



UPSC CURRENT AFFAIRS NOTES 03-02-2024

Plaint

The Supreme Court recently held that an application seeking amendment of plaint shouldn't be allowed under Order 6 Rule 17 of CPC if the amendment alters the nature of the suit.

About Plaint

A plaint is a legal document that contains the claims made by the plaintiff when they bring a case to a civil court. (A plaintiff is a person who brings a civil action in a court of law).

It serves as the initial step in starting a lawsuit.

In fact, in the very plaint, the contents of the civil suit are laid out.

Through such a plaint, the grievances of the plaintiff are spelled out, as well as the possible causes of action that can arise out of the suit.

A plaint which is presented to a civil court of appropriate jurisdiction contains everything, including facts to relief that the plaintiff expects to obtain.

Order VII of the Code of Civil Procedure (CPC) particularly deals with a plaint.

A few of the essentials of a plaint implicit in itself are those only material facts, and not all facts or the law as such is to be stated, the facts should be concise and precise, and no evidence should be mentioned.

Particulars of a Plaint (Rules 1 to 8 of Order VII of the CPC):

The name of the civil or commercial court where the lawsuit will be filed.

Information about the plaintiff, including their name, address, and description.

Details about the defendant, including their name, residence and description.

If the plaintiff has any health issues or disabilities, these should be mentioned.

The facts that give rise to the cause of action and where this cause of action occurred.

Facts that help determine the court's jurisdiction.

Information about the relief or remedy the plaintiff is seeking from the court.

If the plaintiff wants to set off a portion of their claim, the amount allowed should be stated.

The value of the subject matter of the suit, not just for jurisdiction but also for court fees.

Verification by the plaintiff under oath.

The Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 is a procedural law related to the administration of civil proceedings in India. The Code is divided into two parts: the first part contains 158 sections and the second part contains the First Schedule, which has 51 Orders and Rules.

World Wildlife Day

World Wildlife Day is observed annually on March 3 to raise awareness about the importance of wildlife conservation.



About World Wildlife Day

It is celebrated to promote sustainable practices that can help conserve biodiversity and raise public awareness of the need to protect and care for animals.



It aims to raise awareness of the interconnectedness of all living things on our planet and to promote peaceful coexistence between humans and animals through activism, campaigning and education.

History

It was first proposed by Thailand to the UN General Assembly in 2013.

The idea was to set aside a day to promote awareness of wild animals and plants around the world.

The General Assembly adopted a resolution on 20 December 2013, designating March 3 as World Wildlife Day in 2014.

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), a global agreement to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival, was signed on this day in 1973.

Theme of WWD 2024: "Connecting People and Planet: **Exploring Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation**," highlights the potential of technology to advance conservation efforts.

This theme is particularly relevant in today's digital age, where technological advances can offer novel solutions to long-standing conservation challenges.

Significance

It is an important global awareness event for the protection and conservation of animals.

It serves as a reminder of the inherent value of animals and the need to treat them with kindness, decency and respect.

It is an international agreement between governments that aims to ensure that international trade in wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. CITES was adopted in 1973 and entered into force in 1975. There are 184 member parties, and trade is regulated in more than 38,000 species.

Nhava Sheva Port

Customs officials recently seized a dual-use consignment on a Karachi-bound ship at Nhava Sheva port, suspecting it could be used for Pakistan's nuclear programs.



About Nhava Sheva Port

The Port of Nhava Sheva lies to the east of the Port of Mumbai, about six nautical miles away across Thane Creek on the Arabian Sea.

It is also commonly known as the Jawaharlal Nehru Port, as it is run by the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust.

It is known to be the busiest port in India and deals with almost half of the country's imports and exports.

The Port of Nhava Sheva and the Port of Mumbai have a common entry channel that stretches about 21 kilometres (33.9 miles) and at a depth of 10.1 to 11 metres (33 to 36 feet).

The Port of Nhava Sheva was commissioned in 1989, as a satellite port to relieve the Port of Mumbai from heavy congestion.

As a small port in its early years, it only had single terminals for bulk cargos and containers.

It has since expanded to include five privately-operated port terminals for containerized cargo handling and also a facility for handling bulk liquid cargo.

It is recognized as one of the top 30 global container ports in terms of size and capacity.

The major ports in India

Major ports in India are Chennai Port, Kolkata Port, Haldia Port (West Bengal), Jawaharlal Nehru Port (Maharashtra), Kamarajar Port or Ennore Port (Chennai), Kandla Port (Gujarat), Kochin Port (Kerala), New Mangalore Port (Karnataka), Mormugao Port (Goa), Mumbai Port, Paradip Port (Odisha), Tuticorin Port (Tamil Nadu), Visakhapatnam Port (Andhra Pradesh).

National Urban Cooperative Finance and Development Corporation Limited (NUCFDC)



Cooperation Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the National Urban Cooperative Finance and Development Corporation Limited (NUCFDC), the apex body of Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs), emphasizing the importance of people's participation in the country's development.

He highlighted the need for an umbrella organization for UCBs, which was recommended by reports like the Vishwanathan Committee.

NUCFDC was established after nearly two decades of struggle, aiming to promote cooperation and mutual progress among cooperative institutions.



Objectives and Recommendations:

Shah recommended that NUCFDC should set up one urban cooperative bank in each unrepresented town/city within a time-bound program.

He urged UCBs to upgrade themselves to provide modern banking facilities like ATM facility, credit/debit cards, clearing system, maintain SLR limit, and refinancing, similar to public and private banks.

RBI Approval and Functionality:

NUCFDC has received approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to function as a non-banking finance company and a self-regulatory organisation for the urban cooperative banking sector.

Role and Targets:

The main objective of NUCFDC should be to help urban cooperative banks adhere to the Banking Regulations Act and bring professionalism in their work.

There are more than 1,500 UCBs with 11,000 branches, having a deposit of ₹5 lakh crore and credit base of ₹3.50 lakh crore across the country.

Future Plans and Capitalization:

NUCFDC aims to achieve its target paid-up capital within a year and not depend on others for funding.

The National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) has committed ₹200 crore to NUCFDC, emphasizing the need for UCBs to meet the paid-up capital to gain confidence from RBI.

Statutory Framework and Compliance:

NUCFDC's role includes helping UCBs adhere to the Banking Regulations Act, ensuring statutory compliance, and promoting professionalism in their operations.

Challenges and Opportunities:

While UCBs have reduced their net NPA rate to 2.10 per cent, there is still scope for further reduction, indicating challenges in asset quality management.

The growth of UCBs presents opportunities for financial inclusion and economic development, especially in unrepresented areas.

ASTRONAUTS FOR GAGANYAAN MISSION



On February 27, Prime Minister Narendra Modi publicised the final shortlist of candidates to be astronauts on board the maiden human spaceflight mission. Assuming two important test flights this year and the next are successful, the first crewed flight of the mission is scheduled for 2025.

Gaganyaan is the name of the mission undertaken by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) with the objective of sending Indian astronauts to low-earth orbit for a short duration.

It represents a significant step in India's space exploration efforts as it aims to demonstrate India's capability in human spaceflight and test various technologies essential for crewed missions.

Demonstration Mission:

Gaganyaan serves as a demonstration mission to test the technologies required for human spaceflight, which is considered one of the most complex forms of space exploration.

The mission aims to showcase India's proficiency in producing, qualifying, and utilizing these technologies, thereby establishing the country's credibility in crewed space missions.

Technological Ambition:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has directed ISRO to establish an indigenous space station by 2035 and land an Indian on the moon by 2040, indicating the ambitious goals set for India's space program.

These objectives represent significant technological advancements and demonstrate India's determination to explore the frontiers of space.



Integration with Lunar Missions:

ISRO plans to integrate the objectives of Gaganyaan with future moon missions, including Chandrayaan-3 and joint missions with Japan to land rovers on the moon and collect lunar soil samples.

This integration highlights India's comprehensive approach to space exploration, encompassing both crewed missions and lunar exploration activities.

Components of Gaganyaan

Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM-3):

The LVM-3, formerly known as the GSLV Mk-III, serves as the launch vehicle for the Gaganyaan mission.

It is a three-stage rocket designed to propel the spacecraft into low-earth orbit.

The first stage consists of two solid-fuel boosters attached to the rocket core.

The second stage is powered by two clustered Vikas 2 engines, fueled by liquid propellants.

The third stage features the CE-20 indigenous cryogenic engine, utilizing liquid hydrogen as fuel and liquid oxygen as oxidizer.

Orbital Module:

The orbital module, weighing 8.2 tonnes, is launched into low-earth orbit by the LVM-3 rocket.

It comprises the crew module and the service module.

The crew module is designed to accommodate up to three astronauts for a week-long mission.

It is equipped with parachutes for safe descent to the ground, environmental control and life-support systems (ECLSS) to maintain a habitable environment, and a crew escape system for emergencies during ascent.

The service module contains the propulsion system responsible for adjusting the orbital module's altitude and maneuvering it back towards Earth after separation from the rocket.

The Crew:

The crew for the Gaganyaan mission consists of highly trained individuals, including Prashant Nair, Ajit Krishnan, Angad Pratap, and Shubanshu Shukla.



These astronauts, all from the Indian Air Force (IAF), undergo rigorous training at the IAF's Institute of Aerospace Medicine.

A select group of candidates from the IAF undergoes advanced training in Russia to prepare for the challenges of spaceflight.

Additionally, the crew module includes a gynoid named 'Vyommitra,' equipped with sensors to monitor radiation, weightlessness, capsule conditions, and emergency alarms, enhancing crew safety and mission success.

Assembly of the Mission

ISRO embarked on assembling the Gaganyaan mission following the approval by the Union Cabinet in 2018.

Technological Tests and Experiments:

Space Capsule Recovery Experiment (SRE) and Crew-Module Atmospheric Re-entry Experiment (CARE):

In 2007, ISRO conducted the SRE, during which a satellite descended from an altitude of 635 km into the Bay of Bengal, validating crucial aspects of module separation, heat shielding, braking, parachute deployment, and retrieval procedures.

Subsequently, the CARE experiment was conducted in 2014, wherein a prototype module was launched aboard an LVM-3 rocket. It separated at 126 km altitude, descended to 80 km using retrograde thrusters, and landed safely in the Bay of Bengal, further validating critical re-entry and landing procedures.

Recent Tests and Developments:

In October 2023, ISRO Chairman S. Somanath revealed challenges in domestic manufacturing capabilities for the crew module, necessitating its procurement from external sources.

Despite setbacks in sourcing Environmental Control and Life Support System (ECLSS) technologies from abroad, ISRO engineers developed these systems internally.

Major components, including engines and rocket stages, underwent rigorous testing, simulations, and quality-control exercises to ensure reliability.

Notably, ISRO completed testing of four CE-20 engines for a total of 8,810 seconds, simulating flight conditions, demonstrating readiness for mission deployment.

Achievements of Gaganyaan



Pioneering National Space Policy:

The initiation of Gaganyaan coincides with the implementation of comprehensive reforms in the Indian space sector, including the establishment of NSIL and IN-SPACe, along with the formulation of the National Geospatial Policy 2022, Indian Space Policy 2023, and Telecommunications Act 2023.

These policy measures aim to facilitate the growth of India's space industry, foster innovation, and encourage participation from domestic and international stakeholders.

Promotion of Space Entrepreneurship:

The decision to permit 49% to 100% automatic foreign direct investment in space services and spaceflight, announced by the Cabinet on February 21, injects momentum into India's burgeoning space startup ecosystem.

This move fosters a conducive environment for entrepreneurship, paving the way for collaboration, investment, and technological advancement in the space sector.

Strategic Positioning in the Global Space Race:

Gaganyaan is poised to position India as a significant player in the evolving landscape of space exploration, aligning with the aspirations of countries venturing into space, the moon, and beyond.

By participating in scientific, commercial, and exploratory missions, India asserts its presence in the international space arena, extending geopolitical boundaries into outer space.

Nainativu Island

Recently, the Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority and an Indian company signed the contract for building “Hybrid Renewable Energy Systems” in Delft or Neduntheevu, Nainativu and Analaitivu islands off Jaffna peninsula.

About Nainativu Island

It is located in the Palk Strait, the stretch of sea that separates Sri Lanka from southern India.

It's close to the famous island of Delft (also known as Neduntheevu).

This tiny island is fairly close to the northern Sri Lankan city of Jaffna.

It is an important pilgrimage place for both Hindus and Buddhists.



Historical significance: Historians note the island is mentioned in the ancient Tamil Sangam literature where it was mentioned as Manipallavam

Nagapooshani Amman Kovil, a historic Hindu temple dedicated to the principal goddess of Tamil Hindus, Amman is located in this Island.

She is identified with the famous Tamil deity Meenakshi from Madurai from mainland India.

The Mahavamsa, which is literally the 'Great Chronicle', was composed by the Monk Mahanama in the 6th century A.D.

According to the chronicle the Buddha came to this Island, literally meaning 'Serpent Island', on his second visit to Sri Lanka, five years after attaining enlightenment.

It is a narrow waterway between two pieces of land that connects two large bodies of water. A strait is similar to a canal cutting through an isthmus (a narrow strip of land), but a strait is formed naturally and canals are built by people.

INS Jatayu

Indian Navy will commission Naval Detachment Minicoy as INS Jatayu in the presence of the Chief of the Naval Staff on 06 Mar 2024.

About INS Jatayu

It is the second Naval base in Lakshadweep after INS Dweeprakshak in Kavaratti.

With the commissioning of INS Jatayu, the Indian Navy will strengthen its foothold in the Lakshadweep islands and along with extending operational surveillance, reach and sustenance.

It will usher in a new era of capacity building and comprehensive development of the island territories.

The event marks an important milestone in the Navy's resolve to incrementally augment security infrastructure at the strategically important Lakshadweep Islands.

Key facts about Minicoy Island

It is the southernmost island of Lakshadweep which straddles the vital Sea Lines of Communications (SLOCs).



Naval Detachment Minicoy was set up in early 1980s under the operational command of Naval Officer-in-Charge (Lakshadweep).

Significance of the naval detachment

Basing of an independent Naval unit with requisite infrastructure and resources will enhance the overall operational capability of the Indian Navy in the islands.

The base will enhance operational reach and facilitate Indian Navy's operational effort towards Anti-Piracy and Anti-Narcotics Operations in Western Arabian Sea. It will also augment Indian Navy's capability as the first responder in the region and augment connectivity with the mainland.

INS Dweeprakshak

It is the Naval Base of Indian Navy was commissioned at Kavaratti in the Lakshadweep archipelago. It has incrementally augmented the security infrastructure at the strategically important Lakshadweep Islands.