US court of appeals (District of Columbia) has upheld the requirement that sponsoring employers must file an amended H-1B petition (application) with the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) when the foreign employee moves from one domestic location to another.

ITServe Alliance, an association of over 1,000 member companies (many founded by those of Indian origin), had filed an appeal against an earlier lower court order, which had held that USCIS can issue binding interpretive rules.

In July 2015, USCIS had issued a policy memorandum based on the decision taken by the Administrative Appeals

US COURT UPHOLDS REVISED FILING

➤ In 2015, the USCIS had said a foreign employee's workplace shifting from one location to another was a 'material change'

➤ It said this required filing of an amended H-1B visa application

➤ A lower court held that the USCIS can issue binding

interpretive rules

➤ 'ITServe Alliance' appealed against this but it resulted in an adverse order

➤ After that, alliance filed an appeal, but the US court of appeals (District of Columbia) has left intact the 2015 policy



Office in a particular case. The memorandum prescribed that a move of a foreign employee from one domestic location to another constituted a 'material change' and it required filing of an amended H-1B visa application.

ITServe Alliance had challenged this in a district court. After an adverse order, it filed an appeal. The court of

appeals has left intact this 2015 policy. Till the time of going to press, ITServe Alliance did not send its response to the court order.

Cyrus D Mehta, a New York-based immigration attorney, told TOI, "This policy has increased the burdens and costs on employers relating to the filing of an amended H-1B petition, and it is unfortunate

that the appeals court did not reverse the policy. If the amended H-1B petition is not filed prior to the move to the new worksite, H-1B workers may be considered to be in violation of their visa status."

"The USCIS has discretion to forgive status violations based on extraordinary circumstances beyond the control of the applicant. But if the immigration agency denies an untimely request for an extension and amendment, the H-1B worker may have to return to India to apply for a new H-1B visa at a US consulate," explained Mehta.

It should be noted that the obligation to file an amended H-1B petition triggers when the worksite is outside the area of intended employment.

Context: US court of appeals (District of Columbia) has upheld the requirement that sponsoring employers must file an amended H-1B petition (application) with the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) when the foreign employee moves from one domestic location to another.

- In July 2015, USCIS had issued a policy memorandum based on the decision taken by the Administrative Appeals Office in a particular case.
- The memorandum prescribed that a move of a foreign employee from one domestic location to another constituted a 'material change' and it required filing of an amended H-1B visa application.

H1B Visa

- **About:** It is a **multiple entry non-immigrant visa** which allows foreign workers employed by US companies to work in the United States.
 - The workers under H1B visas should be **engaged in specialised occupations** such as science, medicine, engineering and mathematics.
- **Eligibility:** H1B applicants **must have at least a US bachelor's degree or equivalent.**
 - Generally this visa is **granted for a period of three years** and can be extended for an additional three years for special circumstances.
 - H-1B visa requires the **employer to apply on the person's behalf.**
- **Key benefits:** Holders of H1B visas **can sell or buy property** and invest in the stock market in the United States.

L1 Visa

- **About:** L1 Visa is an **Intra-Company Transferee Visa.**
 - It allows large multinationals (need not be a US company) - with operations across various countries - to **shift employees in specialized positions** on a temporary basis to the US.
- **Types:** There are two types of L1 visas - **L1A and L1B.**
 - **Managers and executives** come under the category of L1As while L1Bs **encompass workers** with specialized knowledge.
- **Key features:** There is **no education requirement** for the L1 visa.
 - L-1A visa holders are **allowed a maximum stay of seven years** in the U.S while s L-1B visa holders are allowed a maximum stay of five years.

FSSAI to assess WHO rules on sweeteners

Suneera Tandon

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NEW DELHI

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) said it would look at the impact of non-sugar sweeteners on the Indian population via an expert panel and engage with stakeholders before concluding any adverse effects of such additives used in foods and beverages.

FSSAI's comments follow news reports that said aspartame, a commonly used artificial sweetener, is set to be declared as a possible carcinogen by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), the cancer research arm of the World Health Organization (WHO).

"We will look at the Indian perspective. We really don't have to go with what the world says. A lot of recommendations keep coming out. We have to look at the Indian population...then only we will take the decision," H.S. Oberoi, an adviser at the Food Safety and



In May, WHO said the long-term use of non-sugar sweeteners to control body weight may pose potential undesirable effects

(FSSAI), said while addressing a panel at an industry event in the capital on Thursday.

Oberoi said a panel set up by the FSSAI "is deliberating on that aspect". "WHO had come out with a paper saying non-sugar sweeteners are not linked to weight management, and now the second bombshell was that aspartame can cause cancer. We have with us

Shashank Joshi, a well-known endocrinologist...we are discussing it. The studies have to be done comprehensively before coming out with any kind of information or data. We don't have to ape the West or ape the East when India itself today is in a powerful situation. So we are working on what the Indian population looks at, what is the effect of

sugar sweeteners on the Indian population. We do take the Indian data into consideration before we set out any standards," he added.

FSSAI has a "very sturdy and robust" mechanism of setting standards, he said. "Whether it is carbonated beverages or non-carbonated beverages, we take stakeholders into consultation...Before setting any standards or thresholds limits, we go for larger stakeholder consultation then only we arrive at a certain conclusion that too which has scientific evidence," he said. Aspartame is a common additive used in diet beverages and even some foods and candies. In May, the World Health Organization (WHO) also released guidelines on non-sugar sweeteners (NSS) that recommended against the use of NSS to control body weight or reduce the risk of noncommunicable diseases. In fact, long-term use of NSS may pose potential undesirable effects such as an increased risk of type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular diseases,

Context: Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) would look at the impact of non-sugar sweeteners on the Indian population via an expert panel and engage with stakeholders before concluding any adverse effects of such additives used in foods and beverages.

- **Aspartame, a commonly used artificial sweetener**, is set to be declared as a possible carcinogen by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), the cancer research arm of the World Health Organization (WHO).
- WHO had come out with a **paper saying non sugar sweeteners are not linked to weight management**, and now the second bombshell was that aspartame can cause cancer.

Aspartame

- Aspartame was discovered in 1879, which is one of the **most common sweeteners**, and it was found to be about 200 times sweeter than sugar.
- Aspartame is a **dipeptide methyl ester**, and it is named as aspartyl phenylalanine-1-methyl ester.
- It is a **commonly used tabletop sweetener** and one of the advantages of aspartame is that it is also used in a wide variety of foods.
- When heated, it **breaks down into amino acids** and loses its sweetness.
- So it cannot be used for baked foods.
- It is **only used in soft drinks and cold foods** as it becomes unstable at cooking temperature.

FARMERS DISTRESS INDEX

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Agriculture)

Explainer: What is the Farmers Distress Index?

The index will try to anticipate this distress and prevent its spread from a few farmers to the village or block level



NEXT NEWS >

By Shagun
Published: Thursday 06 July 2023



- Based on these 21 questions, the degree of distress will be identified.
 - The index will have values from 0-1.
 - A value between 0-0.5 will indicate 'low distress', 0.5-0.7 will indicate 'moderate' distress and above 0.7 will indicate 'severe' distress.
- These different agencies can then carry out interventions to prevent income shocks to farmers depending on the severity of distress.
- The current solutions that are being thought upon are direct money transfer, mid-term release of claims under government's crop insurance scheme (**Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, PMFBY**) in case of crop failures, providing work under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, enhanced rationing under Public Distribution System, among others may alleviate farmer's distress.

Context: In 2022, the Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA), an institution under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) started working on a kind of an early warning system called '**farmers distress index**', a first of its kind for India.

- The main aim behind creating such an index is **to minimise the agrarian distress** in the form of crop loss / failure and income shock.

Key Points

- The index will **try to anticipate this distress and prevent its spread from a few farmers** to the village or block level by pre-warning different stakeholders, including central, state, local and also non-government agencies about the future occurrence of farmers distress in a particular block / district so that they can take timely preventive measures.
- The first step will be to **scour through local newspapers**, other news platforms and social media platforms for any report on incidence of farmers distress like localised cases of issues with debt repayment, death by suicide, pest attacks, drought, floods, migration, among others.
- Following this, contacts of marginal and small farmers or tenant farmers from the area will be collected to conduct telephonic interviews, which will have **21 standardised questions to gauge early signs of distress**.
- The answers will be **mapped against seven indicators**:
 - Exposure to droughts, floods, crop failure due to pest attacks, livestock deaths
 - Debt
 - Adaptive capacity of farmer and local government through different schemes
 - Land holding and irrigation facilities
 - Sensitivity, mitigation and adaptation strategies like growing of contingency crops if main crop fails
 - Triggers for immediate distress like health-related expenditure
 - Socio-psychological factors and impacts.

Guv Holds SEC Responsible for Bengal Violence

Calls Rajiva Sinha 'responsible for death of democracy' during panchayat elections

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Kolkata: West Bengal governor CV Ananda Bose has accused State Election Commissioner Rajiva Sinha of 'failure in discharging his du-

ties'. "When Bengal expects you to do your duty, SEC has failed... You are knee deep in sin and no holy water to dip in," the governor alleged at a news conference in Kolkata on Thursday. It is highly unusual for a governor to hold a news conference.

Bose held Sinha responsible for failing to control violence in the state ahead of the panchayat elections. Bose said SEC has 'failed Bengal.'

"We put up a fence to guard crops. But what do we do when the fence eats the crops? ... If democracy is dead during panchayat elections, who is the killer? ... will the State Election Commissioner

Mr SEC, Bengal expects to do your duty. Have you done your duty? Do you know what your duty is? I appointed you as SEC, but you disappointed people. You have failed in your duty and you have failed Bengal. You have no time to listen to the people

CV ANANDA BOSE
WEST BENGAL GOVERNOR IN
A NEWS CONFERENCE

please raise his hand? You should know who the killer is," Bose alleged.

"Mr SEC, Bengal expects to do your duty. Have you done your duty? Do you know what your duty is? I appointed you as SEC, but you disappointed people. You have failed in your duty and you have failed Bengal. You have no time to listen to the people," Bose alleged.

"I went to the battlefield, where innocence was butchered. People rely on you; people say, 'please protect our lives'," the governor said on his visit to violence-hit Bhangar, Canning and Coochbehar. "I heard groans of children whose parents were killed."

Context: West Bengal governor has accused **State Election Commissioner of 'failure in discharging his duties'**

- The Governor held him **responsible for failing to control violence** in the state ahead of the panchayat elections.

State Election Commission

- The Constitution of India vests in the **State Election Commission, consisting of a State Election Commissioner**, the superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of electoral rolls for, and the conduct of all elections to the Panchayats and the Municipalities (Articles 243K, 243ZA).
- The State Election Commissioner is **appointed by the Governor**.
- As per **article 243(C3)**, the Governor, when so requested by the State Election Commission, make available to the State Election Commission such staff as may be necessary for the discharge of the functions conferred on the SEC.
- **Courts cannot interfere in the conduct of polls** to local bodies and self-government institutions once the electoral process has been set in motion.
- **Article 243-O of the Constitution** bars interference in poll matters set in motion by the SECs; Article 329 bars interference in such matters set in motion by the EC.
- Only after the polls are over can the SECs' decisions or conduct be **questioned through an election petition**.
- These powers enjoyed by the SECs are the same as those by the EC.

Collegium proposes new Chief Justices for 7 High Courts

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Collegium has focussed on the traditional criteria of seniority, regional representation and the need for more women judges at the helm of judiciary while recommending new Chief Justices to seven major High Courts across the country.

The Collegium led by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud has proposed Chief Justices to fill existing and future vacancies to the High Courts of Kerala, Orissa, Manipur, Andhra Pradesh, Bombay, Telangana and Gujarat.

The Collegium has suggested Gujarat High Court judge Justice Ashish J. Desai as the new Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court. It has recommended Justice Subhasis Talapatra to helm the Orissa High Court, upon the retirement of the incumbent Justice S. Muralidhar, in August 2023. While Justice Siddharth Mridul has been recom-



mended for appointment as the Manipur Chief Justice, Justice Dhiraj Singh Thakur, who was earlier recommended for the post, will now become the Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh High Court.

The Collegium also recommended Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Bombay.

While Justice Sunita Agarwal has been recommended as Gujarat Chief Justice, which will make her the only woman Chief Justice of a High Court at present in the country, Justice Alok Aradhe has been proposed for elevation as Telangana Chief Justice.

Context: The Collegium led by Chief Justice of India has proposed Chief Justices to fill existing and future vacancies to the High Courts of Kerala, Orissa, Manipur, Andhra Pradesh, Bombay, Telangana and Gujarat.

Appointment Of HC Judges

- **Article 217:** It deals with the appointment of High Court judges.
 - It says a judge should be **appointed by the President** after consultation with the CJI and the Governor of the state.
 - The **Chief Justice of the High Court concerned** too should be consulted.
- **Consultation Process:**
 - **High Court judges are recommended by a Collegium** made up of the Chief Justice of India and the two most senior judges.
 - However, the proposal is initiated by the concerned High Court's Chief Justice after consulting with two of his or her most senior colleagues.
 - The **Chief Minister receives the recommendation** and recommends the Governor to forward it onto the Union Law Minister.
 - According to the practice of having Chief Justices from outside the individual States, the Chief Justice of the High Court is appointed.
 - The **Collegium makes the decision on the elevation.**

Collegium System

- It is a system under which appointments and transfers of judges are decided by a forum of the Chief Justice of India and the four senior-most judges of the Supreme Court.
- It has **not been mentioned in the Indian Constitution.**
- The Collegium of the Supreme Court consists of 5 senior most Judges including the Chief Justice of India.
- They will consider the elevation of Chief Justices/Judges of High Court to Supreme Court, elevation of Judges of High Courts as Chief Justices and elevation of Judges. In case of difference of opinion, the **majority view will prevail.**
- Since the Constitution mandates consultation with the Chief Justice of India is necessary for appointments to the judiciary, the collegium model evolved.

Secretary, DARPG V. Srinivas launches today the third edition of the National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment (NeSDA) portal www.nesda.gov.in

Context: Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) has developed NeSDA framework with an overall objective to measure the depth and effectiveness of existing e-Governance service delivery mechanisms from the citizen's perspective.

Key Points

- The Department has successfully released 2 editions of NeSDA study, viz., **NeSDA 2019 and NeSDA 2021.**
- **NeSDA framework**, launched in August 2018, was conceptualized with an overall objective to measure the depth and effectiveness of existing e-Governance service delivery mechanisms.
- The framework covers six sectors, viz. **Finance, Labour & Employment, Education, Local Government & Utilities, Social Welfare (including Agriculture & Health) and Environment (including Fire) sectors.**
- Improvement in the country's e-Governance landscape due to last 2 editions of NESDA study may be **summarized in the following key takeaways:**
 - Increase in e-Service Delivery
 - Rise in use of Integrated / Centralized Portals for delivery of e-Services
 - Improvement across assessment parameter scores
- DARPG undertakes NeSDA study **biennially.**
- This study assesses States, Union Territories (UTs), and focus Central Ministries on the effectiveness of **e-Governance service delivery.**
- NeSDA helps the respective governments **improve their delivery of citizen centric services** and shares best practices across the country for all States, UTs and Central Ministries to emulate.

FIRST IIT CAMPUS ABROAD; SET TO OPEN IN OCTOBER

India signs MoU with Tanzania to set up IIT Madras campus

ISHITA ROY
NEW DELHI, JULY 6

SETTING THE ball rolling for IIT Madras's global campus to start operations this year, India signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Tanzania on Thursday to establish the first IIT branch abroad, in Tanzania.

The IIT Tanzania campus is expected to open in October this year, welcoming 50 undergraduate and 20 master's students in its first batch.

The agreement on Thursday was signed between the Union Ministry of Education, IIT Madras and Tanzania's Ministry of

Education and Vocational Training Zanzibar. In a tweet on Thursday, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar thanked President of Zanzibar Hussein Ali Mwinyi for being present during the MOU signing, which he said reflects "India's commitment to the Global South."

Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan tweeted, "The initiative is an embodiment of PM @narendramodi's commitment to strengthen South-South cooperation as well as forge stronger people-to-people ties with Africa."

IIT Madras is expected to launch four undergraduate and five postgraduate programmes



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Zanzibar President Hussein Ali Mwinyi at the signing of the agreement on the IIT Madras campus in Zanzibar on Thursday. ANI

from the Zanzibar campus. While IIT Madras will have the last word on academic programmes, curricula and student selection criteria,

the capital and operating expenditure will be met by the government of Zanzibar-Tanzania, the MEA said in a statement.

Students graduating from this campus will be awarded IIT Madras degrees.

Besides Tanzania, two more global campuses of IIT Delhi and IIT Kharagpur are set to come up in Abu Dhabi and Kuala Lumpur.

In an earlier interview with The Indian Express, IIT Madras director V Kamakoti had said that IIT Tanzania will be a branch of IIT Madras. "Our criteria for establishing campuses abroad include demand for an IIT in the country, support from the host government, and a strong school education system that cultivates talented candidates," Kamakoti had said. "Tanzania meets all three requirements, with an exceptional

education system and the potential to attract outstanding candidates. We anticipate that IIT Tanzania will draw students from across Africa."

Asked about the programmes, he said, "The campus will offer Bachelor of Science (BSc) degrees in Data Science and AI (Artificial Intelligence), along with M. Tech programs in Energy Systems and Cyber-Physical Systems."

In its statement, the MEA said, "The state-of-the-art interdisciplinary degrees are expected to attract a diverse cohort and will include students from Africa and other countries as well. Indian students are also eligible to apply to these programs."

Context: India signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with Tanzania to establish the first IIT branch abroad, in Tanzania.

- The campus is expected to open in October 2023, welcoming 50 undergraduate and 20 master's students in its first batch.
- Apart from Tanzania, **two more global campuses of IIT Delhi and IIT Kharagpur** are set to come up in Abu Dhabi and Kuala Lumpur.

Tanzania

- Tanzania is a country in **East Africa** within the African Great Lakes region.
- It **borders** Uganda to the north; Kenya to the northeast; Comoro Islands and the Indian Ocean to the east; Mozambique and Malawi to the south; Zambia to the southwest; and Rwanda, Burundi, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the west.
- **Mount Kilimanjaro**, Africa's highest mountain, is in northeastern Tanzania.
- **Three of Africa's Great Lakes** are partly within Tanzania. To the north and west lie Lake Victoria, Africa's largest lake, and Lake Tanganyika, the continent's deepest lake, known for its unique species of fish. To the south lies Lake Malawi.



IN-USN SALVAGE AND EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL EXERCISE - SALVEX

Context: The 7th edition of **Indian Navy - US Navy (IN – USN) Salvage and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD)** exercise, SALVEX was conducted from 26 Jun - 06 Jul 23 at Kochi.

- IN and USN have been participating in **joint Salvage and EOD exercises since 2005.**

Key Points

- The exercise saw **participation from both the navies** which included the ships - INS Nireekshak and USNS Salvor in addition to Specialist Diving and EOD teams.
- The Diving teams of both the countries shared **experiences on Maritime Salvage** and trained together in various facets of EOD Operations on land as well at sea.
- SALVEX also saw conduct of **joint training exercises** towards enhancing interoperability, cohesiveness and gaining from best practices mutually in Maritime Salvage and EOD operations.
- The **constructive engagements** on operational terms enhanced the skill-sets of the Diving teams in a number of diverse disciplines such as mine detection and neutralisation, wreck location and salvage.

Other Exercises between India and the USA

- **Exercise Tiger Triumph** (Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief exercise)
- **Cope India** (Air Force).
- **Malabar Exercise** (Quadrilateral naval exercise of India, USA, Japan and Australia).
- **Red Flag** (US' multilateral air exercise).
- **Exercise Vajra Prahar** (India - USA Joint Special Forces).

NGT has imposed a fine of about 80,000 crore so far on states for not disposing of sewage and garbage

If this amount was to be deposited by the states, it would be 48% more than the CAMPA fund.



NEXT NEWS >

By Vivek Mishra
Published: Thursday 06 July 2023



Activities utilizing CAMPA Funds



Compensatory Afforestation



Catchment Area Treatment



Wildlife Management



Assisted Natural Regeneration



Forest Fire Prevention & Control Operations



Soil & Moisture Conservation Works in the Forest



Improvement of Wildlife Habitat



Management of Biological Diversity & Biological Resources



Research in Forestry



Monitoring of CAMPA works

Context: The **National Green Tribunal (NGT)** has so far imposed fines of about Rs 80,000 crore on states and Union territories (UT) for non-compliance of sewage treatment and garbage disposal rules and for violating orders.

- If this amount was to be deposited by the states, it would be **48% more than the CAMPA fund**.
- For decades, a **total of Rs 54,000 crore was accumulated in CAMPA through forestry compensation**, which is being released to the states since 2015 for works like tree plantation.

CAMPA Funds

- **About:** Establishment in 2004, the Ministry of Environment and Forests constituted the **Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA)** to oversee and manage the Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF) as directed by the Supreme Court.
 - **CAMPA Act or Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act** is an Indian legislation that seeks to provide an appropriate institutional mechanism, both at the Centre and in each State and Union Territory, to **ensure expeditious utilisation in efficient and transparent manner of amounts** released in lieu of forest land diverted for non-forest purpose which would mitigate impact of diversion of such forest land.
- **Objectives:** The Funds are meant to **promote afforestation and regeneration activities** as a way of compensating for forest land diverted to non-forest uses.
- **Advisory Council:** **National CAMPA Advisory Council** has been established with the following mandate:
 - **Lay down broad guidelines** for State CAMPA.
 - **Facilitate scientific, technological and other assistance** that may be required by State CAMPA.
 - Make **recommendations to State CAMPA** based on a review of their plans and programmes.
 - **Provide a mechanism** to State CAMPA to resolve issues of an inter-state or Centre-State character.

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