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THE HINDU Page 4

MEDICAL TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY ACT

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Issue related to women)

Examine plea to terminate 33-week foetus: HC to LNJP

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A 26-year-old woman moved the High Court after GTB Hospital refused her plea for termination of pregnancy

The Delhi High Court on Friday asked the Lok Nayak Jaya Prakash (LNJP) Hospital to constitute a medical board to examine a 26-year-old woman, seeking termination of her 33-week pregnancy as the foetus suffers from cerebral abnormalities.

Justice Prathiba M. Singh asked the hospital to examine the woman and inform the court on the feasibility of terminating the pregnancy. The court set December 5 for the next hearing.

In her plea, the woman said that during ultrasound tests, no abnormalities were found till the 16th week of pregnancy.

On November 12, she underwent another ultrasound after 30 weeks and one day of pregnancy, during which an abnormality was found in the foetus for the first time, the plea said, adding that subsequent medical examination and fresh consultation with another doctor confirmed the same.

The petitioner moved the High Court after the GTB Hospital here declined her request for termination of pregnancy on the premise that the process would require judicial intervention since the current gestational age of the petitioner is beyond the permissible limit of 24 weeks under the amended Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act which came into effect from September 24, 2021.

Context: The Delhi High Court asked the Lok Nayak Jaya Prakash (LNJP)Hospital to constitute a medical board to examine a 26-year-old woman, seeking termination of her 33-week pregnancy as the foetus suffers from cerebral abnormalities.

- The GTB Hospital declined the petitioner request for termination of pregnancy on the premise that the process would require judicial intervention since the current gestational age of the petitioner is beyond the permissible limit of 24 weeks under the amended **Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act** which came into effect from September 24, 2021.

Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act

- **Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971:** It was passed due to the progress made in the field of medical science with respect to safer abortions.
- **Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Act 2021**: It expands the access to safe and legal abortion services on therapeutic, eugenic, humanitarian and social grounds to ensure universal access to comprehensive care.

Features	MTP Act 1971	MTP Amendment Act 2021
Medical practitioner's opinions required	• One Doctor's opinion if termination is within 12 weeks of conception • Two Doctor's opinions for 20 weeks	• One doctor's opinion till 20 weeks • Two for 20-24 weeks • Medical board permission for beyond 24 weeks
Gestation limit	• 20 weeks for all	• 20-24 weeks for vulnerable women e.g. rape victim • beyond 24 weeks for 'substantial foetal abnormalities
Privacy	• Not mentioned	• The "name and other particulars of a woman whose pregnancy has been terminated shall not be revealed", except to a person authorised in any law that is currently in force.

BUSINESS STANDARD

Page 1

Fewer women in higher judiciary

A third of judges in subordinate courts are women, but only 13.2% in high courts and 12.5% in SC



ISHAAN GERA
New Delhi, 2 December

In 2012-13, of the 175,332 students enrolled in LLB courses, a third were women. While the number of seats in LLB courses has since doubled, the proportion of women has barely changed. Data from the All India Survey on Higher Education shows that in 2019-20, of the nearly 400,000 LLB students, 33 per cent were women.

It is not surprising then that India has not had a woman as chief justice since Independence. Justice BV Nagarathna will assume that mantle in 2027, correcting this anomaly.

The proportion of women in the Supreme Court remains low at 12.5 per cent. Five of the 11 women who have served as Supreme Court justices were appointed in the last three years.

So, on December 1, when the Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud constituted an all-women bench to hear transfer petitions involving matrimonial disputes and bail matters, it was only the third such occasion in the apex court's history that an all-women Bench had been constituted.

Women seem to do better in the lower judiciary, but a *Business Standard* analysis has found that their proportion falls higher up the ladder.

Data from a Lok Sabha reply on July 29, 2022 shows that of the 19,288 judges employed in the lower or subordinate courts, 6,765 — or 35 per cent — were women. Of these, 3,719 of 55 per cent were employed as civil judges in the junior division.

However, in the high courts, only 13.2 per cent women occupied the position of judge.

There are vast state-wise disparities in the appointment of judges in the lower judiciary and the high courts. Analysis shows that 17 of the 36 states and Union Territories had a smaller proportion of women in the lower judiciary than the national average.

On December 1 when the CJI constituted an all-women Bench to hear transfer petitions involving matrimonial disputes and bail matters, it was only the third such occasion in the apex court's history

Among the larger states, Gujarat had just 19.5 per cent women employed in subordinate courts as judges; Jharkhand had 23 per cent; and Bihar 24.2 per cent.

In contrast, 52.8 per cent of lower judiciary posts were occupied by women in Telangana; 46.2 per cent in Andhra Pradesh; and 45.8 per cent in Punjab. Fifteen states/UTs had over 40 per cent of women employed in the lower judiciary.

In the high courts, the number of women employed increased from 77 in 2019 to 96 in 2022, but their representation barely changed. Five, including Patna, did not have a single woman judge. Another seven of the 26 had less than 10 per cent women in the judiciary. Only three states — Sikkim, Telangana and Delhi — had over a fourth of women judges in the high court.

There was no correlation between the representation of women in lower courts and high courts.

WOMEN IN JUDICIARY

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Polity & Governance)

Context: On December 1, when the Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud constituted **an all women bench** to hear transfer petitions involving matrimonial disputes and bail matters, it was only the third such occasion in the apex court´s history that an all women Bench had been constituted.

- The first all-women bench was set up in 2013 when a bench of Justices Gyan Sudha Misra and Ranjana Prakash Desai was constituted followed by a bench of Justices R. Banumathi and Indira Banerjee in 2018.

Status of Women in Judiciary

- **Supreme Court**: There have been **only 11 women judges** on the Supreme Court since its inception, and no women Chief Justices.
  - At present, the apex court has **only three women judges**: Justices Kohli, B V Nagarathna, and Trivedi. Justice B V Nagarthana will become Chief Justice of India in 2027 for 36 days.
- **High courts**: The 25 high courts in the **states have 81 women among 677 judges** – five of them do not have a single female judge.
  - Just 83 of the 680 judges in the high courts are women.
  - Only 30% of subordinate judges are female.
- **Women lawyers:** The situation of women lawyers in the country is not any better. **Out of 1.7 million advocates registered, only 15% are women.**
- **Bar Councils**: **Only 2% of the elected representatives in the State Bar Councils** are women. At present, there is no woman member in the Bar Council of India.

International Day of Women Judges

- **About**: United Nations General Assembly Resolution 75/274 designated 10th March the **International Day of Women Judges** in 2021.
  - India was among the nations that sponsored the resolution, which was moved by Qatar.
- **Objectives**: The day aims to recognise the **efforts and contributions being made by women judges** and also empowers young women and girls who aspire to become judges and leaders in the community.
- **Significance**: Combating gender disparity in the judicial services will also help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations.
  - **SDG Goal 5**: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

INDIAN EXPRESS

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KALIKA MATA TEMPLE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Art & Culture)

Temple, dargah, 'invaders': Why a shrine is on BJP's mind

Modi to Amit Shah to Yogi cite it as example of 'restoration of India's cultural and religious pride' under BJP

ADITI RAJA
VADODARA, DECEMBER 2

AMONG THE many talking points in the BJP's ongoing election campaign in Gujarat is the renovation of the 11th-century Kalika Mata temple complex in Pavagadh in Panchmahal district, inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on June 18 this year. The BJP government in the state claims to have redeveloped the temple complex after "amicably shifting" a dargah built atop the temple, to construct the temple's 'shikhar and kalash' or superstructure and spire, and to unfurl the temple flag.

As per the party, this was done 500 years after "invaders" broke down the shikhar and constructed a dargah over it.

Right from Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, to Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the BJP's star campaigners have been citing Pavagadh as an example of "reclaiming and restoration of India's cultural and religious pride" under the Modi-led Centre.

On Thursday, speaking at Kalol in the foothills of Pavagadh, Modi first invoked "the blessings of Mahakali" as India takes over the presidency of the G-20 summit, and went on to blame the Congress for "taking pleasure" in the insult to places of faith and worship. Modi said, "Earlier, seeing the Pavagadh temple without a shikhar used to be a heart wrenching experience. It was a 500-year-old insult meted out by invaders. I had vowed to change it... Was Pavagadh not in existence during the Congress rule? But they were not able to see the strength (of the *shaktipeeth*) that I could see. We launched a campaign to end the insults to Gujarat's faith... The Congress party enjoys insults to faith and worship... I don't know what is wrong with them. You can lose elections but it cannot become the reason for you to lose your mental balance... We used to lose our deposits earlier but we never behaved like this."



The renovated Kalika Mata temple in Pavagadh, which PM Narendra Modi inaugurated in June. *File/Bhupendra Rana*

In a fresh attack on Friday, Modi blamed the Congress for having a "mindset of slavery", while speaking about the Pavagadh temple in Anand district. He said, "The Congress has a mindset of slavery. There are many examples of it. One is the Maa Kali temple in Pavagadh, which was destroyed by invaders 500 years ago. They broke the Mahakali temple and destroyed its shikhar. For 500 years, there was no shikhar reconstructed, no dhwaja unfurled. This is the Congress mindset... Should it not have been done after Independence? ... Their mindset of slavery doesn't allow them to take pride in the country's faiths..."

According to a note from the trustees of the Kalika Mata temple, shared during the inauguration of the renovated complex in June, the temple located in Champaner town, was an erstwhile kingdom ruled by Rajputs who "took pride in being descendants of Emperor Prithviraj Chauhan". It is said that the toe of the right foot of Ma Sati fell here. Hence, the Kalika Mata temple is revered as a Shaktipeeth, and Rajput kings used to unfurl its flag. UNESCO has designated Champaner-Pavagadh as a World Heritage Site, calling it the "only complete and unchanged Islamic pre-Mughal city". This also includes the Kalika Mata temple and the Jama Masjid at the foothill.

In the 15th century, Sultan Mahmud Begda conquered Champaner where he set up his capital and "destroyed the shikhara of the temple", as per a note from the trust. The Sadanshah Pir dargah is believed to have been built around that time.

A lore goes that Sadanshah Peer, originally a Hindu fakir who embraced Islam to be part of Mahmud Begda's court after he established his Sultanate in Gujarat and captured Pavagadh, played a key role in saving the temple from being destroyed.



Context: Prime Minister of India will inaugurate the redeveloped Kalika Mata temple atop the Pavagadh hill in Panchmahal district, Gujarat.

Kalika Mata temple

- **About**: A **Hindu goddess temple** complex and pilgrim centre at the summit of Pavagadh Hill in Panchmahal District, Gujarat.
  - It dates from the **10th or 11th centuries.**
- **Shakti Peethas**: The temple is the site of one of the **Great holy Shakti Peethas.**
  - The **goddess Kalika Mata** was initially worshipped by the local Bhil and Koli People, until she was later invoked and installed by Vishwamitra on Pavagadh Hill summit, where she is worshipped as a form of Durga or Chandi.
- **Part of UNESCO World Heritage Site**: The temple complex is part of the **Champaner-Pavagadh Archaeological Park,** a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- **Historical aspects:** It is believed that in the 15th century, **Sultan Mahmud Begda** conquered Champaner where he set up his capital and destroyed the shikhara of the temple
  - **Lore (set of beliefs) goes that Sadanshah Peer,** originally a Hindu Fakir, who embraced Islam to be part of Mahmud Begda's court played a key role in saving the temple from being destroyed.
  - The **Sadanshah Pir dargah** is believed to have been built around that time.
- **Key Features**: The 11th-century temple complex, **housing a dargah,** is an example of harmony of faiths
  - For the first time, the temple will **have a shikhara (superstructure and spire)** where earlier stood the Hazrat Sadanshah Wali Peer dargah that was relocated to a space next to it in an amicable settlement during redevelopment.

LIVEMINT Page 2

INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS OF INDIA

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

ICAI: Open audit industry under FTAs reciprocally

Gireesh Chandra Prasad & Ravi Dutta Mishra

NEW DELHI

India should open up its market to foreign audit firms under free trade agreements (FTAs) only on a reciprocal basis, said Debashis Mitra, president of the accounting rule-maker Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI).



Debashis Mitra, president of accounting rule-maker ICAI.

ICAI's committee on international trade will meet shortly to set out its position on FTAs relating to the audit sector, following which its governing council will deliberate the matter on 15 December. "After the deliberations in the council, we shall submit our recommendations to the government," Mitra said.

Without going into the details of the recommendations ICAI will make on FTAs, Mitra said that as a professional body, it has stood for greater opportunities for professionals.

"We have always said it should be reciprocal. If people from outside come, our professionals should also be allowed to go and practice there. That is what we have always maintained. It cannot be one-way. They must give us visas. In Europe, if you have to practice, visas should be given to our practitioners. Our qualifications should be recognized that much more," said Mitra.

India signed an early harvest deal with Australia in June, called the Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement, which includes a section on the movement of natural persons across borders covering accounting and book-keeping services, but it specifically excludes statutory audit.

The deal takes effect on 29 December. ICAI's views on the issue of opening up the statutory audit market come amid talks between India and Australia for a larger deal.

India is also in talks with the UK and the European Union for free trade deals and is set to start negotiations with the Gulf Cooperation Council. Movement of personnel is one of the modes of services trade covered under these deals.

Referring to the trade deal with Australia, commerce minister Piyush Goyal said on 22 November that for the first time, India has got visas for Indian chefs and yoga instructors and has also got a commitment that every student who goes from India to study in Australia will get an opportunity to work there, depending on the level of education.

TURN TO PAGE 13

Context: India should open up its market to foreign audit firms under free trade agreements (FTAs) only on a reciprocal basis, said Debashis Mitra, president of the accounting rule-maker Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI).

Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)

- **About**: India's largest **professional accounting body.**
- **Origin**: It was established on 1 July 1949 as a **statutory body** under the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949 enacted by the Parliament.
- **Nodal ministry**: Under the administrative control of **Ministry of Corporate Affairs**, Government of India.
- **Objectives**: It was established for promotion, development and regulation of the profession of Chartered Accountancy in India.
- **Institutional Framework**: Members of the Institute are known as **Chartered Accountants (CA).**
  - **Becoming a member requires passing the prescribed examinations**, three years of practical training and meeting other requirements under the Act and Regulations.
- **Functions**: It is the **only licensing cum regulating body** of the financial audit and accountancy profession in India.
  - It recommends the a**ccounting standards** to be followed by companies in India to National Advisory Committee on Accounting Standards (NACAS).
- **Governance**: Its operations are **managed by ICAI Council** as per the provisions of the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949 and the Chartered Accountants Regulations, 1988.
  - The council **comprises 40 members**, out of which 32 are elected by the Chartered Accountants and the remaining are **nominated by the Central Government.**
  - The nominated members generally **represent the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG),** Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and other stakeholders.
  - The Council has a **term of 3 years** and is headed by the President.
  - The President is **elected by the Council for a one-year term**.
  - The Council can frame **regulations under the Act.**
  - It can also constitute necessary **standing and non-standing Committees.**

ECONOMIC TIMES

Page 2

PROJECT 75 (I) PROGRAMME

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Sci & Tech)

Navy's P75I Submarine Programme in Troubled Waters

₹43,000 crore project delayed further, new deadline set for August 2023

Manu.Pubby@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Trouble and delays continue to dog the navy's plan to build six modern conventional submarines that can stay underwater for prolonged duration, with foreign collaborators failing to meet a deadline for submission of bids.

Sources said that the Rs 43,000-crore P 75I programme—under which an Indian shipyard will construct submarines domestically in partnership with a foreign technology partner—is being given another extension, with a new deadline for bid submission being set for August 2023.

As per the original plan, Indian shipyards had to submit a consolidated bid with a foreign collaborator in 2021. After a series of issues were raised regarding liability clauses and other difficulties, the deadline was extended to June 2022. This was further extended to December this year as no responses were received.

As reported by ET, foreign technology partners are finding it difficult to meet critical specifications for underwater endurance and stealth, besides having concerns on technology transfer. While Germany's ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems (TKMS) and South Korea's Daewoo Shipbuilding and Marine Engineering (DSME) have been in talks with Indian shipyards on the technical aspects of designing a new submarine for India, critical parameters required by the navy are being found difficult to meet.

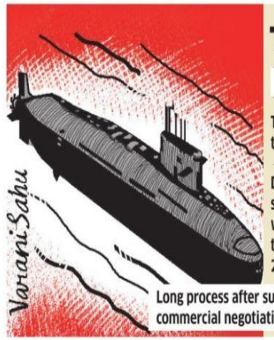
The latest extension, sources said, was received on November 30, with the navy giving shipyards an additional nine months to put together a bid. The unique feature of the new submarines is a sea-proven Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) system—a critical component that will enable these boats to remain submerged for over two weeks, against the 2-3 days of underwater endurance of current submarines.

However, foreign technology partners are struggling to meet technical requirements, though some of their concerns over clauses in the draft contract, which placed almost unlimited performance and delivery liability, have been addressed.

Transfer of technology is a key requirement of the tender but it is learnt that at least one of the foreign bidders is yet to obtain permissions to share critical technology that was developed using government funding.

Indian companies shortlisted for the construction—Mazagaon Dockyards Ltd (MDL) and Larsen and Toubro (L&T)—have been in discussions with foreign technology partners from Germany, France, Russia, South Korea and Spain for the past few years to firm up a technology transfer plan.

However, only Germany and South Korean participants remain in the game as the navy has put the condition that the bidder needs to have a sea-proven AIP system. Russia, France and Spain do have AIP technology but it is not fitted on a submarine where it can be demonstrated. AIP technology has been successfully demonstrated by DRDO but is yet to be sea proven. The home-grown AIP can be fully compliant with all requirements in a little over three years, according to DRDO officials.



THE SAGA

Project 75 I has been in the works for over 24 years

Two Indian shipyards in the fray - MDL and L&T

Tenders formally issued in June 2021

Deadline for submission of bids was November 2021, this was extended to June 2022 and then December 2022

As Indian shipyards have not been able to forge a tech partnership, bid date being extended to August 2023

Long process after submission of bids which includes evaluation of offers, commercial negotiations before construction can begin

UNIQUE FEATURE

The unique feature of the new submarines is a sea-proven AIP system that will enable these boats to remain submerged for over 2 weeks

Context: The Rs 43,000 crore P 75I programme is being given another extension, with a new deadline for bid submission being set for August 2023.

Project 75 (I) programme

- **About**: Project-75 (I) envisages **indigenous construction of six modern conventional submarines** with contemporary equipment, weapons & sensors including Fuel-Cell based AIP (Air Independent Propulsion Plant), advanced torpedoes, modern missiles and state-of-the-art countermeasure systems.
- **Origin**: Project 75 (I), approved in 2007, is **part of the Indian Navy's 30 year Plan** for indigenous submarine construction.
    - The **Cabinet Committee on Security**, in June 1999, had approved a 30-year submarine-building plan which included construction of 24 conventional submarines indigenously by 2030.
    - Of the total 24 submarines to be built in India, **six will be nuclear-powered.**
- **P75**: P75I succeeded the **P75 under which six diesel-electric attack submarines of the Kalvari class**, based on the Scorpene class, were being built at MDL (Mazagon Dock Limited) - the third submarine, INS Karanj, was commissioned in March 2021.
    - Project 75 is a programme by the Indian Navy that envisaged building six Scorpene-Class attack submarines.
    - The **Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL)** is manufacturing six Scorpene submarines with technical assistance from the Naval Group of France.

- **Manufacturers:** Ministry of Defence has shortlisted 2 domestic companies – state-owned **Mazagon Dockyard Limited (MDL) and private firm Larsen & Toubro Ltd,** and 5 foreign vendors: Rubin Design Bureau of Russia, Naval Group of France, Navantia of Spain, ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems (TKMS) of Germany, and Daewoo Shipbuilding & Marine Engineering of South Korea under Project 75 (I).
- **Submarines of the Ongoing Project-75:**
    - Three submarines INS **Kalavari**, INS **Khanderi** and INS **Kharanj** have been commissioned into the Indian Navy.
    - Trials of **4th and 5th submarines,** the INS Vela and INS Vagir are underway while the construction of the 6th Vagsheer is underway.
    - The submarines under **Project-75 Scorpene-Class** are powered by diesel-electric propulsion systems.

TIMES OF INDIA

Page 20

E-WASTE MANAGEMENT

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Env & Eco)

Dumping dead gadgets with other waste adds to problem

Chittaranjan Tembhekar | TNN

India is the world's third largest e-waste producer now behind China and the US. Unsurprisingly, the country's wealthiest city, Mumbai, is a big contributor to the rising pile of discarded gadgets. It could lead the way with e-waste collection and recycling best practices, but as things stand it is far from being a role model.

At junkyards in Deonar and Andheri, hundreds of dealers like Roshan Sharif separate Mumbai's e-waste from other scrap in a cumbersome and labour-intensive way, risking their own health and polluting the environment.

It's not their fault though. Mumbai's municipal corporation, BMC, says a very large number of residents dispose of their e-waste with garbage, which is how it reaches the ragpickers, and then the traditional scrap dealers.

The corporation recently did a survey and found that about 8 lakh buildings do not segregate waste at all, S B Nanote, executive engineer with BMC's e-waste wing, told **TOI**. Ramesh Prabhu of the Maharashtra Societies Welfare Association said residents throw away e-waste with other garbage because housing societies are not penalised for not segregating waste by type.

Mountain Of Waste

Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data shows a steep rise in India's yearly e-waste generation. From 7.7 lakh tonnes in 2018-19, it jumped to 10.1** lakh tonnes in 2019-20 – a growth of 31%. Maharashtra contributes around 8% of India's e-waste now, and Mumbai alone accounts for 5%.

Besides the e-waste generated within the country, large quantities are imported for recycling. A significant share of this waste ends up at the more than 470 authorised dismantlers and recyclers spread over 22 states and having a combined processing capacity of more than 14 lakh tonnes.

Within Maharashtra there are 103 dismantlers and 44 recyclers, and BMC sources say Mumbai city itself can handle around 3,760 metric tonnes of e-waste annually. But the issue is, only 300 MT e-waste reaches these facilities even though around 21 lakh buildings in Mumbai dispose of their e-waste separately. This is because a sizeable chunk of e-waste goes to kabadiwalas. B K Soni, chairman and managing director of Eco Recycling Ltd, said lack of awareness among people leads to unscientific e-waste disposal. So, even though e-waste-specific collectors like 'Book My Junk' are around, people hand over their e-waste to the kabadiwala.

Huge Appliance Heap

It's interesting that only 16% of India's e-waste comes from households. Nearly 75% is generated by the government, the public sector and the private sector. Overall, computers and peripherals account for about 70% of e-waste, 12% comes from the telecom sector, 8% from medical equipment and 7% from electrical equipment.

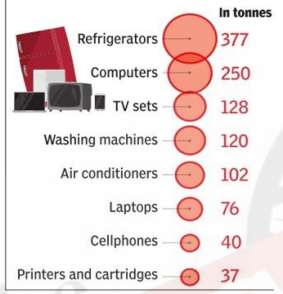
In Maharashtra, though, refrigerators are the biggest component of the e-waste generated by weight, followed by personal computers, TV sets and washing machines. Last year, about 18,560 tonnes of e-waste was dismantled in Maharashtra.

PUTTING WASTE TO USE

Mumbai produces 5% of India's e-waste, but over 90% of its waste processing capacity stays unused as residents don't dispose of old gadgets and appliances properly



Recycling e-waste is key as it can help reduce the carbon footprint of devices. Making new devices from salvaged materials is much better than mining more minerals for them. In Maharashtra, about 18,560 tonnes of e-waste was dismantled last year. This included:



Context: India is the **world's third largest e-waste producer** now behind China and the US. Unsurprisingly, the country's wealthiest city, Mumbai, is a big contributor to the rising pile of discarded gadgets.

E-Waste

- **About**: E-Waste is **short for Electronic-Waste** and the term is used to describe old, end-of-life or discarded electronic appliances. It includes their components, consumables, parts and spares.
- **Categories**: It is categorised into 21 types under **two broad categories:**
  - Information technology and communication equipment.
  - Consumer electrical and electronics.
- **Management of e-waste in India**: There are **312 authorised recyclers of e-waste in India**, with the capacity for treating approximately 800 kilo tons annually. However, formal recycling capacity remains underutilised because over 90% of the e-waste is still handled by the informal sector.
- **Provisions regarding E-waste in India**: Laws to manage e-waste have been in place in India since 2011, mandating that **only authorised dismantlers and recyclers collect e-waste.**
  - India has a formal set of rules for **electronic waste management**, first announced these rules in 2016 and amended it in 2018.
  - The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change notified the E-Waste Management Rules, 2016 in supersession of the **E-waste (Management & Handling) Rules, 2011.**
- **Key features of the E-waste (Management & Handling) Rules, 2016:**
  - **Over 21 products (Schedule-I) were included** under the purview of the rule. It included Compact Fluorescent Lamp (CFL) and other mercury containing lamps, as well as other such equipment.
  - For the first time, the rules brought the producers under **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR),** along with targets. Producers have been made responsible for the collection of E-waste and for its exchange.
  - Various producers can have a **separate Producer Responsibility Organisation (PRO)** and ensure collection of E-waste, as well as its disposal in an environmentally sound manner.
  - **Deposit Refund Scheme** has been introduced as an additional economic instrument wherein the producer charges an additional amount as a deposit at the time of sale of the electrical and electronic equipment and returns it to the consumer along with interest when the end-of-life electrical and electronic equipment is returned.
  - The **role of State Governments** has been also introduced to ensure safety, health and skill development of the workers involved in dismantling and recycling operations.
  - A provision of **penalty for violation** of rules has also been introduced.
  - Urban Local Bodies (Municipal Committee/Council/Corporation) have been assigned the **duty to collect and channelize the orphan products** to authorized dismantlers or recyclers.
  - Allocation of proper space to existing and upcoming industrial units for e-waste dismantling and recycling.

PIB

Dec 3

EARTH OBSERVATION SATELLITE-6

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Sci & Tech)

PM shares breathtaking images from recently launched EOS-06 satellite

Context: The Prime Minister has shared images from the recently launched **EOS-06 satellite**. The Prime Minister further added that these advancements in the world of space technology will help in better prediction of cyclones and promote the coastal economy as well.

Earth Observation Satellite-6

- **About**: It is the **third generation Indian satellite** for monitoring the oceans, formally named as Earth Observation Satellite-6 (EOS-6).
  - The ocean observing mission (**EOS-06 also known as OceanSat-3**) is a follow up to **OceanSat-1 or IRS-P4 and OceanSat-2** launched in 1999 and 2009, respectively.
  - The EOS-06 satellite was launched aboard the proven launch vehicle **PSLV (Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle)** on its 56th flight (24th flight of the PSLV-XL version).
- **Launching agency**: It was launched by **ISRO in partnership with Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)** among others, from its First Launch Pad (FLP) at Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Sriharikota.
- **Key Features:**
  - **Placed in the polar orbit**: The Oceansat-3 was placed in the polar orbit at the **height of about 740 kilometers above sea level.**
    - While at 1100 kilograms, it is only **slightly heavier than Oceansat-1.**
  - **Ocean observing sensors:** Earth Observation Satellite-6 (EOS-6) is carrying three ocean observing sensors:
    - **Ocean Color Monitor (OCM-3)**: It will **observe the day side of the earth every day** and will provide crucial data on distribution of ocean algae which is the base of the food chain within marine ecosystem.
    - **Sea Surface Temperature Monitor (SSTM):** It will **provide ocean surface temperature** which is a critical ocean parameter to provide various forecasts ranging from fish aggregation to cyclone genesis and movement.
    - **Ku-Band scatterometer (SCAT-3):** It will **provide high resolution wind vector** (speed and direction) at the ocean surface, something which any seafarer would like to know of, whether its fishermen or shipping company.
  - **ARGOS payload**: ARGOS is a **communication payload jointly developed with France** and it is used for low-power (energy-efficient) communications including marine robotic floats (Argo floats), fish-tags, drifters, and distress alert devices useful for conducting effective search and rescue operations.

PIB

Dec 3

SWAR DHAROHAR FESTIVAL

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Art & Culture)

Culture organises "Swar Dharohar Festival"- to showcase the iconic art & culture, rich literary Art & Heritage of Indian States, at Central Vista

Context: **Ministry of Culture**, Government of India in collaboration with "**Swar Dharohar Foundation**," inaugurated three day "Swar Dharohar Festival" under Kalanjali.

- **Swar Dharohar Foundation**'s cornerstone was laid by a revolutionary bunch of artists in 2005, with an aim of creating a safe space, a global platform for young budding artists while at the same time popularising Indian Art, Music and its Heritage in its most unrefined form.

Key points

- "Swar Dharohar Festival" is a **Music, Art & Literature Festival** to showcase the iconic art and culture of India and, the rich literary Art & Heritage of Indian States.
- On the first day Classical Performance, **Ghazal, Kavi Sammelan, Mushaira, Sufi Performance** were organised.
- Under Kalanjali, cultural programmes are being **organised at Central Vista every week**.
- The 3 days festival will **continue to be organized on 3rd and 4th of December 2022** at the Central Vista, India Gate, New Delhi, Delhi.
- Swar Dharohar Utsav started in the **morning with Ragaas**, and many celebrities performed.
- In this program the **upcoming local Artists will perform with Legend Artist** on the same platform to showcase their talents.
- The **National as well as Local Poets** will exhibit their artistry through Kavi Sammelan.



DTE

Dec 3

KANGER VALLEY NATIONAL PARK

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Env & Eco)



Context: Bird watchers and forest department officials counted 200 types of birds in Chhattisgarh's first-ever inter-state bird survey conducted in the **Kanger Valley National Park** from November 25-27, 2022.

- The survey was organised by the **forest department of and birders from Chhattisgarh**, in collaboration with **nonprofits Birds & Wildlife of Chhattisgarh and Bird Count India.**

Key points

- **Nine species of owls** (including the spot-bellied eagle-owl), 10 birds of prey, 11 species of woodpeckers (including white-bellied woodpecker, the largest woodpecker in peninsular India), and many other species were documented during the survey, according to a press statement.
- The survey revealed that the **landscape of Kanger Valley can potentially host species** found in the Himalayas, the Northeast, the Eastern and Western Ghats.
- The **Malabar trogon and white-bellied woodpecker** are thought to be birds of the Western Ghats. Many species of flycatchers and warblers from temperate Eurasia visit the region during the winter.
    - Both of these birds - **Pied wheatear and Northern lapwing** - are new birds for Chhattisgarh, with the **Pied wheatear** having never before been observed in Central India.
- The Kanger Valley National Park is also home to a population of Chhattisgarh state bird, the **hill myna.**
- During the bird survey, participants also saw **mammals** like Malabar giant squirrel, chital, rhesus macaques, grey langurs, scat of sloth bears and pugmarks of leopards. The **Indian wolf**, an endangered species, was also seen.

Kanger valley national park

- **About**: Situated in the **Jagdalpur near Bastar in the state of Chhattisgarh**. Being India's **most dense forest** it is renowned for its landscape beauty, biodiversity, and its wide range of flora and fauna.
- **National park:** It was established as a **national park in the year 1982.**
- **Associated river**: The national park derives its name from the **Kanger river** that flows through it.
- **Rock Types:** The **Cuddapah group of rock formations**, as well as the Vindhyan group of rock formations, are the most prevalent rock formations in the park.
    - **Shales** which are found in the dense forest of the Kanger national park, are the most common rock formations in the Cuddapah group, which are horizontally bedded, calcareous in many places.
    - **Slate** is the other type of rock formation found in the Kanger national park.
    - The soils are predominantly residual in character and are **yellowish-brown, brownish red, reddish, and brown in hue.**

- **Flora and Fauna**
    - **Mammals:** Tigers, Leopards, Mouse Deer, Rhesus Macaque, Sloth Bear, Flying Squirrel, Wild Cat, Chital, Sambar, Barking Deer, Jackals, Langurs, Wild Boar, Striped Hyena, Rabbits etc.
    - **Reptiles:** Pythons, Crocodiles, Monitor Lizards, Cobra, Snakes etc.
    - **Trees:** Teak, Haldu, Sal, Tendu, Mahua, Saja, Bija, Dhavara, Tinsa, Suria, Kushum, Semal, Harra, Padar, Kasai etc.
    - **Grasses:** Chir, Phulbahari, Kans, Kusal, Khus etc.
    - **Climbers:** Mahulbel, Satawar, Palas bel, Ramdaton, Malar etc.
    - **Parasites:** Amarbel, Bandha etc.

DTE

Dec 3

BAUXITE DISTRIBUTION IN INDIA

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Geography)



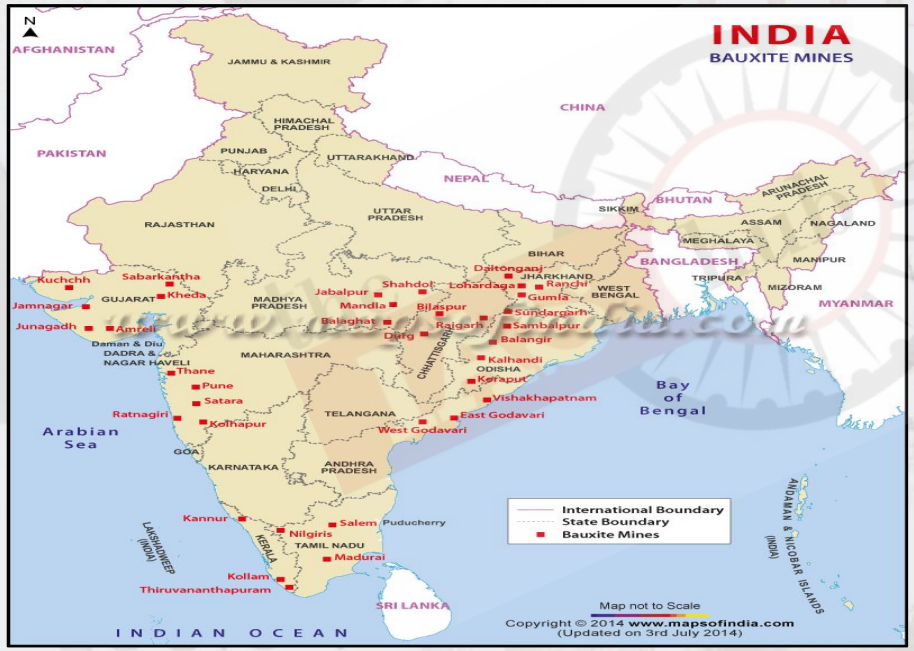
GOVERNANCE

District judge to supervise next public hearing on Maliparbat bauxite mine in Koraput

Usually district magistrate or the additional district magistrate presides over public hearings

NEXT NEWS >

By Shuchita Jha
Published: Friday 02 December 2022



Context: The next public hearing for the proposed **Maliparbat bauxite mine in Korapaut district, Odisha** will be held under the supervision of the district judge.

Background

- Last year on September 22, the **villagers clashed with the district administration and Hindalco officials** during a public hearing by the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) at Kankaramba village on **environmental clearances (EC)** to the company for mining.
- Due to the vehement opposition, the **hearing was rescheduled for November 22** and first information reports (FIR) against 28 villagers were filed before the public hearing.
- **Hindalco Industries** was granted EC for an area of 268.110 hectares of Maliparbat bauxite mine in 2006.
- In the 26th meeting of the **Expert Appraisal Committee** in January 2021, it was noted that the project proponent obtained EC in 2006 and its validity expired after 2011.
- The proponent operated the mines from 2012 to 2014 **without obtaining EC under Environmental Impact Assessment Committee Notification**, making it a violation of rules.
- It also d**id not allow the proponent capacity expansion** from 0.6 million tonnes per year to 0.9 million tonnes.

Bauxite

- <u>About</u>: Bauxite is an **important ore** that is **used for making aluminium.** It is an oxide of aluminium. It is **not a specific mineral but a rock** consisting mainly of hydrated aluminium oxides.
- <u>Production of Aluminum from Bauxite</u>: This industry is divided into 2 segments:
  - The **plants for obtaining alumina from bauxite ore**, such plants are located near bauxite mines.
  - The **plants for reduction of Alumina into Aluminum**, such plants are located near the cheap source of electricity.
    - For producing 1 ton of aluminum, 6 tons of bauxite is required (which produces 2 tons of alumina).
    - In this process, aluminium ore is treated with concentrated sodium hydroxide. Soluble sodium aluminate is formed which is filtered off.
    - The **filtrate on heating** with water gives aluminium hydroxide which gives alumina on strong heating.
- <u>Distribution of Bauxite in the world</u> The world bauxite reserves are estimated at 28 billion tonnes and are located mainly in Guinea (26%), Australia (22%), Brazil (9%), Vietnam (8%), Jamaica (7%), Indonesia (4%), Guyana & China (3% each).
  - **Australia continues to be the major producer of Bauxite** and accounts for about 30% share in total world production, followed by China (25%), Brazil (14%), India (8%) and Guinea (7%).
- <u>Distribution of Bauxite in India</u>: By States, **Odisha alone accounts for 53% of country's resources of bauxite**. The ranking of states in terms of bauxite resources are Odisha (53%), Andhra Pradesh (16%), Gujarat (8%), Jharkhand (5%), Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh (4% each).

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