



**VAJIRAM & RAVI**  
Institute for IAS Examination

# The Analyst

**CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout**

**22 February 2025**



**CONTEXT:** Promoting transparency and compliance, the Home Ministry has revoked over 20,000 licenses since its inception for alleged FCRA violations by various NGOs.

## What is it?

Regulate the acceptance and utilization of foreign contributions individuals, associations, and companies in India.

- Enacted in 1976
- Amendments: 2010, 2020, 2022
- Coverage: associations, groups, and NGOs (foreign donations).
- Criteria:
  1. Registration –FCRA.
  2. Bank account in SBI, Delhi.
  3. Use for the intended purpose.


## FCRA 2010, 2020 and 2022

- Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 2010
- Governs the receipt and use of foreign funds
- Nation's sovereignty or internal security
- 2020: Aadhaar for office bearers, SBI accounts, and reduced expense limits
- 2022: raised the annual remittance limit from relatives to ₹10 lakh.

## Current Status

**FCRA 2020** mandates that each NGO compulsorily opens an 'FCRA account' with SBI's main branch in New Delhi for initial receipt of foreign contribution from a foreign source

Between 2016 and 2020, the home ministry had cancelled the registrations of more than 6,600 NGOs, alleging violation of rules and misuse of funds



In July this year, Delhi High Court 'restrained' the ministry from taking any 'coercive' action against NGOs if they failed to file annual returns after June 30, 2021

The order was passed on petitions from NGOs

## DUAL STAND?

- LDF government has been questioning legality and morality of CBI probe into the violation of Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) by Life Mission
- State wrote to Centre on Sept 5 last year to take up a case against Good Samaritan Projects India and Catholic Reformation Literature Society, the case had offence punishable under Section 37 of FCRA, 2010

## The FCRA Timeline

1976

Originally introduced during the Emergency to keep track of foreign influence in social, political, economic and religious decisions

- ♦ Nonprofits were allowed to freely receive foreign donations while reporting the amount spent and received every year

1984

Mandatory for non-profits to register before receiving foreign donations; they cannot pass the funds on to other non-registered NGOs

2010

The 1976 Act was repealed and replaced by a stricter Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 along with the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Rules, 2011

- ♦ Key changes introduced: FCRA registration validity, permanent earlier, reduced to five years and subjected to renewal
- ♦ Only 50% foreign contributions could be used for administrative expenses - no such provision existed under the 1976 Act

2020

The FCRA Amendment Bill, 2020, broadly redefined terms related to acceptance, transfer and utilisation of foreign contributions under the 2010 Act





**CONTEXT:** Promoting transparency and compliance, the Home Ministry has revoked over 20,000 licenses since its inception for alleged FCRA violations by various NGOs.

## Need of FCRA

Regulation

Protection of National Interests

Oversight on Utilisation

Mandatory Licensing

## Benefits of FCRA Registration

### 01 EASE IN PROCURING GOVT. GRANTS & DONATIONS

Obtaining registration under FCRA Act makes an organisation or association eligible to seek funds or grants from the Government authorities towards its primary objective apart from the permission to receive funds legally from any foreign source.

### 02 ATTRACTS FOREIGN DONATIONS

Under the provisions of the FCRA Act 2010, a company registered under the provisions of section 8 of Companies Act 2013 shall be eligible to receive charity or donation from foreign entities or foreign charitable organisations such as Infinity Foundation, New Zealand High Commission, SWISSAID, AUSAID, European Commission etc.

### 03 EASE IN LOANS PROCUREMENT

As the FCRA registration is a registration recognised and granted by the Central Government of India, it becomes easier for the NGOs to avail loan facilities from banks and financial institutions.

### 04 HIGHER PUBLIC TRUST AND RELIABILITY

Since FCRA registration is a registration granted by the Central government, it enjoys a higher sense of trust and reliability for charity and donation purposes.

## FOREIGN CONTRIBUTION REGULATION ACT

Purpose of FCRA

01

The primary purpose of regulating the inflow of foreign contributions and ensuring that the received foreign contributions are not utilized for purposes other than those specified under the legislation.

02

To regulate the acceptance and utilization of foreign contribution or foreign hospitality by certain individuals or associations, or companies.

03

To prohibit acceptance and utilization of foreign contribution or foreign hospitality for any activities detrimental to the national interest.

## Key Allegations against NGOs

Stalling Development Projects

Conspiring with Foreign Agents

Use of Other NGOs for Illegal Activities

Political Agenda

Protest Funding

## FCRA Violations: Measures to be taken

Clarity in Definitions

Tiered Regulatory System

A fair balance

Independent Oversight

Aligning with International Standards

## Impact of FCRA

- Non-Compliance Issues
- Operational Challenges
- Stringent Regulations
- License Cancellations

## MAINS PRACTISE QUESTIONS

Q. Discuss the allegations raised against NGOs under the FCRA and their implications for the developmental activities in India.

## PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTIONS

Q. Can Civil Society and Non-Governmental Organisations present an alternative model of public service delivery to benefit the common citizen? Discuss the challenges of this alternative model. (2021)



**CONTEXT:** The Indian judicial system is currently overwhelmed with a backlog of pending cases. In this context, judicial de-congestion has become an imperative.

## Current Status

High number of unresolved cases that are pending before the courts.

- Lower judiciary: majority cases filed; shortage of judges
- Regional Variations: Example- Bihar, Uttar Pradesh
- Steady growth: 2010-2020, 2.8% annually
- Tribunals and Special Courts- Example: 2020- 21,259 cases- National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT).

Supreme Court	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 71,411 cases</li> </ul>
High Courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 million cases</li> </ul>
Lower courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 41 million cases</li> </ul>
Pendency of cases (as of August 2022)	

## REASONS FOR LONG PENDENCY

Reasons	No of cases	Percentage of pending cases
Accused absconding	7,023	29
Parties taking time in evidence	6,476	26
HC stayed cases	1,842	8
Imp witness presence	1,649	7
Road block by Misc app	1,483	6
Awaiting govt documents	1,204	5
Parties not interested	1,008	4

Note: The above are seven of the 17 reasons cited by subordinate court judges for long pendency of 24,496 cases. Some of the cases are pending since 1958

Source: National Judicial Data Grid

## Reasons

Low Strength of Judges

Absence of Judges

Lack of Infrastructure

Complexity of cases; Procedural delays

Increased legal awareness

## Impact on Justice Delivery System

- Delays in the administration of justice
- Negative impact on justice quality
- Financial burden on litigants
- Negative impact on the economy
- Injustice to the victims and witnesses
- Loss of faith in the legal system

## PENDENCY

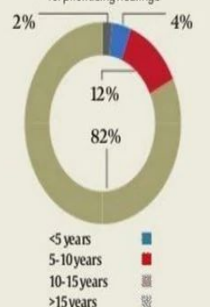
Among the High Courts, pendency in Allahabad longest, Sikkim shortest

These are simple averages — so while they indicate length of delays, at least 50% of total number of cases are pending for longer



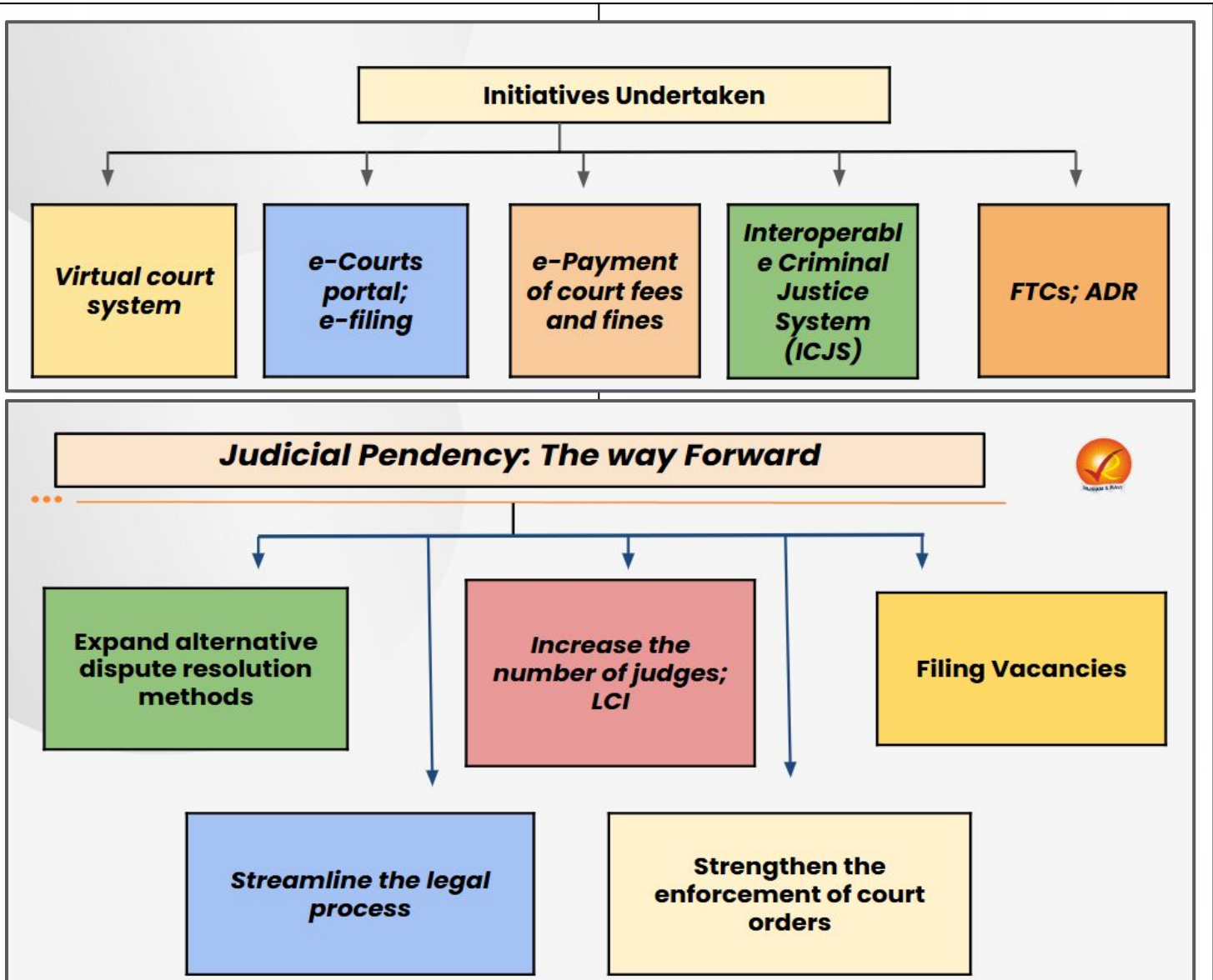
A huge majority of cases have been pending for 10-15 years

Break-up of pendency in 5-year brackets helps understand ageing of cases, and can form the basis for prioritising hearings



# Judicial Backlogs

**CONTEXT:** The Indian judicial system is currently overwhelmed with a backlog of pending cases. In this context, judicial de-congestion has become an imperative.



## **MAINS PRACTISE QUESTION**

Discuss the factors contributing to the staggering backlog of cases in the Indian Courts. Discuss key reforms needed to address the challenges faced by the Courts.





## SYLLABUS : GS Paper 2 : International Relations Newspaper : The Indian Express Page Number : 15

SUKALP SHARMA

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 21

THE RECENT state visit of Qatar's Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani saw New Delhi and Doha setting a target to double bilateral trade to around \$28 billion a year by 2030, apart from elevating the bilateral relationship to a strategic partnership. According to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), "trade, investment, and energy" were among the major topics discussed between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Al-Thani.

The India-Qatar trade relationship has predominantly been fueled by New Delhi's heavy imports of liquefied natural gas (LNG), of which Doha is India's largest supplier. With the two countries now aiming to double bilateral trade over the next five years, LNG, or super-chilled gas, is likely to play a pivotal role in that endeavour as well.

The reason: India's LNG imports are ex-

pected to surge over the next five years as the country's natural gas consumption is set to grow significantly. The expected growth in imports would coincide with Qatar expanding its LNG export capacity. In fact, Qatar and the US are the two key geographies that are likely to see notable expansion in LNG export capacity over the coming years, and Indian oil and gas companies are understood to be eyeing both countries to meet the incremental gas demand.

### LNG as driver of bilateral trade

Even as India hopes to increase exports to Qatar and attract investments, it is a fact that the balance of trade between the two countries is heavily skewed in Qatar's favour. LNG imports accounted for 50% of India's overall imports from Qatar, which totalled \$11.49 billion in the first 11 months of 2024. Other major imports were also fossil fuel-linked commodities and products like liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), crude oil, plastics,

and other petrochemicals.

By contrast, India's exports to Qatar during that period totalled just \$1.61 billion. In January-November 2024, India imported 9.82 million tonnes of LNG from Qatar, which accounted for 38.8% of India's overall LNG imports by volume. In value terms, India's LNG imports from Qatar were \$5.75 billion, accounting for 41.2 per cent of its total LNG imports.

India's largest LNG importer Petronet LNG has a long-term contract with Qatar for 7.5 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) of LNG, which was extended to 2048 last year. Apart from this, Qatar also holds a sizable share in India's LNG purchases from the spot market. In December, public sector major GAIL inked a five-year contract with QatarEnergy for additional imports.

### Growing Indian demand

The Indian government has set an ambitious target to increase the share of natural

gas in the country's primary energy mix to 15% by 2030, from a little over 6% at present. This will boost LNG imports even further, with domestic natural gas being able to meet just about half of the country's demand at the moment.

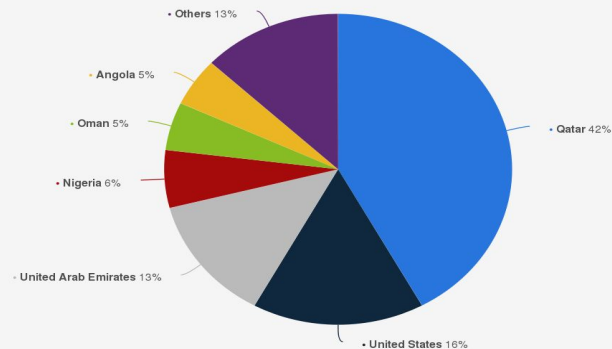
### EXPLAINED ECONOMICS

According to the Paris-based International Energy Agency (IEA), India's natural gas consumption is seen rising nearly 60% over 2023 levels to 103 billion cubic metres (bcm) by 2030, while LNG imports are set to more than double between 2023 and 2030 to 65 bcm a year, driven by steady demand growth and a much slower rise in domestic production.

"Between 2013 and 2023, India's LNG imports increased by 70%, and reached 36 bcm in 2024, matching the previous record set in 2020 and cementing the country's position as the fourth-largest LNG importer globally," the IEA said in a recent report.

No wonder then that India's oil and gas

Distribution of liquefied natural gas imported into India in 2021, by country of origin



Sources: IOU, GICORL, IEA, © Statista 2024

Additional Information: India, IOU, GICORL, 2021

companies are scouting for LNG supply contracts globally. Just last week, Indian oil and gas companies inked three long-term LNG import deals worth billions of dollars with global majors. The deals included long-term contracts by public sector refiners Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL) with the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), and Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation's (GSPC) deal with French company TotalEnergies.

At the same time, Qatar will significantly add to its LNG export capacity. The Gulf country's liquefaction capacity is set to nearly double to 142 mtpa by 2027 from 77 mtpa.

### US position, growing share

Over the coming years, the US is expected to be Qatar's biggest competitor for supplying LNG to India. The US is currently India's second-largest source of super-chilled gas. In January-November 2024, India imported 5.12 million tonnes of LNG

from the US, accounting for 20.2 per cent of the former's cumulative LNG imports. It was valued at nearly \$2.5 billion.

New Delhi and Washington have agreed to take steps towards making Washington "a leading supplier of oil and gas to India", which could help bridge the trade deficit between the two countries, US President Donald Trump had said after meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Washington DC last week.

Trump also lifted the Joe Biden administration's ban on export permits for new LNG projects, which could further solidify the United States' position as the world's largest LNG exporter.

It is no surprise then, that in their hunt for more long-term LNG contracts, Indian oil and gas companies are keenly eyeing opportunities in the US. "Indian companies are looking at buying LNG from around the world, including particularly from the US," Petroleum Secretary Pankaj Jain told reporters just days before the PM's US visit.





**SYLLABUS : GS 2 Paper : International Relations**  
**Newspaper : The Indian Express Page Number : 01, 02**

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS Minister S Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi met Friday and discussed "management of peace and tranquillity in border areas", resumption of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra, flight connectivity and trans border rivers.

Meeting on the sidelines of the meeting of G20 Foreign Ministers in Johannesburg — this was their second meeting since the completion of the disengagement process along the Line of Actual Control in eastern Ladakh last November — Jaishankar and Wang held talks amid dialo-

cilitation were discussed. There was also an exchange of views on G20 and SCO."

Jaishankar, in his remarks, before the meeting said, "I am glad that we could meet today on the sidelines of the G20 Foreign Ministers Meeting in Johannesburg. Such gatherings have provided an opportunity for our interaction even when our ties were going through a difficult phase."

"We should also recognise that in a polarised global situation, our two countries have worked hard to preserve and protect the G20 as an institution. This in itself testifies to the importance

of international cooperation," he said.

Incidentally, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio is not attending the G20 meeting.

"Since our last meeting in Rio during the G20 Summit in November 2024, there have been some notable developments. Our NSA and Foreign Secretary have visited China and there have been discussions about various aspects of our relationship. These have included management of peace and tranquillity in the border areas as well as other dimensions of our ties. I am glad today to have a further exchange of views," he said.

"India and China are members of the G20, SCO and BRICS. There are also regional and global issues of mutual interest, where an exchange of perspectives will be to our mutual benefit," he said.

On Thursday, addressing the G20 session titled 'Discussion on the Global Geopolitical Situation', Jaishankar said the G20 was an important expression of the world's growing multi-polarity.

"The global geopolitical situation remains difficult by any definition. Some of it is the accumulated challenges of the Covid pandemic, conflict situations, financial pressures, food security and climate concerns," he said.

The G20 comprises 19 countries including: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Türkiye, United Kingdom, and United States and two regional bodies, namely the European Union and the African Union.

The **Group of Twenty (G20)** is an intergovernmental forum of the world's **largest economies**.

Established in **1999** as a response to the Asian financial crisis.

Members: **19 countries + European Union (EU)**.

**No permanent secretariat**; presidency rotates annually.

Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, UK, USA + European Union (EU).

Represents **85% of global GDP**, **75% of world trade**, and **two-thirds of the global population**.

## Structure of G20

**Finance Track:** Central bank governors and finance ministers discuss economic policies.

**Sherpa Track:** Focuses on broader issues like development, climate, health, etc.



**SYLLABUS : GS 3 Paper : Defence**  
**Newspaper : The Hindu Page Number : 10**

The Army is also set to finalise a contract for the indigenously developed Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile (QRSAM) system within the next four to five months.

With a range of 30 km, the QRSAM, being developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), has

said that once the contract is done, First of Prototype Model (FoPM) will be there in 12 months because we already trial-evaluated the equipment. So, in 18 months they would be able to produce... and eventually have in both wheeled and tracked configurations subsequently," Director-General of Army Air De-

QRSAM (Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile) is an indigenously developed air defense system by DRDO.

Designed to detect, track, and neutralize aerial threats at close ranges.

**Key Features**

Range: 25-30 km

Altitude Coverage: Up to 10 km

Speed: Mach 4+ (four times the speed of sound).

360-degree coverage with active electronically scanned array (AESA) radar.

Can track & fire multiple targets simultaneously.

All-weather capability with high mobility.

System	Range	Type	Deployment
QRSAM	25-30 km	Short-range	Mobile units (Army & Air Force)
Akash	30-50 km	Medium-range	Fixed & mobile platforms
Barak-8	70-100 km	Long-range	Navy & Air Force
S-400	400 km	Advanced long-range	Strategic air defense





# Textile Investments Reviving



**SYLLABUS : GS 3 Paper : Textile Industry**  
**Newspaper : The Hindu Page Number : 11**

Investments in the textile sector that were sluggish for the last couple of years have revived, Textile Com-

“A lot of investments are happening in technical textiles and the demand is also high for upgraded technology in weaving

## Leverage engineering













Indian textile machinery manufacturers should leverage the strengths in textile engineering and localise textile machinery for all segments of the supply chain, she said.

“We should have sustainable, circular textiles,” the Commissioner said.

## Surplus cotton

On cotton production during the cotton season 2024-2025, she said it was estimated that there would be almost 29 lakh bales of surplus cotton this season.

machines. The ecosystem for the weaving sector should improve to be on par with the spinning segment. There should be more manufacturers of motors, drives,” he said.

	<b>Agrotech</b> Horticulture + landscape gardening, agriculture + forestry, animal keeping		<b>Meditech</b> Hygiene, medicine
	<b>Buildtech</b> Membrane, lightweight + massive construction, engineering + industrial building.		<b>Mobiltech</b> Cars, ships, aircraft, trains, space travel
	<b>Clothtech</b> Garments, shoes		<b>Oekotech</b> Environmental protection, recycling, waste disposal
	<b>Geotech</b> Road infrastructure, Railways, Irrigation and Hydraulic structures, Waste Landfills, Dams etc.		<b>Packtech</b> Packaging, protective-cover systems, sacks, big bags, container systems
	<b>Hometech</b> Furniture, upholstery + interior furnishing, rugs, floor coverings		<b>Protech</b> Person and property protection
	<b>Indutech</b> Filtration, cleaning, mechanical engineering, chemical industry		<b>Sporttech</b> Sport and leisure, active wear, outdoor, sport articles.



# Consumer Court: Time is Money



**SYLLABUS : GS 2 Paper : Judiciary**

**Newspaper : The Indian Express Page Number : 10**

THE QUESTION, HOWEVER, REMAINS. WHEN TO PAUSE?

**T**IME IS A form of pure intuition through which we structure our experiences, not a real property of the world, according to Immanuel Kant — and it certainly doesn't seem to be a real property of cinema theatres. For the Bengaluru man who had to sit through 25 minutes of commercials after the scheduled time for a film to start, time must have crawled at the same pace as the traffic he had to navigate to get there. For the theatre chain, which later argued in court that playing the ads helped to accommodate viewers who arrived late, the film seemed to start precisely on time.

The case was over a screening of *Sam Bahadur*, which never started with military precision at 1600 hours, in December 2023. A disgruntled viewer approached a consumer court, which has now ordered PVR INOX to pay Rs 20,000 for causing him inconvenience and mental agony, as well as Rs 8,000 to cover the cost of filing the complaint and Rs 1 lakh in punitive damages for engaging in unfair trade practices. The court said, "Each one's time is very precious, no one has [the] right to gain benefit out of others' time and money."

It's a much-needed rebuke to the inexorable swarm of ads that consume the consumer in the theatre. All played twice back-to-back, as if time has rewound. The business imperative is obvious, but it mustn't detract from the experience the viewer has actually paid for. That said, the court's reasoning also says something else about the times we live in: "In the new era, time is considered as money", and it's "very hard" for busy people with tight schedules to watch "unnecessary advertisements". Time is money, and one has to budget very carefully to have any downtime. But when do you get to hit pause?

**Consumer Courts** are quasi-judicial bodies established to resolve consumer disputes.

Governed by the **Consumer Protection Act, 2019** (replaced the 1986 Act).

Aim: **Speedy & inexpensive** redressal of consumer grievances.

## Three-Tier Structure of Consumer Courts

### District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (DCDR)

- Deals with cases up to ₹1 crore.
- Appeal: **State Commission**.

### State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (SCDR)

- Deals with cases from ₹1 crore – ₹10 crore.
- Appeal: **National Commission**.

### National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC)

- Deals with cases above ₹10 crore.
- Final appeal: **Supreme Court**.





**Q1: Which of the following statements regarding the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) is/are correct?**

1. The FCRA aims to prevent foreign influence in political, economic, religious, or social affairs in India.
2. The FCRA applies only to organisations receiving foreign contributions and not to individuals.

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below.**

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

**Answer: a**

**Q2: Which of the following is not a major reason for High Judicial Backlogs in India?**

- 1) High Judge Population ratio
- 2) Lack of Infrastructure
- 3) Complexity of cases
- 4) Increased legal awareness

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below.**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 1 and 3 Only
- d) 2 and 4 Only

**Answer: a**

**Q3: Which of the following groups of countries are the members of G20?**

- a) Canada, France, India, Brazil, Chile
- b) Spain, Netherlands, Singapore, Pakistan
- c) Switzerland, Norway, Denmark, Ireland, Bangladesh
- d) Australia, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Germany, Turkey

**Answer: d**

**Q4: Consider the following statements regarding the Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile (QRSAM) system :**

- 1) It is a long-range, intercontinental ballistic missile developed by DRDO.
- 2) It is a system that is designed exclusively for naval warfare.

**Which of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?**

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

**Answer: c**

**Q5: Consider the following statements regarding Consumer Courts in India :**

- 1) They are quasi-judicial bodies governed by the Consumer Protection Act, of 1946.
- 2) They operate exclusively at the national level, handling all consumer complaints.
- 3) They aim to provide speedy and affordable redressal of consumer grievances.

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

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

**Answer: a**





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