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MK Yadav Sir

Table of Contents

1. Membership in BRICS
2. Reservation in Private Jobs
3. India Water Impact Summit
4. Antarctic Ozone Hole
5. Ghol Fish
6. AUSTRAHIND-23
7. Sedition Law In India
8. NCLT
9. G20 Virtual Summit
10. Danube Sturgeon

MEMBERSHIP IN BRICS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – IR)

Pak applies for BRICS, seeks Russia's support

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BEIJING, NOVEMBER 22

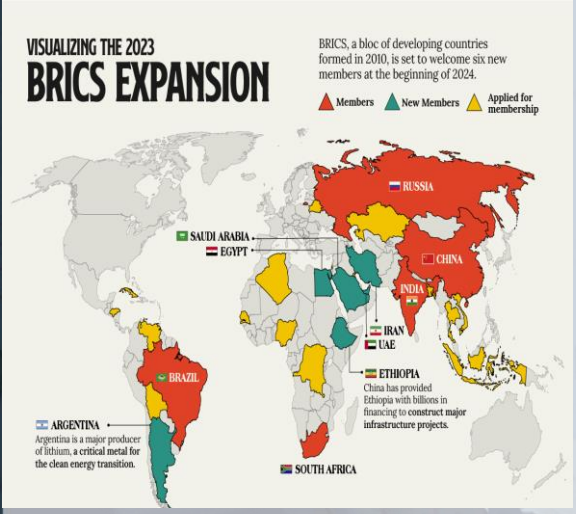
PAKISTAN HAS applied for membership in the BRICS grouping and sought Russia's support, the country's envoy to Moscow Muhammad Khalid Jamali has said.

Pakistan has filed an application to join the BRICS group of nations in 2024 and is counting on Russia's assistance during the membership process, Russia's official TASS news agency reported on Wednesday quoted Jamali as saying.

Jamali said Pakistan has already applied for membership in the BRICS-Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa and is set to expand next year with the admission of six new members under the Russian Presidency.

Pakistan's application to join the BRICS came as the grouping of emerging economies was set for its biggest expansion with six new members under Russia's rotating Presidency in 2024.

This year's BRICS summit held in South Africa formally admitted Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as new members. They will formally join during the 2024 summit in Russia.



Context: **Pakistan recently applied for membership in the BRICS grouping** and sought Russia's support, as confirmed by the country's envoy to Moscow.

BRICS

- **About**: It is an acronym for the grouping of the world's leading emerging economies, namely Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (included in 2010)
- **Founded By**: 2009.
- **Headquarters**: Shanghai.
- **Members**: Brazil, Russia, India, and China
- **Six New Members**: Saudi Arabia, Iran, Ethiopia, Egypt, Argentina, and the United Arab Emirates- will be added to the bloc in January 2024.

Criteria for Eligibility in BRICS

- There is no formal application process as such to join BRICS, however, certain eligibility features are considered for new members:
- **Economic Size**: India had suggested a minimum of $400bn GDP for new members
- **Trade Volume**: India had suggested a minimum BRICS trade of $50 billion with the new member
- **Emerging Economy Status**: The country should demonstrate characteristics of an emerging economy, including growth potential, industrialization, and development trajectory.
- **Political Stability**: Membership often requires the candidate country to have a stable political environment, good diplomatic relations with existing members, and a commitment to democracy.
- **Mutual Consensus**: Existing BRICS members usually need to reach a consensus on admitting new members, which is crucial for expansion.

THE HINDU

Page 8

RESERVATION IN PRIVATE JOBS

Syllabus GS Paper 2 - Polity)

Haryana's employment reservation law

What does the reservation law entail? How was it challenged in Court and what was the justification of the State government? Has a similar law been implemented in Andhra Pradesh as well? Why did the High Court rule it as unconstitutional?

EXPLAINER

Aarathika Bhamidi

The story so far:

The Punjab and Haryana High Court on November 17 quashed a law enacted by the Haryana government in 2021 that guaranteed 75% reservation to locals in private sector jobs in Haryana. A division bench of Justices G. S. Sandhawalia and Harpreet Kaur Jeewan ruled that the Haryana State Employment of Local Candidates Act, 2020, was unconstitutional and violated fundamental rights.

What does the reservation law say?

In November 2020, the Haryana Assembly passed the Haryana State Employment of Local Candidates Bill which made it mandatory for employers in the State to reserve 75% of jobs paying a monthly salary of less than ₹30,000 (originally ₹50,000) for local residents of the State. The Bill received the Governor's assent on March 2, 2021, and came into effect in January last year. The law is applicable to all private entities in the State including companies, trusts, societies, partnerships, and limited liability partnerships. It also covers any person employing 10 or more persons for the purpose of manufacturing or providing any service.

A 'local candidate' has been defined under the law as anyone domiciled in Haryana for the past five years. Such candidates will have to mandatorily register themselves on a designated portal in order to avail benefits and employers have to make recruitments only through this portal. Companies can seek an exemption if they do not find local candidates of a desired skill or qualification, but this claim can be rejected by government officials if they doubt its legitimacy. Employers found to be violating the Act are liable to a fine between ₹10,000 and ₹2 lakh.

Hard at work: A labourer at work in Gurugram, Haryana. PTI

Why was the law challenged?

Several industry associations challenged the validity of the law on the ground that it violates Article 19 of the Constitution, which guarantees the right to freedom, including to reside and settle in any part of the Indian territory and practise any profession, business or trade. They also contended that the law was an infringement of Article 14 (equality before the law) and Article 15, which prohibits discrimination on various grounds such as religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth. The court was also apprised that the reservation creates a wedge between persons domiciled in different States and is contrary to the concept of common citizenship envisaged in the Constitution.

How has the State defended it?

The State government contended that the law intends to 'protect the right to livelihood of people domiciled in the State', and that the enactment was rooted in the rising unemployment in Haryana. It was also asserted that the government is empowered to create such reservations under Article 16(4) of the Constitution, which stipulates that the right to equality in public employment does not prevent the State from 'making any provision for the reservation of appointments or posts in favour of any backward class of citizens which, in the opinion of the State, is not adequately represented in the services under the State'.

Have other States enacted such laws?

States such as Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh have enacted laws providing reservations for their local residents in the private sector. In November 2020, the Andhra Pradesh Assembly passed the Andhra Pradesh Employment of Local Candidates in the Industries/Factories Bill, 2019, reserving three-fourths of jobs for local candidates within three years of the commencement of the Act. The law was subsequently challenged in the Andhra Pradesh High Court, which opined that 'it may be unconstitutional'. However, the challenge is yet to be heard on its merits.

Has the Supreme Court intervened?

On February 3, 2022, the High Court passed an interim order staying the law following which a division Bench of the Supreme Court bench set it aside on the ground that the High Court had not provided 'sufficient reasons' for putting the law on hold. The High Court was ordered to expeditiously decide the petition and the Haryana government was also directed to not take any coercive steps against companies for non-compliance until the matter is finally decided upon.

Why did the High Court quash it?

The court ruled that the law was unconstitutional to the extent that 'a person's right to carry on occupation, trade, or business' under Article 19(1)(g) of the Constitution was being impaired. It also highlighted that the law discriminates against individuals who do not belong to a certain State by 'putting up artificial walls throughout the country'. Placing reliance on Article 35 of the Constitution, the court outlined that the provision bars the State legislature from legislating on matters that fall within the purview of Article 16(3) of the Constitution (equality of opportunity in matters of public employment) since only the Parliament can pass laws on such subjects. Referring to Section 6 of the Act which requires employers to submit quarterly reports with details of local candidates employed and Section 8, under which officers could call for documents to ensure the law was being implemented, the court said that these restrictions amounted to 'Inspector Raj' that furthered State control over private employers.

THE GIST

- In November 2020, the Haryana Assembly passed the Haryana State Employment of Local Candidates Bill which made it mandatory for employers in the State to reserve 75% of jobs paying a monthly salary of less than ₹30,000 for local residents of the State.
- States such as Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh have enacted laws providing reservations for their local residents in the private sector.
- The court ruled that the law was unconstitutional to the extent that 'a person's right to carry on occupation, trade, or business' under Article 19(1)(g) of the Constitution was being impaired.

Context: The **Punjab and Haryana High Court recently quashed** a law enacted by the **Haryana government in 2021 that guaranteed 75% reservation** to locals in private sector jobs in Haryana.

Haryana's Employment Reservation Law

- **About:** Haryana Assembly passed the Haryana State Employment of Local Candidates Bill which made it mandatory for employers in the State to reserve 75% of jobs paying a monthly salary of less than ₹30,000 (originally ₹50,000) for local residents of the State.
  - The Bill received the Governor's assent in March, 2021, and came into effect in January last year.
- **Local Candidate**: A 'local candidate' has been defined under the law as anyone domiciled in Haryana for the past five years.
- **Applicable**: all private entities in the State including companies, trusts, societies, partnerships, and limited liability partnerships.
  - It also covers any person employing 10 or more persons for the purpose of manufacturing or providing any service.

Why was the Law Challenged?

- **It violates Article 19 of the Constitution**, which guarantees the right to freedom, including to reside and settle in any part of the Indian territory and practice any profession, business or trade.
- They also contended that the law was an **infringement of Article 14** (equality before the law) and **Article 15, which prohibits discrimination** on various grounds such as religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth.

Other States enacted such laws

- States such as Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh have enacted laws providing reservations for their local residents in the private sector.

PIB Nov 22

INDIA WATER IMPACT SUMMIT

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – Governance)

Union Minister Shri Nitin Gadkari Inaugurates the 8th India Water Impact Summit (IWIS) in New Delhi

Context: The Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways of India recently inaugurated **the 8th Edition of the India Water Impact Summit (IWIS)** at the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi.

India Water Impact Summit (IWIS)

- **Organized by**: National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) and the Center for Ganga River Basin Management and Studies (cGanga).
- **Theme**: Development vis-à-vis Land, Water and Rivers
- **Aim**: To unite scientific experts, stakeholders, and government representatives to address dynamic challenges and opportunities in India's water sector.
- **Three pivotal pillars of society**: Ethics, ecology and environment, and economics underscoring their integral role in shaping a sustainable future.

National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)

- **About**: It is formed to act as **implementation arm of National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA)** which was constituted under the provisions of **the Environment (Protection) Act (EPA),1986.**
- **Established**: Year 2011 as a registered society under Societies Registration Act,1860.
- **NMCG - Organizational Structure:**
  - **National level:** Two-tier management structure and consists of: The **Governing Council** and **Executive Committee.**
  - **At the state level: State Programme Management Groups (SPMGs**.

Centre for Ganga River Basin Management and Studies (cGanga)

- **About**: The center serves as a hub of excellence dedicated to collecting data, generating knowledge, and disseminating information to foster the sustainable development of the Ganga River Basin.
- **Establishment by**: Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (IITK) in 2016.

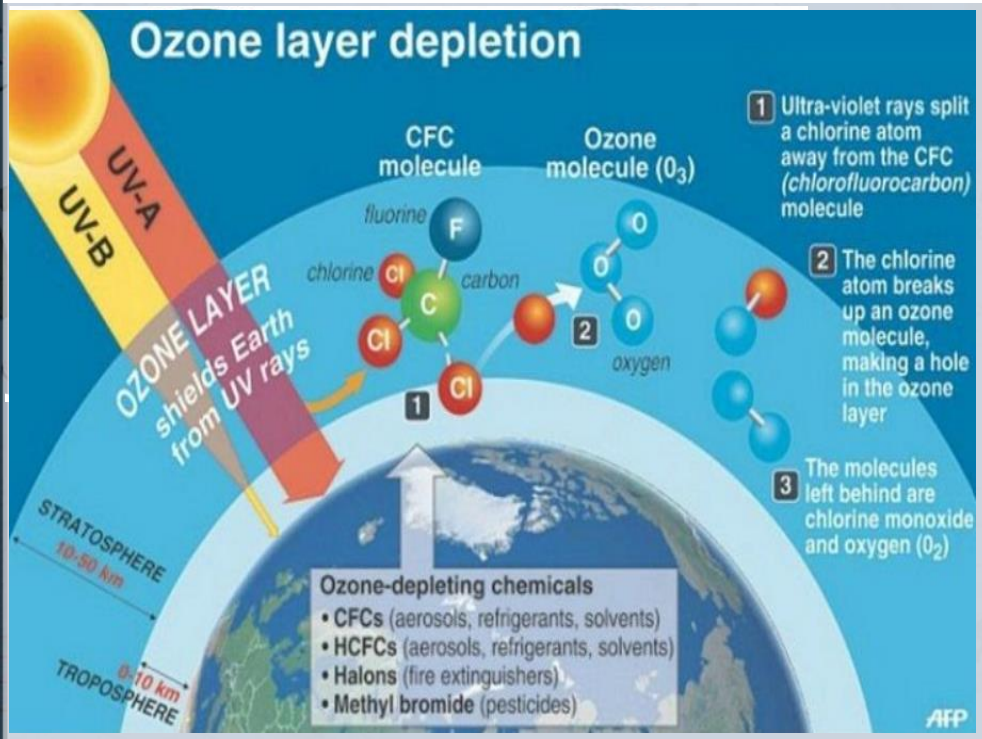
DTE

Nov 22

ANTARCTIC OZONE HOLE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Env and Eco)

Antarctic ozone hole now larger, thinner & may take longer to recover. Mesosphere has a role to play: Study



Context: Recently, a **study in Nature Communications revealed** that the **ozone hole over the Antarctic has not only grown** larger but **also thinner** throughout most of the spring.

Antarctic Ozone Hole

- **About**: It is defined as the total area where ozone amounts are below the historical threshold of 220 Dobson units.
  - The dimensions of the Antarctic ozone hole fluctuate annually, typically initiating in August and concluding by November or December.
- **Ozone Hole**: An ozone hole is a region of the stratosphere over Antarctica where the ozone layer is exceptionally depleted.
  - The ozone hole is not technically a "hole" where no ozone is present but thinning of the layer of ozone layer.

Ozone Layer

- **About**: The ozone layer is located in the stratosphere, and it serves as a protective gas shield by absorbing harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation.
- This shield helps protect us from the negative consequences of excessive UV exposure.
- UV radiation has a significant impact on skin cancer rates, emphasizing the crucial role of preserving the ozone layer.

Significance of Ozone Layer

- The **ozone layer is essential for life on Earth** as it absorbs the most harmful type of UV radiation, UV-B radiation.
- Anything that shields us from **UV rays contributes to lowering cancer rates**, given that most skin cancers are caused by excessive UV radiation.
- **Absorption of UV radiation by ozone in the stratosphere leads to the heating** of the surrounding air, causing a stratospheric temperature inversion.

TIMES OF INDIA

Nov 22

GHOL FISH

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Env and Eco)

Fin-tastic news: Ghol named state fish

Context: Recently, **Gujrat declared the Ghol fish as the state fish** of Gujarat during the two-day Global Fisheries Conference India 2023 in Ahmedabad.

Ghol Fish

- **About:** It is one of the largest fish found in India.
- **Found**: Marine areas (marine fish) of Gujarat and Maharashtra in a golden-brown colour.
- **Globally Distribution**: Indo-Pacific region, spanning from the Persian Gulf to the Pacific Ocean.
- **Also known as:** The black-spotted croaker in many parts of the world.
- **Scientific name:** Protonibea dianthus.
- **Uses**: Ghol fish is used to make **beer and wine** and its air bladder is used in **pharmaceuticals.**

Global Fisheries Conference India 2023

- **Location:** Gujarat Science City.
- **Theme:** Celebrate the Fisheries and Aquaculture Wealth.
- **Participants**: Foreign missions, experts, government officials, think tanks, academia, international organizations(such as the World Bank, FAO), industry associations, and other key stakeholders for the conference.

PIB Nov 22

AUSTRAHIND-23
(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – IR)

INDIAN ARMED FORCES CONTINGENT DEPARTS FOR JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE "AUSTRAHIND-23"

Context: The Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Textiles **recently Context:** Recently, the Indian Armed Forces contingent, consisting of 81 personnel, departed for Australia to participate in the **second edition of the Joint Military Exercise AUSTRAHIND-23.**

Exercise AUSTRAHIND-23

- **About**: It is A bilateral training exercise between armies of India and Australia.
- **Aim:** To foster collaborative partnerships and share best practices between the two sides.
  - The **joint exercise will promote the exchange of ideas** and jointly rehearse tactics, techniques, and procedures for conducting tactical operations.
  - The exercise will also **help in promoting understanding between the two militaries** and further strengthen the defense cooperation between the two friendly nations.
- **Contingent Composition**: The Indian Army contingent is represented by 60 personnel from a Battalion of the GORKHA Rifles.
- Australian Army contingent, consisting of 60 personnel, hails from the 13th Brigade
- **AUSTRAHIND 2022 Edition**: Mahajan, Rajasthan
- **AUSTRAHIND 2023 Edition:** Perth, Australia

Other Military Exercises with Australia

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HINDUSTAN TIMES

Page 10

SEDITION LAW IN INDIA

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – Polity)

Apex court hints at referring sedition case to 7-judge bench

Utkarsh Anand

letters@hindustantimes.com

A PROPOSED LAW, INTRODUCED IN THE LOK SABHA ON AUGUST 11, HAS EFFECTIVELY RETAINED SEDITION AS A CRIME UNDER A DIFFERENT NAME

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Wednesday hinted at referring a clutch of petitions questioning the validity of the sedition law prescribed under Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) directly to a Constitution bench of seven judges instead of first listing it before a five-judge bench.

In September, the court said that the matter should be placed before the Chief Justice of India (CJI) on the administrative side for setting up a Constitution bench with appropriate strength of judges, even as it rejected the Union government's request to defer scrutinising the penal provision because a new law on the subject was in the pipeline.

A proposed law, which was introduced by the Centre in the Lok Sabha on August 11 and was subsequently referred to a parliamentary panel, has effectively retained sedition as a crime under a different name and with an expansive definition.

The home affairs panel, in its report that was adopted earlier this month, approved of the new provisions, stating it "compliments the government in deleting the term 'sedition' from criminal law by rephrasing it without compromising the security of the State".

The new law is likely to be passed in the upcoming winter session of Parliament.

On Tuesday, when the case came up before the bench, comprising CJI Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud and justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, it was pointed out that the issue ought to be referred to a seven-judge bench since a previous judgment that had affirmed the legality of Section 124A was delivered by a five-judge bench. A 1962 judgment by a five-judge bench in Kedarnath Singh vs State of Bihar had upheld Section 124A. To be sure, only a larger bench can review or overrule a previous judgment.

"We are pressing for a seven-judge bench as this would require reconsidering the decision in the Kedarnath case," senior counsel Gopal Sankaranarayanan, appearing for one of the petitioners in the matter, submitted. He added that if the case were to first come up before a five-judge bench, the decision by another five-judge bench in 1962 would again come up as a preliminary issue.

Agreeing with Sankaranarayanan's submissions, the CJI said that he would pass suitable orders regarding constitution of a proper bench. "I will pass that order... there won't be any fruit in forming another five-judge bench," said justice Chandrachud, fixing the hearing of the case in January.

While referring the matter to a larger bench on September 12, the three-judge bench highlighted that the evolution of law and the manner of interpretations of constitutional rights since the 1962 judgment warranted a re-look at the Kedarnath Singh verdict. "... at the time when the Constitution bench ruled on the validity of the provision, the challenge on the ground that section 124A violated articles of Constitution was tested on the anvil of only that article (Article 19 that protects free speech). There was no challenge that 124A violated Article 14 (equality) or Article 21 (liberty)...," recorded the court in its order on the day.

Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code (sedition law) — a cognisable and a non-bailable offence punishable with life sentence or a jail term up to three years, and one that rights activists and several jurists have alleged is often misused, employed by the state to stifle protest and dissent – is currently on hold due to a continuing interim order of the Supreme Court passed on May 11, 2022.

The September decision by the court came almost a month after the Centre introduced a bill in the Lok Sabha, indicating that sedition will continue to be a crime under the proposed law, albeit under a different name and definition, with the punishment for the offence being increased.

While the bill was referred to a parliamentary panel for further examination, an analysis of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Bill, 2023 suggests that the sedition offence has been retained under the proposed law with aa more expansive definition of what will constitute "acts endangering sovereignty, unity and integrity of India", even as it removes the words "disaffection towards the government...in India" from the Section 124A of IPC.

Context: Recently, the Supreme Court hinted at bypassing a five-judge bench and directly referring petitions challenging the validity of the sedition law to a seven-judge Constitution bench.

Sedition Law in India

- **About**: The British government introduced the sedition law, found in Section 124A of the IPC, in 1870 as a means to suppress opposition to colonial rule.
- **Addition by Thomas Babington Macaulay**: The original version of the IPC, established in 1860, did not include this provision; it was added by Thomas Babington Macaulay in 1870.

Section 124A of the IPC

- **Sedition Definition**: It delineates sedition as an act where an individual, through spoken or written words, signs, visible representations, or any other means, endeavors to incite hatred or contempt, or provokes disaffection towards the legally established government in India.
- **Understanding Disaffection**: Disaffection encompasses disloyalty and all forms of enmity.
    - However, it's crucial to note that remarks that do not aim to stir up hatred, contempt, or disaffection will not qualify as an offense under this section.
- **SC's Clarification**: In the case of Balwant Singh v. State of Punjab (1995), the Supreme Court emphasized the importance of considering the true intent behind a speech before classifying it as seditious.
- **Punishment under Section 124A**: Punishment under the law varies from imprisonment up to three years to a life term and fine.
- It is a cognizable and non-bailable offence punishable

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Page 5

NCLT

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Economy)

SC advises NCLT against routine asset revaluation orders

Utkarsh Anand
letters@hindustantimes.com
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has advised the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) against routinely issuing directions for a revaluation of a corporate debtor's assets.

A bench comprising Justices Vikram Nath and Ahsanuddin Amanullah emphasized that the tribunal has limited powers for such directions and should exercise them only in exceptional circumstances.

The bench highlighted that NCLT must be cognizant that revaluation orders can hinder swift resolution, and thus, such orders should be issued only when there are compelling reasons to justify taking such an extraordinary step.

"It is now well settled that it is well within the CoC's (committee of creditors) domain as to how to deal with the entire debt of the corporate debtor. In this background, if after repeated negotiations, a resolution plan is submitted, and has been approved by the CoC with majority vote, such commercial wisdom isn't required to be called into question or casually interfered with," the court said on Tuesday.

Citing relevant provisions of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, the bench said that the adjudicating authority (NCLT) has jurisdiction under Section 31(2) of IBC, which gives power not to approve only when the resolution plan does not meet requirements laid down under Section 31(1) of IBC, for which a reasoned order is required to be passed. IBC, under sections 30 and 31, requires a resolution professional to ascertain measures of due diligence and care before approving it.

"We may state that NCLT's jurisdiction and powers as the adjudicating authority under the code, flow only from the code and regulations thereunder...If a matter where facts are stark comes to light, same would have to necessarily be dealt with by NCLT within the four corners [of Section] 43 of the code, having due regard to the extant circumstances. It is for NCLT to exercise power strictly within the domain permitted by the code," it added.

The bench highlighted that NCLT must be cognizant that revaluation orders can hinder swift resolution. PTI

The bench ordered, while setting aside an order of revaluation, passed by the NCLT in September 2021 and affirmed by the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) in January 2022.

The tribunal's orders had suspended the implementation of ACIL Ltd's resolution plan and instructed the official liquidator to conduct revaluation of the corporate debtor's assets.

Acknowledging the deadlock in resolution plan, the SC asked the tribunal to decide on the application within 3 weeks

In its judgment, the top court said there was no justification for NCLT to order a revaluation when no objection was raised by any quarter with regard to any irregularity, either by the RP or the CoC, in approving the resolution plan sent to the NCLT for approval.

"Thus, if the CoC, including financial creditors to whom the money is due from the corporate debtor, had undertaken repeated negotiations with the appellant with regard to the resolution plan and thereafter, with majority of 88.56% votes, approved the final negotiated resolution plan of the appellant, which the RP, in turn, presented to the NCLT for approval, unless the same was failing tests of the provisions of the Code, especially Sections 30 and 31, no interference was warranted," it observed.

Acknowledging the deadlock in resolution plan since the 2021 NCLT order, the SC asked the tribunal to decide on the application within three weeks.

Context: The Supreme Court recently cautioned the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) against routinely ordering revaluation of a corporate debtor's assets.

- The **bench ordered, while setting aside** an order of revaluation, **passed by the NCLT** in September 2021 and **affirmed by the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal** (NCLAT) in January 2022.

National Company Law Tribunal

- **About**: It is a quasi-judicial body in India that adjudicates issues relating to Indian companies.
- **Established**: Under the Companies Act 2013 and was constituted on 1 June 2016 by the government of India and is based on the
- **Recommendation**: **V. Balakrishna Eradi committee** on law relating to the insolvency and the winding up of companies.
- **Composition**: The NCLT bench is **chaired by a Judicial member who is supposed to be a retired** or a serving High Court Judge and a Technical member who must be from the Indian Corporate Law Service, ICLS Cadre.
- **NCLT is the adjudicating authority for the** insolvency resolution process of companies and limited liability partnerships under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.

Power under the Companies Act

- Initiated before the Company Law Board under the previous act (the Companies Act 1956);
- Pending before the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction, including those pending under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985;
- Pending before the Appellate Authority for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction; and
- Pertaining to claims of oppression and mismanagement of a company, winding up of companies and all other powers prescribed under the Companies Act.

THE PRINT

Nov 22

G20 VIRTUAL SUMMIT
(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - IR)

We condemn terrorism and violence: PM Modi at virtual G20 Summit

Context: Recently, during the **G20 virtual summit in India, the Prime Minister of India shed light on the fact that G20 members agreed on many issues,** including the condemnation of terrorism and violence. He stated that India has zero tolerance for terrorism."

G20 Virtual Summit

- **Origin**: Formed in 1999 in the backdrop of the financial crisis of the late 1990s that hit East Asia and Southeast Asia in particular.
- **Aim and objective**: To secure global financial stability by involving middle-income countries.
- **Members:** Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States and the EU.
- **Presidency**: The presidency of the G20 rotates every year among members, and the country holding the presidency, together with the previous and next presidency-holder, forms the 'Troika' to ensure continuity of the G20 agenda.
- **No permanent secretariat/Headquarter**: The incumbent chair establishes a temporary secretariat for the duration of its term.

DTE

Nov 22

DANUBE STURGEON

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Env and Eco)

New study reveals sturgeon caviar sourced from illegal trade, labelled to mislead

Context: Recently, a study has exposed that **sturgeon products available in the international market are sourced from illegal trade**, blatantly violating wildlife protection norms.

Key Points

- The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in 1998 **listed the species as endangered** and put restrictions on fishing of sturgeons from the Danube and Black Sea.
- In 2000, **CITES even imposed an international labelling system** for all caviar products to curb illegal trade.
- **The Danube is the last river body** with functional populations of beluga, Russian, stellate and sterlet sturgeons, according to the authors of the study.

Danube Sturgeon

- **About:** Sturgeons represent a natural heritage of the Danube River Basin and key indicator species for high ecological quality of rivers.
- **Habitat**: 27 species of sturgeons and paddlefishes distributed across the Northern hemisphere.
- **Threats**: Blocked migration routes through dams, Loss or degradation of habitats, and Pollution.
- **IUCN Red list**: There are 6 species of sturgeon in the Danube River. Five of them are now listed as critically endangered.
- **CITES**: Appendix-II.

Danube River

- **About**: Danube River, river, the second longest in Europe after the Volga.
- **Origin**: It rises in the Black Forest mountains of western Germany and flows for some 1,770 miles (2,850 km) to its mouth on the Black Sea.
- **Passes**: 10 countries: Germany, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria, Romania, Moldova, and Ukraine.

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