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Supreme Court Ruling on Prior Sanction for Prosecuting Public Servants

Context: Citing a recent Supreme Court ruling as precedent, Delhi CM have recently approached the Delhi High Court seeking a stay on their ongoing trials. The Supreme Court's ruling, which is central to these pleas, emphasizes the necessity for obtaining prior sanction from the government before prosecuting public servants for alleged offenses, particularly in cases involving money laundering.

- The ruling stemmed from a case in which public servants were accused of money laundering, with the ED seeking to prosecute them without first obtaining the required sanction from the government.
- The Supreme Court held that such prosecutions cannot proceed without the necessary prior approval, as stipulated under Section 197(1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC).

What is the Prior Sanction Provision?

- **Section 197(1) of CrPC:** This provision requires the government's prior sanction before prosecuting a public servant for offenses committed during the discharge of official duties. The intention is to protect public servants from arbitrary legal action while ensuring accountability for misconduct.
- **Exceptions:** No sanction is needed for serious crimes such as sexual offenses, human trafficking, and crimes against women.

Supreme Court's Ruling: Key Points

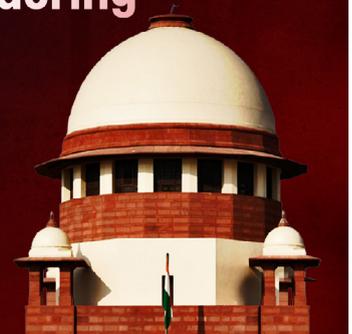
- **Sanction Requirement for Public Servants:** The Court ruled that the requirement of prior sanction applies not only to criminal offenses under the CrPC but also to cases under PMLA. This sets a legal precedent for future cases involving money laundering charges against public officials.
- **Connection Between Official Duty and Alleged Crime:** The Court emphasized that prior sanction is necessary when the alleged offenses are linked to the discharge of official duties. This connection was a key factor in the ruling, underscoring the importance of government oversight in such cases.

Implications of the Ruling

- **Impact on Ongoing Trials:** The ruling has been cited in ongoing legal proceedings where public servants are facing charges under PMLA. The absence of prior sanction has led to legal challenges seeking to stay trials or dismiss charges.
- **Broader Impact:** The ruling has wider implications for cases under both the CrPC and the Prevention of Corruption Act (PCA), which also mandates prior sanction for prosecuting public servants for corruption-related offenses.

**S. 197 CrPC Applies To PMLA :
Supreme Court Holds Prior Sanction Mandatory To Prosecute Public Servants For Money Laundering Offence**

PMLA



The Prevention of Corruption Act (PCA) and Prior Sanction

- **Section 19 of PCA:** Similar to Section 197 of CrPC, this section requires prior sanction from the government for prosecuting public officials for offenses such as bribery and misuse of office.
- **Section 17A of PCA:** Following amendments in 2018, this section further strengthens the requirement for prior approval before investigating decisions made by public officials in the course of their official duties.

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59th All India Conference of Director Generals/Inspector Generals of Police

Context: The 59th All India Conference of Director Generals/Inspector Generals of Police was held in Bhubaneswar on November 30 and December 1, 2024. This annual event serves as an essential platform for police leadership to discuss national security and law enforcement challenges

Key Themes Discussed:

- **National and International Security Threats:** Discussions during the conference covered counterterrorism, left-wing extremism (LWE), cyber-crime, economic security, immigration control, coastal security, and narco-trafficking.
- **Emerging Security Concerns:** Special emphasis was placed on security issues along the borders with Bangladesh and Myanmar, the trends in urban policing, and the need to counter malicious narratives.
- **New Criminal Laws and Policing Practices:** The conference also reviewed newly enacted criminal laws and best practices, particularly from India's neighboring regions.

SMART Policing Vision:

- The concept of SMART policing was expanded to include:
 - » Strategic
 - » Meticulous
 - » Adaptable
 - » Reliable
 - » Transparent
- A strong emphasis was placed on the need for police forces to improve not just operational capabilities but also become more strategic, adaptable, and transparent in their approach. The conference focused on preparing law enforcement to adapt to modern challenges, particularly with the rise of digital technologies.

Status of Police Reforms in India:

- Police reforms have not been fully realized, despite decades of efforts. The basic framework for policing in India, established in 1861, has not undergone significant

changes.

- Public expectations from police forces have increased, and new types of crime, such as cyber-crimes, have emerged. Consequently, there is a need for police reforms to address contemporary issues and ensure effective policing.

Challenges in Implementing Police Reforms:

- **Constitutional Limitations:** Police is a state subject, meaning it is primarily the responsibility of state governments to implement reforms.
- **Accountability and Operational Freedom:** There is a delicate balance between political accountability and the operational freedom of the police.
- **Workforce Shortages:** A significant number of vacancies in the police force contribute to an overburdened workforce.
- **Training and Infrastructure Issues:** Problems related to police training, qualifications, promotions, and inadequate forensic capabilities persist.
- **Police-Public Relations:** A positive relationship between the police and the public is crucial to prevent crime and disorder.

Committees and Commissions on Police Reforms

- **National Police Commission (1978-82):** Suggested amendments to the Code of Criminal Procedure.
- **Padmanabhaiah Committee (2000):** Recommended structural changes in recruitment, training, and public involvement in crime prevention.
- **Malimath Committee (2002-03):** Focused on strengthening training infrastructure, creating a new Police Act, and improving crime investigation.
- **Ribero Committee (1998):** Reviewed the implementation of previous police reform recommendations.
- **Supreme Court Directives (2006):** Directed states and UTs to implement binding reforms, such as forming a State Security Commission and establishing a Police Establishment Board.

Global Wage Report 2024-25

Context: The International Labour Organization (ILO) released its Global Wage Report 2024-25, providing insights into global wage trends, wage inequality, and

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real wage growth. The report, which has been published annually since 2008, analyzes changes in wages and their distribution worldwide.

Major Highlights of the Report:

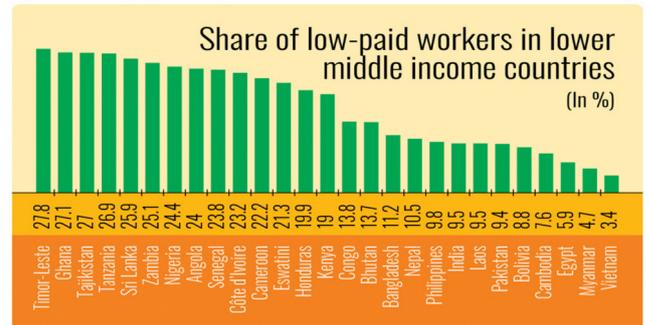
- **Decrease in Wage Inequality:**
 - » Wage inequality has decreased globally at an average rate of 11.1% per annum in about two-thirds of all countries since 2000.
 - » This trend indicates a positive shift towards reducing wage disparities across different nations.
- **Global Wage Growth:**
 - » Global wages have been growing faster than inflation in recent years.
 - » The real global wages grew by 1.8% in 2023, and projections suggest a 2.7% growth in 2024, marking the highest increase in over 15 years.
- **Regional Disparities:**
 - » Africa, Northern America, and parts of Europe have experienced stagnant or negative real wage growth.
 - » Meanwhile, emerging economies, particularly in Asia, have seen stronger wage growth compared to advanced economies.
- **Persistent Wage Inequality:**
 - » Despite the global decrease in wage inequality, significant disparities remain.
 - » Low-income countries continue to face much higher wage inequality, with 22% of workers in these regions earning less than half the median hourly wage.
- **Decoupling of Productivity and Wages:**
 - » In high-income countries, productivity increased by 29% from 1999 to 2024, yet real wages rose by only 15%, highlighting an inequitable distribution of productivity gains.
- **Gender Wage Gap:**
 - » Women, particularly in lower-middle-income countries, continue to face disproportionate wage inequality due to their overrepresentation in informal, precarious, and low-paid work.

Indian Scenario:

- Between 2008 and 2018, the share of low-paid wage workers (those earning less than 50% of the median hourly wage) in India decreased by 6.3% annually.
- Low-paid non-wage workers saw a decline of 12.7%

annually over the same period.

- The combined rate of decline for both categories of workers in India was 11.1% per year.
- As of the latest data, 9.5% of wage workers in India earn less than 50% of the median wage, which is relatively low compared to its neighbors: Pakistan (9.4%), Nepal (10.5%), Bangladesh (11.2%), Bhutan (13.7%), and Sri Lanka (25.9%).



Recommendations:

- **Minimum Wage Adjustments:** These need to be more responsive to inflation, particularly to protect low-wage earners.
- **Worker Protections:** Strengthening regulations and policies to address precarious and insecure work is essential.
- **Gender Wage Gap:** Efforts must be made to close the gender wage gap by ensuring equal pay for equal work.

About the ILO:

- The International Labour Organization (ILO) was established in 1919 as part of the Treaty of Versailles and became the first specialized UN agency in 1946.
- It currently has 187 member states and works to set labor standards, develop policies, and promote decent work for both men and women.
- The ILO is the only tripartite UN agency, bringing together governments, employers, and workers.
- Its headquarters are in Geneva, Switzerland.

Key Reports by ILO:

- World Employment and Social Outlook (WESO)
- Global Wage Report
- World Social Protection Report
- World Employment and Social Outlook for Youth
- World of Work Report

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Power Packed News

CINBAX

- The first edition of the Joint Table Top Exercise, CINBAX, between the Indian Army and the Cambodian Army commenced on December 1, 2024, at the Foreign Training Node, Pune.
- CINBAX focuses on establishing a Joint Training Task Force for Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance and planning CT operations. This exercise, scheduled from December 1 to December 8, involves 20 personnel from each side and is aimed at planning joint counter-terrorism (CT) operations under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter.
- Key aspects include discussions on hybrid warfare, cyber warfare, logistics, casualty management, and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR).
- Conducted in three phases, the exercise begins with participant orientation, followed by table-top discussions, and concludes with finalizing plans and summarizing outcomes.
- The exercise also promotes indigenous defence production by showcasing Indian-origin weapons and equipment, aligning with the 'Atmanirbharta' initiative.
- CINBAX aims to enhance trust, camaraderie, and operational interoperability between the Indian and Cambodian armies, strengthening their joint capabilities for UN peacekeeping missions.

Gujarat's Gharchola Receives Geographical Indication Tag

- The traditional wedding sari, Gharchola, from Gujarat has recently been granted a Geographical Indication (GI) tag by the Union government. The GI tag was officially presented to the Gharchola handicrafts during the "GI and Beyond – Virasat Se Vikas Tak" programme in New Delhi.
- The Gharchola is a handwoven sari, typically worn during weddings, and is known for its intricate designs and vibrant colors.
- Gujarat has seen a notable surge in the recognition of its traditional products, with 27 products receiving GI tags in recent years, 23 of which are in the handicrafts sector.
- The GI recognition not only affirms the authenticity and uniqueness of Gharchola but also helps safeguard the cultural legacy of Gujarat.
- It is expected to enhance the global recognition of this traditional craft, providing a platform for its promotion and ensuring its continued preservation. The GI tag serves as a valuable tool in maintaining the craftsmanship and identity of Gujarat's artistic heritage.



India's First Vertical Lift Rail Bridge, Pamban 2.0, set to Operate Soon in Rameswaram

- India's first vertical lift rail bridge, Pamban 2.0, is set to open soon after a safety inspection by the Southern Circle Railway Safety Commissioner on November 13 and 14. This new bridge will replace the 110-year-old cantilever bridge in Rameswaram.
- Inspired by rail bridges in Germany and Spain, the Pamban 2.0 bridge can lift vertically, allowing large ships to pass through. Engineers from Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd (RVNL) visited Europe to study similar bridges in cities like Valencia, Barcelona, and Hamburg.
- The new bridge has 100 spans, including a 72.5-meter-long span for ships to pass. It is being built at a cost of Rs 280 crore. The bridge will allow trains to travel at a speed of 50 km per hour. This new bridge will make train travel smoother and help maintain the flow of ships, improving transportation in the region.



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FSSAI Classifies Packaged Drinking Water as 'High Risk Food Category'

- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has classified packaged drinking water as a 'High Risk Food Category.' This means that the water will now be subject to strict safety standards because it can support the growth of harmful bacteria if not properly handled.
- High-risk foods are those that are ready to eat and can allow dangerous bacteria to multiply. These foods include dairy products, meat products (like poultry), fish, and fish products. Packaged drinking water is now included in this category, emphasizing the need for careful handling and safety measures.
- Under this classification, all manufacturers or processors of high-risk foods, including packaged drinking water, are required to have their business audited every year by an FSSAI-recognized food safety auditing agency.
- They will also face mandatory risk-based inspections. These steps aim to ensure the safety and quality of packaged drinking water, protecting consumers from potential health risks.



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