



1. Delay in Appointment of Judges

Topic: Polity and Governance

In News: The Supreme Court issued notice and sought a response from the Ministry of Law and Justice over delays in appointing judges.

More on the Topic

- The Supreme Court noted that currently there are 10 recommendations pending with the government where the Collegium has reiterated its decision on appointment of a candidate as a judge of the HC.
- Separately, it noted that 11 names recommended by the Collegium are also pending with the government without reason.

About Collegium System of Judiciary Appointment:

- The collegium is a group of CJI and the **four senior most judges of the Supreme Court that decides on appointments of judges to the apex court.**
- These appointments could be in the form of elevation when High Court judges are appointed to the Supreme Court or direct appointments when experienced lawyers may be directly appointed as Supreme Court judges.
- Like the Supreme Court, **High Courts also have a collegium.** The chief justice of the court heads them. Two other senior most judges are part of the HC collegium.
- The high court collegium, however, only sends the recommendation to the Supreme Court collegium on judicial appointments.



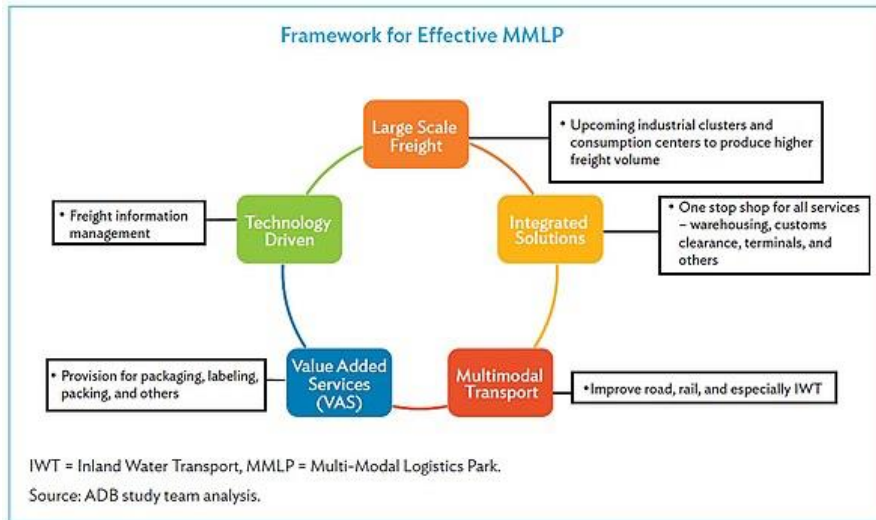
- The final decisions are taken by a collegium of the CJI and two senior most judges of the SC.
- This collegium of the three senior-most SC judges also decides transfers of HC judges in the country.

How the Collegium System Came in to Being:

- According to **Article 124 of the Constitution of India**, the appointment of Supreme Court judges should be made by the President after consultation with such judges of the High Courts and the Supreme Court as the President may deem necessary.
- The CJI is to be consulted in all appointments except their own.
- The collegium System came in to being through three judge cases.
- **1st Judge Case: P. Gupta & Others v. Union of India, 1981:** The opinion of the CJI had no primacy over the opinion of the Chief Justice of the HC, thus, both have **equal importance** in the consultation process.
- **2nd Judge Case: Advocate on Record Association v. UoI, 1993:** The court overruled the above case and held that in the matters of appointment and transfer of Judges the view of CJI has the greatest significance.
- SC **introduced the Collegium system**, holding that “consultation” really meant “concurrence”.
- **3rd Judge Case: Presidential Reference case (1998):** The recommendation made by the CJI without following the consultation process for appointment of SC and HC Judges is not binding on the government.
- SC on President’s reference **expanded the Collegium to a five-member body**, comprising the CJI and four of his senior-most colleagues.

Source: Indian Express

2. Multi Model Logistics Park



Topic: Economy

In News: The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has awarded Reliance industries the contract for setting up India's first multimodal logistics park (MMLP) in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

More on the Topic:

- Multi-Modal Logistics Parks (MMLPs) is a key policy initiative of the Government of India, led by **National Highways Logistics Management Limited under Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) and the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)**, to develop Multi-Modal Logistics Parks in hub-and-spoke model to improve the country's freight logistics sector.
- It is intended for lowering overall freight costs and time, cutting warehousing costs, reducing vehicular pollution and congestion, improving the tracking and traceability of consignments through infrastructural, procedural, and information technology interventions
- As part of PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan, government plans to build 35 MMLPs under Bharatmala Pariyojana.
- All MMLPs will be developed as part of Design, Build Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) model.

Need for the MMLPs

- According to the Asian Development Bank (ADB), **India's Logistics sector is having high cost and lower efficiency compared to other countries.**
- This has reduced the overall efficiency in the economy and increased the cost structure of all commodities.

- Compared to other countries **road freights in India are higher, while the average speed of freight vehicles is about 50%–60% lower.**
- Following factors adversely affects freight movement in India
- **Skewed modal transportation mix.** In India, 60% of freight moves by road, which is significantly larger than in many developed economies. Train and water freight movements should be more.
- **Underdeveloped material handling infrastructure.** Warehousing landscape is highly unorganized with the presence of a large number of small, private, and unorganized warehouses, providing little or no value-added services.
- **Fragmented institutional and governance structure.** Different parts of the logistics value chain currently are being managed by different ministries.
- Benefits of MMLPs
- According to the Asian Development Bank (ADB), development of MMLPs at strategic locations is envisaged as a key policy measure to rationalize cost of logistics in India and improve its competitiveness.
- The development of MMLPs at strategic locations in different regions can help in developing the supply chain in a more quick and cross functional way.

MMLPs can provide:

- The development of MMLPs at strategic locations in different regions can help in developing the supply chain in a more quick and cross functional way.
- Infrastructure for enabling seamless multimodal freight transfer;
- **Mechanized warehouses and specialized storage solutions including cold storage;**
- **Mechanized material handling and intermodal transfer** container terminals, and bulk and break-bulk cargo terminals;
- **Value-added services such as customs clearance,** bonded storage yards, quarantine zones, testing facilities, and warehousing management services; and
- late-stage manufacturing activities such as kitting and final assembly, grading, sorting, labelling, and packaging activities, reworking, and returns management.
- MMLPs could improve the utilization and performance of inland container depots (ICDs) and container freight stations.

Source: PIB

3. US Friendshoring Strategy



... change the world

Topic: International Relations

In News: US Treasury Secretary who is visiting India, said that friendshoring is not an exclusive club and the US is proactively deepening economic integration with trusted trading partners like India.

More on the Topic:

- Friendshoring is a concept to **implement regulations encouraging businesses to spread manufacturing within a group of nations with shared values.**
- The intention is to stop less like-minded nations from unfairly using their market dominance in essential raw resources, technologies, or goods to undermine the US economy or its allies' economies.
- Friendshoring to protect international supply networks against interruption or economic pressure from outside sources.

Why Diversifying Supply Chains are Important Now:

- Over the past few years, trade disruptions have escalated globally due to the economic crisis, the Covid-19 pandemic, and the US-China trade war.
- The year 2022 has been the most impacted as COVID- 19 shook the world's supply chains. The Russia-Ukraine war that began in February 2022 took the crisis further.
- Critical supply networks have yet to fully recover from labour shortages, manufacturing closures, and other pandemic-related disruptions.

Benefits of Friendshoring:

- Will prevent nations (like China and Russia) from unfairly leveraging their market.
- Diversify and strengthening the global supply chain. It will make the supply chains resilient to shocks like war, disasters etc.

Disadvantages that may arise from Friendshoring:

- There will be deglobalisation happening with friend shoring as less countries will come and make friendly agreements and diverting the supply chains. In the long run it may lead higher prices and lesser growth.
- Poor countries might get excluded from global trade.

Source: Hindu

4. Article 142 of the Constitution

**ALL ABOUT
Article 142**

History Behind It

It was numbered as Article 118 in the draft Constitution. It was presented to the Constituent Assembly for consideration on May 27, 1949, but it was adopted without debate on the same day.

Some Important Cases Related to It

- ❖ Union Carbide Corporation v. Union of India (1991)
- ❖ Babri Masjid demolition case
- ❖ Prem Chand Garg v. Excise Commissioner, UP; Allahabad (1962)
- ❖ Liquor sale ban case

Article 142:

Enforcement of decrees and orders of Supreme Court and unless as to discovery, etc.

Current Affairs review

change the world



Topic: Polity and Governance

In News: The Supreme Court bench of Justice L. Nageswara Rao and Justice B.R. Gavai invoked powers under Article 142 of the Constitution and granted the release of Rajiv Gandhi assassination case convicts.

More on the Topic:

- Article 142 of the Constitution empowers the apex court to exercise its jurisdiction and pass a decree or order “for doing complete justice in any cause or matter pending before it.”
- Any decree so passed or order so made shall be enforceable throughout the territory of India in such manner as may be prescribed.

Source: Indian Express

5. Currency Monitoring List



Topic: Economy

In News: The United States Department of Treasury has taken off India's name from the from its Currency Monitoring List of major trading partners.

More on the Topic:

- The Currency Monitoring List closely follows **the currency policies of some of the US' major trade partners**. If a country appears on the list, it is regarded as a “currency manipulator”.
- A ‘currency manipulator’ is a designation that the US government authorities give to countries that according to the US, engage in **“unfair currency practices” for trade benefits**.

- Inclusion in the list simply means that the country is **artificially lowering the value of its currency to get an advantage over others.**
- This is because a lower currency value leads to reduced export costs from that country. The status is reported by the **US Department of Treasury in form of a semi-annual report in which it tracks global economic developments and reviews foreign exchange rates.**
- It also closely monitors and reviews the currency practices of 20 major trading partners of the US.

Removal of India from the list – What does it mean?

- Removal of India from the list by the US' Treasury Department can be seen as a **positive news both in terms of market aspect and India's monetary policy-making.**
- If Indian market experts are to be believed, the development means that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) can now **take robust measures to manage the exchange rates effectively, without being tagged as a currency manipulator.**
- This may also be a big win from a markets standpoint and also signifies the growing role of India in global growth.

Source: Hindu

6. The Methane Alert and Response System (MARS)



Topic: Environment and Ecology

In News: UN announces high-tech, satellite-based global methane detection system.

More on the Topic:

- The Methane Alert and Response System (MARS), launched at the 27th United Nations Climate Change Conference, is a **data-to-action platform set up as part of the UNEP**

International Methane Emissions Observatory (IMEO) strategy to get policy-relevant data into the right hands for emissions mitigation.

- The Methane Alert and Response System (MARS) is a **new initiative to scale up global efforts to detect and act on major emissions sources** in a transparent manner and accelerate implementation of the Global Methane Pledge.
- Methane released by human activities is **responsible for around 25% of anthropogenic climate change**.
- MARS will alert governments, companies and operators about large methane sources to foster rapid mitigation action of this potent gas.programme under Digital India program.

Source: Business Standard

7. ASEAN

Topic: International Relations



In News: ASEAN has agreed in principle to admit East Timor as 11th member.

More on the Topic:



- The half-island nation, officially called Timor Leste, will also be granted observer status at high-level ASEAN meetings.
- The East Timorese voted for independence from a brutal occupation by neighbouring Indonesia in a 1999 U.N.-supervised referendum, and the country was officially recognised by the United Nations in 2002, making it Asia's youngest democracy.

ASEAN:

- The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), was established on 8 August 1967 in Bangkok, Thailand, with the signing of the ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration) by the Founding Fathers of ASEAN, namely **Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand.**
- **Brunei Darussalam, VietNam, Lao PDR and Myanmar, Cambodia** joined later making up what is today the ten Member States of ASEAN.
- ASEAN Secretariat is situated in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Source: Business Standard
