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MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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INDIAN EXPRESS

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CRIMINALISATION OF POLITICS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Polity & Governance)

SC asks HCs to list criminal cases on MPs, MLAs pending for over 5 years

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday asked High Courts across the country to inform it about criminal cases against Members of Parliament and Legislative Assemblies for more than five years, on affidavits in four weeks.

A bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and Hima Kohli which was hearing a PIL seeking a ban on convicted legislators from contesting elections also asked the HCs to explain what steps have been taken to expedite the trial in these cases.

On a request by *amicus curiae* Senior Advocate Vijay Hansaria, the court also modified its August 2021 order which said its prior approval was necessary for the transfer of judicial officers presiding over the Special Courts/CBI courts hearing the cases against MPs and MLAs.

The bench said requirement for prior approval will continue to be applicable where the transfer does not happen in the normal course. ENS

Context: The Supreme Court asked High Courts across the country to inform it about criminal cases against Members of Parliament and Legislative Assemblies for more than five years, on affidavits in four weeks.

Legal Aspects To Deal With Criminalisation Of Politics

- **No Constitutional provision**: Constitution does not specify as to what disqualifies a person from contesting elections for the Parliament, Legislative assembly or any other legislature.
- **Representation of Peoples Act 1951**: Currently, under the Representation of Peoples (RP) Act, lawmakers cannot contest elections **only after their conviction** in a criminal case.
  - **Section 8 of the RPA act 1951** states that an individual punished with a jail term of more than two years cannot stand in an **election for six years** after the jail term has ended.
  - The law does not bar individuals who have criminal cases pending against them from contesting elections.
    - Therefore the disqualification of candidates with criminal cases **depends on their conviction** in these cases.
- **SC's Judgments**
  - **Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) v. Union of India, 2002:** SC mandated the disclosure of information relating to criminal antecedents, educational qualification, and personal assets of a candidate contesting elections.
  - **Lily Thomas v. Union of India (2013) case:** SC **struck down Section 8(4) of the RPA 1951 as unconstitutional** that allowed convicted lawmakers a three-month period for filing appeal to the higher court and to get a stay on the conviction and sentence.
  - **Public Interest Foundation and Ors. v Union of India (2014):** SC had ordered that trials, in relation to sitting MPs and MLAs be concluded within a year of charges against them being framed.
  - **Public Interest Foundation vs Union Of India, 2018:** SC had directed political parties to **publish online the pending criminal cases** of their candidates.
  - **February 2020 Direction**: SC ordered the political parties to **publish the entire criminal history of their candidates** for Assembly **and Lok Sabha elections** along with the reasons that forced them to field suspected criminals.

LIVEMINT

Page 2

FRACTIONAL OWNERSHIP MODEL

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Guidelines to be issued to promote charter flights

Anu Sharma
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NEW DELHI



Civil aviation minister Jyotiraditya Scindia. PTI

The civil aviation ministry will issue guidelines on fractional ownership model to promote charter flights, aviation minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said.

"While our scheduled operations are on the fast track and we have increased the fleet size from 400 aeroplanes in 2013 to more than 700 in 2021-22, through these guidelines, we should be able to spur growth in the non-scheduled fleet too," Scindia told the Heli India Summit on Monday.

Fractional ownership will lower the barrier on the cost of acquisition of helicopters and aeroplanes through pooled capital by multiple owners, he said. This will allow companies and individuals to minimise their capital outflow by sharing the purchase cost, reducing their exposure to risks and making it financially easier to run non-scheduled flights business, he added.

"Fractional Ownership Model has the potential to energize the NSOP (non-scheduled operator permit) segment by democratising ownership of aircraft and it can be a key driver to boost the number of aircraft existing in the NSOP industry," Scindia said. The guidelines are yet to be made public.

The government is also keen to promote helicopter services for last mile connectivity and for linking cities across Tiers 1, 2 and 3. In line with this, the government has done away with the landing and parking charges for helicopters, Scindia said. The government will also incubate a pilot called Project Sanjeevani by deploying a helicopter in the next few weeks to provide emergency medical services at AIIMS Rishikesh. The service will cover an area of 150 km radius. Further, the ministry aims to have a helipad in every district in the country.

Under this, the civil aviation ministry has started helicopter sensitization training of ATC officers for swift helicopter traffic handling. Three helicopter corridors—Mumbai-Pune, Ahmedabad-Gandhinagar and Shamshabad-Begumpet—have been created and other helicopter corridors are being planned. The ministry is also working with the road transport ministry to allot helipad spaces from the design stage for all future expressways and major highways so that they can be used for evacuating accident victims.

Context: The civil aviation ministry will issue guidelines on fractional ownership model to promote charter flights.

Fractional Ownership Model

- **Investment approach:** Fractional ownership is an investment approach in which the **cost of an asset is split between individual shareholders.**
  - All the shareholders **split the benefits of the asset**, such as income sharing, reduced rates, and usage rights.
- **Pool in funds**: It also refers to **a set-up wherein groups of investors pool in funds** to purchase a property.
  - They share passive ownership of a high-value asset.
- **For commercial property**: When it comes to commercial property, the ritual of fractional ownership is **carried out through a Specific Purpose Vehicle (SPV)**.
  - Through SPV, **funds are raised to own and manage a property.**
  - An **investor will own shares** of the SPV holding the property.
- **Significance**: This approach **reduces the financial burden on a single investor** to own a property and **allows the investor to earn returns** on the investment.

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JOINT ANTI-TERROR EXERCISE (JATE)

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - International Relations)

Pakistan to take part in closing ceremony of SCO anti-terror exercise hosted by India

Officials sources confirm the country's delegation has been invited for the exercise aimed at building synergy between Counter Terrorism Forces of SCO RATS member countries; India participated in JATE-2021 hosted by Pakistan

Dinakar Peri
Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Pakistan has been invited to the closing ceremony, on October 13, of the ongoing Joint Anti-Terror Exercise (JATE) within the ambit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) being hosted by India, official and diplomatic sources confirmed.

"Pakistan delegation has been extended an invitation for the closing ceremony on the last day of JATE 'Manesar Anti-terror 2022'," a diplomatic source said, which was confirmed by official sources.

The National Security Guard (NSG) is hosting the multinational JATE "Manesar Anti-Terror 2022", under the framework of the SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) at the NSG Manesar Garrison.

It is understood that a Pakistan team is participating in the event as a member of the SCO, an official source said. India also participated in the RATS meet that Pakistan organised last year, the source noted. An Indian delegation had participated in the closing ceremony of the two-week JATE-2021 hosted by Pakistan at the National Counter Terrorism Centre, Pabbi, in Khyber Pukhtunkhwa, in September 2021.

The exercise is aimed at exchanging expertise, best practices and build synergy between the Counter Terrorism Forces of the SCO RATS member countries to enhance capabilities for conducting anti-terrorist operations and countering other security threats collectively, the NSG said in a statement.

In May, counter-terror officials of Pakistan, Russia, China and four Central Asian countries met in Delhi under the structure as India assumed its role as Chairperson of the SCO-RATS mechanism in October 2021. JATE is an annual counter terrorist exercise held within the framework of the SCO RATS.

The statement issued by NSG on Sunday said that Stage-1 of the exercise was conducted from July 27 to August 01, 2022 by the National Counter Terrorism Forces (NCTF) of SCO member countries in their respective territories. "Stage-2 of the Exercise is being conducted from October 8 to 13 at NSG Manesar Garrison, in which eight representatives from NCTF of Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Uzbekistan, Russian Federation and NSG of Republic of India are participating," a statement issued by NSG on Sunday stated.

The exercise will be witnessed by four "observers" from Executive Committee (EC) of RATS and one observer from State Committee for National Security of Tajikistan.



Anti-terrorism drills: The joint anti-terrorist exercise "Manesar Anti-Terror 2022" began at the NSG Manesar Garrison from October 8. TWITTER/@NSGBLACKCATS

For an exclusive video
Watch| Samarkand SCO: Can India straddle West and East?
https://bitly.lc/44rly

Context: **Pakistan has been invited to the closing ceremony,** on October 13, of the **ongoing Joint Anti-Terror Exercise (JATE)** within the **ambit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** being **hosted by India**.

Joint Anti-Terror Exercise (JATE)

- **Under SCO RATS**: Joint Anti-Terror Exercise (JATE) is an **annual Counter Terrorist Exercise** held **within the framework of the SCO RATS**.
- **Two stages:** **It is stage 2** of the exercise and the **Stage-1 of the Exercise was conducted from July 27 to August 1** by the National Counter Terrorist Forces of SCO Member Countries in their respective territories.
- **Objectives**: The exercise is aimed at **exchanging expertise, best practices and build synergy between the Counter Terrorism Forces of the SCO RATS Member Countries** to **enhance capabilities for conducting Anti-Terrorist operations** and countering other security threats collectively.

Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS)

- **Permanent organ**: RATS is **one of the permanent organ of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation** and has its **headquarters in Tashkent,** Uzbekistan.
- **Objective of SCO RATS:** to **facilitate cooperation and coordination against Terrorism, Extremism and Separatism.**
- **India as Chairman**: India **assumed the chairmanship of the Council of SCO RATS in Oct 2021.**

Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

- **Economic and security bloc**: It is a Eurasian political, economic and security organization.
  - It is the world's largest regional organization in terms of geographic scope and population
- **Founding members**: China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.
- **Total 8 members:** China, **India**, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

TIMES OF INDIA

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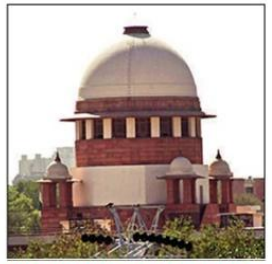
HATE SPEECHES

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Polity & Governance)

Hate speech could be sullying entire atmosphere, agrees SC

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday observed that a plea on hate speeches against minorities in the country perhaps may be right in saying the entire atmosphere is getting sullied due to this type of public discourse. The court's observation and the direction came on a day when the Delhi police said it has filed an FIR against Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) and other organisers of an event in Delhi where certain speakers allegedly delivered hate speeches.

A bench of Chief Justice U U Lalit and Justice S R Bhat asked petitioner H Mansukhani to give details of particular instances of hate speeches including about the steps undertaken during the course of the investigation. "This kind of a petition, though as a citizen, perhaps you may be right in saying that the entire atmosphere is getting sullied as a result of these hate speeches and perhaps you have every justifiable ground to say that this needs to be curbed," the court observed. It posted the matter for November 1.



MATTER POSTED FOR NOV 1

U'khand, Delhi cops told to reply on steps taken

In a separate case, the top court Monday asked the Uttarakhand and Delhi police to specify steps taken to curb hate speech on a petition filed by Tushar Gandhi alleging that the police chiefs of the two states were in contempt of SC's 2018 judgment laying down detailed guidelines for preventing hate speech.

Referring to the hate speeches made at Haridwar and Delhi Dharm Sansads in December last year, Gandhi has sought initiation of contempt proceedings against the chiefs of Uttarakhand and Delhi police. A bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and Hima Kohli asked the two departments to file affidavits explaining the factual position and steps taken with regard to alleged hate speeches. The bench requested attorney general R Venkataramani to formulate his views on the issue and posted hearing after four weeks. TNN & AGENCIES

SC to hear plea for ban on more forms of talaq

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to hear a plea seeking the court to declare Talaq-e-Kinaya, Talaq-e-Bain and all other forms of unilateral and extrajudicial procedures of divorce among Muslims as void and unconstitutional and sought response from the Centre.

A bench of Justices S A Nazeer and J B Pardiwala issued notices to the ministry of law and justice and ministry of minority affairs and tagged the case with petitions against Talaq-e-Hasan and Talaq-e-Ahsan matters.

The bench passed the order on a petition filed by Karnataka-based Syeda Ambreen that asserted the practices were arbitrary, irrational and contrary to fundamental rights to equality, non-discrimination, life and freedom to practise religion. The petition contended the practices are an "evil plague similar to sati" that continue to trouble Muslim women and pose serious health, social, economic, moral and emotional risks. TNN

Context: The Supreme Court observed that a plea on hate speeches against minorities in the country perhaps may be right in saying the entire atmosphere is getting sullied due to this type of public discourse.

Definition:

- **267th Report of the Law Commission of India:** Hate speech is stated as **an incitement to hatred** primarily against a group of persons defined in terms of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religious belief and the like.
- **Bureau of Police Research and Development:** defined hate speech as a language that **denigrates, insults, threatens or targets** an individual based on their identity and other traits (such as sexual orientation or disability or religion etc.).

Provisions Related to Hate Speech

- **Punishments under Indian Penal Code:**
  - **Sections 153A and 153B of the IPC:** cause enmity and hatred between two groups.
  - **Section 295A of the IPC:** deliberately or with malicious intention outrage the religious feelings of a class of persons.
  - **Sections 505(1) and 505(2):** Make the publication and circulation of content which may cause ill-will or hatred between different groups an offence.
- **Provisions under Representation of People's Act 1951:**
  - Prevents a person convicted of the **illegal use of the freedom of speech** from contesting an election.
  - **Bars the promotion of animosity** on the grounds of race, religion, community, caste, or language in reference to elections and include it under corrupt electoral practices.

ECONOMIC TIMES

Page 9

PRIORITY SECTOR LENDING

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Banks for Including EVs, Green Hydrogen in Priority Lending

Expanding ambit to help lenders meet targets and plug financing gaps in these sectors

Dheeraj.Tiwari
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New Delhi: Banks have pitched for including loans towards electric vehicles and green hydrogen to be classified under the priority sector lending.

"Some lenders made these suggestions during various individual interactions with the Reserve Bank," said an executive aware of the developments.

Banks are of the opinion that bringing such loans under priority lending list will help plug financing gaps in these sectors and help lenders meet their priority sector lending targets.

"Expanding the PSL category will also help lenders meet their requirements, which they are unable to do presently and are required to buy priority sector lending certificates," said another executive aware of the matter. Banks are mandated to provide 40% of their adjusted net bank credit to priority sectors.

Last month, the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) set up a committee to investigate various aspects of sustainable financing and lending with Environmental, Societal and Governance (ESG) issues in focus.

IBA chief executive Sunil Mehta told ET that the banking body will examine the committee's recommendations and accordingly make a formal representation to the regulator.

"There are various suggestions on green financing and ESG related issues. A committee comprising of both Indian and foreign lenders has been set up to evaluate all the issues and best practices," he said, adding that the banking regulator also expects IBA to play a role in capacity building.

At present, lending towards eight sectors, including agriculture, micro and small medium enterprises, export credit, housing, education, renewable energy and social infrastructure is considered eligible under priority sector loans.

"This will help firms operating in these sectors scale up operations," said Sumit Dhanuka, founder of ElectriVa, which sets up independent EV charging stations in India.

Experts stress on the need to keep 'green washing' risks in view while defining sustainable finance.

"For example, investing in a business that claims to use recycled materials when it actually does not.... This could result in funds under sustainable finance getting channelised incorrectly," said Vivek Iyer, national leader, financial services-risk, Grant Thornton Bharat.

Green Financing

Banks want priority sector lending to cover green finance

At present 8 sectors, including agri, part of priority loans

Mandatory 40% of lending towards these sectors

IBA has set up a committee to look at sustainable financing



Experts sound caution on 'Greenwashing'

Context: Banks have **pitched for including loans towards electric vehicles and green hydrogen** to be classified under the priority sector lending.

Priority Sector Lending

- **Important for the development**: Priority Sector are those sectors that the Government of India and Reserve Bank of India consider as i**mportant for the development of the basic needs** of the country and are to be given priority over other sectors.
- **Mandatory provisions**: The RBI mandates banks to lend a certain portion of their funds to specified sectors, like agriculture, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), export credit, education, housing, social infrastructure, renewable energy among others.
- **Targets**:
  - All scheduled commercial banks and foreign banks (with a sizable presence in India) are mandated to set aside **40% of their Adjusted Net Bank Credit (ANDC)** for lending to these sectors.
  - Regional rural banks, co-operative banks and small finance banks have **to allocate 75% of ANDC to PSL.**

BUSINESS STANDARD

Page 1

NOBEL PRIZE IN ECONOMICS 2022

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Former US Fed chair Bernanke, 2 others win economics Nobel

The trio was awarded for research into banking and financial crises

JEANNA SMIALEK
10 October

The Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences was awarded on Monday to Ben S Bernanke, the former chair of the US Federal Reserve, and two other academics for research into banks and financial crises.

Douglas W Diamond, an economist at the University of Chicago, and Philip H Dybvig at Washington University in St Louis won the prize alongside Bernanke, who is now at the Brookings Institution in Washington.

Bernanke in 1983 wrote a paper that broke ground in explaining that bank failures can propagate a financial crisis rather than simply being a result of the crisis. That same year, Diamond and Dybvig wrote a paper on the risks inherent in maturity transformation, the process of turning short-term borrowing into long-term lending. Diamond also wrote about how banks monitor their borrowers, noting that knowledge about borrowers disappears upon bank failures.

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EDIT: CRISIS NOBELS



(From left) Ben S Bernanke, Philip H Dybvig, and Douglas W Diamond

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Context: The **Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences** was awarded to Ben S Bernanke, the former chair of the US Federal Reserve, and two other academics **for research into banks and financial crises.**

Understanding the research of Nobel prize for Economics

- **Trio's main work**: focused on understanding the role of banks in the economy, particularly during financial crises and how banking failures can amplify and self-perpetuate a crisis.
- **Important finding:** why **avoiding bank collapses is vital**.
  - They showed with statistical analysis that **bank runs led to bank failures** and this was the mechanism that turned a relatively ordinary recession into the depression in the 30s, the world's most dramatic, and, severe crisis.
  - **Bank runs** can easily become self-fulfilling leading to the collapse of an institution and putting the entire financial sector at risk.
- **Significance**: Their analyses have been of great practical importance in regulating financial markets and dealing with financial crises.
- **Prevention mechanism**: These dangerous dynamics can be prevented through the government providing deposit insurance and **acting as a lender of last resort to banks.**

PIB

Oct 11

TELE-MANAS INITIATIVE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Issue related to Health)

Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States (Tele-MANAS) initiative launched on occasion of World Mental Health Day

24X7 tele-mental Health Services available on Toll Free Number- 14416

Context: Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States (Tele-MANAS) initiative of **Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare** was launched at National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS), Bengaluru.

Key points

- **Aims**: To provide **free tele-mental health services** all over the country round the clock, particularly catering to people in remote or under-served areas.
- **Mechanism**: The programme **i**ncludes a network of 23 tele-mental health centres of excellence, with **NIMHANS being the nodal centre**.
- **Technical support:** Indian Institute of Technology **(IIT) Bengaluru and National Health Systems Resource Centre (NHRSC)** will provide the technical support.
- **Pan India:** The Union Government aims to open **at least one Tele-MANAS Cell** in each State/UT.
- **Toll free number:** A toll-free, 24/7 helpline number (14416) has been set up across the country allowing callers to select the language of choice for availing services.
- **Tele-MANAS will be organised in two tier system:**
  - **Tier 1** comprises of state **Tele-MANAS cells** which include trained counsellors and mental health specialists.
  - **Tier 2** will comprise of specialists at **District Mental Health Programme (DMHP)/Medical College** resources for physical consultation and/or e-Sanjeevani for audio visual consultation.
- Presently there are 5 regional coordination centres along with 51 State/UT Tele MANAS cells.

DTE

Oct 11

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Issue related to Health)



HEALTH

World Mental Health Day: WHO-FIFA installs friendship benches to promote mental-health awareness

Project focuses on sports' role in promoting mental well-being

NEXT NEWS >

By Arya Rohini

Published: Monday 10 October 2022



Context: A novel project featuring specially designed public benches to highlight the importance of mental health was unveiled October 10, 2022.

Key Points

- **Global awareness**: World Mental Health Day is observed on **October 10** every year to raise global awareness about mental health problems across the world.
- **Theme**: The World Federation for Mental Health (WFMH) sets unique theme for this day every year. The theme for 2022 year: **"Make mental health and well-being for all a global priority".**
- **Aims**: to raise general awareness about mental well-being by providing opportunities for people suffering from mental health issues to collectively to voice the requirements to make mental health and well-being a global priority for all.
    - It also gives them the opportunity to collectively recognize the progress in the field of mental health.

Other Facts

- **World Health Day:** Every year **7th April** marks the celebration of World Health Day.
- **Historical significance**: It is being celebrated to mark the foundation of the World Health Organization (WHO) on 7th April 1948.
- **Aim**: To create awareness of a specific health theme to highlight a priority area of concern for the WHO.
- **Theme for 2022**: Our Planet, Our Health.

DST

Oct 11

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Env & Eco)

Students showcase their spatial thinking in localising SDGs

Students from 18 schools across the country presented new ideas on how geospatial technologies can be embedded to address local challenges like protecting the heritage, soil fertility, crop diversity, clean city, water management, women empowerment, waste management, digital India, clean energy, climate change and so on to achieve sustainable development goals (SDGs).

Context: Students from 18 schools across the country presented new ideas on h**ow geospatial technologies can be embedded to address local challenges** like protecting the heritage, soil fertility, crop diversity, clean city, water management, women empowerment, waste management, digital India, clean energy, climate change and so on **to achieve sustainable development goals (SDGs).**

Sustainable Development

- **Definition**: 'Development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'.
    - This most widely accepted definition of Sustainable Development was given by the **Brundtland Commission** in its report Our Common Future (1987).
- **Three core elements of sustainable development**: economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection.
- **SDGs**: The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as **the Global Goals,** were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity.
- **Targets:** It is a group of **17 goals with 169 targets and 304 indicators**, as proposed by the United Nation General Assembly's Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals to be achieved by 2030.



PIB

Oct 11

NATIONAL MINERAL EXPLORATION TRUST (NMET)

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy & Infrastructure)

Ministry of Mines issues General Instructions to Notified Exploration Agencies for submission of project proposals to National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET)

New Initiative to Further Expedite Mineral Exploration

Context: With an objective to boost the mineral exploration activities in the country, **Central Government established 'National Mineral Exploration Trust' (NMET)** which since its inception has been funding various Notified Exploration Agencies to carry out exploration projects across the country.

National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET)

- **Origin:** The trust was formed under the **Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.**
- **Function:** The body is working for **realization of mineral potential** of the country in terms of mining activity.
- **Two-tier structure:**
  - **The apex body** which is the Governing Body is **chaired by the Minister of Mines**. It holds the overall control of the Trust.
  - **The Executive Committee** which is chaired by the **Secretary, Ministry of Mine**s, administers and manages its activities.
- **To implement its activities an NMET Fund has been established:**
  - The holders of Mining Lease and Prospecting Licence-cum-Mining Lease **make payments equivalent to 2% of royalty,** for minerals under second schedule of the Act**,** as NMET contribution simultaneously with payments of the royalty.
  - The NMET fund is being utilized to **undertaking studies for mineral development**; regional and detailed exploration with special emphasis to strategic and critical minerals.

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