

Contempt of court case: relief for Govindan

Prelims: General Studies Paper - 1
Indian Polity and Governance-Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues, etc.

Mains: General Studies - 2
Structure, organization and functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary,

Contempt of Court

- Contempt of Court is the offence of being **disobedient to or being disrespectful** towards a **court of law and its officers** in the form of behaviour that opposes or defies the authority, justice and dignity of the court.
- The power is regulated by the **Contempt of Courts Act, 1971**.
- The expression 'contempt of court' has not been defined by the Constitution.
- The Constitution grants authority to the **Supreme Court and high courts through Articles 129 and 215 to penalize contempt**, with the operational procedures outlined in the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971.
- As per the **Contempt of Courts Act, 1971** there are mainly two types of contempt:
 - ▶ **Civil contempt** means **wilful disobedience to any judgment, decree, direction, order, writ or other process of a court or wilful breach** of an undertaking given to a court.
 - ▶ **Criminal contempt** means the **publication** (whether by words, spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representations, or otherwise) of **any matter or the doing of any other act whatsoever** which:
 - ☀ Scandalises or tends to **scandalise, or lowers or tends to lower the authority of, any court;** or
 - ☀ **Prejudices, or interferes with, or tends to interfere with, the due course of any judicial proceeding;**

- ☀ **Interferes or tends to interfere with, or obstructs or tends to obstruct, the administration of justice** in any other manner.

Divisional Railway Hospital India's first to secure NABH tag

Prelims: General Studies Paper - 1
Current events of national and international importance

Mains: General Studies - 2
Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Healthcare Providers (NABH)

- The NABH is a **constituent board of the Quality Council of India**, established to develop and manage an accreditation program for healthcare organisations.
- It is **designed to meet the needs of consumers while setting benchmarks for the advancement** of the healthcare industry.
- The board, while being supported by all stakeholders including industry, consumers, government, have full functional autonomy in its operation.

Scope/Objectives of NABH:

- Accreditation** of healthcare facilities
- Promotion of quality** through initiatives such as Nursing Excellence and Laboratory Certification Programs
- Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) activities**, including lectures, advertisements, workshops, and seminars
- Education and training focused on quality and patient safety
- Recognition and endorsement of various healthcare quality courses and workshops.

Fiscal position may not be rosy

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.

Ways and Means Advances (WMA)

- The Ways and Means Advances (WMA) are **temporary loan facilities provided by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to the central and state governments** to help them **manage temporary mismatches in their receipts and expenditures**.
- These borrowings are meant purely to help them to tide over temporary mismatches in cash flows of their receipts and expenditures.
- It is authorised under **Section 17(5) of the RBI Act, 1934**.
- The WMA scheme was **introduced in 1997**.
- The advances are **typically short-term, with a duration of up to 90 days**.
- If the amount is not returned within this period, it would be treated as an overdraft, with **interest 2 percentage points higher** than the repo rate.
- The **RBI, in consultation with the government, sets limits for WMA for both the central and state governments**. These limits are reviewed periodically.
- They are classified into two types:

Normal WMA (Fixed Limit)

This is a short-term borrowing facility with a **fixed limit set by the RBI for the central and state governments**.

The government can borrow within this limit at the prevailing repo rate.

If borrowing exceeds this limit, it moves into Overdraft.

Special WMA (Special Drawing Facility - SDF)

This facility is **provided against government securities (G-Secs) or other collaterals** held by the state governments.

The interest rate on **Special WMA is lower than that of Normal WMA, usually linked to the repo rate**.

Once the Special WMA limit is exhausted, states can avail of Normal WMA.

Election Commission to respond in writing with complete facts

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Rule 93 of the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961

- Section 93 of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961, **regulates the production and inspection of election papers**.
- Certain election materials, such as unused and used ballot papers, counterfoils, marked electoral rolls, and voter registers, are restricted from being opened or inspected without a court order.
- Control units sealed under Rule 57-C** are also subject to this restriction.
- Other election-related papers are **generally open to public inspection**, subject to conditions and fees set by the Election Commission, and copies can be provided upon request for a fee.

Did T.N. Governor refer 10 Bills to President to avoid assent, asks SC

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Indian Polity and Governance - Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues

Mains: General Studies - 2
Indian Constitution—historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure.

Article 200 of the Constitution of India

- Article 200 of the Constitution of India **pertains to the assent of Bills.**
- When a Bill is passed by the Legislative Assembly or both Houses of the Legislature of a State, it is presented to the **Governor, who can either assent to it, withhold assent, or reserve** it for the President's consideration.
- The Governor can **return a non-money Bill** with a **message for reconsideration.**
- If the Bill is **passed again** with or without amendments and presented to the Governor, he **must assent to it.**
- The Governor **must reserve any Bill** that, in his opinion, **derogates from the High Court's powers** for the President's consideration.

Article 254 of the Constitution of India

- Article 254 of the Constitution of India deals with **inconsistencies between laws made by Parliament and laws made by State Legislatures.**
- If a **state law conflicts** with a **parliamentary law** on a matter in the **Concurrent List**, the **parliamentary law prevails** and the conflicting state law is void.
- However, if the **state law has received the President's assent**, it **prevails in that state.**
- **Parliament can still override this state law** by enacting a new law on the same matter.

Repugnancy

- Repugnancy refers to a situation where there is a **conflict or inconsistency between two laws.**
- In the context of the Indian Constitution, it typically arises **when a law made by a State Legislature is inconsistent with a law made by Parliament** on a subject listed in the Concurrent List.

Trump sanctions ICC for 'illegitimate probes' targeted against Israel, U.S.

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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.

International Criminal Court (ICC)

- The International Criminal Court (ICC), **established by the Rome Statute in 1998,**
- It is a **permanent judicial body** designed to **investigate, prosecute, and try individuals accused of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity.**
- It began operations on July 1, 2002, after 60 countries ratified the agreement, and is **headquartered in The Hague, Netherlands.**
- The ICC serves as a **court of last resort**, handling prosecutions when national courts fail to act, with **jurisdiction over offenses committed after July 1, 2002**, in states that have ratified the statute or by their nationals.
- Unlike the **International Court of Justice**, which resolves disputes between states, **the ICC focuses on individuals.**
- Though widely praised, the Rome Statute faced limited participation from Middle Eastern and Asian countries, with major powers like the **U.S., Russia, China, and India declining to join.**
- Despite these challenges, **over 100 countries had ratified the treaty** within five years of the ICC's establishment.
- The **Assembly of States Parties**, consisting of member countries, **oversees the ICC's activities.**
- The ICC's **first hearing in 2006** involved charges against **Thomas Lubanga** for **recruiting child soldiers in the Democratic Republic of the Congo**; he was convicted in 2012.
- Other significant cases include arrest warrants for **Sudanese officials** for war crimes in Darfur, the investigation into **crimes against the Rohingya** in Myanmar, and the **2023 arrest warrant for Russian President Vladimir Putin** for war crimes related to the unlawful deportation of Ukrainian children.

A surge of dead sea turtles in the sand

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Important International institutions, agencies and fora- their structure, mandate

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species

- **Established in 1964**, the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species has become the most **comprehensive global source of information** on the conservation status of animal, fungi, and plant species.
- The IUCN Red List serves as a **vital indicator of global biodiversity health** and a **key tool for driving conservation efforts** and policy changes.
- It **provides essential data** on species' range, population size, habitat, ecology, trade, threats, and conservation measures to support informed decision-making.
- The Red List is **widely used** by government agencies, wildlife departments, conservation NGOs, natural resource planners, educational institutions, students, and businesses.
- **Numerous species groups**, including mammals, amphibians, birds, freshwater fishes, reef-building corals, and trees, have undergone comprehensive assessments.
- Additionally, the IUCN Red List continually evaluates newly recognized species and **re-assesses existing ones**.

Growth over inflation: On economic expansion over inflation control

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Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies. Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) was established on April 1, **1935**, under the **Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934**.
- Initially based in Kolkata, the Central Office was **permanently moved to Mumbai in 1937**.
- **Originally privately owned**, the RBI has been **fully owned by the Government of India since its nationalization in 1949**.

Main Functions

- ▶ **Monetary Authority:** Formulates, implements, and monitors monetary policy.
- ▶ **Regulator and Supervisor of the Financial System:** Sets banking operation parameters and ensures financial stability.
- ▶ **Manager of Foreign Exchange:** Administers the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999.
- ▶ **Issuer of Currency:** Manages currency issuance, exchange, and circulation.
- ▶ **Developmental Role:** Undertakes promotional functions to support national objectives.
- ▶ **Regulator and Supervisor of Payment and Settlement Systems:** Develops and maintains secure and efficient payment systems.
- ▶ **Banker to the Government:** Manages government banking operations.
- ▶ **Banker to Banks:** Maintains accounts of scheduled banks.