



VAJIRAM & RAVI
Institute for IAS Examination

The Analyst

CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

6th May 2025



Collegium System in India

CONTEXT: The SC publishes details of recommendations made by Collegium for HCs.

- **Article 124(2):** The Judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by the President. She should consult such a number of the Judges of the Supreme Court and of the High Courts in the States as she may deem necessary for the purpose.
- **Article 217:** The Judge of a High Court shall be appointed by the President in consultation with the Chief Justice of India and the Governor of the State. The Chief Justice of the High Court should also be consulted except in case of his/her own appointment.

First Judges Case (1981): The SC said that consultation under Article 124 **doesn't mean** concurrence. The President is not bound by CJI's advice.

Second Judges Case (1993): The SC overruled its previous decision and said CJI's advice was binding. The CJI is required to formulate its advice based on a collegium of judges consisting of CJI and two senior-most SC judges.

Third Judges Case (1998): The SC expanded the collegium to a five-member body to include the CJI and the four senior-most judges of the court after the CJI.

- **Collegium System:**
- **99th CAA, 2015 – Provided NJAC**
- **Fourth Judges Case, 2015 – Struck NJAC, restored Collegium System**

Composition

- The Supreme Court Collegium is a **five-member body**, which is –

- Headed by the **incumbent CJI**
- And comprises the **four other senior most judges** of the court at that time.

A **High Court collegium** is led by –

- The **incumbent Chief Justice**
 - And **two other senior most judges** of that court.
 - By its very nature, the **composition of the collegium keeps changing**.

Arguments In favour of the Collegium System

- **Independence of Judiciary: Article 50** – Separation of powers, No executive control
- **Doctrine of Separation of Powers** – Checks and balances, Judicial supremacy
- **Insulation from Political Interference** – Collegium appointments, No political influence
- **Maintenance of Judicial Integrity** – Contempt powers, Ethical conduct
- **Insulation from Political Interference**



Collegium System in India

CONTEXT: The SC publishes details of recommendations made by Collegium for HCs.

Concerns with the System:

- **NON-TRANSPARENT:** official mechanism or secretariat.
- **Chances of FAVOURITISM and NEPOTISM:**
- **EXCLUSION OF EXECUTIVE:**
- **CLOSED-DOOR AFFAIR :** no accountability
- Against the Principle of **CHECKS and BALANCES.**
- **NO PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE** of how and when a collegium meets, and how it takes its decisions.
- **NO OFFICIAL MINUTES** of collegium proceedings.
- **Lack of Inclusivity**

Way Forward:

- **Permanent, independent body:**
- **Institutionalise the process:** judicial primacy but not judicial exclusivity.
- **Inclusivity Important:** reform MoP
- **Timely Filling up of vacancies**

Best practices

- **USA:** The appointments are made by the President. Judges of the Supreme Court are nominated by the President and confirmed by the United States Senate
- **UK:** The SC Judges are appointed by a five peoples **selection commission. Committee**—SC President, his deputy and **one member each** appointed by the JACs which consist of lay persons, members of judiciary and the bar; of England, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Mains Practise Question:

"Trace the evolution of the collegium system for judicial appointments in India. Discuss major concerns associated with the present system of appointment of judges in India."

(10 Marks, 150 words)

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. The 44th Amendment to the Constitution of India introduced an Article placing the election of the Prime Minister beyond judicial review.
2. The Supreme Court of India struck down the 99th Amendment to the Constitution of India as being violative of the independence of judiciary.

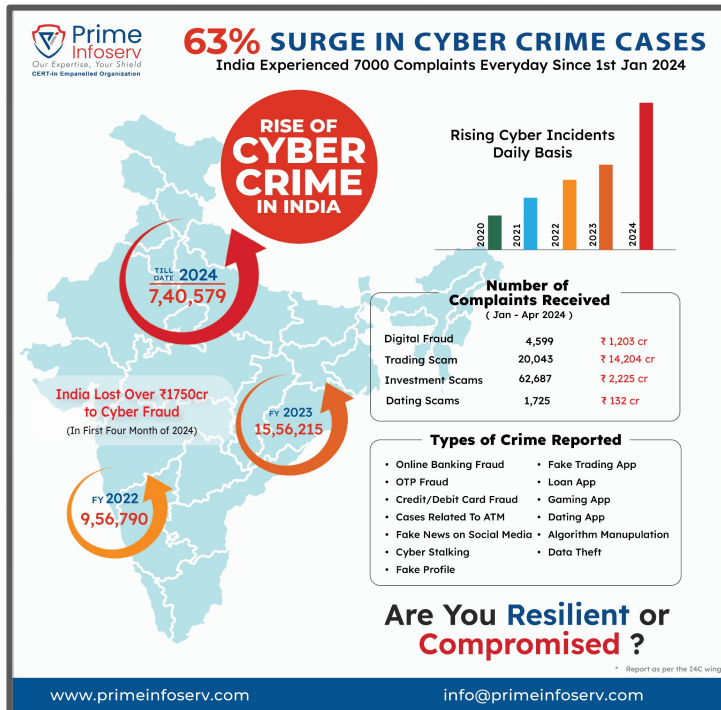
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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



Menace of Digital Intrusions

CONTEXT: Pakistan based groups tried to gain unauthorised access to sensitive data.



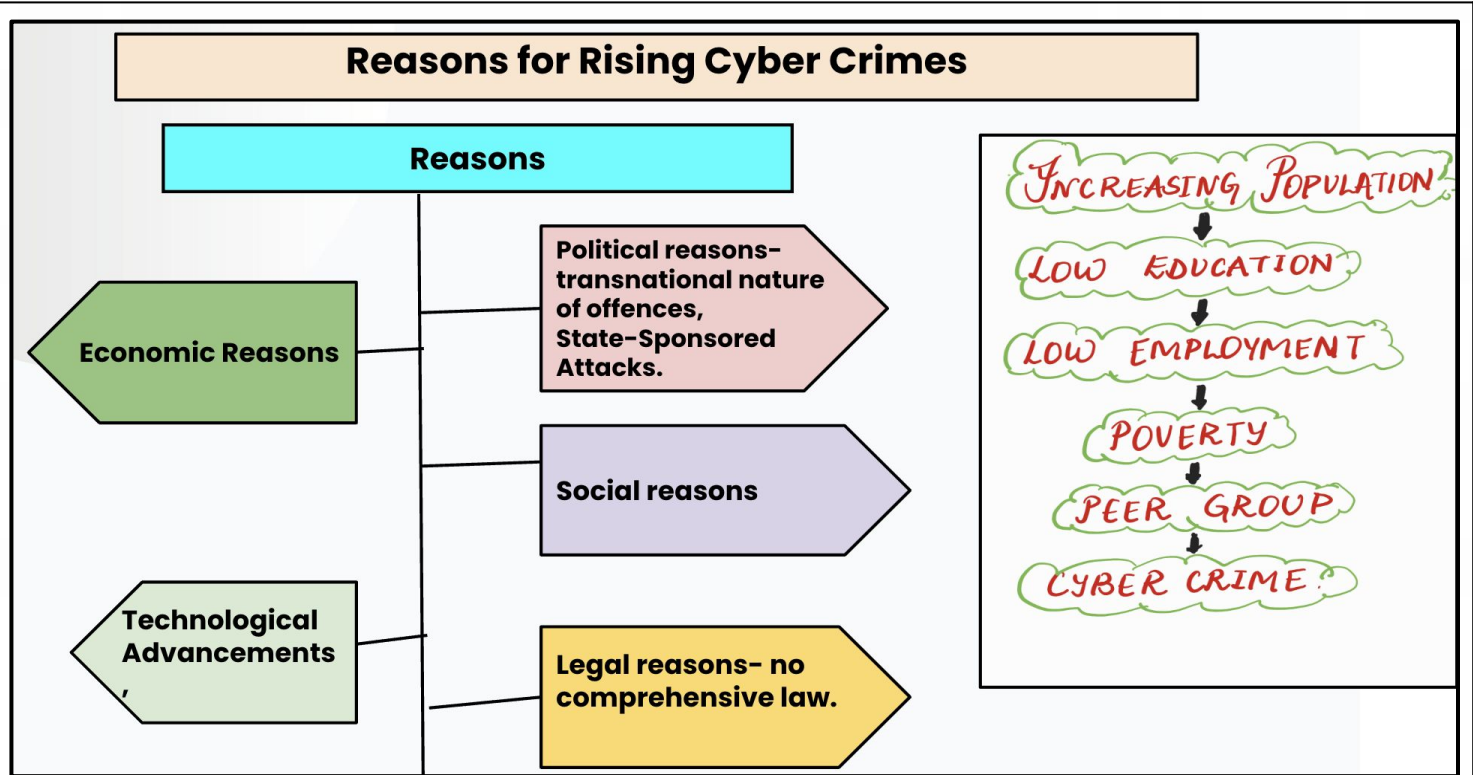
DIFFERENT TYPES OF CYBER CRIME

- PHISHING** - This involves obtaining the personal information of the user by sending spam emails or by means of phishing website which resembles the same as authorized website.
- IDENTITY THEFT** - This involves getting the information about credit or debit cards or bank details, further unwanted money can be easily deducted after the information is hacked.
- MALWARE ATTACKS** - Malware is the hostile software which is designed to damage the computer or systems. This is done to access meaningful information or for doing some crime by using that system.
- ATM FRAUDS** - The ATM machine is totally hacked in this crime. The criminals have developed the way to access both the data on the card along with the pin, further they are successful in making the duplicate of the cards and use the same to withdraw money.
- CYBER STALKING** - The criminal is involved in following the person through online measures. They can even send malware to damage the systems to get the exact information. It involves harassment of the user.
Pornography - The act of presenting sexual activity containing video, through pornographic websites.
- SPOOFING** - In this, an email is received and appears to be from some authentic source, but it is not the same. It is corrupted.
- PIRACY** - It is unauthorized access to the information which is confidential. Many of the times the government websites are hacked and files are pirated containing important data.



Menace of Digital Intrusions

CONTEXT: Pakistan based groups tried to gain unauthorised access to sensitive data.



Current Provisions on Cyber Security

Policy/Institution	Governing Ministry	Key Purpose/Functions
Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000	Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provides legal framework for e-commerce, digital signatures, and cybercrimes. - Defines penalties for cyber offenses (hacking, data theft).
IT (Amendment) Act, 2008	MeitY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduced Section 66A (later struck down), Section 69 (govt. interception powers). - Added data protection provisions and recognized electronic signatures.
National Cyber Security Policy (NCSP), 2013	MeitY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aims to create a secure cyber ecosystem. - Focuses on CERT-In, critical infrastructure protection, and public awareness.



Menace of Digital Intrusions

CONTEXT: Pakistan based groups tried to gain unauthorised access to sensitive data.

Current Provisions on Cyber Security

Policy/Institution	Governing Ministry	Key Purpose/Functions
Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In)	MeitY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nodal agency for cybersecurity threats. - Monitors cyber incidents, issues alerts, and coordinates responses.
Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)	Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seven components including cybercrime reporting portal (cybercrime.gov.in). - Coordinates investigations and cyber forensics.
National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC)	National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Protects critical infrastructure (power, banking, telecom). - Designated under IT Act, 2000 (Section 70A).

Cyber Crimes

What Should be done ?

Budgetary allocation

India should consider joining Budapest Convention on Cybercrime.

Stricter enforcement of regulations

Focus of basic cybersecurity habits

Collaborations and Communications



JONES IT CYBERSECURITY GOOD HABITS

- LOCK IT / TAKE IT**
 - LOCK YOUR COMPUTER WHEN UNATTENDED
 - DON'T LEAVE YOUR MOBILE DEVICES UNATTENDED
 - USE PHYSICAL LOCKS OR DOCKING STATION
- LOOK BEFORE YOU CLICK**
 - THINK TWICE BEFORE CLICKING ON A LINK
 - HOVER MOUSE POINTER OVER THE LINK
 - THINK TWICE BEFORE OPENING ATTACHMENTS
- VERIFY REQUESTS**
 - CONFIRM IDENTITY OF REQUESTER
 - HANGUP & CALL BACK ON A PUBLISHED NUMBER
 - DON'T SHARE SENSITIVE INFORMATION OVER THE PHONE
- PASSWORD HYGIENE**
 - USE A PASSWORD MANAGER AND 2FA
 - NEVER SHARE YOUR PASSWORD
 - NEVER SAVE PASSWORDS ON WEBSITES, APPS, OR UNTRUSTED BROWSER EXTENSIONS
- UPDATE EVERYTHING**
 - INSTALL PATCHES AND UPDATES IMMEDIATELY
 - AUTOMATE SOFTWARE UPDATES
 - UPDATE YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF CYBER-THREATS AND BEST PRACTICES
- REGULAR BACKUPS**
 - PERFORM REGULAR BACKUPS
 - DON'T KEEP YOUR BACKUP MEDIA CONNECTED AT ALL TIMES
 - TEST YOUR BACKUPS AND OCCASIONALLY TRY RUNNING RECOVERY

Mains Practice Question:

"What are the major drivers of the growing threat of cybercrime in India? Suggest some measures to address the issues comprehensively."

(10 Marks, 150 words)



Triple Test to determine OBC Quota



SYLLABUS : GS 2: Executive, Indian Constitution, Fundamental Rights, Judiciary
Newspaper : The Indian Express **Page Number :14**

SHUBHAM TIGGA

RANCHI, MAY 5

JHARKHAND HAS finished collecting data on the population of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in the state. This is step one in the so-called "triple test", a three-step guideline laid down by the Supreme Court to ensure OBC quotas in local bodies are set in a fair and constitutional manner.

What is the "triple test"?

The triple test was outlined by the Supreme Court in *Vikas Kishanrao Gawali vs State of Maharashtra and others* on March 4, 2021. It comprises the following:

- Setting up a dedicated commission to conduct a rigorous empirical inquiry into the nature and implications of the backwardness in local bodies;
- Specifying the proportion of reservation required in local bodies in light of recommendations of the commission; and
- Ensuring reservation for SCs/STs/OBCs taken together does not exceed 50% of the total seats.

tion required in local bodies in light of recommendations of the commission; and

What has happened in Jharkhand so far?

Jharkhand OBC Commission was set up in June 2023. Members of the commission toured Madhya Pradesh to see how the triple test was administered there, and then designed the survey in Jharkhand.

Data collection began in December 2024, with the initial deadline set for March 2025. However, the commission received the data from all districts only last week.

"The compiled data will now be developed into a final report... (which) will be handed over to an empanelled institute for verification and analysis. Institutes such as

IIM, Xavier School of Management (XLRI), and Xavier Institute of Social Service will examine the socio-economic and educational condition of OBCs in the state," Krishna Kumar Singh, secretary of the OBC Commission, told *The Indian Express*.

Based on the final report submitted to the state government, OBC quotas in Jharkhand's urban local bodies will be fixed.

EXPLAINED POLICY

What did the survey look at?

According to Jharkhand Mukti Morcha's (JMM's) Nand Kumar Mehta, a member of the OBC Commission, the survey will primarily help identify the number of OBC voters in urban local bodies.

The final report will also include data on political representation of OBCs across various tiers of government, from mayors to panchayat committee members, and data on the caste composition of Jharkhand MPs and MLAs.

"The survey won't just determine quotas for the upcoming elections. It will also assess political representation in Jharkhand over the last 25 years. This includes analysis of winners from general seats in the last two ULB elections," Mehta said.

How are OBCs classified in Jharkhand?

In Jharkhand, OBCs are subdivided into more socially and educationally backward BC-I (Backward Class I), and the relatively better-off BC-II (Backward Class II) categories. While both BC-I and BC-II categories are eligible for reservations, the former typically receives a higher share in the pie. Currently, there are 127 castes under the BC-I category, and around 45 under BC-II.

OBCs make up roughly 50% of Jharkhand's population. The Kudmi community, a subgroup of the Mahato/Mahto caste, is the largest OBC community, accounting for 15% of the electorate, by some estimates.

Prelims Pointers

Case Name	Year	Key Issue	Supreme Court Judgment
Indra Sawhney v. Union of India (Mandal Case)	1992	OBC Reservations, Creamy Layer, 50% Cap	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Upheld 27% OBC quota - Introduced "Creamy Layer" exclusion - 50% cap on total reservations (with exceptions)
M. Nagaraj v. Union of India	2006	SC/ST Promotions in Government Jobs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Allowed reservations in promotions - States must prove "backwardness, inadequacy, and administrative efficiency"
Ashoka Kumar Thakur v. Union of India	2008	27% OBC Quota in Central Institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Upheld OBC quota in educational institutions - Excluded creamy layer from benefits



Triple Test to determine OBC Quota



SYLLABUS : GS 2: Executive, Indian Constitution, Fundamental Rights, Judiciary
Newspaper : The Indian Express **Page Number :14**

Prelims Pointers

Case Name	Year	Key Issue	Supreme Court Judgment
Janhit Abhiyan v. Union of India (EWS Case)	2022	10% EWS Quota (103rd Amendment)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Upheld 10% EWS reservation for non-OBC/SC/ST - Excluded SC/ST/OBC from EWS benefits
State of Kerala v. N.M. Thomas	1976	Relaxation in qualifications for SC/ST employees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Allowed concessions for SC/ST in promotions - Affirmed reservations as part of equality (Art. 16)
E.V. Chinnaiah v. State of Andhra Pradesh	2005	Sub-classification within SC/ST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Struck down Andhra's SC sub-categorization - Only Parliament can modify SC/ST lists



Who gets a voter ID and how?

SYLLABUS : GS 2: Elections, Constitutional Bodies

Newspaper : The Indian Express Page Number : 12

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI, MAY 5

AMONG THE hundreds of Pakistanis who were ordered to leave India in the wake of the terrorist attack in Pahalgam are some who claimed to have valid Aadhaars, ration cards, and even Indian Voter IDs.

On May 2, the Supreme Court caused the deportation to Pakistan of a family of six from Srinagar pending verification of their claim that they were Indians with passports and Aadhaars.

Earlier, on April 29, a J&K Police constable and his family were brought back from the Attari border after the Jammu and Kashmir High Court found that based on revenue papers, a "prima facie case was made out" that they were not Pakistanis.

Who is entitled to identification such as Voter identity cards, and how are such discrepancies to be explained?

Becoming a voter

Article 326 of the Constitution states that "every person who is a citizen of India and who is not less than eighteen years of age...and is not otherwise disqualified [on certain specific grounds]...shall be entitled to be registered as a voter" in Lok Sabha and state/ Union Territory Assembly elections.

Under Section 16 of The Representation of the People Act, 1950, disqualification shall follow if "a person is not a citizen of India; or is of unsound mind and stands so declared by a competent court; or is for the time being disqualified from voting under the provisions of any law relating to corrupt practices and other offences in con-

nection with elections".

The Election Commission of India's Form 6, the form for registering new electors, requires the applicant to provide self-attested copies of proof of age and address. The form includes a declaration of citizenship — and while no proof of citizenship is required to be presented, if the declaration is found to be false, the applicant can be jailed for up to a year and/or fined under Section 31 of the 1950 Act.

**EXPL
POL**

Determination of citizenship

According to the Election Commission of India's manual on electoral rolls, the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) is responsible for making sure that no ineligible person is added to the electoral roll.

The ERO is expected to inquire into claims and objections, if any, issue notice of hearing where required, and take a final decision on the application. Usually, if there is no objection, the check for citizenship does not come up.

OBJECTIONS: If a claim is presented before the ERO, the officer has to "satisfy himself that the applicant is, *inter alia*, a citizen of India", says the manual. The EROs must apply their minds independently "without being influenced by extraneous considerations".

"It must be remembered that there is a provision for appeal against the decision of the Electoral Registration Officer... The onus of proof of citizenship shall initially lie on the applicant who applies for inclu-

sion of his name for the first time," the manual states.

In case of an objection, the onus of providing the proof lies on the objector, according to the manual. Here, the ERO "would be justified in requiring the person concerned to show evidence that he is a citizen of India".

MIGRANTS: In the case of an application from a migrant from within India, the ERO has to cross-check the particulars with the District Election Officer (DEO) of the district from where the applicant has migrated.

MARRIED WOMEN: In the case of a married woman who has changed her address as a result of marriage, and who cannot produce documentary evidence as proof of citizenship, the ERO can rely on proof of being registered as a voter as an unmarried person. In such cases, the ERO

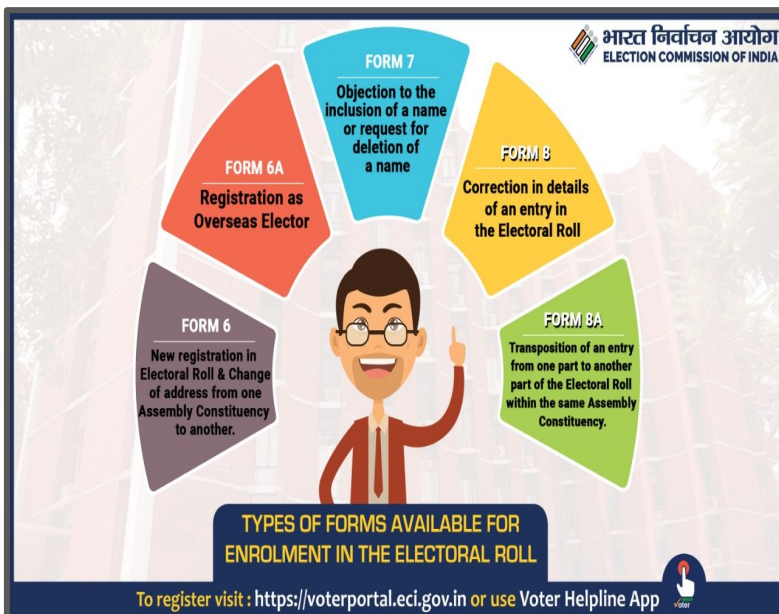
can also rely on proof of marriage or certificates issued by headmen of the villages where the woman lived before her marriage and after.

Earlier, and going forward

According to sources in the Election Commission, cases of non-citizens getting Voter IDs have been discovered in the past as well. Whenever objections are found to be true, the electors have been struck off the rolls, and action has been initiated against them, the Commission said.

The Election Commission is currently in the process of linking Aadhaar with Voter IDs — a move expected to help detect duplicate entries in the electoral rolls.

However, in the case of non-citizens who have Aadhaar, that would not be enough to identify ineligible electors.



Appointment of Director of CBI

SYLLABUS: GS 2: Government Policies and Interventions

Newspaper : The Indian Express **Page Number : 01**

Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Director Praveen Sood is all set to get a one-year extension as the high-level committee to pick a new Director, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, could not arrive at a consensus on the shortlisted names.

The committee, which has Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna and Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi as members, met on Monday evening at the Prime Minister's Office.

An official notification regarding the extension will be issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DOPT), which is the nodal Ministry for the premier investigation agency.

Though there is no official word on what transpired at the meeting, sources indicated that the discussion remained inconclusive as the members

of the selection panel could not arrive at a consensus on the shortlisted names.

As per law, an incumbent can get an extension of up to one year. Sources told *The Hindu* that the DOPT had sent a long list of officers as possible contenders for the CBI top post.

The meeting came days before the two-year term of the incumbent CBI Director ends on May 25. Mr. Sood, a 1986-batch IPS officer of the Karnataka cadre, was the Director-General of Police of the



THE CBI'S STRUCTURE



Game of Skill vs Game of Chance

SYLLABUS : GS 3: IT & Computers

Newspaper : The Hindu Page Number : 16

The Supreme Court on Monday saw the government and online gaming companies spar on whether games of skills such as rummy, chess, and bridge will “metamorphosise” into games of chance, and their earnings be subject to the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime.

Appearing before a Bench of Justices J.B. Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan, Additional Solicitor-General N. Venkataraman, for the government, said games of skill would continue to be what they were until bets or wagers were placed on it. “Then it will become gambling, in spite of being a game of skill... Betting on a game of skill is statutorily considered gambling,” Mr. Venkataraman argued.

He contended that betting or wagering on any kind of game, whether chance or skill-based, was gambling.

Senior advocate A.M.

Singhvi, appearing for one of the companies, said the “fundamental issue” in the case was about an “ancient exception” given to games of skill.

Mr. Singhvi submitted that five-judge and seven-judge Benches of the constitutional courts have consistently held that games of skill were per se not categorised as chance-based.

“Is the government saying that in chess, the moment I put money on it, the game metamorphosises from a game of skill into a game of chance? The cha-

racter of a game cannot be so changed,” Mr. Singhvi objected to the government’s line of argument.

In January, the top court had stayed the operation of show-cause notices worth ₹1.12 lakh crore issued under GST proceedings against online gaming companies. About 50 online gaming companies are before the top court.

The core dispute in the case concerned the interpretation of GST applicability on online gaming. The government has argued that 28% GST must

apply to the total contest entry amount, effectively taxing the entire prize pool.

However, gaming companies contended that GST should only be levied on their platform fees or commission, as many of these games involve skill rather than chance.

Tabulated below are the key differences between the ‘game of skill’ and ‘game of chance’ as highlighted by courts in various judgments:

Game of skill

- ▶ Players invest time in learning, practicing and honing skills.
- ▶ Success of the game depends principally on superior knowledge of the game, training, attention, experience of the player.
- ▶ Skills have to be a predominant element in the game



Game of chance

- ▶ Outcome of the game depends on factors like luck and unpredictability.
- ▶ Mostly, the results are uncertain.
- ▶ A game of chance is considered as gambling



Baglihar and Salal Dam

SYLLABUS : GS 3: Infrastructure

Newspaper : The Hindu Page Number : 14

India, over the weekend, resorted to a surprise release of waters from the Baglihar and Salal dams in Jammu and Kashmir on the Chenab river. While this is far from triggering a man-made flood in Pakistan, it is the first consequential water-based action taken by India since it announced keeping the Indus Waters Treaty “in abeyance”, following the Pahalgam terror attack.

While such release of water – called “flushing the reservoir” – is a routine, annual activity and necessary to clear the dams of riverine silt and muck to keep the power plants linked to these reservoirs running optimally, it is usually done in August, during the monsoon.

The Baglihar is a 900 MW hydropower project in J&K. It has a reservoir capacity of 475 million cubic metres. It is a run-of-the-river project, meaning it is not designed to store large amounts of water – a consequence of the treaty – but rather divert the normal flow of parts of the Chenab to run electric turbines and produce electricity.

The Salal power project in the Reasi district of J&K is a 690 MW hydropower project. Following the release of water from the dams’ sluices, they will be shut to enable refilling.

River	Dam Name	Location	Key Purpose
Ravi	Ranjit Sagar Dam (Thein Dam)	Punjab	Irrigation, Hydroelectric
	Chamera Dam	Himachal Pradesh	Hydroelectric
Beas	Pandoh Dam	Himachal Pradesh	Water Diversion to Sutlej
	Pong Dam (Maharana Pratap Sagar)	Himachal Pradesh	Irrigation, Hydroelectric
Sutlej	Bhakra Dam	Himachal Pradesh/Punjab	Irrigation, Hydroelectric, Flood Control
	Nathpa Jhakri Dam	Himachal Pradesh	Hydroelectric (One of India’s largest)
	Koldam Dam	Himachal Pradesh	Hydroelectric



Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the interpretation of the word “Consultation” under Articles 124 & 217 by the Supreme Court:

1. In the First Judges case, the Supreme Court ruled that CJI’s advice does not bind the President.
2. In the Third Judges case, the Supreme Court ruled that CJI has to formulate his advice based on a collegium consisting of two senior-most SC judges.

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. “It is an email which appears to be from some authentic source, but it is not”. The above statement best refers to the description of which of the following cybersecurity issues?

- a) Phishing
- b) Malware attack
- c) Spoofing
- d) Cyber stalking

Answer: c

Q3. Consider the following statements:

1. The chief purpose of the CERT-In is to monitor cyber incidents, issue alerts, and coordinate responses to cyber attacks.
2. Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) functions under the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology.
3. Protection of critical infrastructure is the chief responsibility of I4C.

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

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

Answer: a

Q4. In which of the following cases did the Supreme Court outline the “Triple Test” to determine the OBC Quota?

- a) Janhit Abhiyan v. Union of India, 2022
- b) M. Nagaraj v. Union of India, 2006
- c) Indra Sawhney v. Union of India, 1992
- d) Vikas Kishanrao Gawali vs State of Maharashtra, 2021

Answer: d

Q5. Consider the following pairs:

Rivers	Dams
Ravi	Bhakra Dam
Beas	Maharan Pratap Sagar dam
Sutlej	Natha Jhakri Dam

How many of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

- 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