# K A R A T JUDICIAL TIMES

## **MARCH 2024**

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JUDICIAL TIMES (FEBRUARY 2024)

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#### **NATIONAL NEWS**

- 1. India nominates 'Maratha Military Landscapes' for 2024-25 UNESCO World Heritage List.
- The Ministry of Culture announced that India is nominating the 'Maratha Military Landscape' for inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage List for the 2024-25 cycle, with a total of 12 components included in this nomination.
- Suvarnadurg Fort is a part of the historic 'Maratha Military Landscape'.
- 'Maratha Military Landscapes' represents extraordinary fortification and military system envisioned by the Maratha rulers, showcasing the vibrant history of India.
- Twelve components of this nomination are -- Salher fort, Shivneri fort, Lohgad, Khanderi fort, Raigad, Rajgad, Pratapgad, Suvarnadurg, Panhala fort, Vijay durg, and Sindhudurg in Maharashtra, and Gingee fort in Tamil Nadu.
- 2. Cabinet approves Signing and ratification of Bilateral Investment Treaty between India and the United Arab Emirates.
- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval
  for signing and ratification of the Bilateral Investment Treaty between the Government of the
  Republic of India and the Government of the United Arab Emirates.
- The Treaty is expected to improve the confidence of the investors, especially large investors, increasing Foreign Investments and Overseas Direct Investment (ODI) opportunities and this may have a positive impact on employment generation.
- 3. Cabinet approves extension of Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund.
- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the continuation
  of the Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) to be implemented under
  the Infrastructure Development Fund (IDF) with an outlay of Rs.29,610.25 crore for another
  three years up to 2025-26.
- The Government of India will provide 3% interest subvention for 8 years including two years of the moratorium for loans up to 90% from the scheduled bank and National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), NABARD and NDDB.
- 4. Cabinet approves Scheme of Sugar Subsidy for AAY Families under PDS.
- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narender Modi approved an extension of scheme of sugar subsidy for Antyodya Anna Yojna (AAY) families distributed through the Public Distribution Scheme (PDS) for two more years i.e. 31 March 2026.



- Under the Scheme, the Central Government gives subsidy of Rs.18.50 per kg per month of sugar to AAY families of participating States.
- The approval is expected to extend benefits of more than Rs.1850 crore during period of 15th Finance Commission (2020-21 to 2025-26).
- 5. Cabinet approves continuation of Scheme for Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies for export of Apparel/Garments.
- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the continuation of the Scheme for Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) for the export of Apparel/Garments and Made ups upto 31st March 2026.
- Continuation of the Scheme for proposed two (2) years will provide stable policy regime which is essential for long term trade planning, more so in the textiles sector where orders can be placed in advance for long term delivery.
- 6. Union Minister of Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs Shri Pralhad Joshi launches C-CARES, web portal of CMPFO.
- Union Minister of Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs Shri Pralhad Joshi launched a web portal of CMPFO namely C- CARES developed and designed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), an R&D organization under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology on 31st January, 2024.
- This marks a significant leap in the digitization journey of CMPFO aiming to address the longstanding issue of digitizing its records and work process.
- Coal Mines Provident Fund Organization (CMPFO) is an autonomous organization under the aegis of the Ministry of Coal established in the year 1948 to administer Provident Fund and Pension schemes to provide social security to the coal sector workers.
- 7. Union Minister of Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Pralhad Joshi inaugurated three CSR initiatives of Coal India Limited.
- Union Minister of Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Pralhad Joshi inaugurated three initiatives being undertaken as Corporate Social Responsibility of Coal India Limited (CIL) in collaboration with Educational Consultants Limited (EDCIL), National Skill Development Corporation and TATA STRIVE on 31st January, 2024.
- It marks a watershed step to fulfil Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of 'Viksit Bharat' and 'Digital Bharat'.
- 8. Prime Minister to inaugurate and lay foundation stones of various developmental initiatives in Guwahati.



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate and lay the foundation stones of various developmental initiatives worth 11,599 crore rupees in Assam.
- The Assam Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma informed that the Prime Minister will reach Guwahati for a two-day visit.
- Mr. Sarma informed that the Prime Minister will inaugurate and lay the foundation stones of several projects virtually from the public meeting at the Veterinary College Play Ground in Guwahati.

#### 9. India's UPI Formally Launched In France At Paris' Iconic Eiffel Tower.

- India formally launched the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) at the iconic Eiffel Tower in Paris.
- Making the announcement, the Indian Embassy in France termed it as part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of taking UPI, global.
- The UPI was formally launched at the Republic Day reception held in France.
- The UPI is India's mobile-based payment system developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPIL) in 2016.

#### 10. Uttarakhand Cabinet clears Uniform Civil Code bill, to be tabled in Assembly.

- The government-appointed panel to draft the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) handed over an important document to Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami.
- The draft will be examined, studied, and discussed before presenting it in the Assembly.
- The five-member committee was headed by retired Supreme Court judge Ranjana Prakash Desai.



#### INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- 1. India-Singapore committed to strengthening cooperation in the field of Personnel Management and Public Administration.
- India-Singapore committed themselves to strengthening cooperation in the field of Personnel Management and Public Administration.
- The bilateral meeting discussed the contours of collaboration for 2024.
- The areas of collaboration envisage sharing of good governance practices, exchange of
  information in the field of Personnel Management and Public Administration, cooperation
  between the two countries on using technology in governance and timely convening of the Joint
  Working Group meetings.
- 2. 4th India and Portugal Foreign Office Consultations held in New Delhi.
- The fourth Foreign Office Consultations between India and Portugal was held in New Delhi, with a focus on political relations, deepening of trade and investment, cooperation in defence, science and technology, and energy.
- External Affairs Ministry said both sides stressed on early implementation of the pilot project on the Recruitment of Indian Citizens to work in the Portuguese Republic, as well as the holding of the first India Portugal Consular Dialogue.
- The two sides also exchanged views on global and regional issues including Gaza and Ukraine and agreed to continue the existing close cooperation in multilateral fora, including at the UN.
- 3. India and Oman review defence cooperation during the 12th Joint Military Cooperation Committee meeting in Muscat.
- Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane co-chaired the 12th Joint Military Cooperation Committee meeting with the Secretary-General, Ministry of Defence, Oman Dr. Mohammed Bin Naseer Bin Ali Al Zaabi in Muscat.
- During the meeting, both sides reviewed and appreciated the robust defence cooperation between India and Oman.
- The meeting delved into many new areas of cooperation in the fields of training, Joint exercise, Information sharing, Oceanography, and Ship Building that would build mutual trust and interoperability between militaries of both nations.
- 4. China overtook Japan as the world's biggest vehicle exporter 2023.
- China's global dominance in electric cars helped it overtake Japan as the world's biggest vehicle exporter last year, official data confirmed.



- Japanese giants such as Toyota and Nissan have been much more cautious than their Chinese counterparts like BYD on electric vehicles (EVs), banking instead on hybrid models.
- Figures released by the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association showed shipments of cars, trucks and buses rising 16 percent to 4.42 million last year.

## 5. India, and Greece agree to soon firm up migration & mobility pact; boost anti-terror cooperation.

- India and Greece will soon sign a mobility and migration partnership agreement to ease skilled
  migration between the two countries and aim to double bilateral trade by 2030, stated Prime
  Minister Narendra Modi.
- The Indian PM and his Greek counterpart, Kyriakos Mitsotakis, in their bilateral meeting in New Delhi, discussed strengthening of cooperation in multiple areas, including defence, security, education, start-ups, shipping, trade, investment, agriculture and tourism.
- Modi stated that the visit of the Greek PM to India after 16 years was a historic occasion.
- India-Greece bilateral trade in 2022-23 was about \$2 billion, with India's exports at \$785.72 million and imports at \$1.16 billion, per government data.

## 6. Philippines Makes History as First Asian Nation to Ratify International Labour Organisation Convention Addressing Workplace Violence and Harassment.

- The Philippines has made history by becoming the first Asian country to ratify the Violence and Harassment Convention 2019 (No. 190) announced by the International Labour Organisation (ILO).
- Instrument of Ratification Deposited: The Philippines deposited the instrument of ratification with ILO Deputy Director-General Celeste Drake, indicating its formal commitment to implementing the provisions of Convention No. 190.
- Comprehensive Approach to Address Workplace Violence and Harassment: Convention No. 190 addresses workplace violence and harassment comprehensively, marking a significant step towards ensuring safe and respectful work environments globally.
- First International Labour Standard: Convention No. 190 is the first international labor standard specifically designed to address violence and harassment in the world of work comprehensively, according to the ILO.

#### 7. Malta Joins International Solar Alliance as 119th Member Country.

- Malta has become the 119th country to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA).
- Christopher Cutajar, Permanent Secretary of the Maltese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, signed the ISA Framework Agreement.



- 8. World Health Organization Unveils Global Initiative on Digital Health (GIDH).
- The World Health Organization (WHO) introduced the Global Initiative on Digital Health (GIDH), aimed at fostering collaboration and sharing digital health knowledge and products among countries.
- Priority Area During India's G20 Presidency: The initiative was identified as one of the three priority areas during India's G20 presidency in 2023.
- Components of GIDH: The GIDH comprises four main components: country needs tracker, country resource portal, transformation toolbox, and knowledge exchange.
- Objective of GIDH: The initiative aims to democratize digital health technologies, particularly benefiting countries in the Global South, by facilitating knowledge sharing and collaboration.
- Launch Event: The Global Initiative on Digital Health (GIDH) was launched jointly by the WHO and the Government of India during the G20 Health Ministerial Meeting held in Gandhinagar, India, on August 19, 2023.
- 9. Dubai Launches 5-Year Multiple Entry Visa for Indian Tourists to Boost Travel and Economic Relations.
- In a bid to promote economic collaborations and encourage tourism and business ties, Dubai has introduced a five-year multiple-entry visa for Indian tourists.
- The introduction of the multiple-entry visa aims to strengthen the relationship between Dubai and India, making Dubai a more accessible and appealing destination for Indian nationals.
- According to the Dubai Department of Economy and Tourism (DET), the visa issued within 2 to 5 working days, allows a 90-day stay, extendable once for a similar period, with a total stay not exceeding 180 days in a year.
- According to DET, Dubai experienced a surge in tourism from India, welcoming 2.46 million overnight visitors in 2023
- India, with a remarkable 34% year-on-year growth, maintains its position as the leading source market for Dubai.



#### **ECONOMICS**

#### 1. RBI 'ban' on Paytm Payments Bank.

- The Reserve Bank of India has instructed Paytm Payments Bank Ltd. (PPBL or the bank) to cease onboarding new clients immediately, in accordance with its authority under section 35A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- After February 29, 2024, no more deposits, credit transactions, top-ups, or withdrawals will be permitted in any customer accounts, prepaid cards, wallets, FASTags, NCMC cards, etc., as per the RBI circular post from August 2023.
- The RBI has ordered the payments bank subsidiary of Paytm to halt the acceptance of fresh deposits in its accounts and popular wallets from March onwards.

#### 2. State Bank of India Reports 35% Decline in Q3 Net Profit Due to Pension Provision.

- State Bank of India Reports 35% Decline in Q3 Net Profit Due to Pension Provision
- State Bank of India (SBI) reported a drop in net profit for the first time in 12 quarters, with its third quarter (Q3FY24) standalone net profit declining 35.5 percent year-on-year (yoy) to ₹9,164 crore as it absorbed one-time provisions relating to increase in pension liabilities and dearness relief neutralisation.
- Reasons for Profit Decline: The decline in profit was attributed to absorbing one-time provisions, including ₹5,400 crore for correcting anomalies in pension liabilities dating back to 2002 and ₹1,700 crore for dearness relief neutralization for pre-2002 retirees.

#### 3. RBI Issues Directive for Overhauling Internal Compliance Monitoring.

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued a crucial directive (RBI/2023-24/117) on January 31, 2024 with an aim to bring about a significant transformation in the internal compliance monitoring function across various financial institutions.
- Automation Necessity: The RBI observed the varying degrees of automation in Supervised Entities (SEs) and highlighted the necessity for comprehensive and integrated technological solutions to enhance the efficiency of compliance monitoring.

## 4. Reserve Bank of India Imposes Rs 5 Lakh Penalty on Bajaj Housing Finance for Breaching Regulations.

• The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of Rs 5 lakh on Bajaj Housing Finance for non-compliance with certain regulatory provisions.



- Regulatory Provisions: The penalty was levied due to the company's contravention of specific provisions outlined in the 'Non-Banking Financial Company - Housing Finance Company (Reserve Bank) Directions, 2021'.
- 5. White-Label ATM Expansion Propels 3.5% Growth in Total ATMs for 202RBI Reports 97.50% Return of ₹2,000 Banknotes in Circulation by January 31, 2024.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced that 97.50% of the ₹2,000 banknotes in circulation as of May 19, 2023, have been returned as of January 31, 2024.
- The total value of ₹2,000 banknotes in circulation, which was ₹3.56 lakh crore at the close of business on May 19, 2023, when the withdrawal of ₹2,000 banknotes was announced, has declined to ₹8,897 crore at the close of business on January 31, 2024.
- 6. Indian Overseas Bank Introduces Savings Account Portability online National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Forecasts 16% Increase in West Bengal's Priority Sector Lending Potential to ₹3.15 Lakh Crore for FY25.
- The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) projected a robust doubledigit growth in priority sector lending potential of ₹3.15 lakh crore in West Bengal for 2024-25.
- NABARD's Chief General Manager Usha Ramesh unveiled the West Bengal state focus paper alongside bankers, State Chief Secretary B P Gopalika, and other officials
- The paper projects a priority sector lending potential of ₹3.15 lakh crore in West Bengal in 2024-25, marking a 16 per cent increase from the previous fiscal year's figure of ₹2.70 lakh crore.
- 7. Government Pegs FY'25 Disinvestment Target At Rs 50,000 Crore.
- The government pegged the disinvestment target for 2024-25 fiscal at Rs 50,000 crore in the interim budget for 2024-25, up from Rs 30,000 crore in the revised estimate for the current financial year.
- During the current fiscal (2023-24), the revised estimates of disinvestment mop-up has been pegged at Rs 30,000 crore, lower than Rs 51,000 crore budgeted at the time of the presentation of the Budget last year.
- As per the Interim Budget 2024-25 document tabled in the Lok Sabha, the government is not expected to receive any money from the monetisation of public assets in the current fiscal.
- 8. Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority Invites Bids for PFRDA-TRACE RFP in Technology Architecture Project.



- The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has initiated a tendering process, inviting bids from prospective bidders to participate in the PFRDA-TRACE RFP as part of the Technology Architecture (TARCH) project.
- Purpose of PFRDA-TRACE: PFRDA-TRACE will function as a comprehensive tool facilitating
  various functions including submitting regulatory and supervisory compliance reports by
  intermediaries, sharing reports and data with PFRDA, and monitoring functions.

#### 9. RBI's digital payments index jumps to 418.77 in September from 395.57 in March.

- Digital payments across the country registered a growth of 10.94 per cent in a year through March 2023, as per RBI's index that measures the adoption of online transactions.
- The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Digital Payments Index, a measure of the extent of digitisation of payments across the country, increased to 418.77 in September 2023 from 395.57 in March 2023.
- The RBI-DPI has been constructed with March 2018 as the base period, that is, the DPI score for March 2018 is set at 100.

#### 10. AU Small Finance Bank names former RBI Deputy Guy HR Khan as part-time chairman.

- AU Small Finance Bank (SFB) has announced the appointment of Reserve Bank of India's former Deputy Governor Harun Rasid Khan as part-time chairman.
- Raj Vikash Verma has completed his tenure on 29 January, 2024 and will cease to be a part-time chairman and independent director of the bank with immediate effect.
- Harun Rasid Khan, Independent Director (Non-Executive) shall assume the position of Part-Time Chairman of the Bank w.e.f. January 30, 2024 till completion of his 1st tenure as Independent Director of the Bank i.e. December 27, 2024.

#### 11. SBI to Down-sell 50% of ₹11,000 Crore Loan to Adani's Ganga Expressway Project

- More than a year after disbursing loans to Adani Group's Ganga Expressway project, State Bank
  of India (SBI) is in the process of downselling half of the nearly ₹11,000-crore loan exposure to
  the longest tolled road-project in the country.
- Talks with Financial Institutions: The lender is in talks with financial institutions, such as the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID), Punjab National Bank (PNB) and some power finance companies, to downsell half of its exposure.



#### SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- 1. Indian Institute of Mass Communication Designated as Deemed University.
- The Ministry of Education, on the recommendation of the University Grants Commission (UGC), has declared the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), a leading institution for Journalism and Mass Communication, as a deemed university under a distinct category.
- Coverage of Declaration: The declaration extends to IIMC New Delhi and its five regional campuses located in Jammu (Jammu & Kashmir), Amravati (Maharashtra), Aizawl (Mizoram), Kottayam (Kerala), and Dhenkanal (Odisha).
- Authorization to Offer Degrees: With this new status, IIMC is now authorized to offer degrees, including doctoral degrees, enhancing its academic offering.
- 2. Taiwan's first lunar mission set to launch in 2024.
- Taiwan is set to launch its first lunar mission in 2024, marking a significant milestone in the country's space exploration efforts
- National Central University's Announcement: On 29 January, Taiwan's National Central University revealed details about this groundbreaking lunar mission, underscoring the collaboration between academia and the space sector.
- Deep Space Radiation Probe (DSRP): Developed by faculty and students of Taiwan's National Central University, the DSRP is a crucial component of the mission.
- 3. ISRO to Send India's female robot Astronaut 'Vyommitra' to Space Ahead of Gaganyaan Mission
- The woman robot astronaut, named "Vyommitra," is scheduled to fly into space ahead of the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO's) "Gaganyaan" mission, which aims to be India's first human manned space flight carrying Indian astronauts.
- The uncrewed "Vyommitra" mission is planned for the third quarter of the current year, while the manned "Gaganyaan" mission is scheduled for launch in 2025.
- Meaning of Vyommitra: The name "Vyommitra" is derived from the Sanskrit words "Vyoma" (meaning Space) and "Mitra" (meaning Friend).
- 4. NASA's SPACE Mission Launches from Cape Canaveral Aboard SpaceX Falcon 9 Rocket satellite.
- Plankton, Aerosol, Cloud, Ocean Ecosystem (PACE) is a NASA mission that took off from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket.



- The satellite will spend at least three years studying the oceans from 420 miles (676 kilometres) up, as well as the atmosphere.
- SpaceX conducted the PACE satellite launch as part of a \$948 million mission, with the Falcon rocket taking a southward trajectory over the Atlantic Ocean to achieve a rare polar orbit.

## 5. IIT-Madras Partners with Munitions India for Development of India's First Indigenous 155mm Smart Ammunition.

- Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) has partnered with Munitions India Limited, a Defence Public Sector Enterprise, to develop India's first indigenously-designed 155 Smart Ammunition to achieve indigenisation in the defence sector.
- To increase the accuracy of the 155 mm shell within a Circular Error Probable (CEP) of 10 m.
- At present, ammunition developed in India has a CEP of 500 m. Another goal is to increase the lethality at the terminal impact point.

#### 6. India's first private launchpad readies for lift-off.

- Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota a place that marked the majority of golden moments in the Indian space sector another history is set to be made.
- Preparations are in the final stages by the Chennai headquartered space-tech startup Agnikul Cosmos for the maiden launch of India's first-ever private launchpad and the second rocket launch by a private sector player.
- Its launch vehicle Agnibaan will take off from Sriha-rikota during the current financial year itself.

## 7. National Aeronautics and Space Administration completes 1st phase of ambitious lunar nuclear reactor project.

- The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) completes the first phase of its ambitious plan to deploy a nuclear fission reactor on the Moon.
- To establish a small nuclear reactor capable of generating electricity for future lunar missions and settlements.
- Support for Lunar Missions: The nuclear reactor is expected to be a vital component in supporting NASA's long-term plans for sustained human presence on the Moon, spanning at least 10 years.

## 8. Google Renames Its Artificial Intelligence Chatbot to Gemini in a Bid to Compete with ChatGPT.

• Google has renamed its chatbot Bard to Gemini, presenting it as an advanced Artificial Intelligence (AI) tool accessible to users worldwide.



- The tech giant has made the Gemini Pro 1.0 model available for users in over 230 countries and territories, offering engagement in more than 40 languages.
- Gemini Advanced has been incorporated into the newly launched Google One AI Premium Plan, priced at \$19.99 per month, with a two-month complimentary trial period.
- Google has introduced a dedicated mobile application for Gemini and Gemini Advanced to enhance the user experience on mobile devices.

## 9. NASA Launches Extensive Air Pollution Monitoring Flights Across Asia Using DC-8 Flying Laboratory.

- In a bid to enhance the forecasting and management of air pollution, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has initiated an extensive series of flights across Asia using its DC-8 flying laboratory.
- Aircraft and Operations: Flights are conducted using NASA's DC-8 flying laboratory, which can last up to 8 hours and sometimes occur at altitudes as low as 15 meters above the ground.
- A smaller NASA Gulfstream jet capable of creating 3D maps of pollutants is also utilized for the mission.

#### 10. Pixxel to launch six home-built hyper-spectral satellites from June 2024.

- Bengaluru-based space start-up Pixxel plans to launch a series of small, home-built satellites Fireflies from June that could have a finer look at the Earth with its five-metre resolution
  hyperspectral imagery.
- Pixxel launched its satellite manufacturing unit -- Mega Pixxel in Bengaluru where it can assemble, integrate and test 40 satellites weighing 100 kilograms every year as the nascent company aims to take a leap in the space sector.
- Pixxel also plans to launch six heavier satellites, Honeybees next year to complete its constellation of 24 satellites with an ability to revisit any location on Earth within a 24-hour cycle.



#### DEFENCE CURRENT AFFAIRS

- 1. Indian Navy Collaborates with Seychelles Defence Forces and Sri Lanka Navy to Counter Hijacking of Sri Lankan Fishing Vessel.
- In a coordinated multilateral response to the hijacking of a Sri Lankan fishing vessel, the Indian Navy in collaboration with Seychelles Defence Forces and Sri Lanka Navy successfully intercepted and rescued the hijacked vessel.
- A hijacking incident was reported onboard the Sri Lankan flagged multi-day fishing trawler LORENZO PUTHA 04 about 955 nm east of Mogadishu, Somalia. Three pirates had boarded and hijacked the fishing trawler on 27 Jan 24.
- 2. Indian Navy Commissions First Survey Vessel Large Ship, INS Sandhayak in Visakhapatnam.
- Indian Naval Ship (INS) Sandhayak (Yard 3025), the first Survey Vessel Large (SVL) ship, was commissioned into the Indian Navy in the presence of Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh at an impressive ceremony held at the Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam.
- Primary Role: The primary role of INS Sandhayak is to conduct comprehensive hydrographic surveys of ports, harbours, navigational channels/routes, coastal areas, and deep seas to ensure safe marine navigation.
- Secondary Role: Additionally, the ship is capable of undertaking various naval operations as part of its secondary role.
- 3. Indian Air Force to Hold Vayu Shakti 2024 Mega Exercise at Pokharan Range, Jaisalmer.
- The Indian Air Force (IAF) will conduct the Vayu Shakti 2024 mega exercise at the Pokharan Range in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.
- The last edition of exercise Vayu Shakti took place on 16 February 2019, indicating its periodic occurrence.
- Participation: More than 100 aircraft and helicopters will participate in this exercise.
- Several indigenous manufactured and designed aircraft and helicopters like Tejas, Prachand, and Dhruv will take part in the exercise.
- 4. Indian Navy Designates 2024 as 'Year of Naval Civilians.
- The Indian Navy has designated the year 2024 as the 'Year of Naval Civilians'
- It has been declared to improve the administration, efficiency, and welfare of Naval civilians by addressing all aspects of civilian human resource management in a time-bound manner.



- Key focus areas towards maximizing administrative efficiency, digital initiatives, general and specific training programs, and welfare activities have been identified for implementation in 2024.
- 5. DRDO Achieves Success in Flight Trials of High-Speed Expendable Aerial Target 'ABHYAS' at Integrated Test Range, Chandipur.
- Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted four successful flight trials of the High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) ABHYAS from the Integrated Test Range in Chandipur, Odisha, between January 30 to February 02, 2024.
- Mission Objectives: Each trial was conducted with different mission objectives, highlighting the versatility and adaptability of ABHYAS in various scenarios.
- The configuration used was revised and robust, featuring a single booster designed by the Advanced Systems Laboratory in Hyderabad, aimed at providing reduced launch acceleration.
- 6. Ministry of Defence Achieves Remarkable Milestone Surpassing ₹1 Lakh Crore in Orders on Government e-Marketplace Portal.
- The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has made an astounding accomplishment by surpassing the ₹1 Lakh Crore mark in terms of total order value transacted through the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal, also known as Gross Merchandise Value (GMV).
- Transactions worth approximately ₹45,800 Crore have been awarded by the MoD in the current financial year alone.
- First Central Government Entity: The Ministry of Defence is the first central government entity to achieve this staggering figure, showcasing its strong commitment to optimizing public spending in the Defence sector.
- 7. Multinational military exercise 'Shanti Prayas IV' kicks off in Nepal.
- Multinational military exercise 'Shanti Prayas IV' kicked off in Nepal at the Army headquarters here with the participation of 19 countries, including India, Bangladesh and Pakistan to enhance the interoperability and peacekeeping skills of the forces.
- The multinational military exercise is taking place at the Birendra Peace Operation Training Centre in the Kabhre district, 50 km east of Kathmandu.
- Objective: To enhance interoperability and peacekeeping skills among the participating forces.
- Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal "Prachanda" inaugurated the two-week-long military drill.
- 8. India's Largest Defence Equipment Exhibition, Defence Expo, Organized Near Pune at Moshi.



- India's largest defence equipment exhibition, Defence Expo, is being organized by the Industries Department of the Maharashtra government at the International Exhibition and Convention Center at Moshi near Pune
- Duration and Aim: The exhibition is scheduled for 3 days and is aimed at promoting the manufacturing of the latest weapons required for the defence forces under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Yojana.
- Participating Companies: More than 1,200 small companies producing arms and other materials related to the defence sector will showcase their capabilities at the Expo.



#### **SPORTS NEWS**

- 1. The fourth edition of the Khelo India Winter Games has commenced in Leh, Ladakh.
- The fourth Khelo India Winter Games started at Leh in Ladakh.
- This edition of the Games is being hosted jointly by the Union Territories of Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir in two parts.
- The first part of this edition is being hosted by the Ladakh at Leh. Six hundred athletes from 15
  States and Union Territories are participating in the two sporting events namely Ice Hockey and
  Ice Speed Skating games in this first part of the Khelo India Winter Games.
- 2. Satwiksairaj Rankireddy-Chirag Shetty became the first Indian duo to reach the number one spot inBWF Rankings.
- India's Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty created history as they defeated world champions Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik of Malaysia to win the country's first-ever gold medal in men's doubles at the Indonesia Open.
- The victory came just a month after Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty won the gold medal at the Badminton Asia Championships.
- Their latest accomplishment came on Sunday when they defeated the reigning world champions with a score of 21-17, 21-18, making history as the first Indians ever to secure a Super 1000 title.
- 3. Abhinav Bindra selected as torchbearer for the 2024 Paris Olympics.
- Abhinav Bindra has been selected as torchbearer for the 2024 Paris Olympics.
- Abhinav Bindra will be part of the Olympic torch relay to be held from April 16 to July 26.
- He is a member of the Athletes Commission of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).
- Abhinav Bindra is the first Indian to win a gold medal at the Olympic Games at the individual level.
- 4. The Ministry of Sports has suspended the Paralympic Committee of India due to the delay in conducting elections.
- The Sports Ministry has suspended the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) with immediate effect for failing to conduct elections on time and non-compliance with guidelines.
- In its suspension order, the Sports Ministry yesterday pointed out that the term of Executive Committee of PCI ended on the 31st of January.



- Whereas the last elections of PCI were held in September 2019, due to an order passed by the Delhi High Court staying the notification of election dated 03.09.2019, and the returning officer was also restrained from declaring the result of the elections.
- 5. Karnataka has secured the top spot in the medal tally for Short Track Ice Skating at the Khelo India Winter Games.
- Karnataka has topped in the medal tally in the Short track Ice Skating with 4 gold medals in the ongoing Fourth edition of the Khelo India Winter Games 2024 at Leh.
- Telangana is in second place with 2 golds and 3 silver medals and Maharashtra is in third in the medal tally with one Gold, 7 Silver, and 5 Bronze medals.
- 6. 2026 FIFA World Cup final to be played in New Jersey.
- The 2026 World Cup final will be played at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey, U.S., on July 19.
- FIFA announced a Miami television studio, allocating the opener of the 39-day tournament spread across three North American nations to Mexico City's Estadio Azteca on June 11 and the finale to the home of the NFL's New York Jets and Giants.
- Seventy-eight of 104 matches of the first World Cup held in three nations will be played in the U.S., with 13 games each in Mexico and Canada.
- 7. India leads the tally at the BIMSTEC aquatic championship with 18 medals on day one, including 7 gold, 9 silver, and 2 bronze.
- India leads the tally at the BIMSTEC aquatic championship with 18 medals on day one, including 7 gold, 9 silver, and 2 bronze.
- The first-ever edition of BIMSTEC aquatic championship is taking place at New Delhi.
- Meanwhile, Thailand with 14 medal occupying the second spot and Sri Lanka is in third spot with 4 medals.
- 8. Sumit Nagal, an Indian tennis player, climbs 23 positions to make it into the top 100 of the ATP singles rankings.
- In Tennis, India's Sumit Nagal jumped 23 ranks to enter the top 100 in the ATP singles rankings for the first time in his career.
- The title win at the Chennai Open challenger event pushed Nagal to the 98th spot in the latest singles rankings.
- Last month in the Australian Open, Nagal defeated then world no.27 Alexander Bublik of Kazakhstan, becoming the first Indian to beat a seeded player at a Grand Slam in 35 years.



- 9. Khelo India athletes emerged as outperformers in the Li Ning Sri Lanka International Badminton Challenge 2024.
- In the Li Ning Sri Lanka International Badminton Challenge 2024, Khelo India athletes have emerged as outperformers.
- sha Rani Baruah won a Gold medal in the women's singles category, Rakshitha Sree S won a Silver medal in the women's singles category, and Rithvik Sanjeevi S also won a Silver medal in the men's singles category.
- The Sri Lanka Badminton Association conducted the Li Ning International Badminton Challenge 2024 at Galle between the 5th to 11th of this month.

#### 10. Nagaland to co-host wrestling as a part of Khelo India University Games.

- Nagaland will be co-hosting wrestling as part of the Khelo India University Games scheduled to be held from 22nd to 26th February in Kohima.
- Assam is the main host of the fourth edition of the Khelo India University Games.
- Other North Eastern states are also co-hosting various disciplines.
- About 240 athletes from universities across the country will participate in the wrestling.
- About 74 officials from the Sports Authority of India, All India University, and the National Sports Federation will officiate and provide technical support.

#### 11. The 2024 Badminton Asia Team Championships are set to begin in Shah Alam, Malaysia.

- The Badminton Asia Team Championships 2024 began in Shah Alam, Malaysia.
- This biennial event will conclude on the 18th of this month.
- India's first match is scheduled against Hong Kong in the men's team event.
- The winners of this championship will be considered as the Asian qualifier for Thomas and Uber Cups the badminton world men's and women's team championships, scheduled to take place in Chengdu, People's Republic of China from the 28th of April to the 5th of May this year.



#### **IMPORTANT DAYS**

- 1. Indian Coast Guard Day 2024: 01st February.
- 2. World Wetlands Day 2024: 2nd February.
- 3. World Cancer Day 2024: 4th February.
- 4. International Development Week 2024: 4th to 10th February.
- 5. National Day Of Sri Lanka 2024: 4th February.
- 6. Safer Internet Day 2024: 6th February.
- 7. International Day Against Female Genital Mutilation: 6th February.
- 8. National Deworming Day: 10th February.
- 9. World Pulses Day: 10th February.
- 10. World Day of the Sick 2024: 11th February.



#### **APPOINTMENTS**

- 1. Jay Shah Reappointed as Chairman of the Asian Cricket Council for 3rd Consecutive Year by the Board of Control for Cricket in India.
- 2. Sultan Ibrahim Officially Assumes Role as Malaysia's 17th King.
- 3. Bollywood actor Ranveer Singh becomes the brand ambassador and investor of boat
- 4. Kavita Sahai becomes 1st woman Lt General to command Lucknow's Army medical college.
- 5. Justice PS Dinesh Kumar Sworn in as Chief Justice of Karnataka High Court.
- 6. Pawan Kumar Takes Charge as Chief Adviser (Cost) at Ministry of Finance's Department of Expenditure.
- 7. JMM's Champai Soren takes oath as Jharkhand CM.
- 8. Union Sports Ministry issues strict warning to suspended WFI president Sanjay Singh.
- 9. IRS Officer Narendra Kumar Yadav Named Brand Ambassador for Fit India Movement.
- 10. National Payments Corporation of India Names Ajay Kumar Choudhary as Non-Executive Chairman of Board.



#### **DEATHS**

- 1. Veteran Odia Actor & National Award Winner, Sadhu Meher, Passed Away
- 2. Marathon World Record Holder Kelvin Kiptum Killed in Road Accident
- 3. Former Chilean President Sebastián Piñera Dies in Helicopter Accident
- 4. Renowned litterateur and Padma Shri awardee Usha Kiran Khan passed away
- 5. Ex-Indian Test Cricketer Dattajirao Gaekwad Passed Away.
- 6. Renowned Actor Kavita Chaudhary, Famous for Portraying 'Lalitaji' and in the Serial 'Udaan,'
  Passed Away.
- 7. Eminent jurist & Senior Supreme Court Lawyer Fali Nariman passed away.
- 8. Opposition Leader, Anti-Corruption Activist and Political Prisoner Alexey Navalny Passed Away.
- 9. Former Maharashtra Chief Minister, Manohar Joshi Passed away.
- 10. Iconic Radio Broadcaster Known for His Melodious Voice, Ameen Sayani Passed Away.



#### **CURRENT AFFAIRS MCQ'S**

- 1. Recently, which South American country has declared a health emergency due to the rising cases of dengue fever?
- a) Chile
- b) Peru
- c) Argentina
- d) Bolivia
- 2. What is 'Juice Jacking', recently seen in the news?
- a) Cyber attack
- b) Drugs
- c) Asteroid
- d) Invasive weed
- 3. Recently, which payment bank signed an MoU with Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL) to enhance financial inclusion in rural Rajasthan?
- a) Airtel Payment Bank
- b) Paytm Payments Bank
- c) India Post Payments Bank
- d) NSDL Payment Bank
- 4. Recently, which ministry signed an MoU with ISRO on Urban Framed Survey using Bhuvan?
- a) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- b) Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
- c) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
- d) Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways
- 5. What is the projected GDP growth rate for India in the October to December 2023 Q3?
- a) 8.4 %
- b) 8.0 %
- c) 7.9 %
- d) 7.6 %
- 6. Exercise Samudra Laksamana, recently seen in the news, is conducted between which two countries?
- a) India & Malaysia



- b) India & Maldives
- c) China & Maldives
- d) India & Sri Lanka
- 7. Yars Missile, recently seen in the news, is an intercontinental ballistic missile developed by which country?
- a) Russia
- b) China
- c) Israel
- d) India
- 8. Nhava Sheva Port, recently seen in the news, is located in which state?
- a) Maharashtra
- b) Gujarat
- c) Kerala
- d) Tamil Nadu
- 9. Who has been appointed as the new chief secretary of Bihar?
- a) Brajesh Mehrotra
- b) Tripurari Sharan
- c) Nishith Verma
- d) Aamir Subhani
- 10. Recently, where was the 'Asian River Rafting Championship' organized?
- a) Shimla
- b) Dehradun
- c) Varanasi
- d) Ayodhya
- 11. Which city received the first set of driverless metro train coaches, which are part of the Communication-based Train Control (CBTC) system?
- a) Chennai
- b) Bengaluru
- c) Mumbai
- d) New Delhi
- 12. Recently, where was the Hamara Samvidhan, Hamara Samman Campaign Event organized?



- a) Ajmer
- b) Jaisalmer
- c) Bikaner
- d) Jaipur
- 13. Recently, the Blue Leaders High-Level Event on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) was held in which country?
- a) Belgium
- b) Italy
- c) Spain
- d) Germany
- 14. Yaounde Declaration, recently mentioned in the news, is associated with which one of the following issues?
- a) Poverty
- b) Climate Change
- c) Malaria eradication
- d) Nuclear disarmament
- 15. Recently, where was the MSME-Technology Center inaugurated by Union Minister Narayan Rane?
- a) Gujarat
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Uttar Pradesh
- d) Odisha
- 16. Recently, which players have clinched their second French Open Men's doubles Badminton title?
- a) Lakshya Sen and Kidambi Srikanth
- b) Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty
- c) Anders Antonsen and Viktor Axelsen
- d) Weng Hongyang and Lu Guangzu
- 17. Second Thomas Shoal reef, recently seen in the news, is located in which one of the following sea?
- a) Mediterranean Sea
- b) Caribbean Sea



- c) South China Sea
- d) Red Sea
- 18. Recently, where was the National Dairy Mela & Agricultural Exhibition inaugurated?
- a) Odisha
- b) Chattisgarh
- c) Jharkhand
- d) Bihar
- 19. India recently signed a Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) with which organization?
- a) European Free Trade Association (EFTA)
- b) Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)
- c) Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)
- d) South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)
- 20. Recently, who became the 14th president of Pakistan?
- a) Amir Muqam
- b) Musadik Malik
- c) Mahmood Khan Achakzai
- d) Asif Ali Zardari
- 21. Prime Minister of India recently laid the foundation stone of Petronet LNG's Petrochemicals Complex at which place?
- a) Pune, Maharashtra
- b) Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
- c) Bikaner, Rajasthan
- d) Dahej, Gujarat
- 22. Recently, India signed an agreement with which country in the field of food security?
- a) Bhutan
- b) Nepal
- c) Myanmar
- d) Bangladesh
- 23. India signed the Inter-Governmental Framework Agreement (IGFA) on the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) with which country?



- a) UAE
- b) Iran
- c) Iraq
- d) Egypt
- 24. Prasar Bharti Shared Audio Visuals for Broadcast and Dissemination (PB-SHABD) is recently launched by which ministry?
- a) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- b) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- c) Ministry of Information & Broadcasting
- d) Ministry of Communications
- 25. Aghanashini Estuary, recently seen in the news, is located in which state?
- a) Maharashtra
- b) Kerala
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Karnataka
- 26. What is the rank of India in Gender Inequality Index (GII) 2022 released by the United Nations Development Programme?
- a) 106
- b) 107
- c) 108
- d) 110
- 27. What is the theme of 'World Consumer Rights Day 2024'?
- a) Fair digital finance
- b) Fair and responsible AI for consumers
- c) The Sustainable Consumer
- d) Empowering Consumers Through Clean Energy Transitions
- 28. What is the theme of 'National Vaccination Day 2024'?
- a) Vaccine Prevents the Unwanted
- b) Protected Together: Vaccines Work
- c) Vaccines Work for All
- d) Close the immunization gap



- 29. Recently, which ministry signed an MoU with J-PAL South Asia to provide technical assistance in the implementation of inclusive development under DAY NRLM?
- a) Ministry of Agriculture
- b) Ministry of Jal Shakti
- c) Ministry of Panchayati Raj
- d) Ministry of Rural Development
- 30. Recently, how many prisons across the country has certified as 'Eat Right Campuses' by the FSSAI?
- a) 100
- b) 150
- c) 200
- d) 250
- 31. Recently, which team won the 42nd Ranji Trophy title?
- a) Mumbai
- b) Vidarbha
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Madhya Pradesh
- 32. Reykjanes Peninsula, recently seen in the news due to volcanic eruption, is located in which country?
- a) Iceland
- b) Indonesia
- c) Japan
- d) Mexico
- 33. Ethanol 100 fuel, recently launched by petroleum ministry, is currently accessible in how many states?
- a) Three
- b) Four
- c) Five
- d) Seven
- 34. Papikonda National Park, recently seen in the news, is located in which state?
- a) Andhra Pradesh
- b) Karnataka



- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Maharashtra
- 35. Recently, where was the Formula-4 car racing event was organized?
- a) Srinagar
- b) Uttarakhand
- c) New Delhi
- d) Bengaluru
- 36. SANY India recently signed an MoU with which bank to provide finance solutions for infrastructure projects in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh?
- a) Bank of Baroda
- b) Jammu and Kashmir Bank
- c) Bank of India
- d) Punjab National Bank
- 37. What is the rank of India in the World Happiness Report 2024?
- a) 125<sup>th</sup>
- b) 126<sup>th</sup>
- c) 127th
- d) 128th
- 38. Which organization recently signed an MoU with Dhanuka Agritech to deliver new tech to farmers?
- a) Indian Council of Agricultural Research
- b) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
- c) National Biodiversity Authority
- d) National Green Tribunals
- 39. Which day is celebrated as 'International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination' every year?
- a) 20 March
- b) 21 March
- c) 22 March
- d) 23 March
- 40. What is Brucethoa isro, recently seen in the news?



- a) Plant disease
- b) New species of spider
- c) New species of deep sea isopod
- d) Asteroid
- 41. Recently, where was the 4th Shanghai Corporation Organization (SCO) Startup Forum organized?
- a) Chennai
- b) New Delhi
- c) Bengaluru
- d) Hyderabad
- 42. Recently, who was awarded the prestigious Devi Shankar Awasthi Award 2023?
- a) Achyutanand Mishra
- b) Ashutosh Bhardwaj
- c) Ram Shankar Awasthi
- d) Nishant
- 43. Project ANAGRANINF, recently seen in the news, is related to which one of the following?
- a) Development of nuclear powered submarines
- b) Development of a novel class of antibiotics
- c) New strategy to combat naxal attacks
- d) To study the prevalence of diseases in rural areas
- 44. Recently, National Green Tribunal (NGT) in New Delhi has initiated action on the Netravati Waterfront Promenade Development Project at which place?
- a) Indore
- b) Chennai
- c) Mangaluru
- d) Hyderabad
- 45. What is the theme for World Meteorological Day 2024?
- a) At the frontline of climate action
- b) Early Warning and Early Action
- c) The ocean, our climate and weather
- d) Climate and Water



- 46. What is the IUCN status of 'Great Indian Bustard', recently seen in the news?
- a) Least Concern
- b) Endangered
- c) Critically endangered
- d) Vulnerable
- 47. According to the Lancet study, what is the projected fertility rate for India in 2050?
- a) 2.1
- b) 1.29
- c) 1.91
- d) 2.5
- 48. India Employment Report 2024, recently seen in the news, is released by which organization?
- a) International Labour Organization & Institute of Human Development
- b) Amnesty International
- c) United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
- d) World Health Organization
- 49. What kind of vessel is ICGS Samudra Paheredar, recently mentioned in the news?
- a) Oil exploration vessel
- b) Pollution control vessel
- c) Fishing vessel
- d) Research Vessel
- 50. START 2024, a space program, recently launched by which organization?
- a) ISRO
- b) DRDO
- c) CSIR
- d) Department of Science & Technology
- 51. What is 'Bima Sugam' initiative, recently seen in the news?
- a) A new insurance company in India
- b) An e-commerce platform approved by IRDAI for selling insurance products
- c) New strategy to offering policies only in hardcopy format
- d) A platform to promote offline insurance transactions
- 52. According to the Lancet study, what is the projected fertility rate for India in 2050?



- a) 2.1
- b) 1.29
- c) 1.91
- d) 2.5
- 53. Recently, which IIT successfully transferred a pioneering swine fever vaccine technology to BioMed Pvt, a vaccine manufacturing company?
- a) IIT Guwahati
- b) IIT Madras
- c) IIT Kanpur
- d) IIT Roorkee
- 54. Recently, where was the 'Krishi Integrated Command and Control Centre' inaugurated?
- a) Chennai
- b) Hyderabad
- c) Bengaluru
- d) New Delhi
- 55. Recently, the Archeological Survey of India has decided to delist how many 'centrally protected monuments'?
- a) 16
- b) 17
- c) 18
- d) 20
- 56. Afanasy Nikitin Seamount, recently seen in news, lies in which ocean?
- a) Pacific Ocean
- b) Indian Ocean
- c) Atlantic Ocean
- d) Arctic Ocean
- 57. Recently, which country hosted the G20 second Employment Working Group (EWG) meeting?
- a) Brazil
- b) China
- c) South Africa



- d) India
- 58. Bassirou Diomaye Faye, recently seen in the news, became the new President of which country?
- a) Senegal
- b) Mali
- c) Niger
- d) Ghana
- 59. Which organization recently released recommendations on 'Usage of Embedded SIM for Machine-to-Machine Communications (M2M)?
- a) Gas Authority of India Limited
- b) Digital Infrastructure Providers Association (DIPA)
- c) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India
- d) Central Bureau of Communication
- 60. What are 'Cicadas', recently seen in the news?
- a) Sound producing insects
- b) Ancient irrigation technique
- c) Newly discovered species of spider
- d) Invasive plant
- 61. Sea Defenders-2024, recently seen in the news, is a joint coast guard exercise between India and which country?
- a) United States
- b) United Kingdom
- c) Australia
- d) Maldives
- 62. Which city received the first set of driverless metro train coaches, which are part of the Communication-based Train Control (CBTC) system?
- a) Chennai
- b) Bengaluru
- c) Mumbai
- d) New Delhi
- 63. Recently, Bichom has been declared the 27th district of which state?
- a) Assam



- b) Manipur
- c) Arunachal Pradesh
- d) Mizoram
- 64. Where was the 5th Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) Para Games inaugurated by Minister Hardeep S Puri?
- a) New Delhi
- b) Bengaluru
- c) Chennai
- d) Hyderabad
- 65. What is the theme of 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain 2024' campaign?
- a) Valuing Water
- b) Jal Shakti se Vikas
- c) Nari Shakti se Jal Shakti
- d) Source Sustainability for Drinking Water
- 66. 'Gulf of Tonkin Incident', recently seen in the news, is related to which one of the following?
- a) Russia-Ukraine War
- b) Vietnam War
- c) World War II
- d) Iran-Iraq War
- 67. Recently, who became the 14th president of Pakistan?
- a) Amir Muqam
- b) Musadik Malik
- c) Mahmood Khan Achakzai
- d) Asif Ali Zardari
- 68. Which one of the following best describes about 'INS Tushil', recently mentioned in the news?
- a) Talwar-class stealth frigate
- b) Shivalik Class Frigate
- c) Veer Class Corvette
- d) Kora Class Corvette
- 69. Recently, which agency collaborated with ITBP to deploy rescue teams along China border?
- a) National Disaster Response Force



- b) National Disaster Management Authority
- c) National Investigation Agency
- d) National Advisory Council
- 70. Recently, which airport was given the title of 'Best Airport' in the Asia-Pacific region?
- a) Chennai International Airport
- b) Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport
- c) Indira Gandhi International Airport
- d) Kempegowda International Airport
- 71. According to the World Happiness Report 2024, which is the happiest country in the world?
- a) Denmark
- b) Germany
- c) Finland
- d) Iceland
- 72. Where is 'Start-up Mahakumbh' being organised?
- a) Bengaluru
- b) Mumbai
- c) New Delhi
- d) Kolkata
- 73. Who has been appointed as the new Ambassador of India to Russia?
- a) Vinay Kumar
- b) Parsottam Rupala
- c) Ajay Nagar
- d) RK Aggarwal
- 74. Which app has ISRO launched to assist the Gaganyaan crew?
- a) 'SAKHI'
- b) 'MADAD'
- c) 'AKASH'
- d) 'SHAKSHAM'



- 75. Recently 'Yaunde Declaration' was in discussion, it is related to which of the following?
- a) Cyber security
- b) Artificial Intelligence
- c) Maritime security
- d) Malaria disease
- 76. Who has been chosen by the Election Commission of India as the National Disability Icon?
- a) Sheetal Devi
- b) Arunima Sinha
- c) Dev Rathi
- d) Jai Kumar
- 77. 'Kovind Committee' which was in discussion recently is related to which of the following?
- a) Appointment of judges
- b) simultaneous elections
- c) Electoral bond
- d) Uniform Civil Code
- 78. Who has been selected as the flag bearer for India at Paris Olympics 2024?
- a) Manika Batra
- b) Sharat Kamal
- c) Saurabh Chaudhary
- d) Neeraj Chopra
- 79. ISRO successfully tested the landing mission of the reusable launch vehicle, what is it called?
- a) 'PUSHAPAK'
- b) 'SARTHAK'
- c) 'AKASH YAAN'
- d) 'VIKRAM'
- 80. Who has recently been appointed as the new captain by Chennai Super Kings?
- a) Ravindra Jadeja
- b) Ruturaj Gaikwad
- c) Ajinkya Rahane
- d) Shivam Dubey



- 81. Which country has become the new member of the military alliance NATO?
- a) Brazil
- b) UAE
- c) Albania
- d) Sweden
- 82. Who has recently become a new member of the International Solar Alliance?
- a) Panama
- b) Kenya
- c) Chile
- d) Argentina
- 83. Whom did President Draupadi Murmu recently nominate to Rajya Sabha?
- a) Uday Kotak
- b) Ajay Sinha
- c) Sudha Murthy
- d) Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore
- 84. In which state did PM Modi inaugurate India's first underwater metro?
- a) Maharashtra
- b) Uttar Pradesh
- c) Karnataka
- d) West Bengal
- 85. With whom has NLC India Green Energy Limited signed an agreement for solar power project?
- a) Adani Green
- b) Tata Power
- c) Gujarat Energy Development Corporation Limited
- d) none of these
- 86. Which state government recently approved the Green Hydrogen Policy in the state?
- a) Madhya Pradesh
- b) Uttar Pradesh
- c) Assam
- d) Bihar
- 87. In which state has the Widow Remarriage Promotion Scheme been launched recently?



- a) Bihar
- b) Meghalaya
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Iharkhand
- 88. Where was India's first green hydrogen plant established in the stainless steel sector?
- a) Pune
- b) Surat
- c) Hisar
- d) Jaipur
- 89. Who has Sunrisers Hyderabad appointed as its new captain before IPL 2024?
- a) Pat Cummins
- b) Shikhar Dhawan
- c) David Warner
- d) Aiden Markram
- 90. 'Risa' is a tribal costume of which state, which was recently granted GI tag?
- a) Arunachal Pradesh
- b) Assam
- c) Tripura
- d) Meghalaya
- 91. NICDC has signed an MoU with which institution to enhance the development of Greenfield smart cities?
- a) IIT Delhi
- b) IIT Kanpur
- c) IIT Bombay
- d) IIT Roorkee
- 92. Recently, which Indian received an Honorary Knighthood from United Kingdom's King Charles III?
- a) Rajan Bharti Mittal
- b) Sunil Bharti Mittal
- c) Sushil Kumar Sayal
- d) Akhil Gupta



- 93. Which day is observed as 'World Seagrass Day'?
- a) 1 March
- b) 2 March
- c) 3 march
- d) 4 March
- 94. Which one of the following company recently collaborated with MAHAGENCO to develop Renewable Energy Parks in Maharashtra?
- a) Tata Group
- b) Reliance Industries Limited
- c) NTPC Green Energy Limited
- d) ITC Limited
- 95. Which ministry recently launched the 'Alliance for Global Good-Gender Equity and Equality'?
- a) Ministry of Defence
- b) Ministry of Women & Child Development
- c) Ministry of Rural Development
- d) Ministry of Home Affairs
- 96. Amrabad Tiger Reserve, recently seen in the news, is located in which state?
- a) Telangana
- b) Kerala
- c) Karnataka
- d) Odisha
- 97. Which day is celebrated as World Wildlife Day?
- a) 2 March
- b) 3 March
- c) 4 March
- d) 5 March
- 98. Recently, Financial Intelligence Unit-India has imposed a penalty of Rs 5.49 crore on which one of the following payment bank?
- a) Paytm Payments Bank
- b) Airtel Payments Bank
- c) India Post Payments Bank
- d) Fino Payments Bank



- 99. Yars Missile, recently seen in the news, is an intercontinental ballistic missile developed by which country?
- a) Russia
- b) China
- c) Israel
- d) India
- 100. Recently, which country became the first Spanish-speaking nation to recognize Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP)?
- a) Chile
- b) Cuba
- c) Nicaragua
- d) Peru



## **ANSWER KEY**

Q.	Ans.	Q.	Ans.	Q.	Ans.	Q.	Ans.
1.	В	26.	С	51.	В	76.	A
2.	A	27.	В	52.	В	77.	В
3.	С	28.	С	53.	A	78.	В
4.	С	29.	D	54.	D	79.	A
5.	A	30.	A	55.	С	80.	В
6.	A	31.	A	56.	В	81.	D
7.	A	32.	A	57.	A	82.	A
8.	A	33.	С	58.	A	83.	С
9.	A	34.	A	59.	C	84.	D
10.	A	35.	A	60.	A	85.	С
11.	В	36.	В	61.	Α	86.	В
12.	С	37.	В	62.	В	87.	D
13.	A	38.	A	63.	С	88.	С
14.	С	39.	С	64.	A	89.	A
15.	В	40.	С	65.	С	90.	С
16.	В	41.	В	66.	В	91.	A
17.	С	42.	D	67.	D	92.	В
18.	C	43.	В	68.	A	93.	A
19.	A	44.	С	69.	A	94.	С
20.	D	45.	A	70.	С	95.	В
21.	D	46.	С	71.	С	96.	A
22.	A	47.	В	72.	С	97.	В
23.	A	48.	A	73.	A	98.	A
24.	С	49.	В	74.	A	99.	A
25.	D	50.	A	75.	D	100.	С

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# **TRANSLATION: English**

- 1. A contract is a legally binding agreement between two or more parties that creates obligations enforceable by law. It may be written or oral and must contain certain essential elements, including an offer, acceptance, consideration, and intention to create legal relations."
- 2. Criminal law refers to the body of law that deals with crimes and their punishment. It includes statutes, regulations, and case law that define offenses and prescribe the consequences for individuals who commit unlawful acts.
- 3. Family law encompasses legal issues related to marriage, divorce, child custody, adoption, and other matters concerning family relationships. It aims to protect the rights and interests of family members and promote the well-being of children."
- 4. Property law governs the ownership, use, and transfer of real and personal property. It includes legal principles and regulations that define property rights, easements, leases, and other interests in land or assets."
- 5. Employment law regulates the relationship between employers and employees, including hiring, termination, wages, benefits, and workplace rights. It aims to ensure fair treatment and protection for workers while balancing the interests of employers



#### TRANSLATION: Hindi

- 1. एक समझौता एक कानूनी बंधक समझौता है जो दो या दो से अधिक पक्षों के बीच वाणिज्यिक अनुबंध बनाता है जो कानून द्वारा प्रयोजनशील होता है। यह लिखित या मौखिक हो सकता है और निश्चित महत्वपूर्ण घटकों को शामिल करना होगा, जिसमें प्रस्ताव, स्वीकृति, विचार और कानूनी संबंध बनाने की इच्छा शामिल होती है।
- 2. आपराधिक कानून उन कानूनी नियमों का संदर्भ देता है जो अपराधों और उनके प्रतिफल को नियंत्रित करते हैं। इसमें वे अधिनियम, विनियमन और मामले कानून शामिल होते हैं जो अपराधों की परिभाषा करते हैं और उन व्यक्तियों के लिए दंड तय करते हैं जो अवैध कृत्य करते हैं।
- 3. पारिवारिक कानून विवाह, तलाक, बच्चे की हिरासत, गोद लेन, और परिवारिक संबंधों से संबंधित कानूनी मुद्दों को शामिल करता है। इसका उद्देश्य परिवार के सदस्यों के अधिकारों और हितों की संरक्षा करना है और बच्चों के हित को बढ़ावा देना है।"
- 4. संपत्ति कानून वास्तविक और व्यक्तिगत संपत्ति के स्वामित्व, उपयोग, और स्थानांतरण का प्रबंधन करता है। इसमें संपत्ति के अधिकार, इसमें दरगहें, पट्टे, और भूमि या संपत्ति में अन्य हितों को परिभाषित करने वाले कानूनी सिद्धांत और विनियमन शामिल हैं
- 5. रोजगार कानून कामगारों और नियोक्ताओं के बीच संबंधों को व्यवस्थित करता है, जिसमें भर्ती, समाप्ति, वेतन, लाभ, और कार्यस्थलीय अधिकार शामिल होते हैं। इसका उद्देश्य कामगारों के लिए न्यायपूर्ण व



# GENERAL KNOWLEDGE MCQ'S

- 1. Which country's President, Nguyen Xuan Phuc, has announced his resignation following corruption scandals?
- a) Venezuela
- b) Vietnam
- c) Vanuatu
- d) Zimbabwe
- 2. Which Indian Union Territory has completely shifted to an e-Governance mode?
- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) West Bengal
- c) Nagaland
- d) Jammu & Kashmir
- 3. In which state is the Korwa Ordnance factory located, where the production of Kalashnikov AK-203 assault rifles began?
- a) Uttar Pradesh
- b) Madhya Pradesh
- c) Arunachal Pradesh
- d) Himachal Pradesh
- 4. Which country's Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern, is stepping down next month?
- a) New Zealand
- b) Nigeria
- c) North Korea
- d) Niger
- 5. Which state government and the Centre have decided not to convert the Jain site of Sammed Shikharji into a tourism hub?
- a) Mizoram
- b) Jharkhand
- c) Goa
- d) Uttarakhand
- 6. Which film will be screened at the SCO Film Festival 2023?



- a) Gandhi Godse: Ek Yudh
- b) Pathaan
- c) Toolsidas Junior
- d) Mission Majnu
- 7. Where is the first G20 Health Working Group meeting under India's G20 presidency taking place?
- a) Kozhikode, Kerala
- b) Nedumangad, Kerala
- c) Kayamkulam, Kerala
- d) Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
- 8. In which country did PM Jacinda Ardern announce her resignation?
- a) Netherlands
- b) Namibia
- c) Nepal
- d) New Zealand
- 9. Which two cities is the Indian Air Force launching Kargil Courier Services between?
- a) Kargil and Pahalgam
- b) Kargil and Pulwama
- c) Kargil and Jammu
- d) Kargil and Kishtwar
- 10. To which profession did Nilmani Phukan belong before passing away?
- a) Poet
- b) Writer
- c) Singer
- d) Musician
- 11. In which country did Google pilot 'Soundpod by Google Pay' for UPI payments?
- a) India
- b) Greece
- c) Oman
- d) Denmark



- 12. In which month will the India-Bangladesh Friendship pipeline start supplying diesel to Bangladesh?
- a) August
- b) June
- c) July
- d) March
- 13. On what date is the 18th National Disaster Response Force Day celebrated in 2023?
- a) January 16
- b) January 10
- c) January 19
- d) January 20
- 14. Who is the fifth Indian and youngest ever to score ODI 200?
- a) Ishan Kishan
- b) Rohit Sharma
- c) Shubman Gill
- d) Suryakumar Yadav
- 15. In which month of 2023 is the Tourism Ministry planning to organize the 1st Global Tourism Investors Summit?
- a) April
- b) January
- c) September
- d) November
- 16. In which city is Bharti Airtel investing Rs 2,000 Crore to set up a Hyperscale Data Centre?
- a) Jaipur
- b) Hyderabad
- c) Nagpur
- d) Visakhapatnam
- 17. Which country announced a donation of 100 million Maldivian Rufiyaa for community development projects?
- a) India
- b) Sri Lanka
- c) China



d)	USA
18.	In which city is the Think 20' meeting of G20 being held?
a)	Indore
b)	Bhopal
c)	Pune
d)	Lucknow
19.	In which state did Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurate the second phase of Saansad Khel
	Mahakumbh?
a)	Madhya Pradesh
b)	Himachal Pradesh
c)	Andhra Pradesh
d)	Uttar Pradesh
20.	Growing more than one crop on a piece of land during the year is known as:
a)	Triple cropping
b)	Double cropping
c)	Uni cropping
d)	Multiple cropping
21.	Blood pressure may be increased by the excessive secretion of:
a)	Thyroxine
b)	Estrol
c)	Estradiol
d)	Testosterone
22.	National Viral Hepatitis Control Program (NVHCP) aims to achieve country wide elimination of Hepatitis C by:
a)	2022
b) .	2025
c)	2028
d)	2030
,	
23.	Haemoglobin is an important component of:
a)	WBC
b)	Plasma



- c) Red blood cells
- d) All of the above
- 24. The latex of which plant is used commercially?
- a) Rubber plant
- b) Papaya plant
- c) Sial kanta plant
- d) Banyan tree
- 25. The rate at which RBI purchases or rediscounts bills of exchange of commercial banks is called?
- a) Repo rate
- b) Reverse repo rate
- c) Bank rate
- d) Base rate
- 26. Where do the Commercial Banks keep the liquid assets under the Statutory Liquidity Ratio?
- a) With RBI
- b) With other banks
- c) In the Market
- d) With Themselves
- 27. In an inflationary trend, the pricing of the bank products are:
- a) At increasing trend
- b) At decreasing trend
- c) No relevance of Inflation
- d) Constant
- 28. When a loan provided by a group of lenders and is structured, arranged, and administered by one or several commercial or investment banks, it is called as \_\_?
- a) Loan shark
- b) Loan Syndication
- c) Loan covenant
- d) Package loan
- 29. Which among the following is a correct definition of fiscal deficit?
- a) The gap between projected or estimated GDP and actual GDP
- b) The total value of currency notes issued and currency actual in circulation



- The gap between actual borrowings of government of India and expected expenditures as per budget provisions
- d) Excess of Govt.'s disbursement comprising current and capital expenditures over its current receipts.
- 30. Plasma membrane is made up of which organic molecules?
- a) Vitamin
- b) Lipids and protein
- c) Carbohydrates
- d) Roughage
- 31. In which of the following organs of human body are carbohydrates stored as glycogen?
- a) Stomach
- b) Small intestine
- c) Liver
- d) Large intestine
- 32. Which type of epithelial tissue allows transportation of substances through a selective permeable surface in the lining of food vessels or lung alveoli?
- a) Simple squamous epithelium
- b) Stratified squamous epithelium
- c) Ciliated columnar epithelium
- d) Cuboidal epithelium
- 33. Transpiration through leaves is called as \_\_\_\_:
- a) Cuticular transpiration
- b) Lenticular transpiration
- c) Cauline transpiration
- d) Foliar transpiration
- 34. Companion cells of phloem are found in \_\_\_\_\_:
- a) Gymnosperms
- b) Bryophyta
- c) Pteridophyta
- d) Angiosperms



- 35. Which of the following Constitution Amendment Act grants citizens a fundamental right to form cooperative societies?
- a) 95th
- b) 96th
- c) 97th
- d) 98th
- 36. Which among the following correctly differentiates the Union Legislature and Parliament of India?
- a) Union Legislature consists of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, Parliament consists of Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and President
- b) Union Legislature consists of Lok Sabha only, Parliament Consists of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha
- c) Union Legislature consists of Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and President, Parliament consists of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha
- d) There is no difference between the two
- 37. The provision for establishment of Supreme Court of Calcutta was made in which act?
- a) Regulating Act of 1773
- b) Indian Council Act, 1861
- c) Charter Act of 1813
- d) Pitt's India Act, 1784
- 38. A Gold Ring which is 50% pure. Its purity can be alternatively shown as  $\_$ :
- a) 18 Carat
- b) 18 Karat
- c) 12 Carat
- d) 12 Karat
- 39. Hemoglobin in humans has the highest affinity for which of the following gases?
- a) Methane
- b) Carbon Monoxide
- c) Nitrous oxide
- d) Carbon dioxide
- 40. Which among the following plays a role in production of alcohol in beer?
- a) Bacteria



- b) Protozoan
- c) Virus
- d) Yeast
- 41. Kwashiorkor disease is caused by the deficiency of which of the following?
- a) Vitamins
- b) Proteins
- c) Fats
- d) Minerals
- 42. Consumption of a high amount of which of the following may cause cirrhosis?
- a) Alcohol
- b) Tobacco
- c) Caffeine
- d) Soft drinks
- 43. Which Bangladesh film won Prasad Di Award in the 16th film Bazaar at IIFI in Goa?
- a) Baby
- b) Agantuk
- c) Airlift
- d) Drishyam
- 44. Which organisation has changed the name of monkeypox to mpox?
- a) UNESCO
- b) UNICEF
- c) WTO
- d) WHO
- 45. Seventh edition of the Global Technology Summit to be held in New Delhi from which date?
- a) November 29
- b) November 27
- c) November 24
- d) November 25
- 46. Which country's first startup-operated launchpad and mission control centre was inaugurated?
- a) Germany
- b) London



- c) Italy
- d) India
- 47. Which country is hosting the Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union General Assembly 2022?
- a) Bangladesh
- b) India
- c) Belgium
- d) Brazil
- 48. First science documentary made in Sanskrit 'Yanam' screened at which IFFI?
- a) 52<sup>nd</sup>
- b) 54th
- c) 57th
- d) 53rd
- 49. Gaslighting became the word of which year?
- a) 2023
- b) 2024
- c) 2022
- d) 2021
- 50. Khadi and Village Industries Commission inaugurated the ReHab project in which city?
- a) Nainital
- b) Pune
- c) Delhi
- d) Jaipur



## **ANSWER KEY**

Q.	Ans.	Q.	Ans.
1.	В	26.	D
2.	D	27.	A
3.	A	28.	В
4.	A	29.	D
5.	В	30.	В
6.	A	31.	C
7.	D	32.	A
8.	D	33.	D
9.	С	34.	D
10.	A	35.	C
11.	A	36.	D
12.	В	37.	A
13.	C	38.	D
14.	C	39.	С
15.	A	40.	D
16.	В	41.	В
17.	A	42.	A
18.	В	43.	В
19.	D	44.	D
20.	D	45.	A
21.	A	46.	D
22.	D	47.	В
23.	С	48.	D
24.	A	49.	С
25.	С	50.	A



#### CASE STUDY

1. AVITEL POST STUDIOZ LIMITED & ORS. v. HSBC PI HOLDINGS (MAURITIUS) LIMITED 2020 SC 656

Facts: The brief facts of the case are that a share subscription agreement was entered between HSBC PI Holdings/ Respondent and Avitel Post Studioz Limited/ appellant no.1. This agreement contained an arbitration clause which provided that the disputes shall be finally resolved at the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC). Following this, the respondent invoked arbitration, alleging fraudulent misrepresentations on the part of the appellants. Subsequently, a final award was passed directing the appellants to pay US\$ 60 million as damages. After several rounds of litigation, the present appeal was filed against enforcing the award. Pertinently, the enforcement was challenged on the grounds of arbitral bias and violation of public policy.

#### **Issues Involved**

- The Hon'ble Supreme Court observed that only real question that needs to be addressed in the section 9 proceedings is the extent to which HSBC could be said to have a strong prima facie case in the enforcement proceedings under section 48 which are pending before the Bombay High Court.
- Whether irreparable prejudice would be caused to HSBC if protective orders were not issued in its favour, and generally, whether the balance of convenience tilts in its favour and to what extent.

#### **Analysis:**

The Supreme Court was asked to consider whether HSBC had a prima facie case for enforcement of the Award in India. Challenging the enforcement of the Award, it was contended on behalf of Avitel that since the allegations of fraud have been made in arbitral proceedings involving serious criminal offences, such as forgery and impersonation, such a dispute is not arbitrable then under Indian law and the award unenforceable, as a consequence. On behalf of HSBC, it was contended that non-arbitrability would be triggered only in cases where serious allegations of fraud would vitiate the arbitration agreement and not in other cases.

After taking stock of the jurisprudence on this point thus far, the Court held that "serious allegations of fraud", leading to non-arbitrability would arise only if either of following two tests were satisfied, and not otherwise.



- 1. Where the Court finds that the arbitration agreement itself cannot be said to exist being vitiated by fraud; or
- 2. Where allegations are made against the State or its instrumentalities, relating to arbitrary, fraudulent, or mala fide conduct, giving rise to question of public law as opposed to questions limited to the contractual relationship between the parties.

This means that all other cases involving "serious allegations of fraud" i.e. cases that do not meet the above two tests laid down by the Supreme Court, would be arbitrable.

#### **HELD:**

Applying the aforesaid test to the facts before it, the Court found that the issues raised and answered in the Award were the subject matter of civil as opposed to criminal proceedings. The fact that a separate criminal proceeding was sought to be initiated by HSBC is of no consequence whatsoever. It was held that the impersonation, false representations and siphoning of funds found to have been committed were all inter parties and had no "public flavour" so as to be non-arbitrable on account of allegations of fraud. As such, the Supreme Court inter alia upheld the orders of deposit of the full claim amount of USD 60 million to be kept aside for the purposes of enforcement of the Award in India.

1. Brahmaputra Concrete Pipe Industries v. Assam State Electricity Board, 2024 SC 195 Facts: The Court highlighted the fact that an ordinance was promulgated on 23-09-1992 before the 1993 Act, which permitted certain small scale industrial undertakings to claim interest on delayed payment. When a question arose regarding whether the right to sue for interest under 1993 Act could relate back to the delayed payments made under agreements made before the date of promulgation of the ordinance, and a Full Bench of Gauhati High Court opined that right to claim interest under 1993 Act would not extend to agreements or contracts entered before 23-09-1992. While discussing the factual aspects of the lead matter, the Court informed that the judgment by the three Judge Bench wherein it was held that material date for instituting suit for interest would depend on whether delivery was made by supplier after coming into operation of the 1993 Act or not, and if that was the case, the suit for recovery of interest on delayed payment was maintainable. The appellant sought reliance on dates of raising the bills after 23-09-1992. Since the 3-Judge Bench did not find evidence of any delivery made subsequent to date of coming into operation of the 1993 Act, for which interest was being claimed for delayed payment. Since the review petition was dismissed, the curative petition came up which became the point of concern in the instant matter.



#### **Analysis:**

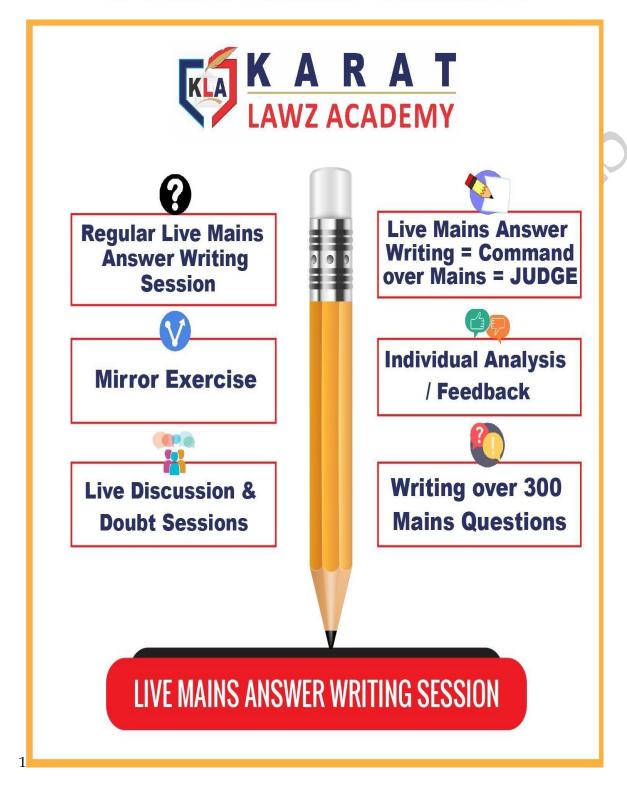
On argument to reconsider judgment in Rupa Ashok Hurra , the Court pointed that the said decision was delivered by a 5-Judge Bench, and the instant Bench could not test its legality, or comment on the question of its reconsideration. The Court further clarified that "oral hearing has not altogether been dispensed with in curative jurisdiction also and it has been left at the discretion of the Bench to decide as to whether the curative petitions ought to be dismissed by circulation without oral arguments or there shall be oral submission after notice to the opposite party. This procedure is contained in Rule 4 of Order XLVIII of the 2013 Rules.

The Court acknowledged the argument that it was a matter to be decided by the Court and not by the Registry, being a judicial process. It further highlighted that the grounds for refusal to receive a petition by the Registry were enumerated in Rule 5 of Order XV of 2013 Rules, but does not empower Registrar to decline registration of a curative petition on the ground as disclosed in the instant curative petition. The Court clarified that hearing a review petition in open court could not be brought within the ambit of expression "that it discloses no reasonable cause", and such factor would be a technical shortcoming. The Court hinted towards Union Carbide (supra) wherein, the Bench chose to examine curative petition in spite of dismissal of review petition in open court hearing, although the curative petition for enhancement compensation for Bhopal Gas Tragedy victims was ultimately dismissed....

Held: The Court viewed that a curative petition against order dismissing review petition heard in open court must contain a plea/prayer seeking excuse from compliance of making averment as contained in Order XLVIII Rule 2(1) of 2013 Rules, and that Registry would seek instructions from Judge and communicate the same to parties. It added that "In the second part of Rule 2 it is provided that the Registrar herself can direct the applicant to serve the other party with a notice of motion returnable before the Court while she opines that it is desirable that the application should be dealt with in the open Court. The said part of the Rule would not apply in a case where the applicant seeking to invoke curative jurisdiction approaches this Court after the review petition is dismissed in open court hearing." The Court further directed that in other cases pertaining to curative petitions wherein review plea was dismissed by circulation, curative petition be first circulated to a Bench of 3 senior-most judges of Supreme Court, and judges who passed the judgment challenged (if available). Thereafter, the course prescribed under sub-clauses (2), (3) and (4) of Rule 4 of Order XLVIII of 2013 Rules be followed....

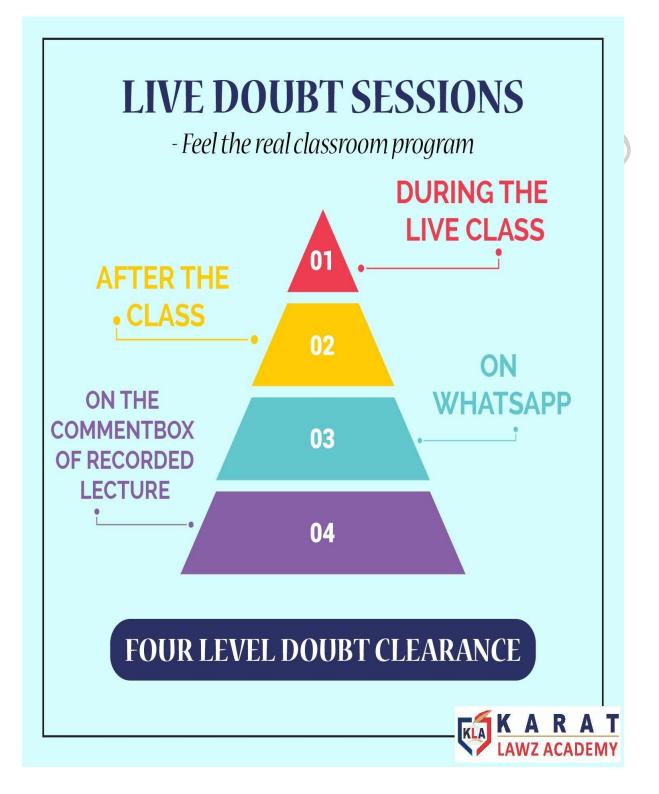
However, the Court perused the initial order, order of the Review Court and curative petitions to conclude that no case was made out by the appellant for invoking curative jurisdiction for a relook....





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