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MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



MK Yadav Sir

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THE HINDU

Page 11

BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – IR)

The BRI at 10, some hits, many misses



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The Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation that was convened in Beijing, China (October 17-18) has put the spotlight back on Chinese President Xi Jinping's signature initiative.

Early debates in China reveal the intent behind the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Academic Xue Li likened the BRI to China's Marshall Plan, stating that it was a gateway for China to transition from a regional power with global influence to a global power with comprehensive strength. Academic Wang Yiwei argued that the BRI was an ascendant China's bid to reboot globalisation and rectify its shortcomings. A rising China also felt the need to develop new transport and trade arteries as alternatives, since rivals could put the squeeze on the Strait of Malacca – the jugular vein for China's economy.

Beijing was also putting its money where its mouth was with the establishment of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank with a $100 billion war chest, challenging other lending institutions. In the assessment of scholar Ju Jiejin, the AIIB would enable Mr. Xi to harvest early gains of the BRI. At the onset, Mr. Xi was pitching for the use of local currency in trade, thus in effect elbowing out the dollar. In this way, he began building an economic order centered on China

As a Xi vehicle

The BRI, which was launched shortly after Mr. Xi got the top job, also served as a vehicle for him to brand himself as a global statesman and project China's power and influence overseas. Domestically, the initiative entered the Communist Party of China's constitution in 2017, and got top billing in the 14th Five-Year Plan announced in 2021. The Chinese government's white paper on BRI released this month ("The Belt and Road Initiative: A Key Pillar of the Global Community of Shared Future") revealed that over 200 BRI cooperation pacts had been inked with over 150 nations. The document also stated that total two-way investment between China and partner countries from 2013 to 2022 touched $380 billion. As Mr. Xi himself put it, the BRI would provide more public goods to the entire world, highlighting the massive infrastructure deficit.

According to the World Bank, 675 million people are without electricity globally, around 2.3 billion lack potable water, and 450 million live beyond the coverage of a broadband signal. The lending institution calculates that bridging the infrastructure gap will need capital infusion of $1.5 trillion annually through 2030, which is approximately 4.5% of the GDP of low- and middle-income countries. Under China's Marshall Plan, motorways, power plants, ports, railway networks, and digital infrastructure have been built.

The ugly reality

But the tale of Chinese munificence is marred by some unsavoury ground realities. A report from the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute on the BRI has highlighted issues related to ecological damage, displacement of people, disputes over payouts and labour unrest. The findings detail case studies of Indonesia, where things came to a head over anxieties related to Chinese labourers filling up positions earmarked for locals.

In Laos, the glistening super-fast trains and impressive dam projects over the Mekong River cannot hide the woes of those left high and dry due to lack of compensation, or others on whom droughts due to dam-construction projects have wreaked havoc. AidData estimates that Laos owes China around $12.2 billion – about 65% of its GDP.

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was conceived over the framework that ties between the two nations were deeper than the ocean, sweeter than honey and higher than the Himalayas. Yet, a Pakistani legislative report unearthed that while China cornered 91% of Gwadar port's revenue, Pakistan pocketed just 9%. These issues have tarnished the reputation of brand BRI, especially its tagline of 'win-win cooperation' as there are perceptions that it is a win for China twice over at the cost of other stakeholders.

Global alternatives

After much hand-wringing, efforts are being taken to counter the BRI. In the Donald Trump era, the United States and Japan initiated the "United States-Japan infrastructure investment alternatives in the Indo-Pacific region". The Joe Biden administration announced the 'Build Back Better World' (B3W) initiative that seems to have been reorganised as the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment, which aims to channelise private capital into climate change and energy security, health care and health security, digital technology, and gender equity.

Here, it must be noted that India has steadfastly opposed CPEC over issues related to sovereignty and had raised concerns over issues of unsustainable debt. Yet, like Cassandra's warnings, they could not convince hearts and minds in the thrall of China's narrative.

The G-20 Delhi summit posited yet another alternative in the form of the India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC) that seeks to link India, West Asia, and Europe through railways and shipping lines. In addition to the trade connectivity, electricity and digital infrastructure as well as a pipeline for clean hydrogen export have been envisioned. It is too early to assess the alternatives, but all eyes will be on the future of BRI as it completes a decade. At a time when Beijing is grappling with economic worries related to debt and unemployment, it remains to be seen how it will reinvigorate the "project of the century".

Even though the tale of Chinese munificence is marred by unsavoury ground realities, all eyes will be on the future of the Belt and Road Initiative

Context: The **Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation** held in Beijing, China, has brought renewed attention to Chinese President Xi Jinping's ambitious **Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)**.

Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)

- **Proposed**: In 2013 to improve connectivity and cooperation on a transcontinental scale.
- **Purpose**: Of restoring the ancient Silk Route (land-based infrastructure connection) that connected Asia and Europe.
- **21st Century Maritime Silk Road**: Emphasizes maritime routes connecting China with Southeast Asia, South Asia, Africa, and Europe.
- **Involves**: Building a big network of roadways, railways, maritime ports, power grids, oil and gas pipelines, and associated infrastructure projects.

Criticism and Concerns

- **Debt Burden**: Some countries have expressed concern about potential debt burdens resulting from BRI projects.
- **Environmental Impact**: Environmental sustainability and social impacts have raised concerns in certain areas.
- **Geopolitical Considerations**: The initiative has been criticized for potential geopolitical implications and concerns about China's influence in participating countries. Ex: BRI's project CPEC (China-Pakistan economic corridor) is against India's territorial sovereignty.

INDIAN EXPRESS Page 11

VIZHINJAM PORT
(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Infrastructure)

Vizhinjam port: latest row over mega project

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, OCTOBER 18

THERE IS fresh debate in Kerala over the under-construction Vizhinjam international seaport project, the country's first deep-water transshipment port.

On Sunday, the state accorded a grand reception to a vessel that brought a ship-to-shore crane to the port. Docking of the heavy load carrier vessel is being seen as a milestone towards the operation-readiness of the much-delayed project. While the ruling CPI(M) and the Opposition Congress started a credit war over the project, senior BJP leader and MoS V Muraleedharan termed the reception for a "ship with construction material" a publicity stunt.

What is the project?

Located near Thiruvananthapuram, Vizhinjam is India's first international deep-water transhipment port. It has a natural depth of more than 18 meters, scalable up to 20 meters, which is crucial to get large vessels and mother ships. It is located 10 nautical miles from the international shipping route.

The Rs 7,600-crore project is being executed by Adani Ports and SEZ Private Limited.

Attempts to execute the project were made by successive regimes. Finally in 2015, the then Congress government inked a deal with the Adani Group. Of the total investment, the Adani Group would invest Rs 2,454 crore and another Rs 1,635 crore would be mobilised from the state and Centre.

Which vessel docked at Vizhinjam?

Hong Kong-flagged Zhenu Hua 15 docked at the seaport under construction. This is meant for moving cargo from ships to the shore. Seven more such cranes would be brought from China in the coming months.

Why is a transshipment port needed?

India has 13 major ports. What it lacks is a land-side mega-port to deal with ultra-large container ships. Hence, nearly 75% of India's transshipment cargo is handled at ports like Colombo, Singapore, and Klang.

Developing a port into a transshipment hub will bring in benefits such as forex savings, foreign direct investment, development of related logistics infrastructure, employment generation, and increase in revenue share.

Why was the project delayed?

The Adani group in 2015 promised that the project would be ready in 1,000 days. However, it missed deadlines several times since 2019, mainly due to the delay in the construction of a breakwater.

The 2017 Ockhi cyclone, the Covid-19 pandemic, acute shortage of granite boulders to build the 3.1-km breakwater, and last year's fishermen protest against the project contributed to the delay.

Context: Recently, a fresh debate has emerged in **Kerala regarding the construction** of the **Vizhinjam international seaport**, India's first deep-water transshipment port.

Vizhinjam Port Project

- **Located**: Thiruvananthapuram, Vizhinjam, Kerala.
- It is **India's first international deep- water transhipment** port.
- It has a natural depth of more than 18 meters, scalable up to 20 meters, which is crucial to get large vessels and mother ships.
- It is **located 10 nautical miles** from the international shipping route.
- The Rs 7**,600-crore project is being executed** by Adani Ports and SEZ Private Limited.
- Attempts to execute the project were made by successive regimes.
- Hong Kong-flagged Zhenu Hua 15 docked at the seaport under construction. This is meant for moving cargo from ships to the shore. Seven more such cranes would be brought from China in the coming months.
- India has 13 major ports.

PIB

Oct 17

TRIBAL YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM (TYEP)

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – Government scheme)

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah interacts with 200 tribal youth under the Tribal Youth Exchange Program (TYEP) in New Delhi, today

Context: Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation recently interacts with 200 tribal youth under the **Tribal Youth Exchange Program (TYEP)** in New Delhi, recently.

Tribal Youth Exchange Program (TYEP)

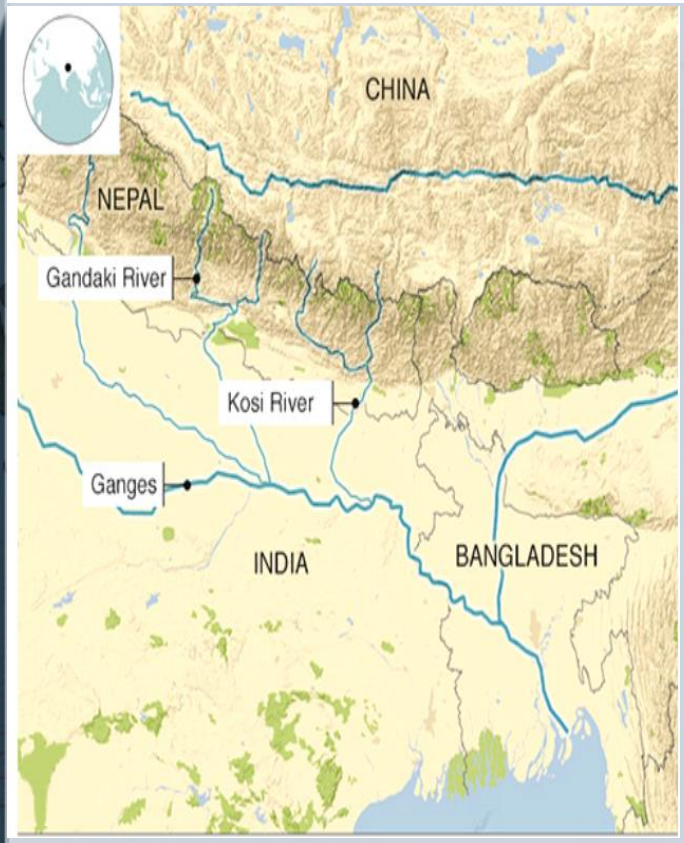
- **About:** The **Ministry of Home Affairs** has been running the Tribal Youth Exchange Programme (TYEP) for the last 15 years.
  - The programme is being run through **Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) under the Ministry of Youth Affairs** and Sports.
- **Objective: Y**oung men and women of the tribal community from the interior areas most affected by Left Wing Extremism are taken on a tour to major cities and metros across the country.
- **The main objectives of this programme are:**
  - Promoting the aspirations of the youth in areas affected by Left Wing Extremism.
  - Countering the propaganda against the government being spread by CPI Maoists.
  - Informing the youth of tribal areas about the development activities and industrial progress and to sensitize them about the rich cultural heritage of India.
  - Deepening the confidence in democratic system in these areas.
  - Spreading awareness about major development and welfare schemes among the youth of the tribal community.
  - Developing an emotional bonding between youth belonging to the tribal community and their peer groups in other parts of the country.

WIRE

Oct 18

SAPTAKOSHI HIGH DAM
(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – IR)

Nepal, India Agree to Reduce Height of Saptakoshi Dam



Context: Nepal and India recently reached an agreement to lower the proposed **Saptakoshi High Dam's height**, addressing **Nepal's concerns about potential land** inundation upstream.

Koshi River

- **About**: It is also referred to as "Saptakoshi" in Nepal, is a trans-boundary river flowing through both India and Nepal.
  - It constitutes **Nepal's largest river basin** and is a **significant tributary of the Ganga**.
- **Origin**: From the Tibetan Plateau, traverses the Himalayas, courses through the Mahabharat range and Siwalik hills, enters the plains of eastern Nepal, and eventually joins the Ganges in India.
- **Length:** 729 km (453 miles).
- **Boundaries**: Demarcated by the Yarlung Zangbo River to the north, the Mahananda River to the east, the Gandaki to the west, and the Ganga to the south, forming the Kosi river valley.
- **Tributaries:** Indrawati, Sun Koshi, Tama Koshi, Likhu, Dudh Koshi, Arun, and Tamor, which converge at Triveni, where it becomes the Sapta-Koshi.

Saptakoshi High Dam

- **About**: The proposed multipurpose project is located on the Saptakoshi River in Nepal, known as the Koshi River in India.
- **Situated**: 1.6 km upstream from Barahakshetra Temple in the Sunsari district of Nepal.
- **Objective**: To flood control in southeast Nepal and northern Bihar, as well as hydropower generation.

BUSINESS STANDARD Page 6

MINIMUM SUPPORT PRICE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Economy)

Wheat MSP raised by 7%, highest under Modi govt

Support prices of masoor, mustard, chana also increased ahead of polls

SANJEEB MUKHERJEE
New Delhi, 18 October

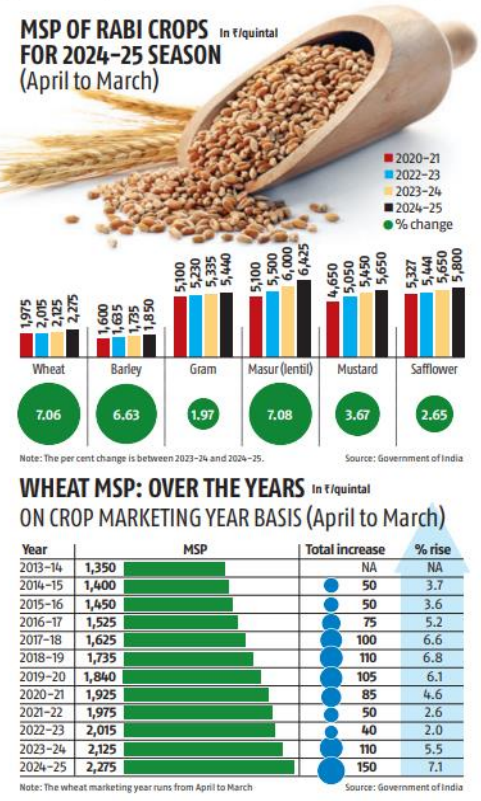
The Centre on Wednesday raised the minimum support price (MSP) of wheat by ₹150 per quintal, or 7.06 per cent, to ₹2,275 for the 2024-25 rabi marketing season, which will start from April. This is the highest increase in the MSP of wheat — the most preferred staple in India after rice — since the Narendra Modi government came to power in 2014.

The decision comes ahead of the Assembly elections in five states, including Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, which are among the top wheat-growing states. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Congress are locked in a tough fight in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, which will go to the polls on November 17 and November 23, respectively.

The sharp increase in the MSP also signals the Centre's intention to aggressively build up its dwindling wheat reserves in the next crop season in order to ward off any price spike during an important election year. The Centre's annual wheat procurement has been falling below the target over the past two seasons due to more attractive prices offered to farmers outside the official system and a drop in the overall crop output.

Among other crops, the MSP of masoor was increased by ₹425 per quintal to ₹6,425 — 7.08 per cent more than the price in the 2023-24 season — to encourage farmers to cultivate more of this vital crop.

India is one of the biggest importers of masoor in the world and consumes 2.2-2.4 million tonnes annually. Of this, 1.2-1.4 million tonnes is produced domestically, while the rest is imported. Nearly 70-80 per cent of the masoor imports come from Canada, with which India has had strained diplomatic relations of late. In recent years, Australia has emerged as a new source for masoor imports by Indian traders, but Canada still holds a sizable share of the trade. Poll bound MP is also one of the leading producers of Masoor. In the case of mus-



WHEAT MSP: OVER THE YEARS In ₹/quintal
ON CROP MARKETING YEAR BASIS (April to March)

Year	MSP	Total increase	% rise
2013-14	1,350	NA	NA
2014-15	1,400	50	3.7
2015-16	1,450	50	3.6
2016-17	1,525	75	5.2
2017-18	1,625	100	6.6
2018-19	1,735	110	6.8
2019-20	1,840	105	6.1
2020-21	1,925	85	4.6
2021-22	1,975	50	2.6
2022-23	2,015	40	2.0
2023-24	2,125	110	5.5
2024-25	2,275	150	7.1

Note: The wheat marketing year runs from April to March
Source: Government of India

Rabi Crops under MSP

Wheat, barley, gram, lentil, mustard, and safflower.

Context: The Centre **recently increased the MSP of wheat** by 7.06% to 2,275 per quintal for the 2024-25 rabi season, **marking the highest hike since 2014**.

Minimum Support Price (MSP)

- **About**: MSP serves as a government-established rate at which crops are bought from farmers, providing them with protection against significant declines in agricultural prices.
- **Announced by:** The Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) recommends MSPs for **22 mandated crops and Fair and Remunerative Prices** (FRP) for sugarcane.
- **Origin of Concept**: MSP was initially **introduced in 1966**, drawing inspiration from the Green Revolution.
- **Crops covered**: **7 types of cereals** (paddy, wheat, maize, bajra, jowar, ragi and barley)
  - **5 types of pulses** (chana, arhar/tur, urad, moong and masoor)
  - **7 oilseeds** (rapeseed-mustard, groundnut, soybean, sunflower, sesamum, safflower, niger seed)
  - **4 commercial crops** (cotton, sugarcane, copra, raw jute)

Factors for Recommending the MSP

- Demand and supply,
- Cost of production,
- Price trends in the market,
- Both domestic and international, inter-crop price parity,
- Terms of trade between agriculture and non-agriculture,
- A minimum of 50 percent as the margin over the cost of production,
- Implications of MSP on consumers of that product.

SCIENCE ALERT Oct 17

CHILOBRACHYS NATANICHARUM

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Env and Eco)

Stunning New Species of Tarantula Shimmers Like an Electric-Blue Jewel



Context: Recently, a new species of tarantula Chilobrachys natanicharum was recently found. around the mangrove forest of Thailand.

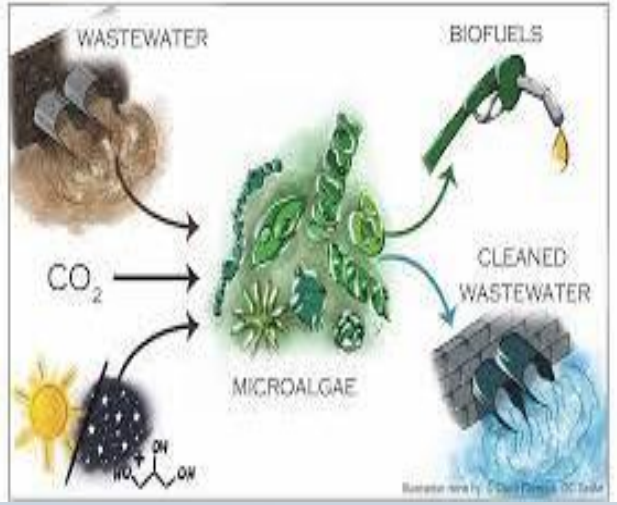
Chilobrachys natanicharum

- **Family**: Theraphosidae.
- Thailand's mangroves recently revealed their **first tarantula species**.
- Previously, the **Electric Blue Tarantula** was sought after in the exotic spider trade.
- The **striking blue color of the Electric Blue** Tarantula doesn't result from pigmentation but from nanostructures in their hair that manipulate light.
- **The unique hair structures can be found** on various parts of the tarantula's body, including its legs, mouth appendages, and upper shell.
- The **adaptable Electric Blue Tarantula can thrive** in both arboreal and terrestrial burrows in evergreen forests.
- In mangrove forests, **they are limited to residing in tree hollows** due to tidal influences.

DTE Oct 17

MICROALGAE
(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Env and Eco)

Microalgae are adapting to warming climate, declining nutrient levels in seas with novel strategy



Context: Recently, a **new study suggests that microalgae** have developed a unique strategy to adapt to **global warming while playing a critical role** in the **ocean's food chain** and capturing atmospheric carbon dioxide.

- As climate change reduces the **availability of nutrients in the sea, marine microalgae** or eukaryotic phytoplankton fire up a protein called rhodopsin.
- It is related to the **protein in the human eye responsible** for vision in dim light.

Microalgae

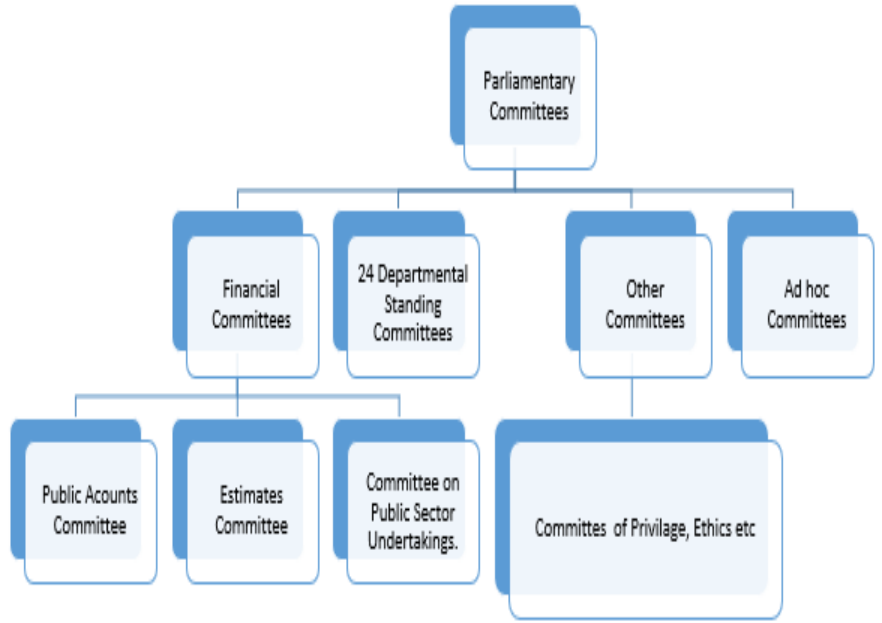
- Microalgae are organisms that **can grow in aquatic environments** and use light and carbon dioxide (CO2) to create biomass.
- It **contains lipids and fatty acids as membrane components**, storage products, metabolites, and sources of energy.
- They are **excellent at converting CO2 and sunlight into oil-rich biomass**, especially when compared to land-based crop plants like soy.
- The **potentials of algae** as the alternative biofuel sources have been widely reviewed.
- Microalgae cultivation provides tremendous **opportunity in the field of agriculture** as a source of biofertilizers.
- **Example**: Chlorella and Spirulina.

ETHICS COMMITTEE IN PARLIAMENT

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – Polity)

Birla refers plaint against MP Mahua to Lok Sabha ethics panel

Context: Recently, a **Lok Sabha speaker has referred** a complaint against a sitting Member of Parliament (MP) **to the House Ethics Committee**.



Ethics Committee in Parliament

- It comes under the **'committee to inquire'.**
- Each house of the parliament has its own ethics committee.
- **Lok Sabha**
  - **Constitution**: 2000
  - **Composition**: 15 Members including Chairman
  - **Appointment**: By Lok Sabha Speaker
  - **Tenure**: 1 year

- **Rajya Sabha**
  - **Constitution:** 1997
  - **Composition**: 10 Members including Chairman
  - **Appointment:** By Rajya Sabha Chairman
  - **Tenure:** 1 year

Functions of Ethics Committee

- The primary role is **to supervise the moral and ethical behavio**r of Members of Parliament.
- It reviews cases referred to it **regarding the ethical conduct and misconduct** of Members, initiated by the Speaker in the Lok Sabha and the Chairman in the Rajya Sabha.
- The **committee also establishes a code of conduct** for members and suggests revisions as necessary.
- It offers **guidance to members on ethical matters**, either proactively or upon request.
- The committee can **handle complaints of ethical misconduct, initiated by any individual** or taken up on its own.

PMLA
(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Economy)

JUDGES NOT INFALLIBLE, SAYS JUSTICE KAUL-LED BENCH

SC to Examine if it Needs to Review 2022 PMLA Verdict

Arguments of both petitioners and Centre to be heard and concluded on Nov 22

Raghav.Ohri@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Observing that the Supreme Court judges are "not infallible", a three-member bench headed by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul on Wednesday agreed to hear a clutch of petitions seeking to reconsider a judgment of the top court upholding relevant provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The bench has listed the matter for hearing on November 22. The arguments of both petitioners and respondents (the Centre) will be concluded on the same day, the bench ordered.

The landmark judgment, under challenge, was delivered in July 2022 by a three-member bench which held that the PMLA is a "unique and special legislation". Upholding the constitutional validity of relevant provisions of the 2002 Act, the three-member bench last year had upheld powers to hold inquiry, arrest, and attachment of property by the Directorate of Enforcement. A review of the said judgment is already pending in the SC before another bench.

At the outset, appearing on behalf of the Centre, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta raised a "preliminary objection" arguing that a coordinate bench of the same strength "cannot" examine the matter. However, the objection failed to cut ice with the bench with Justice Kaul verbally observing, "We are entitled to look into it." He further remarked that if the bench concludes that some provisions need reconsideration, the matter may then be referred to a larger (five) bench. He added that if his bench concludes that the provisions need no reconsideration, then it will dismiss the pleas.

UPHELD ED POWERS

Last year, SC upheld ED's powers of arrest, property attachment involved in money laundering under PMLA

PENDING BEFORE SC

A review of the previous judgment is already pending in the Supreme Court before another bench

The Solicitor General went on to urge the bench to defer the hearing by a month or two arguing that the Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) review of India's money-laundering investigations is pending. FATF is an intergovernmental organisation that works to combat money laundering. "It is in national interest to wait for a month or so," Mehta argued. He added that the instant set of petitions seeking reconsideration of provisions of PMLA are nothing but "misuse and abuse of the process of law". In response, Justice Kaul verbally remarked, "Everything is in national interest and sometimes in this hearing also... You can't prohibit them (petitioners) from arguing. We can't shut them (petitioners) out on this".

Justice Kaul asserted that the bench cannot be "precluded from laying down the contours of the hearing" while Mehta urged the bench to be "alert and alarmed."

Responding to the contention, Justice Kaul orally said, "We are alert. We will not be alarmed by any party... this is not the language for the court. I am sorry".

Justice Sanjiv Khanna, part of the bench, added that the SC is the final court. "Suppose the review and curative petitions both are dismissed and a plea is filed and the bench feels that some issues are overlooked, then it can be looked at again and larger benches can be constituted."

Context: Recently, a **three-member bench, led by** Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, agreed to reconsider a **Supreme Court judgement on the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA)**, acknowledging that the judges are "not infallible.

Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA)

- **About: Money laundering** is the **process of hiding the source of money obtained** from illegal sources and **converting it to a clean source**, for the purpose of avoiding prosecution, conviction, and confiscation of the criminal funds.
- **Aim:** To prevent money-laundering
  - To provide for confiscation of property derived from or involved in money-laundering
- The **Department of Revenue within the Ministry of Finance** oversees the investigation of money laundering offenses **under the PMLA through** the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

Features

- **Confiscation of property**: The PMLA addresses the confiscation of both movable and immovable property.
- **Intermediaries**: The Act mandates that every banking company, financial institution, and intermediaries maintain transaction records.
- **Appellate Tribunal**: An Appellate Tribunal, established by the Central Government, hears appeals against the decisions of the Adjudicating Authority and other authorities under this Act.
- **Special Courts**: Special Courts, appointed by the Central Government in consultation with the Chief Justice of India, are designated to handle Money Laundering offences.
- **Location of an entity**: The Act prohibits entities from having third parties in countries classified as 'high risk' by the **Financial Action Task Force (FATF).**

DTE

Oct 17

FOOD SECURITY

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Economy)

World Food Day 2023: Water crisis threatens $58 trillion in economic value, food security, says WWF report



World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)

- **Established**: In 1961
- **Headquarter**: In Gland, Switzerland.
- **Previously known as the**: World Wildlife Fund
- **Mission**: WWF's mission is to halt the degradation of the planet's natural environment and create a future in which humans coexist harmoniously with nature.
- **Global Reach**: The world's largest conservation organization, boasting over five million supporters across 100 countries.

Context: According to a **recently released report by the World Wide Fund for Nature** (WWF) on **World Food Day,** a mounting global water crisis jeopardizes $58 trillion in economic value, food security, and sustainability.

- The document gave the **example of Europe's Danube basin**. 80% of the floodplains along the **Danube and tributaries** — essential for flood and drought risk mitigation, groundwater recharge and water filtration have been lost.

Food Security

- **Definition:** According to World Bank, food security is defined when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.
- **The four main dimensions of food security:** -
  - Physical availability of food
  - Economic and physical access to food
  - Food utilization
  - Stability of the other three dimensions over time

World Food Day

- **Founded:** In 1945 by Food and Agriculture Organization
- It was declared an international holiday after 34 years during the 20th FAO summit in November 1979.
- **Date**: 16th October each year
- **Theme 2023**: "Water is life, water is food." "Don't leave anyone behind." "Water is necessary for life on Earth."

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