



VAJIRAM & RAVI
Institute for IAS Examination

The Analyst

CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

28th February 2025

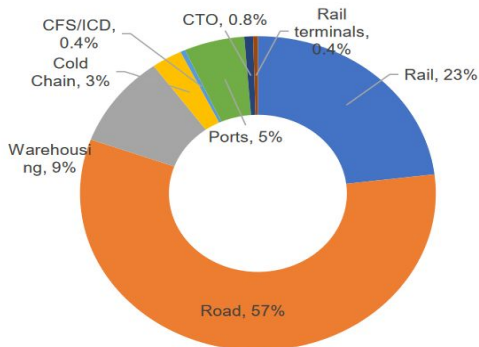


CONTEXT: Ministry of Shipping unveiled “One Nation One Port Process” and “Sagar Ankalan”

- 7500 km coastline
- Logistics cost as a % of GDP
- India’s external trade handled by Ports
- Indian Ocean – ~80% of global maritime oil trade
- 13 Major ports & 212 Non- Major ports
- Service Port Model & Landlord Port Model
- Capacity Utilisation – 55%

Logistics

- World Bank’s Logistic Performance Index (LPI) Report 2023 – India 22nd on the “International Shipments” category
- Improved Performance
 - Dwell Time
 - Port Operational Efficiency
 - Connectivity to Hinterland
 - Investments in infra



Source: CRISIL MI&A

Budget 2025-26

KEY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Development of dedicated Shipbuilding Clusters
- Revamped Shipbuilding Financial Assistance Policy.
- Introduction of Credit Notes for shipbreaking in Indian yards.
- Inclusion of Large Ships in the Infrastructure Harmonized Master List (HML).
- Maritime Development Fund of ₹25,000 crore fund to provide long-term financing for maritime industry
- Expansion of PM Gati Shakti Portal
- Encouragement of Port-led PPP Projects
- Extension of Tonnage Tax Scheme to Inland Vessels



UNION BUDGET 2025-26

MARITIME DEVELOPMENT FUND (MDF)

- ₹ 25000 cr for Long Term Financing in the maritime industry
- ₹ Govt contribution of upto 49% with the rest being mobilized from Private Investments & Ports

Objectives of MDF:

- Development of new and modernization of existing ports
- Financial Aid for Green Shipping Initiatives
- Investments in Ship Repair facilities to make India a global shipping hub
- Encouragement of Technological Innovation in Maritime Logistics & Fleet Efficiency

₹ Encouragement to states to submit Port related PPP proposals enabling support from India Infrastructure Project Development Fund

Emphasis on :

- Modernization of Cargo Handling Infrastructure
- Development of Multimodal Logistics Parks near ports
- Connectivity Enhancement between ports & hinterlands via road & rail networks



Maritime India Vision, 2030

- A 10-year blueprint
- latest venture of the Sagarmala Programme
- investment of Rs. 3.4 lakh crore – to increase cargo volumes
 - creation of additional jobs
 - sources of revenue for state-owned major ports.

- **One Nation One Port Process** – Streamlining maritime operations.

- **Sagar Ankalan** – Logistic Port Performance Index (LPPI) for 2023-24

- **Bharat Global Consortium** – Key MoU signings for global collaboration.

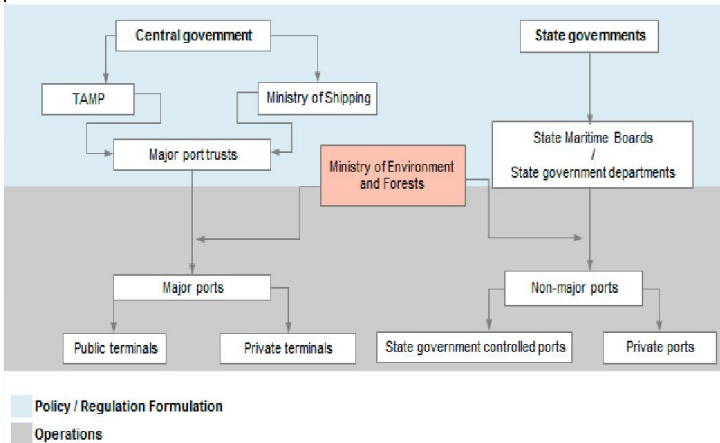
- **NCoEGPS** – Strengthening port governance.

- **MAITRI** – Connecting countries through virtual Trade Corridor.



CONTEXT: Ministry of Shipping unveiled “One Nation One Port Process” and “Sagar Ankanan”

Institutional Framework



Policies & Legislative Reforms

- Major Port Authorities Act, 2021
 - a. Major Port Authorities Boards
 - b. Adjudicatory Board – replace TAMP
- Marine Aids to Navigation Act, 2021
 - a. safety and efficiency in vessel traffic services
 - b. training and certification
- The Indian Vessels Act, 2021
- Draft Indian Ports Bill, 2022
- FDI
- Decarbonisation in the Maritime Sector – Panchamrit commitments
 - a. Renewable energy
 - b. Harit Sagar Green Port guidelines
 - c. Regulation of the discharges and effluents in the harbour water
 - d. Construction of Multi-Modal Terminal – Jogighopa (Assam)

Draft Indian Ports Bill, 2022

- Environmental compliance
- Institutional changes
- Dispute resolution
- National council
- Maritime State Development Fund.

- Significance:
 - optimum utilisation of the coastline
 - address logistics bottlenecks
 - India as a major trading hub
- Concerns
 - Maritime State Development Council
 - Unbridled powers
 - Centralising Tendency

Why Invest in Maritime Infra?

- Economic Security
 - a. Red Sea Crisis
 - b. Dependence on Foreign Vessels – 95% of International cargo
 - c. Geopolitical turmoil – supply chain disruptions
 - d. Forex savings
- Geostrategic imperative in Indo Pacific
 - a. SAGAR
 - b. IMEC
- Environmental Goals
 - a. COP 28
 - b. IMO’s Net Zero Target
- Economic growth
 - a. Employment generation e.g. seafarers

THE VISION



The Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047 pegs the total investment opportunity at ₹80 lakh crore over the next 23 years



It aims to create four port clusters with capacity equal to or more than 300 MTPA, and two with capacity of 500 MTPA or more



CONTEXT: History is being rewritten in Bangladesh.



Setting up transshipment hubs at Vizhinjam and Galathea Bay, both with 20 metre deep draft



Targets increasing India's share of transshipment cargo to 95% by 2047 from the current 32%



It also aims to enhance the modal share of coastal shipping and inland waterway transport from 109 MTPA in FY22 to 500 MTPA by 2047

Suggestions

- Domestic Shipbuilding
 - a. National Shipbuilding Mission
 - b. PLI Scheme
 - c. Long term financing
 - d. Tax incentives to increase fleet size
 - e. PPP

- Coastal Shipping & Inland waterways
 - a. Multimodal logistics hub u/Gati Shakti
 - b. Last mile connectivity to industrial hubs
- Green Shipping
 - a. Solar powered ports
 - b. Hydrogen powered ships
 - c. Electric ferry fleet
- Automation, AI, IoT for Port Efficiency

Mains Practice Question

Examine the significance of the ports and shipping sector in India's economic growth. Analyze the key government initiatives undertaken to bolster this sector and suggest measures to enhance its efficiency, sustainability, and global competitiveness.



CONTEXT: History is being rewritten in Bangladesh.

Significance

- Geostrategic
 - Bridge to SE Asia
 - Regional security & peace
- Economic
 - 5th export destination
 - Energy - Maitree Power Plant, India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline
- Security
 - BNP (alleged links to ISI), Jamaat hostile
 - Deteriorating Myanmar
 - Joint Exercises: Sampriti, Bongo Sagar
- Geopolitical
 - Natural pillar to Act East policy
 - Regional fora - BIMSTEC, SAARC, BBIN, IORA
- Connectivity
 - Land route, inland waterways to NE
 - IBP Route - Maia port to Sultanganj port
 - Agartala-Akhaura, Chittagong, Mongla ports
- P-P ties
 - Historical & cultural, Tourism

Challenges

Challenges due exit of Sheikh Hasina

- Attacks on minorities - Bangla speaking Hindus
- Anti India groups voice under Jamaat-e-Islami
- Stagnated potential FTA
- NE & Chicken's Neck vulnerability
- Geopolitical
 - Anti India militant groups refuge
 - Rohingyas
- Goeconomic
 - \$8bn LoC threatened by unrest
 - India owned textile manufacturing units
- Geostrategic
 - Growing Chinese influence
 - Border disputes - Assam & Tripura
- Security
 - Armed dacoity, Drug smuggling
 - Cattle smuggling
 - Trafficking & prostitution
- Transboundary River waters - Teesta, Farakka barrage



Suggestions

- New Alliances
 - Wait & watch, engage with the entire spectrum
 - Beyond '71 liberation narrative
- Border security - Joint Task Force
- Trade & Commerce
 - FTA
 - Focus on energy, infrastructure, and SEZs
 - Ensure investment protection frameworks
 - Digital connectivity corridor



CONTEXT: History is being rewritten in Bangladesh.

- Geopolitical maneuvering
 - Collab with US, EU to counter China
 - Work with Gulf allies to counter extremist influence
 - UN platform to highlight minorities plight
- Principled stand
 - Democracy but no direct political influence
 - Rohingya refugees

Mains Practice Question

Evaluate the significance of India-Bangladesh relations in the context of regional stability and economic cooperation. Identify the key challenges facing bilateral ties and suggest measures to strengthen this partnership in the future.



Syllabus: GS2: Governance
Newspaper : The Hindu, Page No. 12

Background

Section 104 in The Customs Act, 1962

104. [Power to arrest. [Substituted by Act 29 of 2006, Section 24, for sub-Section (1) (w.e.f. 13.7.2006).]

- (1) If an officer of Customs empowered in this behalf by general or special order of the Commissioner of Customs has reason to believe that any person in India or within the Indian customs waters has committed an offence punishable under section 132 or section 133 or section 135 or section 135-A or section 136, he may arrest such person and shall, as soon as may be, inform him of the grounds for such arrest.]

Section 19(1) in The Prevention of Money-Laundering Act, 2002

- (1) If the Director, Deputy Director, Assistant Director or any other officer authorised in this behalf by the Central Government by general or special order, has on the basis of material in his possession, reason to believe (that reason for such belief to be recorded in writing) that any person has been guilty of an offence punishable under this Act, he may arrest such person and shall, as soon as may be, inform him of the grounds for such arrest.

438. Direction for grant of bail to person apprehending arrest.

- [(1) Where any person has reason to believe that he may be arrested on an accusation of having committed a non-bailable offence, he may apply to the High Court or the Court of Session for a direction under this section that in the event of such arrest he shall be released on bail; and that Court may, after taking into consideration, inter alia, the following factors, namely:-

- (i) the nature and gravity of the accusation;
- (ii) the antecedents of the applicant including the fact as to whether he has previously undergone imprisonment on conviction by a Court in respect of any cognisable offence;
- (iii) the possibility of the applicant to flee from justice; and
- (iv) where the accusation has been made with the object of injuring or humiliating the applicant by having him so arrested, either reject the application forthwith or issue an interim order for the grant of anticipatory bail:



Syllabus: GS2: Governance
Newspaper : The Hindu, Page No. 12

Anticipatory Bail: Judicial Opinions

- **Gurbaksh Singh Sibbia v. the State of Punjab, 1980**
 - 'reasons to believe' that he may be arrested
 - filing of an FIR
 - No blanket anticipatory bail
 - conditions as per the situations and the seriousness of the reason
- **State of MP v. Rama Krishna Balothia, 1995**
 - Not a fundamental right
- **Sushila Aggarwal v. State (NCT of Delhi), 2020**
 - not strictly bound by time
 - lower Courts can limit the validity - special circumstances
- **M. C. Abraham v. the State of Maharashtra, 2002**
 - rejection of bail ≠ necessary arrest
- **Bhadresh Bipinbhai Sheth v. State of Gujarat, 2015**
 - rejection without proper justification = violation of A-21
- **State of Maharashtra v. Vishwas, 1978**
 - can recall or cancel bail
 - special privilege - not be misused

The bench agreed with the view laid down in earlier rulings that customs officers are not police officers, but added that provisions of Section 41B of the CrPC, which describes procedure for arrest and the duties of an arresting police officer, would apply to Customs officers too.

It added that the arrestee under Customs Act as well as GST Act must be informed about their grounds of arrest. The court also said that the fact of the arrest must be communicated to the person nominated or authorised by the arrested person and that it shall be the duty of the Magistrate when an arrested person is produced, to satisfy himself that the requirements have been complied with.

The CJI pointed out that in *Arvind Kejriwal v. Directorate of Enforcement*, it had laid down certain safeguards to protect the life and liberty of individuals arrested under the PMLA.

It held that the safeguards against arbitrary arrest contained in Section 19 of the PMLA would "equally apply" to arrests under the Customs and GST Acts too.



Syllabus: GS2: Governance

Newspaper : Indian Express, Page No. 6

Background

- Waqf Act, 1995 - regulates waqf property
- Waqf - endowment of movable or immovable property for purposes considered pious, religious, or charitable under Muslim law.
- Waqf Boards - every state

Waqf Bill

- **Formation of waqf**
 - Declaration
 - recognition based on long-term use (waqf by user)
 - endowment when the line of succession ends (waqf-alal-aulad)
- **Government property as waqf**
- **Power to determine if a property is waqf:** Not Waqf Board
- **Survey of waqf:** Collector
- **Central Waqf Council**
 - to advise the central and state governments and Waqf Boards
 - Union Minister in-charge of Waqf is the ex-officio chairperson
 - 2 must be non-Muslims
 - MPs, former judges, and eminent persons need not be
 - Of the Muslim members, two must be women
- **Waqf Boards:**
 - state government to nominate, need not be Muslims
 - 2 non-Muslim members
 - At least 1 Shias, Sunnis, and Backward classes + Bohra and Agakhani if they have waqf in the state.

- **Composition of Tribunals:**
 - to address disputes over waqf.
 - a current or former District Court judge as its chairman
 - a current or former officer of the rank joint secretary to the state government.
- **Appeal on orders of Tribunals:** - High Court within 90 days.
- **Powers of the central government:**
 - make rules regarding: (i) registration, (ii) publication of accounts of waqf, and (iii) publication of proceedings of waqf Boards + audited by the CAG or a designated officer.
- **Waqf Boards for Bohra and Agakhani**

Among the 14 proposed amendments are: a relaxation in the six-month window to register Waqf properties on a portal; replacing the district collector with a state government official to be the arbiter on whether a property is Waqf property or government land; having one member in the Waqf tribunal with "knowledge of Muslim law and jurisprudence".

Changes

- 2 Muslim women - members of both the State Waqf Boards (Section 14) and the Central Waqf Council (Section 9)
- 1 member from the Muslim OBC community - in the State Waqf Boards
- State govt separate Waqf Boards for the Aghakhani and Bohra communities
- In family waqfs (Waqf Alal Aulad), woman's inheritance rights to be protected - waqif can only dedicate property if female heirs get their rightful share



Syllabus: GS Paper 3: Bilateral, Regional and Global Groupings and Agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests; **Newspaper :** The Hindu, **Page No.** 10

The story so far:

The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) informed a New York court on February 18 that it has sought assistance from the Indian government under the Hague Service Convention – formally known as the Convention on the Service Abroad of Judicial and Extrajudicial Documents in Civil or Commercial Matters, 1965 – to serve summons on billionaire Gautam Adani and his nephew Sagar Adani in a securities and wire fraud case.

What did the SEC say?

The SEC informed the court that it had invoked Article 5(a) of the Convention to request India's Ministry of Law and Justice to facilitate the service of summons on the defendants. It further stated that it is exploring alternative service methods permitted under Rule 4(f) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, which governs civil litigation in U.S. federal courts.

On February 10, the Trump administration paused enforcement of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) – one of the laws under which the Adanis have been charged – for 180 days. The FCPA prohibits U.S. entities and individuals from bribing foreign governments, political parties, or officials to secure business.

As per the executive order, the Attorney General must review "all existing FCPA investigations or enforcement actions" and take steps "to restore proper bounds on FCPA enforcement". However, the SEC's latest court filing suggests that the order does not apply retroactively. As a result, the agency's investigation into the Adanis is likely to continue unless the law is amended.

How does the Hague Service



Legal tussle: The Trump administration paused enforcement of the laws under which the Adanis have been charged.

Convention operate?

With the rise in cross-border litigation, the need for an effective and reliable mechanism to serve judicial and extrajudicial documents on parties residing in foreign jurisdictions became imperative. As a result, countries adopted the Convention at the Hague Conference on Private International Law in 1965. Building on the 1905 and 1954 Hague Conventions on Civil Procedure, this multilateral treaty ensures that defendants sued in foreign jurisdictions receive timely and actual notice of legal proceedings while facilitating proof of service.

Eighty-four states, including India and the U.S., are parties to the Convention. Its procedures apply only when both the sending and receiving countries are signatories. Each member state must also designate a central authority to process requests and facilitate the service of documents from other signatory states.

Signatory states can select the modes of transmission that apply within their jurisdiction. Under the Convention, the primary mode of service is through designated central authorities. However, alternative channels are also available, including postal service, diplomatic and consular channels, direct communication between judicial officers in both states,

- SEC invoked Article 5(a) of the Convention – Adani case
- Requests MoL&J to serve summons.
- Exploring alternative service under U.S. Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

Hague Service Convention

- Adopted in 1965 (India joined in 2006)
- cross-border litigation and service of documents
- 84 signatory states, including India, U.S.
- Primary service method: Designated central authorities; alternative channels available.

U.S. Pause on FCPA Enforcement

- Trump administration paused Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) enforcement for 180 days
- SEC's filing – pause does not apply retroactively.

India's Take

- Rejects alternative service methods under Article 10 (e.g., diplomatic or consular channels).
- Service must go through MoL&J



Syllabus: GS Paper 3: Bilateral, Regional and Global Groupings and Agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests; **Newspaper :** The Hindu, **Page No.** 10



Implementation of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, one of the first steps taken by the U.S. government, for 180 days. FILE PHOTO

direct contact between an interested party and judicial authorities in the receiving state, and direct communication between government authorities.

How is service effectuated on defendants in India?

India acceded to the Convention on November 23, 2006, with certain reservations, expressly opposing all alternative service methods under Article 10. It prohibits the service of judicial documents through diplomatic or consular channels, except when the recipient is a national of the requesting country. For instance, a U.S. court cannot serve documents in India through U.S. diplomatic or consular channels, unless the recipient is a U.S. national residing in India. Additionally, all service requests must be in English or accompanied by an English translation.

As a result, valid service can only be executed through the Ministry of Law and Justice, India's designated central authority. The Ministry is permitted to reject a service request, but must specify the reasons for such refusal. For instance, under Article 13, a request can be denied if the state believes its sovereignty or security would be compromised.

However, a state cannot reject a service request solely because it claims exclusive

jurisdiction over the subject matter under its domestic law. Similarly, under Article 29, a request cannot be refused simply because the state's internal law does not recognise a right of action.

If the central authority raises no objections, it proceeds with serving the defendant. The service is then treated as a summons issued by an Indian court under Section 29(c) of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908. Once completed, the central authority issues an acknowledgement to the requesting party. The entire process typically takes six to eight months.

Can a default verdict be rendered?

A default judgment may be issued under the Convention if a foreign government refuses to cooperate in serving summons on a defendant residing within its jurisdiction. However, Article 15 prescribes specific conditions that must be met before such a judgment can be rendered: (a) the document must have been transmitted through one of the methods outlined in the Convention; (b) at least six months must have elapsed since the transmission, with the court determining this period to be reasonable in the given case; and (c) no certificate of service has been received despite all efforts to obtain it through the competent authorities of the recipient state.

Notably, India has expressly declared that its courts may issue a default judgment in cross-border disputes even if no certificate of service or delivery has been received, provided that all conditions under Article 15 are met.

Recently, in *Duong v. DDG BIM Services LLC* (2023), American plaintiffs sought permission to serve Indian defendants via email, citing difficulties in effectuating service through India's central authority as prescribed by the Convention. Judge Kathryn Kimball Mizelle underscored that Article 15 functions as a "safety valve," allowing default judgment to be entered if "India's central authority fails to hold up its end of the bargain."

Service Process in India

- Documents must be in English or with an English translation.
- Ministry may reject requests - security, sovereignty
- Service completion usually takes 6-8 months.
- Can't reject merely because exclusive jurisdiction under domestic law

Judicial Precedents

- Conflicting rulings on service through alternative channels (email/social media).
 - *FTC v. PCCare247* (2013): U.S. court allowed email/Facebook service.
 - *PNB* (2019): English court rejected alternative service.
- Parties sometimes waive Hague Convention provisions in contracts (e.g., *Rockefeller Tech v. Changzhou SinoType*, 2020).

Default Judgment

- allowed if foreign government refuses to cooperate.
- Article 15 (as a safety valve) - Conditions:
 - Document transmitted through Convention methods.
 - 6 months have passed since transmission.
 - No service certificate despite reasonable efforts.
- India permits even without service certificates
- *Duong v. DDG BIM Services LLC* (2023): U.S. court considered default judgment



Syllabus: GS Paper 3: Environment
; Newspaper : The Hindu, Page No. 14

A 16-year-long assessment of trends in turtle populations in India says the numbers of the Olive Ridley species suggest a “steady or growing” population. However, rising sand temperatures due to climate change are causing a large proportion of these turtles to be females, “raising questions” on the long-term viability of the population.

The report, spanning studies from 2008 to 2024, has been prepared by the Dakshin Foundation and is a long-term monitoring project carried out in partnership with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, and several State Forest departments. It provides important information about population trends, threats, and conservation along India’s



This month, Rushikulya witnessed one of the largest mass nesting of Olive Ridley turtles in recent years. BISWARANJAN ROUT

mainland and island coasts. Along with the Olive Ridley, the most populous of marine turtles, the study encompasses other species of sea turtles found in the Indian territory such as the leatherback turtles of the Andaman and Nicobar islands and the Green Turtles of the Lakshadweep islands.

Sea turtles are long-lived, late-maturing, and highly migratory species. Any changes in their populations occur over years or

decades, making long-term monitoring essential for understanding population trends and environmental impacts.

Striking phenomenon

A striking natural phenomenon that evokes considerable public interest is the *arribada* or mass nesting of the Olive Ridley turtle, when tens or hundreds of thousands of female turtles come ashore to nest simultaneously. Gahirmatha and Rushikulya in Odisha are



- unique mass nesting -Arribada - thousands of females come together on the same beach to lay eggs
- Distribution:
 - warm waters of the Pacific, Atlantic, and Indian oceans
 - Odisha’s Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary
- Features:
 - 70 cm in length, 35-45 kg
 - 1 or 2 visible claws on each paddle-like flippers
 - omnivorous
 - migrate thousands of kilometers between feeding and mating grounds
- Conservation Status:
 - IUCN Red List: Vulnerable
 - Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule 1
 - CITES: Appendix I



Syllabus: GS Paper 2: Statutory, Regulatory and various Quasi-judicial Bodies
; Newspaper : Indian Express, Page No. 14

- Allegation: judge had ties to a private company involved in the cases
- Lokpal's order focus - authority to hear cases against judges, not on case merits
- SC stayed Lokpal's order

SC's Rationale for Stay

- judicial independence
- possible executive overreach
- Lokpal is an executive body

Legal Protection for Judges

- Section 77 of IPC (Section 15 BNS)- charges related to official duties
- K Veeraswami case, 1991
 - a. CJ Madras HC disproportionate assets, investigation u/PoCA
 - b. presidential sanction for criminal cases against judges after consulting CJI
- Judicial protection to avoid frivolous prosecution and harassment

Procedure for Charging Judges

- No Parliamentary approval, unlike Impeachment

AJOY SINHA KARPURAM
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 27

THE SUPREME Court last week stayed a Lokpal order that took cognizance of a corruption complaint against an unnamed High Court judge.

In its January 27 order, the Lokpal bench led by former SC judge A M Khanwilkar held that it had the power to hear corruption complaints against former judges under the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013 (Lokpal Act).

However, the SC took suo motu cognizance of the case — and a Bench of Justices B R Gavi, Surya Kant, and A S Oka called it “something very, very disturbing” while staying the order. The next hearing has been posted for March 18.

SC's rationale

While the Supreme Court has previously acknowledged criticisms of judges, its response has always been balanced with its efforts to protect the independence of judges and the judiciary. It has sought to establish safeguards against possible cases of executive overreach.

The Lokpal is an independent statutory body that is under the aegis of the executive. Admitting its January 27 order could have opened a new avenue for complaints against judges, without abiding by the process earlier laid down for such cases.

Complaint against judges

Section 77 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 (IPC), effectively states that a judge cannot be charged with an offence if the allegation is related to the exercise of her of-

icial duties. This provision has been reproduced as Section 15 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023.

The Supreme Court added an extra layer of protection in *K Veeraswami v Union of India* (1991). Justice Veeraswami, a former Chief Justice of the Madras HC, was being investigated by the CBI in a disproportionate assets case and had moved to quash the case. The SC held

that he was a “public servant” and could be investigated for offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1947 (replaced by the new PCA enacted in 1988).

However, the court also held that the President must sanction any criminal case against a judge after consulting the Chief Justice of India to “protect a judge from frivolous prosecution and unnecessary harass-

EXPL
LA



Syllabus: GS Paper 2: Statutory, Regulatory and various Quasi-judicial Bodies
; Newspaper : Indian Express, Page No. 14

Lokpal Act and Definition of Public Servant:

- Section 14: Public servant - not explicitly judges but officers of body established by an Act of Parliament
- HC judges might fall under this category based on historical Acts (e.g., High Courts Act, 1861, Gol Act, 1935) - using General Clauses Act, 1987

Lokpal's Application of Definition:

- can't hear cases against SC judges (per previous case in January 2025).
- to forward the complaint to the CJI for guidance before proceeding
- Acknowledged need for careful handling of cases involving judicial figures

ment". The President is bound by the advice given by the CJI.

Notably, the procedure for filing a case against a sitting judge is different from the procedure for impeaching a judge, where approval is required from Parliament.

**MAINED
W**

Case before Lokpal

Two complaints were filed against an HC judge, alleging that he had influenced an

Additional District Judge and another HC judge who were hearing suits filed by a complainant against a private company. According to the complainant, the company was a client of the judge when he was still an advocate. The Lokpal order only deals with whether it had the power to hear a case against an HC judge, and not the merits of the complaint.

The Lokayukta Act states that "It shall apply to public servants in and outside India". The term "public servant" is defined under Section 14 of the Act, and while it does not explicitly include judges, sub-section (f) states that it includes "any person who is or has been a chairperson or member or officer or employee in any...autonomous body...established by an Act of Parliament or wholly or partly financed by the Central Government or controlled by it".

In a separate case in January, the Lokpal applied this definition and ruled that it cannot hear cases against SC judges. It held that the Supreme Court was established under Article 124 of the Constitution of India and not an "Act of Parliament".

However, in the present case, the Lokpal found that High Court judges do not share the same status. Several HCs were estab-

lished and restructured under the High Courts Act, 1861, and the Government of India Act, 1935. The Lokpal noted that these would be considered an "Act of Parliament" as the General Clauses Act, 1897, specifically states that an Act of Parliament will include an Act passed "before the commencement of the Constitution".

The Lokpal stated that "It will be too naive to argue that a Judge of a High Court will not come within the ambit of expression "any person". But given the *K Veeraswami* ruling and out of an abundance of caution, it noted that engaging in further proceedings before the Lokpal "inevitably involves a probe into the allegations against a Judge of the High Court". Thus, before conducting an enquiry, the Lokpal ruled that it would be "appropriate" to forward the complaint to the CJI for guidance on how to proceed.



Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the World Bank's Logistics Performance Index (LPI):

1. The LPI is published annually by the World Bank to assess the logistics performance of countries worldwide.
2. It ranks countries based on parameters such as customs efficiency, infrastructure quality, and timeliness of shipments.
3. In the latest LPI rankings, India has consistently ranked among the top 10 globally.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: a

Q2. Consider the following statements:

1. India and Bangladesh share the longest land border among all of India's neighboring countries.
2. The Ganga Waters Treaty of 1996 governs the sharing of waters of the Teesta River.
3. The Maitree Express connects Kolkata with Dhaka.

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

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

Answer: b

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding the Central Waqf Council (CWC):

1. It is a statutory body under the Ministry of Minority Affairs.
2. The Council advises the Central Government on matters concerning the administration of Waqf properties in India.

3. The Chairperson of the Council is appointed by the Chief Justice of India.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: a

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the Olive Ridley turtle:

1. Olive Ridley turtles are the smallest and most abundant of all sea turtles found in the world.
2. They are known for their unique mass nesting behavior called "Arribada."
3. India has no major nesting sites for Olive Ridley turtles.
4. They are classified as "Critically Endangered" under the IUCN Red List.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: a

Q5. Regarding the Hague Service Convention, consider the following statements:

1. It is an international treaty that facilitates the service of legal documents between member countries.
2. India is a signatory to the Hague Service Convention.
3. The convention applies only to civil and commercial matters, excluding criminal cases.

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

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

Answer: b





VAJIRAM & RAVI

Institute for IAS Examination

A unit of Vajiram & Ravi IAS Study Centre LLP

9-B, Bada Bazar Marg, Old Rajinder Nagar,
New Delhi - 110060 • Ph.: 41007400, 41007500

New No. 62, P Block, 6th Avenue, Anna Nagar,
Chennai - 600040 • Ph.: 044-4330-2121

Visit us at : www.vajiramandravi.com