

FINDER

FORTUNE IAS NEWS DAILY EXPLAINER



Click here
for daily
MCQs

THE HINDU

Judicial integrity — a case the Court cannot ignore

Prelims: General Paper 1

Current events of national and international importance.

Mains: General studies 2

Structure, organization and functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary—Ministries and Departments of the Government; pressure groups and formal/informal associations and their role in the Polity.

Why in Focus?

- Serious allegations against the **Acting Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court** have raised concerns about **judicial integrity, accountability and transparency** in the higher judiciary.
- The issue also highlights weaknesses in the existing mechanisms for dealing with allegations of **misconduct against judges**.

Key Highlights

- Supreme Court judge **Justice Sandeep Mehta** reportedly wrote three letters to the **Chief Justice of India (CJI)** seeking the immediate transfer of **Justice Sanjeev Prakash Sharma**.
- The letters reportedly mentioned allegations of **victimisation of judges, maladministration, improper allocation of cases, favouritism towards certain lawyers and nepotism in appointments**.

- Justice Sharma was also accused of misusing his administrative powers as the **“master of the roster”**, which gives the Chief Justice an important role in allocating cases among judges.
- The Rajasthan High Court had functioned under an **Acting Chief Justice for around 11 months**. This raised concerns about **institutional stability and effective administration**.
- Lawyers reportedly staged a **protest against Justice Sharma**. Subsequently, the **Supreme Court Collegium** recommended Justice Sanjay Agrawal as the new Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court.
- The Constitution provides for the removal of Supreme Court and High Court judges for **proved misbehaviour or incapacity**. **Articles 124(4) and 217(1)(b)** deal with this process.
- Other mechanisms include the **Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968** and the **in-house mechanism adopted by the Supreme Court in 1999**. However, these mechanisms have faced criticism for being **slow or ineffective**.

Implications

- The major concern is the **accountability gap in the higher judiciary**. Existing mechanisms make it difficult to investigate and act against judges in a quick and effective manner.
- The **Collegium system** has also faced criticism because the criteria for judicial appointments and transfers are not sufficiently transparent.
- The CJI has important **administrative powers, including allocation of cases**. Therefore,



allegations involving a Chief Justice require a **prompt and credible institutional response**.

- Allegations of corruption or favouritism can reduce **public confidence in the judiciary**. At the same time, allegations should not be treated as established facts without proper investigation.
- The **impeachment process** is difficult to use because removal requires a special majority in Parliament. Therefore, it is not a practical solution for every allegation of misconduct.
- **Judicial independence** is essential for the rule of law, but independence must be accompanied by **accountability, transparency and ethical conduct**.

Way Forward

- Create a **clear and time-bound mechanism** to examine credible allegations against judges while ensuring due process.
- Strengthen the existing **in-house mechanism** by making the procedure more transparent, independent and effective.
- Introduce **clear and objective criteria** for judicial appointments, transfers and elevation to improve transparency in the Collegium system.
- Ensure that the **CJI and Collegium respond promptly** to credible complaints while protecting judicial independence and **principles of natural justice**.
- Strengthen **judicial ethics, transparency and institutional oversight** to improve public trust in the judiciary.

Mains Question

“Judicial independence must be balanced with judicial accountability to maintain public confidence in the judiciary.” Discuss the existing mechanisms for judicial accountability in India and suggest suitable reforms. (15 marks, 250 words)

Harnessing BRICS ‘POWER’ to empower the world

Prelims: General Paper 1

Current events of national and international importance.

Mains: General studies 2

Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India’s interests.

Why in Focus?

- The **18th BRICS Summit** is scheduled to be held in **New Delhi on September 12-13, 2026**, during India’s BRICS presidency.
- China has expressed support for India’s presidency and called for stronger cooperation among **BRICS members and partner countries**.

BRICS is a grouping of major **emerging economies** that aims to increase cooperation in areas such as **economy, trade, finance, development and global governance**. Originally founded by **Brazil, Russia, India, and China in 2009**, the coalition added South Africa in 2010 to form the acronym. As of 2026 : Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, United Arab Emirates.

Key Highlights

- China has proposed the idea of “**BRICSPower**” based on five principles: **Principle, Openness, Win-Win, Engine and Responsibility**.
- **Principle** means BRICS should uphold the **United Nations (UN) Charter**, sovereign equality, non-interference and peaceful settlement of disputes.
- **Openness** focuses on protecting **economic globalisation and multilateral trade**. BRICS should support the **World Trade Organization (WTO)** and oppose protectionism, trade barriers and supply-chain disruptions.
- **Win-Win** cooperation aims to keep **development at the centre** of the BRICS agenda. It includes cooperation on the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs)**, trade, investment, local currencies and cross-border payments.
- **Engine** highlights the growing economic importance of BRICS. BRICS countries account for nearly **half of the world’s population, around 30% of global economic output and about one-fifth of global trade**.
- BRICS can promote cooperation in **digital**



economy, Artificial Intelligence (AI), science and technology, smart manufacturing, agriculture, healthcare and education to support global economic growth.

- **Responsibility** highlights the role of BRICS in promoting **peace, development, fairness and greater representation of the Global South**. India and China are also expected to coordinate closely as successive BRICS presidencies.

Implications

- **Geopolitical differences** among BRICS members can make it difficult to build a common position on international issues.
- Growing **protectionism, trade barriers and supply-chain disruptions** can weaken economic cooperation among member countries.
- Greater BRICS expansion increases its global influence but may also create **diverse interests and coordination challenges**.
- Cooperation in **local currencies and cross-border payments** requires greater financial coordination and mechanisms to manage exchange-rate and financial risks.
- Differences in political systems, economic structures and foreign-policy priorities can affect **institutional cohesion and decision-making**.
- Stronger BRICS cooperation can increase the **voice of the Global South** in global institutions, but this requires sustained cooperation rather than only political declarations.

Way Forward

- Strengthen **consensus-based decision-making** while respecting the sovereignty and national interests of all members.
- Promote **trade and investment facilitation**, resilient supply chains and greater cooperation in energy, minerals and infrastructure.
- Develop reliable **local-currency and cross-border payment mechanisms** to reduce dependence on existing international financial systems.
- Expand cooperation in **Artificial Intelligence, digital economy, science and technology and sustainable development**.
- Strengthen coordination among BRICS countries to ensure greater **Global South**

representation in global governance institutions while maintaining constructive engagement with existing multilateral institutions.

Mains Question

“BRICS has emerged as an important platform for greater representation of the Global South in global governance. Discuss its economic and geopolitical significance and examine the challenges to deeper BRICS cooperation. (15 marks, 250 words)”

Does inflation targeting work in India?

Prelims: General Studies Paper 1

Current events of national and international importance

Mains: General Studies 3

Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment.

Why in Focus?

- India has **completed a decade of inflation targeting, prompting a review of whether the policy framework has effectively controlled inflation without imposing excessive costs on economic growth and employment**.

Inflation targeting is a monetary policy framework in which the central bank sets a specific inflation target and uses monetary policy tools, such as interest rates, to keep inflation around that target.

Key Highlights

- **Under the Inflation Targeting (IT) framework, the RBI aims to keep CPI inflation at 4%, with a tolerance band of 2%-6%.**
- **The RBI mainly controls inflation through repo-rate changes, which influence borrowing costs, demand and investment.**
- **IT also works by anchoring inflation expectations so that households and businesses do not build high expected inflation into wages and prices.**
- **The New Keynesian Phillips Curve (NKPC) suggests a trade-off between output and**



inflation: higher output can create higher inflation.

The **New Keynesian Phillips Curve** explains the relationship between inflation, economic activity and inflation expectations. It **states that inflation tends to rise when economic activity and demand increase**, and is strongly influenced by people's expectations of future inflation.

- However, **research cited in the article finds India's Phillips Curve to be largely flat, suggesting little or no clear trade-off** between output and inflation.
- **Around 92% of Indian workers have little bargaining power** to demand higher wages.
- **People's inflation expectations are about 4 percentage points** higher than the RBI's projections.

Implications

- A **flat Phillips Curve means reducing demand may lower output** without significantly reducing inflation.
- **High inflation expectations may prevent inflation** from falling as projected.
- **India's inflation is influenced significantly by food and supply-side factors**, which interest-rate policy cannot directly control.
- **Higher interest rates can reduce investment**, consumption and employment.
- A **prolonged focus on inflation control can impose economic costs on lower-income** and vulnerable workers.

Way Forward

- **Coordinate monetary and fiscal policies** to control inflation.
- **Improve food supply chains, storage and transport** to reduce food inflation.
- **Improve RBI's inflation forecasts** using better and timely data.
- **Balance inflation control with growth and employment**, especially during supply shocks.
- **Review the inflation-targeting framework regularly** based on India's economic conditions.

Mains Question

India's experience with inflation targeting raises questions about the applicability of the Phillips Curve to a developing economy. Critically examine the effectiveness and limitations of inflation targeting in India. (250 words)

Why Australia's music industry banned AI music in chart listing

Prelims: General Studies Paper 1

Current events of national and international importance

Mains: General Studies 3

Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nano-technology, bio-technology and issues relating to intellectual property rights.

Why in Focus?

- Australia's music industry body ARIA has **barred fully AI-generated songs from its charts, highlighting growing concerns over copyright, transparency and fair recognition** of human creators.

Key Highlights

- ARIA **banned songs that are entirely AI-generated from its charts** from August 2026.
- **AI-assisted music is still allowed if the recording is "substantially human made"** and does not involve chart or streaming manipulation.
- The move followed the popularity of an AI remix of Madonna's 'Like a Prayer'
- **Artists and music companies are challenging AI platforms** such as Suno and Udio over alleged use of copyrighted music without permission.
- **Music publishers including Sony Music Publishing and Warner Chappell have also sued Anthropic**, alleging copyright infringement and unauthorised use of copyrighted works.
- **Spotify plans to introduce "AI Persona" labels for artists created entirely using AI** and will exclude them from editorial and algorithmic recommendations.



- Spotify also has tools such as AI Credits and SongDNA to identify AI involvement in individual tracks.

Challenges

- Difficulty in distinguishing AI-generated and human-created music.
- Unauthorised use of copyrighted works to train AI models.
- Lack of uniform AI-labeling standards across music platforms.
- Unlabelled AI music can affect consumer choice and genuine artists.
- Existing copyright laws are still unclear about several forms of AI-generated content.

Way Forward

- Establish clear and uniform AI-content labelling standards across streaming platforms.
- Strengthen copyright rules for the use of creative works in AI training.
- Require AI companies to maintain transparent records of training data and licensing.
- Develop reliable AI-detection and content provenance tools.
- Ensure AI innovation while protecting artists' rights, remuneration and creative ownership.

Mains Question

The rise of generative AI in the music industry has created new challenges related to copyright, transparency and artists' rights. Discuss the need for a balanced regulatory framework for AI-generated creative content. (250 words)

KEYWORDS

Rabies

- Rabies is a **vaccine-preventable zoonotic viral disease** caused by the Rabies virus (RABV).
- The **virus primarily affects the central nervous system** and can infect mammals, including dogs, livestock and wildlife.

- Rabies is **transmitted mainly through the saliva of infected animals, usually via bites, scratches or contact with mucous membranes.**
- The **incubation period is typically 2–3 months**, but it can range from one week to one year.
- **Once clinical symptoms appear following infection of the central nervous system, rabies is virtually 100% fatal**; vaccination of dogs is a key preventive strategy.
- **Bhutan has become the first country in the WHO South-East Asia Region to eliminate dog-transmitted rabies** as a public health problem.
- Bhutan has recorded zero human deaths from dog-mediated rabies since June 2023, supporting its WHO validation.

Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006

- The **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** stated that the **Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006** does not explicitly require **Gram Sabha consent for Stage-II forest clearances**, addressing concerns that mandatory approvals may delay major infrastructure projects.
- The FRA protects **Forest Dwelling Scheduled Tribes (FDSTs)** and **Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFDs)**. OTFDs must prove **at least three generations (75 years) of residence** before **December 13, 2005**.
- The Act grants rights to **cultivate forest land (up to 4 hectares)**, collect and own **Minor Forest Produce (MFP)** such as bamboo, tendu leaves and honey, and **protect and manage Community Forest Resources (CFRs)**.
- The **Gram Sabha** is the primary authority for initiating and verifying claims for **individual and community forest rights** before forwarding them to higher-level committees.
- The FRA itself does not explicitly use the phrase **"Gram Sabha consent for projects."** However, **Central guidelines under the Forest Conservation Act** have traditionally required a **No Objection Certificate (NOC)** from affected Gram Sabhas before diversion of forest land.



Places in News

Anak Krakatau

- Anak Krakatau is an **active volcanic island located in the Sunda Strait between Java and Sumatra, Indonesia.**
- It **emerged from the caldera formed by the catastrophic 1883 eruption of Krakatau.**
- A caldera is a **large, roughly circular depression formed when a volcano's magma chamber is partly emptied during a major eruption, causing the overlying ground to collapse inward.**
- Anak Krakatau is **part of the Indonesian island arc, formed due to the subduction of the Indo-Australian Plate beneath the Eurasian/Sunda Plate.**
- Its **volcanic activity includes frequent eruptions, lava flows, ash emissions and explosions, making it one of Indonesia's active volcanoes.**
- The **2018 collapse of Anak Krakatau's volcanic flank triggered a tsunami in the Sunda Strait, causing significant loss of life and damage along the coasts of Java and Sumatra.**



Species In News

Humboldtia unijuga Bedd

- **Humboldtia unijuga Bedd.** is a medicinally significant evergreen tree species native to the Indian subcontinent.
- It is a medium-sized tree belonging to the **Fabaceae (legume family)**, under the subfamily **Caesalpinioideae.**
- It is **strictly endemic to the tropical evergreen forests of the southern Western Ghats, mainly in the Agasthyamala Hills of Kerala and Tamil Nadu.**
- The species is categorized as **Endangered** in the **IUCN Red List**, mainly due to habitat destruction and high seed predation, which affect natural regeneration.
- Commonly known as the **Bark-Flower Humboldtia**, it has distinctive **crimson-red flowers that grow directly from the main trunk**, a phenomenon called **cauliflory.**
- Its **bark and leaves are traditionally used** by local healers for treating various **skin conditions.**

