



VAJIRAM & RAVI
Institute for IAS Examination

The Analyst

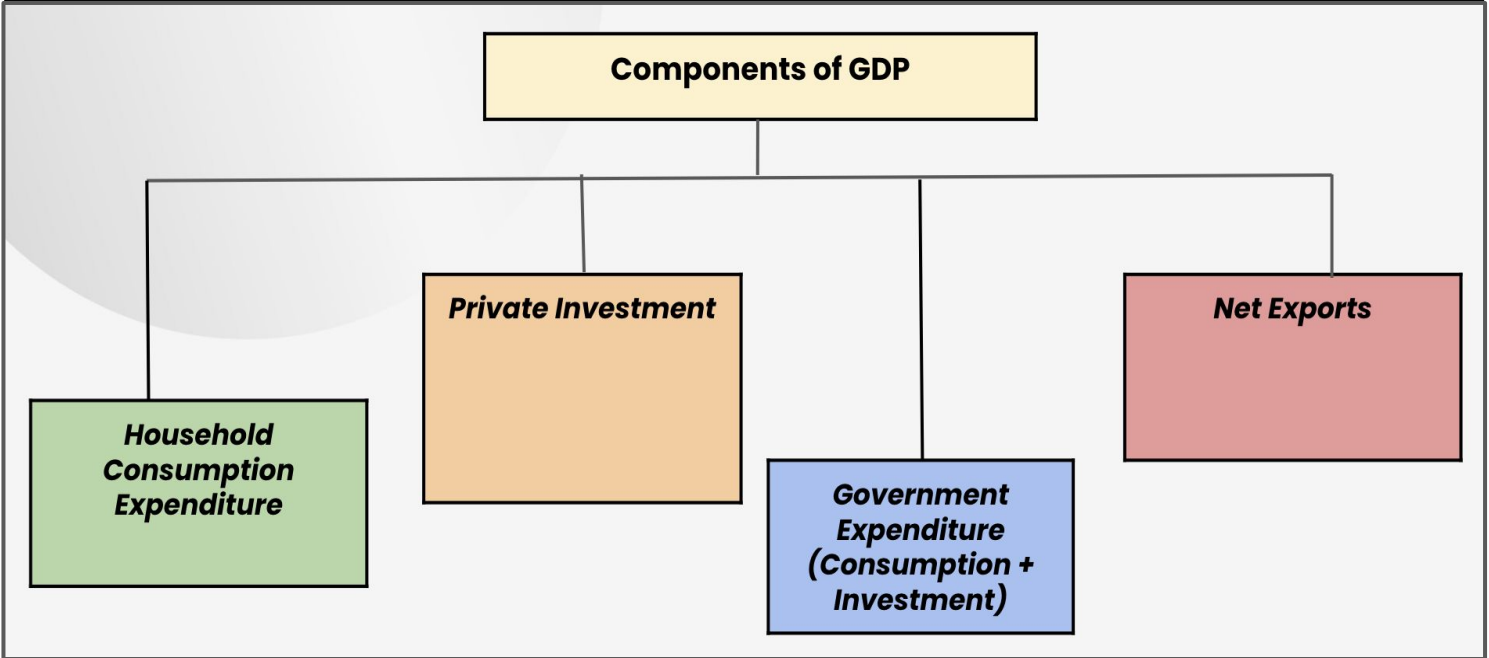
CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

21st February 2025



Is consumption enough to drive growth?

CONTEXT A write up has appeared emphasizing on the point why consumption expenditure is not the sole GDP growth driver.:



Concerns for the Economy

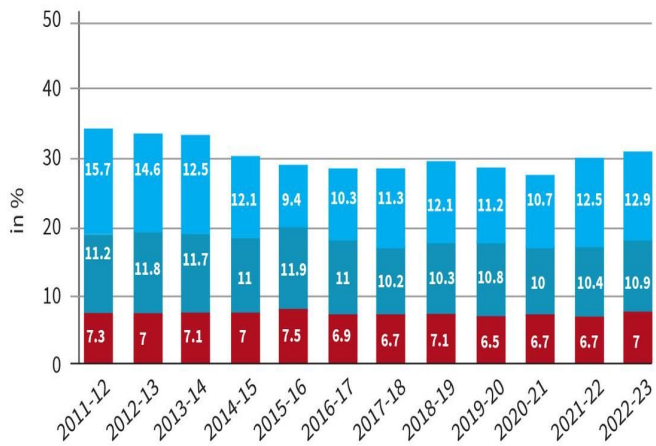
- High Share of Private Consumption
- Stagnant Investment
- Low Investment as percentage of GDP

Table 1: Distribution (in %) of GDP by expenditure type: India and China, 2023

	India	China
Private consumption	60.3	39.1
Investment	30.8	41.3
Government consumption	10.4	16.5
Exports	21.8	19.7
Less imports	-24.1	-17.6
GDP	100.0	100
GDP per capita (current US\$)	2481	12,614

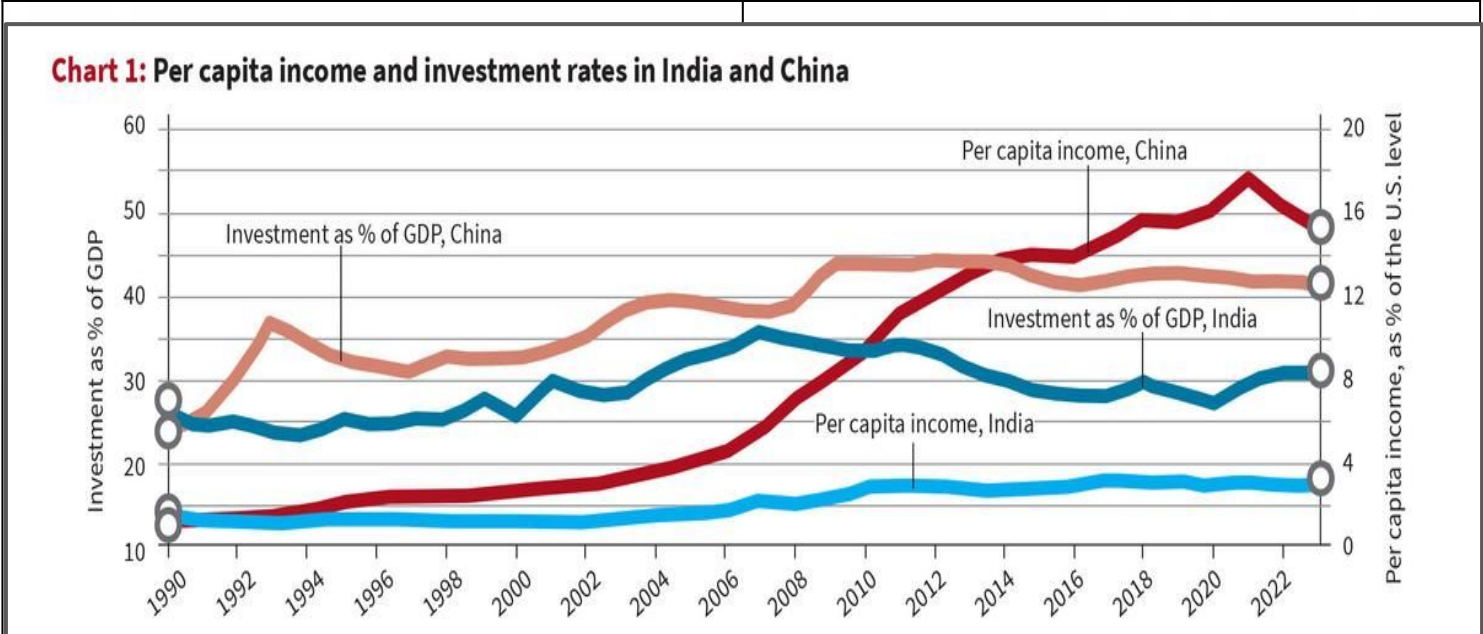
Chart 2: Investment as % of GDP in India by institutional sectors

Household investment Private corporate investment Public investment



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Measures taken by Government
A. to boost Consumption

UNION BUDGET 2025-26

TAX SLABS

Category	Income Slab	Rate
EXISTING	0 TO 3 LAKH	NIL
	3 LAKH - 6 LAKH	5%
	6 LAKH - 9 LAKH	10%
	9 LAKH - 12 LAKH	15%
	12 LAKH-15 LAKH	20%
	15 LAKH+	30%
REVISED	0 TO 12 LAKH	NIL
	12 LAKH - 15 LAKH	15%
	15 LAKH - 20 LAKH	20%
	20 LAKH - 25 LAKH	25%
	25 LAKH +	30%

*New Tax Regime

#BudgetWithHT

stack wealth

RBI MPC cuts Repo-Rate to 6.25%

Government announces 8th Pay Commission



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B. To Boost Private Investment

WHO GAINS HOW MUCH

2.5 Lakh companies out of 8.4 lakh that filed tax returns for 2017-18 had paid tax at an effective rate of 25% or higher

29.5% was the effective aggregate tax rate on all 8.4 lakh companies

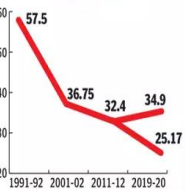
35.1% was the highest effective tax rate paid by a sensex company – Tata Steel

22.9% was the average effective rate paid by 21 non-finance sensex companies



Ajit Ninan

CORPORATE TAX OVER THE YEARS...



...NOW INCHING TOWARD GLOBAL LEVELS



C. To Boost Government Expenditure

UDAAN launched

Air travel will be made affordable for common people

- First scheme of its type in the world.
- First flight of this scheme to take off in January 2017.
- A cap of Rs. 2,500 fixed for one hour commercial flight for distance up to 500 kms (30 minutes travel by helicopters)

EXCLUSIVE INVESTMENT FORUM

INVEST INDIA.GOV.IN

Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) for Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing

- Incentive:** 4% to 6% on incremental sales (over base year) of goods manufactured in India
- Target Segments:** Mobile phones and specified electronic components
- Eligibility:** Subject to thresholds of incremental investment and incremental sales of manufactured goods
- Tenure of the Scheme:** Five years subsequent to the base year as defined (FY19-20)

Projects Under National Infrastructure Pipeline (FY2020-25)

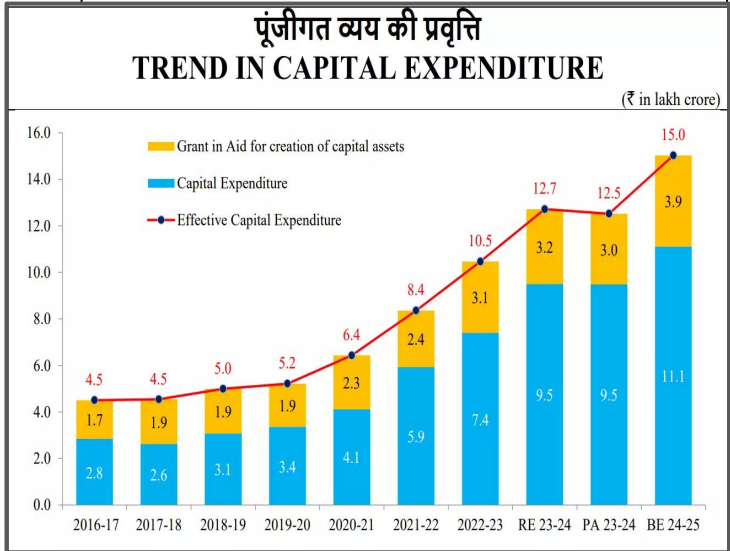
Number of Projects: **7,671**

Total Cost: **₹ 111 Trn**

Duration: **5 yrs**

Projects Under Key Sectors

Sector	Number of Projects
Roads & Bridges	2,625
Railway Lines	606
Urban Transport	220
Airports & Aviation Infra	91
Ports	79



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Bharatmala Pariyojana
Aimed at building a robust high-speed road network across the country

For more details, tune in to our official YouTube channel
▶ Vajiram and Ravi Official

Big Boost to Export
Scheme of Remission of Duties & Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP)

- Mechanism to be created for reimbursement of **taxes /duties/levies at central, state & local level**, currently not being refunded
- Will make Indian exports cost competitive in International Markets & **boost employment generation**
- Existing MEIS to be **shifted to RoDTEP with proper monitoring** & audit mechanism
- Scheme to be implemented with **end to end digitization**

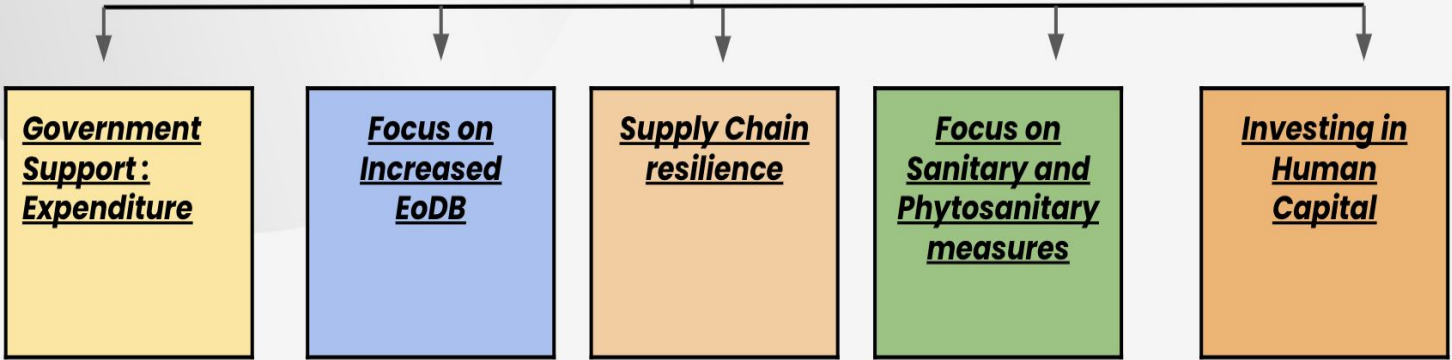
D. To Boost Exports

The **ECGC Limited (Formerly Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Ltd)** is a government owned export credit provider. It is under the ownership of Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India based in Mumbai, Maharashtra.^[1] It provides export credit **insurance** support to Indian exporters. Its topmost official is designated as **Chairman and Managing Director** who is a central government **civil servant** under ITS cadre.

Mains Practice Question

Discuss the major areas of concern in achieving India's journey of \$5 trillion economy (10 Marks, 150 words)

What should be done?



CONTEXT: The SC stayed a Lokpal order bringing High Court Judges under its jurisdiction.

Lokpal	Ombudsman against the tyranny of officialdom	Lokpal & Lokayuktas Act 2013
Composition : Chairperson + Upto 8 Members (50% shall be judicial members and 50% must come from amongst the SCs, STs, OBCs, Minorities, and Women)		Appointment by : President (On the recommendation of Selection Committee consisting of PM, Speaker of Lok Sabha, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, CJI/Sitting Judge of Supreme Court, and Eminent Jurist)

Redefining jurisdiction

Lokpal's January 27 order defines the rules and conditions under which it will inquire into complaints against High Court judges

- SC judges are public servants under the Prevention of Corruption Act but are not public servants under the Lokpal Act
- A judge of an HC established by an Act of Parliament will come within the ambit of expression 'any person' in Section 14(1)(f) of the Lokpal Act
- There is a precondition to consult the Chief Justice of India before initiating, under Section 20 of the Lokpal Act, a preliminary inquiry into a complaint lodged against an HC judge
- The SC was 'established' by the Constitution. The HCs pre-existed the Constitution and are only 'recognised' by it

Lokpal Bill: A 50-year journey

1963: The idea of an ombudsman is floated in Parliament during a discussion on Budget allocation.

1966: The first Administrative Reforms Commission recommends the setting up of two independent authorities - at the central and state levels - to look into complaints against public functionaries, including MPs.

1968-2011: The Lokpal Bill is introduced in Parliament eight times but could never be passed.

2002: The Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution recommends the appointment of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas; also recommends the PM be kept out of its ambit.

2005: The second ARC recommends the Lokpal be established without delay.

2011: The Centre forms a Group of Ministers to suggest measures to tackle corruption and examine the proposal of a Lokpal Bill.

Dec 2013: The Lokpal and Lokayukta Bill, 2013, passed by Parliament.

Source: PRS Legislative Research

Office of Lokpal

- **Ombudsman** inaugurated - **Sweden - 1809**
- **New Zealand and Norway adopted -1962**
- **1967- Whyatt Report of 1961, Great Britain- first large nation in the democratic world**

ADMINISTRATIVE BRANCH

To be headed by an officer of the rank of secretary to the government of India

- Inquiry wing to be headed by an officer not below the rank of additional secretary
- Prosecution wing to be headed by an officer not below the rank of additional secretary
- Central registry
- Scrutiny wing
- Establishment, coordination, media and publication
- Budget, finances and accounts

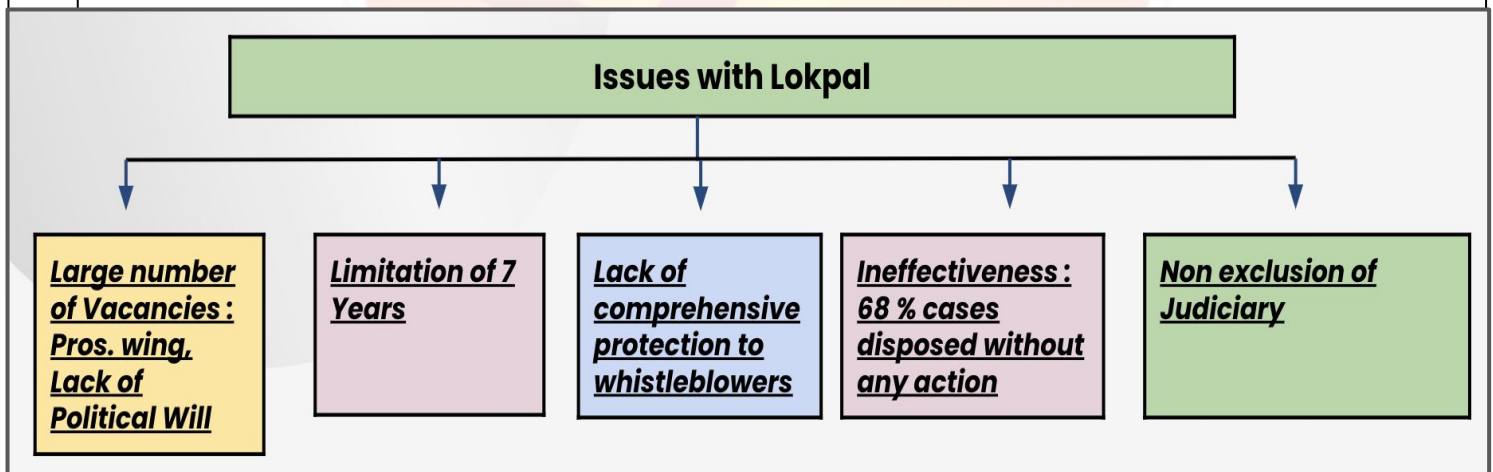
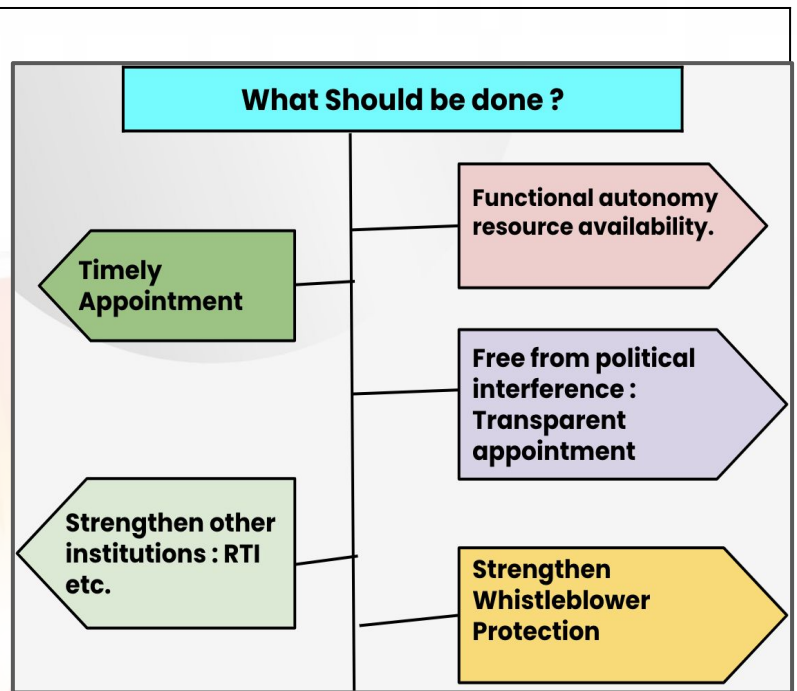
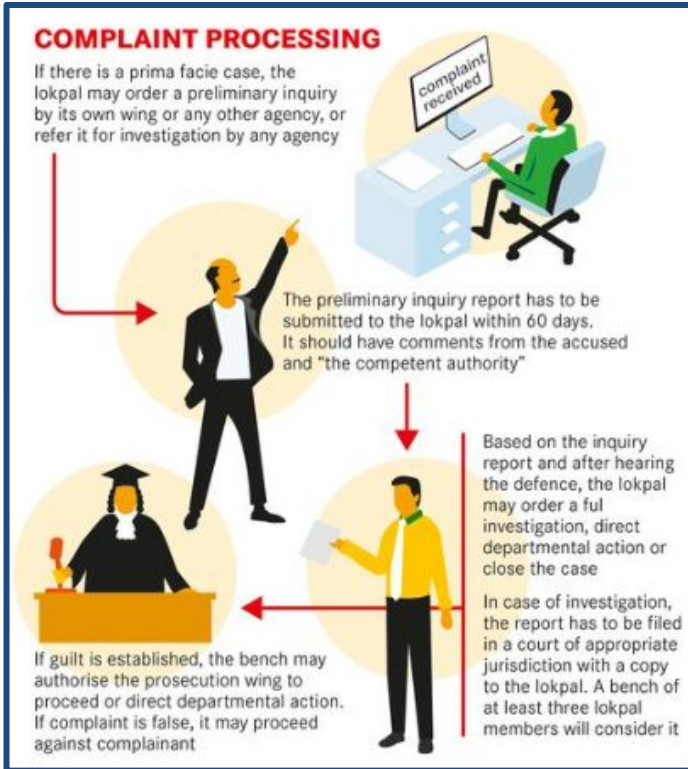
JUDICIAL BRANCH

To be headed by a judicial officer of "appropriate level" who will assist the lokpal to discharge judicial functions

JURISDICTION		
All public servants, including the prime minister	All public entities (wholly or partially funded)	Any entity with foreign funding above ₹10 lakh/year
POWERS		
Search and seizure, powers under the Code of Civil Procedure	Superintendence over agencies, including CBI, for referred cases	



CONTEXT: The SC stayed a Lokpal order bringing High Court Judges under its jurisdiction.



Question : What are the main issues faced by the Office of the Lokpal in India? Suggest measures to address these challenges. (10 Marks, 150 words)



Remission without Application



SYLLABUS: GS2- Executive, Indian Constitution, Fundamental Rights, Judiciary
Newspaper : Indian Express **Page No:** 14

AJOY SINHA KARPURAM
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 20

THE SUPREME Court on Tuesday directed states to consider the premature release of prisoners, even if they themselves do not apply for remission beforehand.

This marks a significant shift in the apex court's approach to the matter – in two separate decisions in 2013, the SC had held that states cannot remit sentences *suo motu* (of their own volition), and that a prisoner must first make an application.

A Bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan has now reversed the court's previous stand in its judgment in *In Re: Policy Strategy for Grant of Bail*, a *suo motu* case instituted by the SC in 2021 to tackle issues regarding the overcrowding of prisons.

What is the law on remission?

The power of remission refers to the

power to reduce the period of a sentence for a person who has been found guilty of a crime. Section 473 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (BNSS), and Section 432 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (CrPC) grant state governments the power to remit sentences "at any time".

States may, however, impose various conditions that a convict must meet for her sentence to be remitted, as well as conditions she has to further meet after remission (like periodically reporting to a police officer), failing to meet which their remission may be cancelled, and they may be re-arrested without warrant.

That said, there are certain restrictions on who may be granted remission. Section 475 of the BNSS (Section 433A of the CrPC) says that convicts serving a life sentence, who have been found guilty of an offence punishable by death, cannot be released until at least 14 years of serving the sentence.

To be sure, the power of remission with

EXPLAINED LAW

or grant of remission".

One of the reasons the court in *Sangeet* had laid down the requirement for an application was that it eliminates the "'discretionary' or en masse release of convicts on 'festive' occasions". But when there is a remission policy in place that provides specific eligibility criteria, problems will arise if states do not exercise discretion, the Bench held on Tuesday, saying that states have an obligation "to consider cases of every eligible convict". Failing to do so, the court said, would be "discriminatory and arbitrary", and thus violative of the right to equality under Article 14 of the Constitution.

What other directions did the court issue?

The SC directed every state to create an "exhaustive" policy for remission within two months, if one is not already in place. It also issued guidelines to build upon the its decision in *Mafabhai Motibhai Sagar v State of Gujarat* (2024). In this case, the SC

had held that eligibility conditions must be "reasonable".

The apex court held that conditions must account for various factors including the motive of the crime, criminal background and public safety;

■ aim to ensure the criminal is rehabilitated and "the criminal tendencies, if any, of the convict remains in check";

■ cannot be so "oppressive and stringent" that the convict cannot take advantage of the remission; and

■ be capable of being performed.

In *Mafabhai*, the court had also clarified that remission cannot be cancelled in every case where conditions are breached. "A minor or a trifling breach cannot be a ground to cancel remission", the court had held.

Relying on this judgment, the Bench of Justices Oka and Bhuyan held that a notice must be sent to the convict containing reasons for cancellation of remission, and the convict must be allowed to file a reply before the state makes its final decision.

Prelims Pointers

- **Prison Reforms Commission (1980):** Established to evaluate prison conditions and recommend comprehensive reforms in India.
- **National Legal Services Authority (NALSA):** Provides free legal aid to prisoners, ensuring access to justice.
- **Model Prison Manual (2016):** Provides standardized guidelines for prison management, discipline, and inmate care.
- **Skill Development Programs:** Vocational training and educational initiatives aimed at rehabilitating prisoners.
- **Prison Reform Bill (2023):** Aims to improve conditions, reduce overcrowding, and focus on rehabilitation.
- **Open Prisons Scheme:** Allows low-risk prisoners to work outside, promoting reintegration into society.
- **E-Prison Project:** Digitizes prison records, enhancing efficiency, transparency, and management within facilities.



Remission without Application



SYLLABUS: GS2-Executive, Indian Constitution, Fundamental Rights, Judiciary
Newspaper : Indian Express **Page No:** 14

Committee	Key Recommendations
Rajendra Prasad Committee (1953)	Improvement of prison infrastructure, Provision of adequate facilities for prisoners, Establishment of open prisons for low-risk offenders
M.R. Masani Committee (1978)	Abolition of solitary confinement, Introduction of parole and probation systems, Emphasis on rehabilitation of prisoners
V.R. Krishna Iyer Committee (1983)	Decongestion of prisons, Implementation of alternative sentencing options, Promotion of legal aid to prisoners
Malimath Committee (2003)	Reforms in the criminal justice system, Improvement of prison conditions, Establishment of specialized prisons for women and juveniles
Justice Amitava Roy Committee (2018)	speedy trials, increasing lawyer to prisoners ratio, the introduction of special courts, avoiding adjournment, phone calls etc.

Prelims PYQ 2023

Q. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I : In India, prisons are managed State Governments with their own rules and regulations for the day-to-day administration of prisons.

Statement-II: In India, prisons are governed by the Prisons Act, 1894 which expressly kept the subject of prisons in the control of Provincial Governments.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.
- Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.
- Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-I is correct.



Importance of Article 101(4)

SYLLABUS: GS-2 Indian Constitution

Newspaper : The Hindu **Page No:** 9

INCARCERATED KHADOOR Sahib MP Amritpal Singh on Wednesday moved the Punjab and Haryana High Court to attend the ongoing Parliament session, lest he lose his seat because of his prolonged absence from the House.

Amritpal, who faces charges under the stringent National Security Act, has been detained in Dibrugarh since April 2023. He contested and won the 2024 Lok Sabha election from prison, but thus far has an attendance of only 2%, according to PRS Legislative Research data.

The provision

"If for a period of sixty days a member of either House of Parliament is without permission of the House absent from all meetings thereof, the House may declare his seat vacant," Article 101(4) says. The 60 days, however, do not account for "any period during which the House is prorogued or is adjourned for more than four consecutive days".

Effectively, the period of absence is only calculated based on the actual sittings of Parliament. Amritpal, for instance, only attended one sitting of the Lok Sabha — the one in which he was sworn in last July. Since then, he has remained in detention in Assam. This has amounted to nearly 50 absences thus far.

However, as former Lok Sabha Secretary General P D T Achary told *The Indian Express*, he does not recall a single instance in which Article 101(4) was in-

voled, and an MP lost her seat as a result.

MPs can seek leave

The operative term in Article 101(4) is "without permission of the House". For long absences, MPs write to the 'Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House', the parliamentary panel that deals with this issue.

The committee makes recommendations on each leave application, which are then ratified by the House concerned. In practice, however, applications are seldom rejected. "Amritpal as an MP has every right to write to the panel and request permission to be absent on the grounds that he is in jail and is not getting bail," Achary said.

Past leave application reports list illness — their own or some relative's — as the most common reason for MPs being granted leave. That said, members have requested and been granted leave on the count of being imprisoned as well.

In 2023, then Ghosi MP Atul Rai of the Bahujan Samaj Party sought permission to remain absent on 23 consecutive sittings of Parliament as he was in jail. His application was granted.

Even if an MP is absent for more than 60 days, the House has to "declare" the seat vacant, meaning the matter has to be put to vote. This makes it even less likely that Amritpal will end up losing his seat simply because he is unable to attend proceedings. **ENS**

Types of Committees	Categories of Committees	Sub-Categories of Committees
Standing Committees	Financial Committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Accounts Committee Estimates Committee Committee on Public Undertakings
	Departmental Standing Committees	Total-24 (Read the article below to know the names of the departmental committees)
	Committees to Inquire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee on Petitions Committee of Privilege Ethics Committee
	Committees to Scrutinise and Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee on Government Assurances Committee on Subordinate Legislation Committee on Papers Laid on the Table Committee on Welfare of SCs and STs Committee on Empowerment of Women Joint Committee on Offices of Profit
	Committees Relating to the Day-to-Day Business of the House	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business Advisory Committee Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions Rules Committee Committee on Absence of Members from Sittings of the House
Ad Hoc Committees	Inquiry Committees	Read the details below
	Advisory Committees	Read the details below

Name of Committee	Number of Members	Chairman (Appointed/Nominated by)
Business Advisory Committee	15	Speaker <i>ex-officio</i>
House Committee	12	Speaker
Library Committee	10	Deputy Speaker <i>ex-officio</i>
Committee on Petitions	10	Speaker
Privileges	10	Parliament
Public Accounts	15	Parliament
Public Undertakings	10	Parliament
Estimates	10	Parliament
Govt. Assurances	8	Parliament
Private Member's Bills and Resolutions	10	Parliament
Rules of Procedure	12	Speaker <i>ex-officio</i>
Standing Committees on Ministries (37 in total)	10 per committee	Parliament

Source: Cited in: <http://www.parliament.gov.bd/general-11.html> (accessed on 6 September 2011).

Note: Privileges and Public Accounts Committee are provided by the constitution.



What Mineral Resources does Ukraine have ?



SYLLABUS: GS 2-Bilateral Groupings & Agreements, Effect of Policies & Politics of Countries on India's Interests

Newspaper : Indian Express **Page No:** 1

YASHEE

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 20

UNITED STATES President Donald Trump on Wednesday accused Ukraine of “breaking” a deal over the use of its mineral resources — by first agreeing “more or less”, but then treating Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, who travelled to Kyiv last week, “rather rudely because essentially they told him no”.

Earlier this month, Trump asked for access to 50% of Ukraine’s mineral resources in return for American aid. While it is uncertain where this “offer” stands after the US-Russia meeting in Riyadh this week, it puts the spotlight on Ukraine’s important reserves, especially critical and rare earth minerals.

Ukraine’s mineral resources

Critical mineral deposits in Ukraine — lithium, cobalt, titanium, graphite, and

some rare earths like scandium — are estimated to be worth up to \$11.5 trillion.

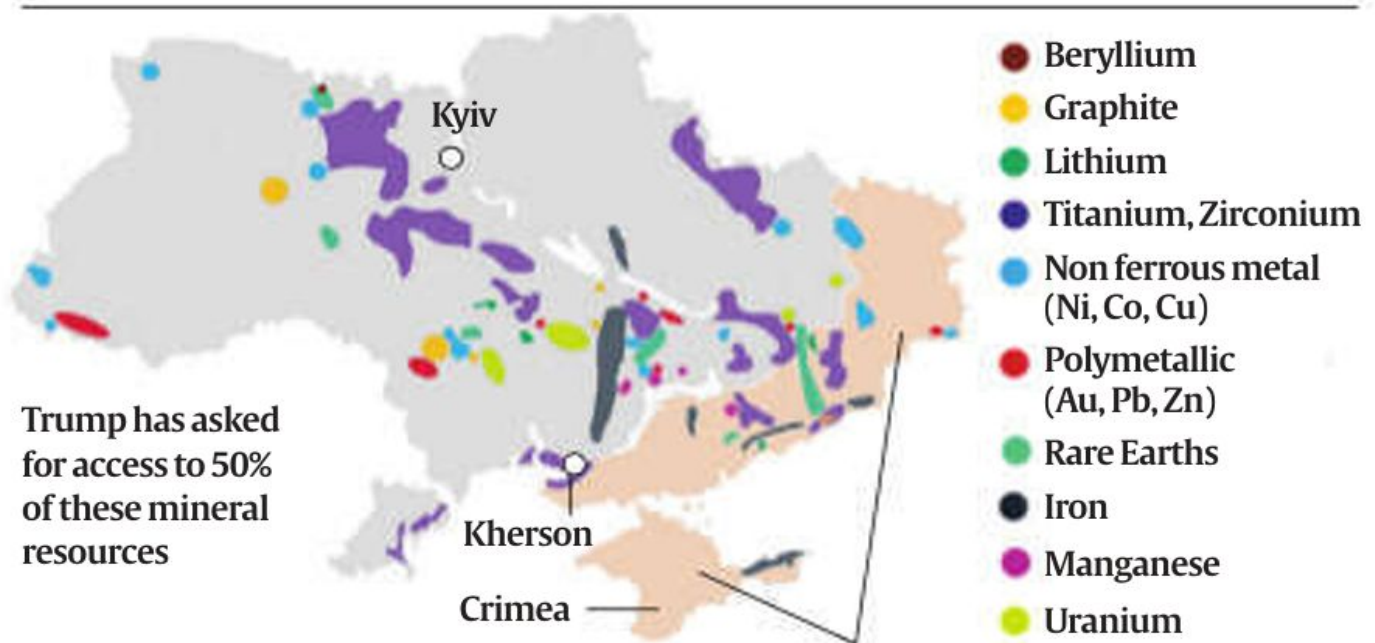
These minerals are critical in the manufacture of a variety of products from high-end weapons systems to clean energy solutions like Electrical Vehicles to electronic gadgets and semiconductors.

Much of this mineral wealth remains inadequately surveyed, and the quality of the deposits is unknown. But their promise appears lucrative to the US and the West, especially because China has vast resources of these minerals. Indeed, mineral resources are part of the reason Trump wants to take over Greenland.

According to a report by Ukraine’s Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources and the Ukrainian Geological Survey, “Ukraine holds 22 of the 50 strategic materials identified by the US as critical, and 25 out of the 34 recognised by the EU as critically important. Particularly, Ukraine holds very competitive positions

EXPLAINED GLOBAL

A MAP OF UKRAINE’S CRITICAL MINERALS



Source: Ukrainian Geological Survey Territory under Russian control



What Mineral Resources does Ukraine have ?



SYLLABUS: GS2- Bilateral Groupings & Agreements, Effect of Policies & Politics of Countries on India's Interests

Newspaper : Indian Express **Page No:** 1

has said the US is owed \$500 billion worth of Ukraine's resources, including mineral deposits, fuel, and infrastructure such as ports. "That is significantly more than the total \$69.2bn in military assistance Washington has given since 2014, according to State Department statistics," the *FT* report said.

The deal was discussed on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference last week, after which Zelenskyy told news agency *AP*, "I didn't let the ministers sign a relevant agreement because in my view it is not ready to protect us, our interest."

The question is, can the US claim and use up to 50% of another country's resources? Analysts and commentators have flagged at least four problems with this scenario.

■ Any deal will have to be in accordance with Ukraine's laws. Ksenia Orynychak, founder of the National Association of Mining Industry of Ukraine, told the *AP*, "Subsoil belongs to Ukrainians under the constitution."

■ There is very little clarity on the quantity and quality of Ukraine's mineral resources. The *FT* report quoted Gracelin Baskaran, director of the Critical Minerals Security Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), as saying, "The data is not modern, we have very little information about what's there."

■ Many geological surveys were done by the Soviets before 1991, when Ukraine was part of the USSR.

■ Ukraine already has a deal with the European Union on extracting these resources. A "strategic partnership on raw materials" was signed between the EU and Ukraine in July 2021, before Russia invaded on February 24, 2022.

■ A significant chunk of these minerals are in areas under Russian occupation currently. According to a *Reuters* report, "Russian forces, which have already seized a fifth of Ukraine including reserves of rare earths, are now little more than 4 miles from the Shevchenko lithium deposit."



SYLLABUS: GS2-Government Policies & Interventions, Issues Arising Out of Design & Implementation of Policies

Newspaper : The Hindu **Page No:** 14

Warning over-the-top (OTT) streaming services against transmitting “any content that is prohibited by law”, the Union Information and Broadcasting (I&B) Ministry on Thursday said they should ensure “age-based classification of content” under the Information Technology (Intermediary Liability and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021.

The OTT platforms should enforce age-gating requirements for mature content, the Ministry said in an advisory citing complaints from MPs, statutory organisations and the public.

It is unclear specifically what “obscene, pornographic and vulgar content” the circular is referring to. In December 2024, the Ministry flagged some shows “promoting, glamorising or glorifying the use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances through such portrayal by the main protagonist and other actors”.

The IT Rules have extensive regulations pre-

Under watch

On February 25, the government announced the new Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021, which introduced a 3-tier grievance redressal mechanism for OTT platforms

TIER 1 A grievance cell

TIER 2 A self-regulatory body of the OTT platforms

TIER 3 An inter-ministerial panel to look into complaints if they are not resolved at the first two levels



The OTT platforms will have to self-classify content into five age-based categories- U (Universal), U/A 7+, U/A 13+, U/A 16+ and A (Adult). Platforms would be required to implement parental locks for content classified as U/A 13+ or higher, and reliable age verification mechanisms for content classified as “A”.

OTT

OTT (over-the-top) is used to describe emerging business models, such as OTT apps and devices, utilizing the internet to bypass traditional infrastructure.



scribing age ratings for content on Indian streaming services such as Netflix and Amazon Prime Video. Those regulations require streaming services to have a formal grievance redress system. They should be part of a three-tier system, under which users who are offended by certain content can first approach the platform, then a self-regulatory body, and further an inter-departmental committee of the Union government.

Screening content

The I&B Ministry's latest advisory has issued the following directives to OTT platforms on 'obscene' content

- Ensure age-based classification
- Enforce age-gating for mature content
- Avoid prohibited content (obscene, vulgar, pornographic)
- Follow IT Rules, 2021 for content moderation
- Comply with laws such as POCSO Act, IT Act, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita



Legal framework for OTT regulation

- Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act
- IT Act – prohibiting obscene digital content
- IT Rules for streaming platforms
- Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita expands content regulation

SC seeks action

On Tuesday, a Supreme Court Bench, led by Justice Surya Kant, orally observed that the government needed to take some



SYLLABUS: GS-2: Regulatory Bodies

Newspaper : The Hindu **Page No:** 14

The weekly rest for pilots could be raised from 36 hours to 48 hours with effect from July 1, and revised night flying hours “rolled out” from November 1, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation said in a detailed scheme for implementing relaxed duty norms for cockpit crew submitted before the Delhi High Court on Thursday.

The liberalised norms governing duty and rest periods for pilots to combat concerns over rising fatigue levels were announced in January 2024, and were to be implemented from June 1, 2024. But they were put on hold after stiff opposition from airlines, forcing pilots’ unions to approach the court. After several rounds of court-ordered mediation held by



Pilots have been demanding the scrapping of two consecutive nights of flying.

the DGCA between Air India and the pilot bodies, the regulator agreed to a phased implementation.

“Out of 22 clauses, 15 clauses would be implemented from 01.07.2025 and the remaining 7 clauses would be rolled out from 01.11.2025,” said the affidavit before the Delhi High Court signed by the DGCA’s Assistant Director

- Regulatory body in the **field of civil aviation**, safety issues.
- Attached office - **Ministry of Civil Aviation**.
- Responsible for
 - **Regulation of air transport services** to/from/within India
 - enforcement of civil air regulations,
 - air safety and airworthiness standards.
 - **Coordination of all regulatory functions with the International Civil Aviation Organisation.**
- **Headquarters: New Delhi .**
- Crucial role: **developing new airports and modernizing existing facilities**, meet the **growing demands of the aviation industry.**
- responsible for **issuing licenses and certificates to pilots**, aircraft maintenance engineers, and other aviation personnel.



Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP):

1. The NIP is a government initiative to improve infrastructure investment and development across various sectors in India.
2. Only projects in the transportation and energy sectors are included under the NIP.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: a

Q2. Consider the following statements regarding the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for Large-Scale Electronics Manufacturing:

1. The scheme aims to boost domestic manufacturing and attract global companies by offering financial incentives based on incremental sales.
2. Only Indian companies are eligible to avail of benefits under this scheme.
3. Mobile phone manufacturing is a key focus area under this PLI scheme.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 1 and 3 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2, and 3

Answer: b

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding the Office of Lokpal:

1. The Lokpal is a statutory body established to inquire into allegations of corruption against public officials, including the Prime Minister.
2. The Lokpal consists of a chairperson and a maximum of eight members, with at least 50% belonging to SC, ST, OBC, minorities, or women.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: c

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding prisons in India:

1. As per the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data for 2022, over 75% of the total prison population in India comprises undertrial prisoners.
2. The prison occupancy rate in India has consistently remained below 100% over the past decade.
3. The high percentage of undertrial prisoners is a significant contributor to the overcrowding in Indian prisons.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 3 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 1 and 2 only
- d) 1, 2, and 3

Answer: a

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding Ukraine's critical minerals:

1. Ukraine possesses significant reserves of critical minerals, including lithium, titanium, and rare earth elements, that are essential for advanced technologies.
2. The United States and Ukraine have signed agreements to enhance cooperation in critical mineral supply chains to reduce dependency on other countries.
3. Ukraine is the largest global producer of rare earth elements, supplying a majority of the world's demand.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) Only One
- b) Only Two
- c) All Three
- d) None

Answer: b





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