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MK Yadav Sir

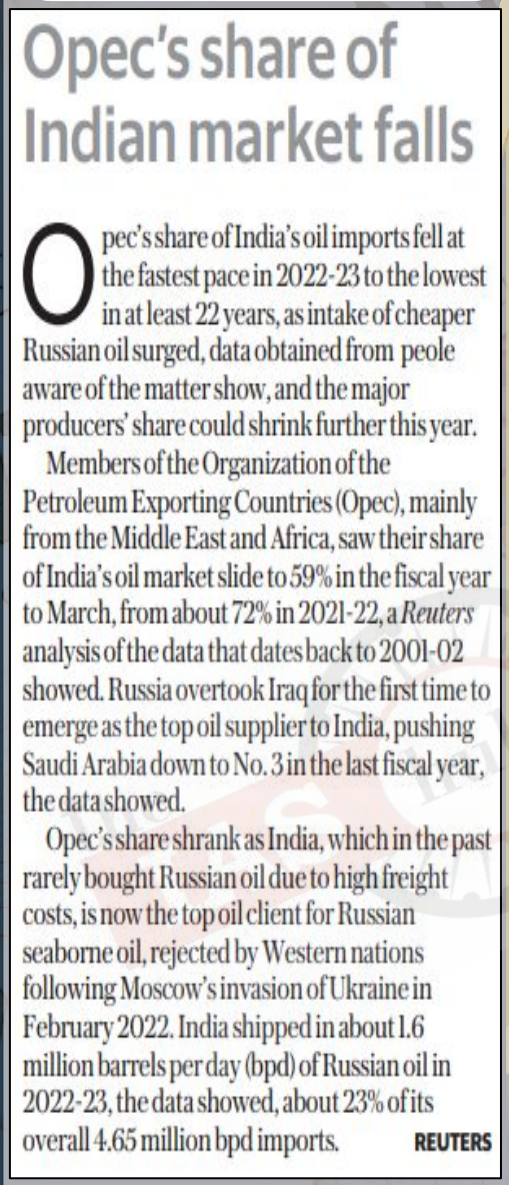
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LIVE MINT Page 25

INDIA'S OIL IMPORTS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)



Opec's share of Indian market falls

Opec's share of India's oil imports fell at the fastest pace in 2022-23 to the lowest in at least 22 years, as intake of cheaper Russian oil surged, data obtained from peole aware of the matter show, and the major producers' share could shrink further this year.

Members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec), mainly from the Middle East and Africa, saw their share of India's oil market slide to 59% in the fiscal year to March, from about 72% in 2021-22, a *Reuters* analysis of the data that dates back to 2001-02 showed. Russia overtook Iraq for the first time to emerge as the top oil supplier to India, pushing Saudi Arabia down to No. 3 in the last fiscal year, the data showed.

Opec's share shrank as India, which in the past rarely bought Russian oil due to high freight costs, is now the top oil client for Russian seaborne oil, rejected by Western nations following Moscow's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. India shipped in about 1.6 million barrels per day (bpd) of Russian oil in 2022-23, the data showed, about 23% of its overall 4.65 million bpd imports. REUTERS

Context: OPEC's share of India's oil imports fell at the fastest pace in 2022/23 to the lowest in at least 22 years, as intake of cheaper Russian oil surged.

- Members of the **Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC),** mainly from the Middle East and Africa, saw their share of India's oil market slide to 59% in the fiscal year to March 2023, from about 72% in 2021/22.
- **Russia overtook Iraq** for the first time to emerge as the top oil supplier to India, pushing Saudi Arabia down to No. 3 in the last fiscal year.

Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries

- **About:** A permanent, intergovernmental organization, created at the **Baghdad Conference** in September 1960.
- **Membership: Open to any country** that is a substantial exporter of oil.
  - **Founding member:** Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.
  - **Current Members**: Algeria, Angola, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Venezuela.
    - **India is not a member.**
- **OPEC Secretariat:** Located in Vienna.
  - OPEC had its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, in the first five years of its existence.
  - This was moved to Vienna, Austria, on September 1, 1965.
- **Objective:** To **coordinate and unify petroleum policies** among Member Countries, in order to secure fair and stable prices for petroleum producers.
- **Functions**: The OPEC Member Countries **adjust their oil productions activities** in order to bring stability to the petroleum market and help manufacturers get a good return on their investments.

OPEC Plus

- **About: Non-OPEC countries** which export crude oil are termed as OPEC plus countries.
- **Aim/objective**: To **manage the supply of oil** in an effort to set the price of oil in the world market, in order to avoid fluctuations that might affect the economies of both producing and purchasing countries.
- **Current members**: Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brunei, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Oman, Russia, South Sudan and Sudan.
  - **India is not a member.**

BUSINESS STANDARD

Page 4

CSR EXPENDITURE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

FY22 CSR spend near target, thanks to white knights

SACHIN P MAMPATTA
Mumbai, 24 April

Companies that pushed the envelope of charitable spending beyond legal requirements helped take the aggregate CSR (corporate social responsibility) expenditure by all listed companies closer to the cumulative mandatory amount in 2021-22.

Overall, CSR spending was ₹14,558 crore in FY22, just short of the cumulative mandated spending of ₹14,594 crore, according to figures collated by tracker primeinfobase.com. But many companies were found to be deficient in meeting their minimum CSR spending requirements.

The aggregate shortfall on account of companies that did not meet minimum charitable spending requirements was ₹1,513 crore in FY22. But excess spending of ₹1,477 crore by some companies that spent more than the required amount helped nearly bridge the gap.

Firms, according to the Companies Act, are required to spend 2 per cent of profit on CSR projects. The national portal for CSR spends has the data only until FY21. The FY22 numbers mentioned above are collated from the annual reports of 1,278 companies. The number of companies has varied between 1,000 and 1,300 depending on the year under consideration. This is because more companies have attained the size that makes CSR spending mandatory. The current aggregate shortfall on account of those not meeting CSR requirements was equivalent to 10.4 per cent of the mandated amount – most since FY19 when there was a shortfall of 11.3 per cent. Previous years, too, witnessed high shortfalls as companies put together operational mechanisms to execute CSR programmes after they became mandatory in FY15. The FY22 figure is still 0.4 per cent less than ₹14,615 crore spent on CSR activities in FY21 and ₹14,840 crore in FY20.

EYE on CSR
PART–II

Also, the nature of spending has changed since the Covid-19 pandemic. Companies have increased the share of capital they allocate towards segments that may help alleviate the effects of Covid-19. These sections include spending on countering hunger and poverty, health care and sanitation, education and employment, disaster management, and government relief funds.

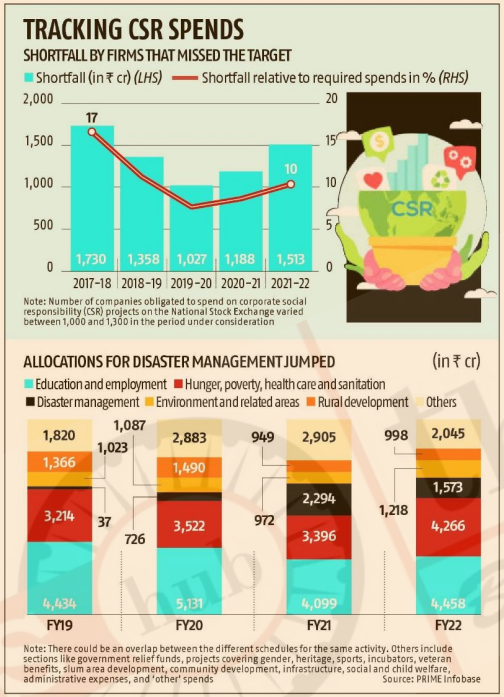
Pandemic-related segments saw their share in allocations rise from 65.7 per cent in FY19 to 76.4 per cent in FY22.

Other areas that were not considered directly affected by the pandemic saw a decline in their share of CSR allocations: Gender equality, rural development, sports, environment, arts and culture, benefits for veterans and their dependents, and other similar areas, witnessed their pie shrinking from 34.3 per cent to 23.6 per cent.

The following years are likely to see a shift in spending patterns, according to Shriram Subramanian, founder and managing director of domestic proxy advisor InGovern Research Services. "In 2021-22, Covid-19 related spend was there.... that wasn't there in FY23," he said.

CSR spending is being tracked now because of increased focus on a company's environmental, social and governance (ESG) scores, according to Amit Tandon, founder and managing director of proxy advisory firm Institutional Investor Advisory Services India (IiAS). Companies are also taking a longer-term view of how they choose their priorities, moving towards fulfilling larger goals like rural education, rather than focusing on specific tasks like building a school.

"It has moved from projects to programmes," he said.



Context: Companies that pushed the envelope of charitable spending beyond legal requirements helped take the aggregate **CSR (corporate social responsibility) expenditure** by all listed companies closer to the cumulative mandatory amount in 2021-22.

- Many companies were found to be **deficient in meeting their minimum CSR spending** requirements.

Corporate social responsibility (CSR) spending

- **About**: The Corporate Social Responsibility concept in India is governed by **Section 135 and Schedule VII of the Companies Act, 2013** and Companies (CSR Policy) Rules, 2014.
  - As per the **Companies (Amendment) Act, 2019,**CSR is applicable to companies before completion of 3 financial years.
  - Companies are required to spend, in every financial year, **at least 2% of their average net profits** generated during the 3 immediately preceding financial years.
  - For companies that have not completed 3 financial years, average net profits generated in the preceding financial years shall be factored in.
  - The CSR activities in India **should not be undertaken in the normal course of business** and must be with respect to any of the 17 activities of CSR mentioned in Schedule VII of the act.
- **Criteria**: The Companies Act has made it **mandatory** for certain corporations to undertake CSR activities. The Act requires companies with:
  - (a) a net worth of INR 5 billion (500 crore) or more or;
  - (b) An annual turnover of INR 10 billion (1000 crore) or more or;
  - (c) Net profit of INR 50 million (5 crore) or more, to spend 2% of their average net profits of 3 years on CSR.
    - Prior to that, the **CSR clause was voluntary for companies,** though it was mandatory to disclose their CSR spending to shareholders.
- **CSR Committee:** Every company to which CSR criteria are applicable shall constitute a **Corporate Social Responsibility Committee.**
  - The CSR Committee should **consist of 3 or more directors,** with at least 1 independent director.
  - The activities to be undertaken under CSR are prescribed by the Government in **Schedule VII of the Companies Act.**

NARCL
(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

NARCL acquires ₹21,000 crore of stressed loans till March 2023

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, APRIL 24

NATIONAL ASSET Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL) has aggregated debt of around Rs 21,000 crore till March 2023, through acquisition of three stressed loans.

NARCL, or the bad bank, has been set up as part of the resolution of stressed loans in the banking system.

"NARCL has till March 2023, aggregated debt amounting to Rs 21,000 crore through their 3 acquisitions. 23 offers amounting to Rs 1,21,223 crore have been made by NARCL to date," according to a release by State Bank of India.

In January this year, Jaypee Infratech became the first large stressed account to be transferred to NARCL by lenders led by IDBI Bank. The company was among the 12 large accounts referred by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to the National Company Law tribunal (NCLT) in 2017.

In January, Jaypee Infratech became the first large stressed account to be transferred to NARCL by lenders. The company was among the 12 large accounts referred by the RBI

The total exposure of all the banks to Jaypee Infratech was over Rs 9,000 crore and IDBI Bank's exposure stood at Rs 3,750 crore.

NARCL, through its resolution agent, India Debt Resolution Company Ltd. (IDRCL), will focus on the resolution of the accounts acquired and is in constant dialogue with the lenders for the new acquisitions, which activity is expected to increase in FY24, the release said.

The setting up of the bad bank was announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Budget 2021-22. It acquires assets on a 15:85 ratio of cash and security receipts (SRs). SRs, which are issued in favour of the transferring lenders, are secured by government guarantee for its face value.

IDRCL is a service company which manages the asset and engages market professionals and turnaround experts.

Context: National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL) has aggregated debt of around Rs 21,000 crore till March 2023, through acquisition of three stressed loans. NARCL, or the bad bank, has been set up as part of the resolution of stressed loans in the banking system.

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- It acquires assets on a 15:85 ratio of cash and **security receipts (SRs)**.
    - SRs, which are **issued in favour of the transferring lenders**, are secured by government guarantee for its face value.

NARCL

- **About**: Setting up of NARCL, the **proposed bad bank for taking over stressed assets of lenders,** was announced in the Budget for 2021-22.
    - The plan is to create a bad bank to house bad loans of ₹500 crore and above, in a structure that will contain an **asset reconstruction company (ARC)** and an **asset management company (AMC)** to manage and recover dud assets.
    - The new entity is being created in collaboration with both **public and private sector banks.**
    - Majority-owned by state-owned banks, the NARCL will be assisted by the **India Debt Resolution Company Ltd (IDRCL)**, in turn majority-owned by private banks, in resolution process in the form of a Principal-Agent basis.
- **Different from existing Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC):**
    - The proposed bad bank have a **public sector character** since the idea is mooted by the government and majority ownership is likely to rest with state-owned banks.
    - At present, ARCs typically seek a steep **discount on loans.**
    - With the proposed bad bank being set up, the valuation issue is unlikely to come up since this is a **government initiative.**
    - The **government-backed ARC** will have deep pockets to buy out big accounts and thus free up banks from carrying these accounts on their books.

ECONOMIC TIMES

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C BAND SPECTRUM

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Infrastructure)

Broadcasting Body Seeks MIB Intervention over C-band Auction

Claims opening this spectrum band for 5G, 6G services will disrupt TV broadcasting sector

Javed.Farooqui
@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: The Indian Broadcasting & Digital Foundation (IBDF) has requested the government against auctioning spectrum in the C-band (3,700-4,200 MHz) since the same has been allocated for broadcasting services, and opening this band for 5G, 6G services will disrupt the TV broadcasting sector due to the likely interference of terrestrial transmissions with the satellite signals.

"We implore the government not to auction 3,700 MHz to 4,200 MHz band by virtue of the sanctity seemingly granted under NFAP-2018 to prevent complete decimation of the cable & satellite industry and the millions of TV consumers/viewers," IBDF president and head of Disney Star K Madhavan said in a letter to the ministry of information and broadcasting (MIB).

In the letter, which has also been copied to the Department of Telecommunications and Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai), the IBDF president has also sought a meeting with the MIB for a detailed deliberation on the matter.

He further stated that the interference generated by 5G, 6G services in the C-band will impact thousands of cable TV headends across the country.

He added that the disruption in satellite signals will impact millions of consumers across the country, particularly in rural India.

"Most of the homes impacted will be in the middle- or lower-income groups, for whom TV is the only, and the most reasonable form of entertainment, information dissemination and education available," he stated.

The IBDF president contended that compromising the C-Band spectrum, being used by the broadcast industry, is not feasible since the spectrum used by the satellites is an orbitally designated spectrum and is not owned by the government of India for auction. He added that the frequencies for each orbital location are coordinated by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and allocable by respective satellites.

"The Govt of India via WPC is a signatory to the ITU and is required to follow all procedures for coordination of all orbital locations and all frequencies used at each respective orbital location. Govt of India cannot allocate the users which use these satellite bands," he added.

Madhavan stated that the government cannot allocate the users who use these satellite bands as the satellite operators sign up the users for the use of the satellite under the Open Skies policies for the use of C-band.

"The contracts are signed directly between the broadcasters/ teleport operators and are paid for in foreign exchange. The Govt of India cannot either encroach on the frequency of these ITU coordinated satellite operators, nor assign any specific users who will use these frequencies," he said.

He also stated that the terrestrial auction of these bands will violate ITU commitments as satellite operators have been granted the right to use an orbital spectrum on a no-interference basis.

Madhavan said the broadcasting sector, unlike the telecom sector, does not avail any exclusive access to scarce spectrum.

He argued that granting frequency bands up to 3,800 MHz for 5G/6G services will result in over 20 Indian and Foreign satellites over India losing more than 60% of their available capacity.

Spectrum Battle

Interference generated by 5G, 6G services in C-band will impact cable TV: IBDF

C-band: 3700 to 4200 MHz

Broadcasters' body claims middle-, lower-income groups to be affected the most

IBDF president seeks meeting with MIB for detailed deliberation on the matter

Spectrum used by satellites is orbitally designated spectrum, not owned by govt, says IBDF

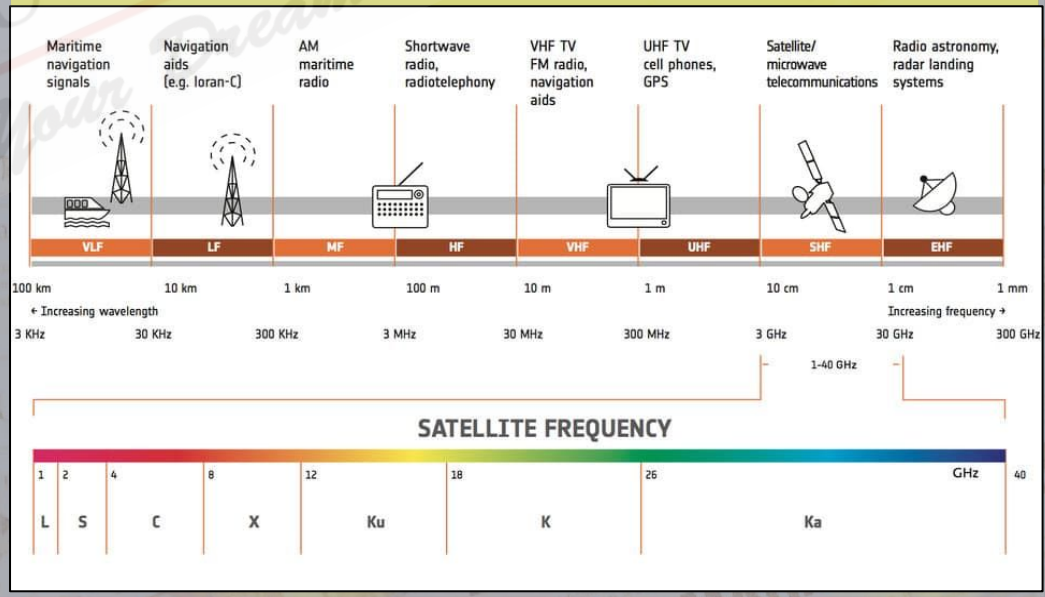


Context: The **Indian Broadcasting & Digital Foundation (IBDF)** has requested the government against **auctioning spectrum in the C-band** (3,700-4,200 MHz) since the same has been allocated for broadcasting services, and opening this band for 5G, 6G services will disrupt the TV broadcasting sector due to the likely interference of terrestrial transmissions with the satellite signals.

- The IBDF has also sought a meeting with the **ministry of information and broadcasting (MIB)** for a detailed deliberation on the matter.

C Band Spectrum

- **About**: The C band is a designation by the **Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)** for a portion of the electromagnetic spectrum in the microwave range of frequencies **ranging from 4.0 to 8.0 gigahertz (GHz).**
  - However, this definition is the one **used by radar manufacturers and users**, not necessarily by microwave radio telecommunications users.
- **Usage**: The C band (4 to 8 GHz) is **used for many satellite communications transmissions**, some Wi-Fi devices, some cordless telephones as well as some surveillance and weather radar systems.



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LAUNDROMATS COUNTRIES

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Infrastructure)

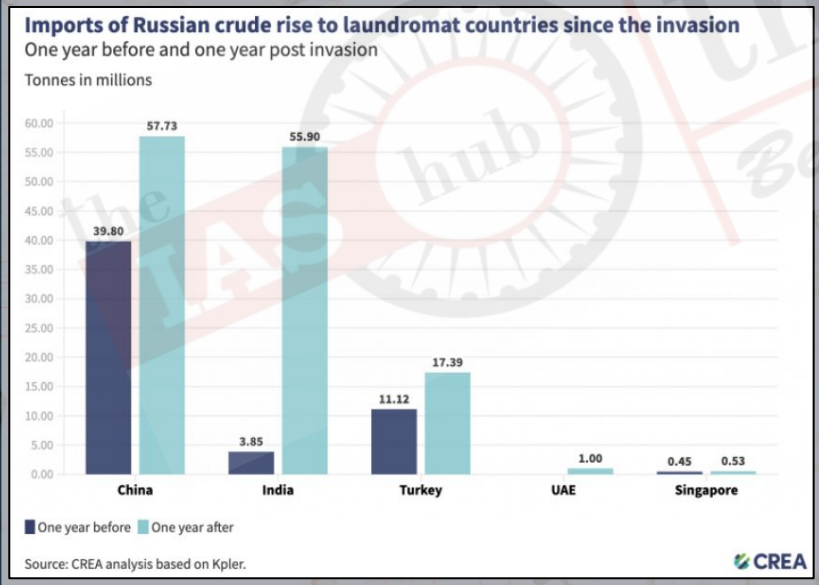
Oil hypocrisy: Countries that imposed crude oil sanctions on Russia used India, others as 'laundromats' for refined products

Two Gujarat ports exported the highest seaborne refined oil to Price Cap Coalition countries

NEXT NEWS >

By Seema Prasad
Published: Monday 24 April 2023





Context: Countries that banned **Russian oil imports** instead imported oil commodities worth €42 billion from India, China, United Arab Emirates, Singapore and Turkey after the war started on February 24, 2022, therefore classifying them as **laundromats**, according to Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA) study.

Key Points

- The **five countries were thus identified as 'laundromats'** for Western countries that banned imports of seaborne Russian-origin crude oil after the Ukraine invasion.
    - The five countries are responsible for 70 percent of Russia's crude oil exports.
- The **Price Cap Coalition comprising Australia, Canada, the European Union, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States** imposed a maximum price of $60 a barrel of oil transported by vessels owned or insured by some countries in the alliance to third-party countries, with the intention to dent Russia's financing of the war.
- The **EU was the largest importer of oil products** from the laundromat countries worth €17.7 billion, despite partially banning crude oil imports from Russia last year.
- **India emerged as the leading exporter of refined oil products** at 3.7 million tonnes to Price Cap Coalition countries in 2022, the report showed.
    - This was followed by China at three million tonnes and the United Arab Emirates at 2.9 million tonnes, the report noted.
- While the **Indian port of Sikka** recorded the highest amount of exports to the price cap coalition countries, the **port of Vadinar**, also on the west coast of Gujarat, followed as a close second.

THE HINDU Page 12

KESAVANANDA BHARATI CASE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Polity & Governance)

Demystifying Kesavananda Bharati case, webpage delves deep into history

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India (CJI) D.Y. Chandrachud on Monday announced that the Supreme Court has created a special webpage for the Kesavananda Bharati case in which a 13-judge Bench, the largest constituted in the court's history, through a wafer-thin majority of 7:6, held that Parliament cannot amend the "Basic Structure" of the Constitution.

The webpage, the CJI said, would host the complete submissions, petitions and judgments in the historic case, also called the Fundamental Rights case. The CJI had recently compared the "Basic Structure" of the Constitution to the "North Star", an unfailing guide which shows the way when the path appears convoluted.


Kesavananda Bharati

The webpage dedicated to the 1973 case has been created in the face of recent criticism from high constitutional authorities that the Basic Structure doctrine diluted parliamentary sovereignty.

The Kesavananda Bharati judgment had cropped up during the government's recent criticism of the collegium system of judicial appointments. Law Minister Kiren Rijiju criticised the striking down of the 99th Constitutional Amendment and the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) Act in October 2015.

In the NJAC judgment, the Supreme Court upheld the collegium system and held that the NJAC was an encroachment on judicial independence, a part of the Basic Structure.

The Kesavananda Bharati judgment held that Parliament cannot use its constituent power to alter the essential features of the Constitution. The Basic Structure or framework of the Constitution was its living spirit, holding up the body of its text. Its existence cannot be pinpointed to any particular provision of the text. It was the "soul" of the Constitution.

As an aftermath of the judgment, Justice A.N. Ray, the fourth in line of seniority and who was part of the minority which upheld the unlimited power of Parliament to amend the Constitution, superseded Justices J.M. Shelat, K.S. Hegde and A.N. Grover to become the 14th Chief Justice of India. All three of his colleagues resigned.

A similar supersession followed when Justice H. R. Khanna, after his lone but historic dissent upholding the Fundamental Right to life and personal liberty in the habeas corpus case during the darkest days of Emergency, was overlooked for Chief Justiceship.

Context: Chief Justice of India announced that the Supreme Court has created a special webpage for the **Kesavananda Bharati case** in which a 13-judge Bench, the largest constituted in the court's history, through a wafer-thin majority of 7:6, held that the Parliament cannot amend the 'Basic Structure' of Constitution.

- The webpage would **host the complete submissions, petitions and judgments** in the historic case, also called the Fundamental Rights Case.

Kesavananda Bharati Vs. State of Kerala (1973)

- It involved a **property dispute** which was decided by a special bench of the Supreme Court of India consisting of 13 judges which ruled with a 7–6 majority on 24 April, 1973, that **Article 368 of the constitution** did not provide the Parliament the authority to change the basic structure of the Constitution.
- The Court propounded what has come to be known as the **"Basic Structure of the Constitution"** which could not be abrogated even by a constitutional amendment".

Kesavananda Bharati

- Born in 1940, **Kesavananda Bharati was the head to the Edneer Mutt**, a Hindu monastery in Kasargod, Kerala who **challenged the Constitution (29th Amendment) Act, 1972**, which placed the Kerala Land Reforms Act, 1963 and its amending Act into the 9th Schedule of the Constitution.
- The 9th Schedule was added to the Constitution by the **First Amendment in 1951** along with Article 31-B to provide a "protective umbrella" to land reforms laws in order to prevent them from being challenged in court.
- He argued that this action **violated his fundamental right** to religion (Article 25), freedom of religious denomination (Article 26), and right to property (Article 31).

DTE

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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF SAND MINING

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Env & Eco)

These satellite images of Indian rivers highlight environmental impacts of sand mining

In India, sand mining grew after the rapid urbanisation brought on by the economic liberalisation in the 1990s

KATHAJODI

CUTTACK DISTRICT, ODISHA

Banks of the Kathajodi river, a distributary of the Mahanadi, in Odisha's Cuttack show signs of excessive mining quite close to the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose bridge, the state's longest road bridge. Odisha's law says sand mining projects should take "structural parameters" into account when excavating near hydrological structures. The state, however, does not elaborate what these paramters are, nor does it specify the distance that needs to be kept between mining projects and structures.

NARMADA

SEHORE DISTRICT, MADHYA PRADESH

Madhya Pradesh has banned mechanised sand mining operations, including use of earthmovers, along the Narmada. But images of the riverbank in Sehore district detect earthmovers in at least three locations. The total mining area in this image spans over 50 hectares, which means clearance for projects here, irrespective of individual mine size, must come from the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, as per the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006. However, publicly available details of projects in this area show clearances were given by the state—a violation of central law.

KEN

BANDA DISTRICT, UTTAR PRADESH

The Ken, which originates in Madhya Pradesh, also passes through Uttar Pradesh and merges with the Yamuna in Banda district. Here too, sand mining is marked along a nearly 5-km stretch through presence of trucks, earthmovers and bunds that disrupt the river's natural flow. The resultant ecological imbalance and environmental pollution, such as release of toxins from the damaged river bed, is grounds for premature termination of mining leases, as per state law.

HOOGHLY

HOOGHLY DISTRICT, WEST BENGAL

Sand mining disrupts the natural state of rivers in several ways. For instance, through use of equipment such as suction pumps, which extract large amounts of sand from the riverbed, releasing toxins from under the riverbed into the aquatic food chain and potentially destroying the entire ecosystem. In West Bengal, sand mining on the Hooghly, some 60 km upstream from Kolkata, is seen being done through dredging boats fitted with suction pumps. Although use of these pumps is not specifically prohibited under state law, they may be wreaking havoc in the river's ecology.

SON

ROHTAS DISTRICT, BIHAR

Along with ecological impacts, unregulated sand mining can also threaten structures like bridges and railway tracks. Excessive excavation near them can lead to uncontrolled water that weakens the stability of the structures. Hence, the Centre has set norms to curb mining within 200-500 m of hydrological elements. States have their own guidelines, and some like Bihar allow excavation as close as 50 m from structures. Regions such as Dehri-on-Son show massive bunds near railway tracks and bridges, threatening destabilisation of the structures.

BETWA

HAMIRPUR DISTRICT, UTTAR PRADESH

There is a clear distinction between the natural and disrupted flow of the Betwa river in Hamirpur district of Uttar Pradesh, caused by artificial bunds that spread over a 7-km stretch. Presence of sand trucks and earthmovers near the artificial bunds point to active sand mining operations. Such massive disruption to the natural flow of the river gives rise to several ecological impacts such as migration of aquatic species and adverse changes in the food chain.

YAMUNA

YAMUNA NAGAR DISTRICT, HARYANA

Haryana's mining laws say that no operations are allowed "up to a distance of five times the span of a bridge on up-stream side and ten times the span of such bridge on down-stream side". This means that a 572.9 m-long bridge, as seen in Yamunangar district, should have no excavation activities for at least some 2,864 m upstream (with a longer gap downstream). However, anaylsis of satellite images indicate artificial bunds in multiple points along the region that is to be out of bounds.

Context: Researchers analyses satellite images of rivers across India to highlight the **massive scale of ecological degradation** due to sand mining and the open violation of mining laws.

Key Points

- **Sand is the second most exploited resource** after water and the most mined material globally, as per the UN Environment Programme.
- Its extraction from riverbeds is often done without regard to the adverse impact on natural river ecology.
- In India, **sand mining grew as a large** and, in many cases, illegal industry after the rapid urbanisation brought on by the economic liberalisation in the 1990s.
- While the country has **sand mining laws in place**, a lack of proper implementation and monitoring means that the riverbeds are constantly threatened.

SIPRI REPORT

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Defence Sector)

Global military spend at record high, India 4th

India, overtaken by Russia over the past one year, is now the world's fourth-largest military spender. China continued to spend almost four times and the US more than 10 times its defence budget, as global defence spending grew for the eighth consecutive year to reach an alltime high in 2022, **reports Rajat Pandit.**

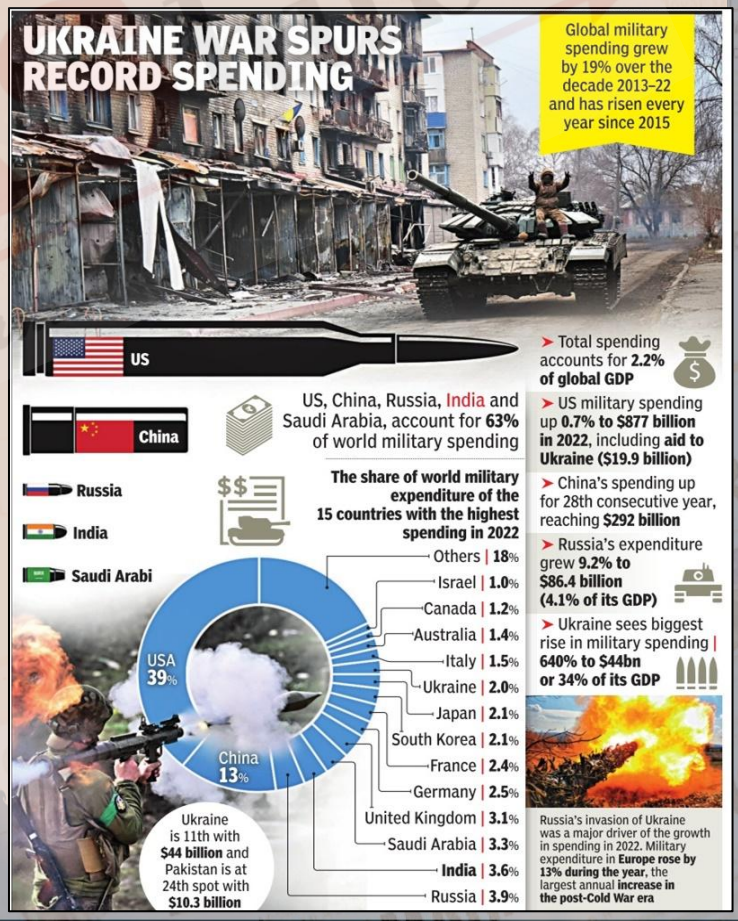
The total global military expenditure rose 3.7% in real terms to reach $2,240 billion in 2022, with Europe registering its steepest year-on-year hike in 30 years due to the Ukraine war, as per the latest data released on Monday by think-tank SIPRI. The top four military spenders are the US ($877 bn), China ($292 bn), Russia ($86.4 bn) and India ($81.4 bn). INSIDE JACKET

Context: India, overtaken by Russia over the past one year, is now the **world's fourth-largest military spender**, as per the latest data released by think-tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

- SIPRI is an **independent international institute** dedicated to research into conflict, armaments, arms control and disarmament.
- **Established in 1966,** SIPRI provides data, analysis and recommendations, based on open sources, to policymakers, researchers, media and the interested public.

Key Points

- **China continued to spend almost four times and the US more than 10 times** its defence budget, as global defence spending grew for the eighth consecutive year to reach an alltime high in 2022.
- The **10 largest military spenders** are the US ($877 billion), China ($292 billion), Russia ($86. 4 billion), India ($81. 4 billion), Saudi Arabia ($75 billion), UK ($68. 5 billion), Germany ($55. 8 billion), France ($53. 6 billion), South Korea ($46. 4 billion) and Japan ($46 billion).
- While the figures for China and Russia are estimates due to lack of transparency, **Ukraine is placed at 11th rank** with $44 billion and Pakistan at 24th spot with $10. 3 billion.
- **Russia was placed 5th in the 2021 list** with a military expenditure of $66 billion but has jumped two places in the 2022 ranking.



PIB April 25

BMD PROGRAM

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Sci & Tech)

PM applauds as DRDO & Indian Navy conduct successful trial of BMD Interceptor from Naval Platform

Context: The Prime Minister has lauded DRDO & Indian Navy Conducting successful trial of **BMD Interceptor** from naval platform.

Key Points

- **DRDO and Indian Navy** successfully conducted a maiden flight trial of a sea-based endo-atmospheric interceptor missile off the coast of Odisha.
- The purpose of the trial was to **engage and neutralize a hostile ballistic missile** threat thereby elevating India into the elite club of Nations having Naval Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) capability.
- Prior to this, DRDO has successfully **demonstrated land-based BMD system** with the capability to neutralize ballistic missile threats, emerging from adversaries.

Indian Ballistic Missile Defence(BMD) Program

- **About**: The Indian Ballistic Missile Defence Program is an **initiative to develop and deploy a multi-layered ballistic missile** defence system to protect India from ballistic missile attacks.
- **Origin**: India launched the BMD program **after the Kargil war in 1999** to counter the enemy nation's widening spectrum of ballistic missiles that usually delivered both conventional and nuclear warheads.
- **Two-tiered:**
  - The first layer is the **Prithvi Air Defence** which can intercept and destroy missiles at exo-atmospheric altitudes of 50–180 kilometers. **Pradyumna Ballistic Missile Interceptor** is going to replace the Prithvi air defense.
    - **Exo-atmospheric missiles** are capable of completing missions in the Earth's upper atmosphere.
  - The second layer is the **Advanced Air Defence (AAD) Missile** for lower altitude interception, which is designed to knock down hostile missiles in the endo-atmosphere at altitudes of 15-40 kilometres. **Akash Surface-to-Air Missiles** (SAM) is part of AAD.
    - The **endo-atmospheric missiles** are the ones that operate within the earth's atmosphere that covers an altitude below 100 KM.

PIB April 25

CONCLAVE ON MALARIA ELIMINATION

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Sci & Tech)

Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya delivers keynote address at the Asia-Pacific Leaders' Conclave on Malaria Elimination

Context: Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare virtually addressed the **Asia Pacific Leaders' Conclave on Malaria Elimination.**

- India was among the global leaders who endorsed the **malaria elimination roadmap of Asia-Pacific Leaders Alliance** at the East Asia Summit in 2015 which galvanized the region in striving to become malaria free by 2030.

Asia Pacific Leaders Malaria Alliance

- **About**: It is an **affiliation of Asian and Pacific heads of government** formed to accelerate progress against malaria and to eliminate the disease in the region by 2030.
  - APLMA also presents an important platform from which to **use malaria as an entry point for broader strategic dialogue** on health systems and security.
- **Mission**: The mission of the secretariat is to **translate strong political commitment** into action, and realize an Asia Pacific Region free of malaria and with reduced risk from other communicable diseases.
- **Need**: The need to **engage and support leaders and finance ministers** led to the creation of APLMA, using the East Asia Summit process to galvanize heads of government.

India's Initiative for Malaria Elimination

- In India, malaria elimination efforts were initiated in 2015 and were intensified after the launch of the **National Framework for Malaria Elimination (NFME)** in 2016 by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
  - NFME is in line with WHO's 2016-2030 Malaria Strategy, which guides the **WHO Global Malaria Programme (GMP).**
- The **National Strategic Plan for Malaria Elimination (2017-22)** was launched in July 2017 which laid down strategies for the following five years.
  - It gives year-wise elimination targets in various parts of the country depending upon the endemicity of malaria.
- **Implementation of the High Burden to High Impact (HBHI) initiative** was started in four states (West Bengal, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh) in July 2019.
  - Distribution of **Long Lasting Insecticidal Nets (LLINs)** to high burden areas has led to a reduction in endemicity in these 4 very high endemic states.
- The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has established **Malaria Elimination Research Alliance-India (MERA-India)** which is a conglomeration of partners working on malaria control.

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