

Integrity Pact and Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)

❖ Context

- Recently, The **Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)** has modified the criteria for the nomination of **Independent External Monitors (IEM)** in government bodies.

❖ Key Highlights

- Earlier **CVC** had issued a **revised standard operating procedure** for adoption and implementation of the 'Integrity Pact' clause, which is meant to prevent corruption in public procurement.
- It also **specified the eligibility criteria for nomination of IEMs**, who oversee the execution of the clause.
 - They give recommendations to the authorities concerned after examining the complaints related to any contract.

❖ About CVC

- **Established in 1964** under the recommendations of **Santhanam Committee**.
- Conferred with **statutory status in 2003**.
- **Aim-** It was envisaged to **prevent corruption in governance** and **hold civil servants responsible** for their malafide actions.
- It **submits its report to the President** of India.
- The CVC is **not controlled by any Ministry/Department**.
 - It is an **independent body** which is only **responsible to the Parliament**.
- **Composition-**
 - It is a **multi-member Commission** consisting of a **Central Vigilance Commissioner (Chairperson)** and **not more than 2 Vigilance Commissioners (Member)**.
- **Appointment-**
 - They are **appointed by the President** of India on the recommendations of a committee
 - The Committee consists of **Prime Minister, Union Home Minister and Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha** (if there is no Leader of Opposition then the leader of the single largest Opposition party in the Lok Sabha).
- **Term-**
 - Their term is **4 years or 65 years**, whichever is earlier.

❖ Removal

- Removal is **done by the President** on **grounds of bankruptcy, unsound mind, infirmity of body or mind**, sentenced to imprisonment for a crime, or engaged in paid employment or has acquired financial or other interest that might affect his judgment.
- He **can also be removed for proved misbehavior or incapacity** if SC inquiry finds him guilty. They can resign by writing to the president.

❖ About Integrity Pact

- IP is an **anti-corruption tool developed by Transparency International** in the 1990s to help Govts businesses and the civil society to fight corruption in public contracting & procurements.
- It **consists of an agreement between the Govt/ PSU and the bidders**.
- It **covers all contract** related activities from pre-selection of bidders, bidding and contracting to implementation, completion and operation.
- It is **intended to make public contracting and procurement transparent** by binding all the parties to ethical conduct.

❖ About IEM

- IEMs are **nominees of the CVC**, to **monitor implementation of Integrity Pact** and scrutiny of High Value Tenders.
- The IEM is **mandated to review independently and objectively** whether and to what extent parties have complied with their obligations under the Integrity Pact (IP)

Corruption Perception Index (CPI) 2021

❖ Context

- Recently, The **Transparency International** recently released the Corruption Perception Index.
- While corruption takes vastly different forms from country to country, this year's scores reveal that **all regions of the globe are at a standstill when it comes to fighting public sector corruption**.

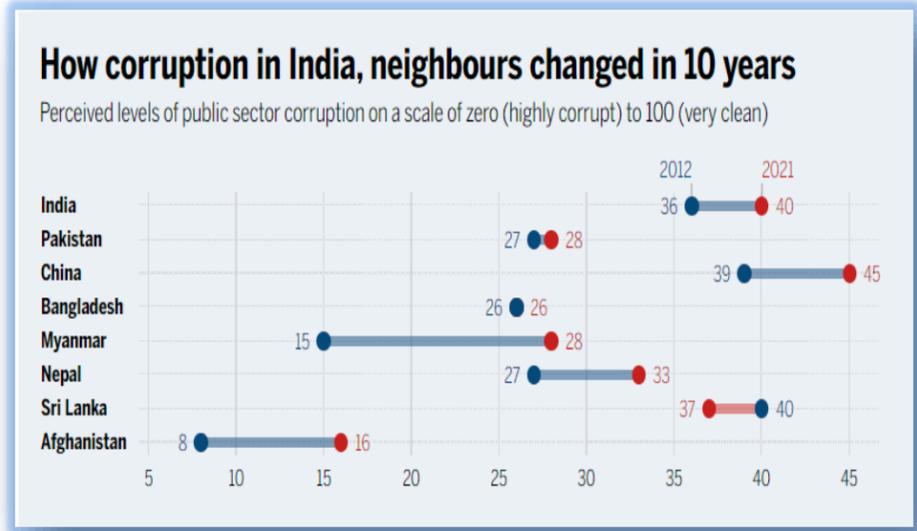
❖ Key Highlights

- The rankings were created based on the **corruption in the public sector of the countries**.
- Here zero means highly corrupt, a score of 100 means the country is clean. India scored 40.
- **Denmark, Finland, New Zealand and Norway** topped the list with the highest score.
- **South Sudan, Syria and Somalia** remain at the bottom of the index.
- **Pakistan ranked 140** in the index scoring 28 while **Bangladesh scored 26 and was ranked at 147th** position.
- Around **86% of the countries** showed little or **no improvement** since 2012. India was one among them.



❖ Report about India

- India's rank improved one place to 85 among 180 countries CPI of 2021,
- India scored **86th** in the ranking in 2020. In 2019, India was ranked **80th**.
- Except **Bhutan**, all of India's neighbors are ranked below it.
- There are **concerns over the country's democratic status**, as fundamental freedoms and institutional checks and balances decay.
- **Journalists and activists** are particularly at risk and have been victims of attacks by the police, political militants, criminal gangs and corrupt local officials.
- **Civil society organizations** that speak up against the government have been targeted.



❖ About Transparency International

- It is a **non – governmental organization** founded in 1993.
- **Headquarter-** Berlin, Germany.
- It **works to take actions against corruption** measures, prevent criminal activities.
- The most popular measures of Transparency International are the **Corruption Perception Index** and **Global Corruption Barometer**.

Anti Dumping Duty

❖ Context

- Recently, India has initiated an **anti-dumping probe against imports of a certain type of tiles** from China, Taiwan and Vietnam following a complaint by domestic players.
- These tiles are being used for covering the floors in residential and commercial buildings

❖ Key Highlights

- **Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR)** is probing the alleged dumping of “vinyl tiles other than in roll or sheet form.
- If it is established that the dumping has caused material injury to the domestic players, the **DGTR would recommend an anti-dumping duty on these imports.**

❖ Dumping & Anti Dumping Duty(ADD)

- **Dumping** is said to occur when the goods are exported by a country to another country at a price lower than the price it normally charges in its own home market.
- This is an **unfair trade practice** which can have a distortive effect on international trade.
- **ADD is a protectionist tariff** that a domestic government imposes on foreign imports that it believes are priced below fair market value.
- It is **permitted by the WTO for a period of five years** from the date of imposition unless revoked earlier.
- It **can be extended** further.

❖ Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR)

- The directorate is an **investigation arm of the Commerce ministry** which deals with **anti-dumping duty, safeguard duty, and countervailing duty.**
- **Established in 1998** as the Directorate General of Anti-Dumping & Allied Duties, it was **renamed in 2018** as the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR).
- It **provides trade defence support to the domestic industry and exporters** in dealing with increasing instances of trade remedy investigations instituted against them by other countries.

News in Between the Lines

Small Satellite Launch Vehicle(SSLV)

❖ Context

- Recently, The new chairman of the ISRO Dr S Somanath indicated that ISRO's **indigenous new launch rockets**, called the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV), will have its much-delayed, maiden development flight this April.
- The ISRO chairman has mentioned the launch of an “**SSLV-D1 Micro SAT in April 2022**”

❖ About SSLV

- The SSLV can carry satellites **weighing up to 500 kg to a low earth orbit** .

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- The tried and tested PSLV can launch satellites weighing in the range of **1000 kg**.
- The SSLV is the **smallest vehicle at 110-ton mass at ISRO**.
- It will take only **72 hours to integrate** (Others take 70 days).
- The entire job will be done in a very short time and the cost will be only around **Rs 30 crore**.
- SSLV is a **three-stage all solid vehicle**.
- SSLV is perfectly **suited for launching multiple microsatellites** at a time and **supports multiple orbital drop-offs**.
- The SSLV is intended to cater to a **market for the launch of small satellites into low earth orbits** which has emerged in recent years on account of the need for developing countries, private corporations, and universities for small satellites.

Milena Salvini



❖ Context

- Recently, The Prime Minister has expressed deep grief over the demise of noted **Kathakali dancer Ms. Milena Salvini**.

❖ About Milena Salvini

- Milena Salvini was an **Italy-born dancer**.
- She was a **great enthusiast of Indian classical art**, especially Kathakali.
- She had arrived in Kerala in 1965 to learn Kathakali — had **established the Centre Mandapa in Paris in 1975** which flourished into a school of Indian dance forms.
- In 1980, she arranged a European tour for the **Kalamandalam's Koodiyattam** troupe with funding from UNESCO.
- Her efforts helped Koodiyattam **earn UNESCO recognition as an ancient artform**.
 - it was included in the **Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity** programme in May 2001
- Especially known for her services to Kathakali, in 2019 she was **awarded India's fourth highest civilian award, the Padma Shri**.

Exercise Paschim Lehar



❖ Context

- Recently, **A joint maritime exercise Paschim Lehar** was conducted by the Indian Navy concluded off the **West Coast**.

❖ Key Highlights

- The exercise was **conducted over a duration of 20 days**.
- The objective is to **validate operational plans of the Western Naval Command and enhance inter-service synergy** among the Indian Navy, Indian Air Force, Indian Army and Coast Guard.
- The exercise was **conducted under the aegis of Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command**.
- The intra-theatre exercise included mobilization and participation of over 40 ships and submarines of the Indian Navy.

INS Khukri



❖ Context

- Recently, INS Khukri, the lead ship of the Indian Navy's Khukri class **missile corvettes** which was decommissioned last year, handed over to the Diu administration to be converted into a museum.

❖ Key Highlights

- After more than 32 years of service and participating in all forms of naval operations, the **ship was decommissioned on December 23, 2021**
- INS Khukri is **India's first indigenously built Missile Corvettes**(high-speed ships that have considerable firepower).
- INS Khukri was **built by the Mazagon Dock shipbuilders on August 23, 1989**.
- It had the distinction of being part of both the **Western and Eastern Fleets**.

- The **ship was affiliated with the Gorkha Brigade** of the Indian Army.
- During the service, the ship **traveled a distance which is equivalent to navigating around the world 30 times**, or 3 times the distance between the Earth and the Moon.

Spot-billed Pelicans



❖ Context

- Recently, A nematode infestation has led to **mass mortality of spot-billed pelicans (*Pelicanus philippensis*)** at Telineelapuram Important Bird Area (IBA) in Naupada swamp of Srikakulam district in **Andhra Pradesh**.

❖ Key Highlights

- Every year these **birds reach Srikakulam for breeding**.
- This year, over 100 birds that prey on nearby water bodies have died in groups in the past two days.
- The **nematode parasite is suspected to be transferred through fish and snails** in particular, when the birds prey in the aqua ponds.

❖ About Spot-billed Pelicans

- **Characteristics** - Hunt for food in both freshwater and marine environments, can dive slightly below the surface but never to great depth.
- **Habitat** - Lives in lowland freshwater, brackish, and marine wetland areas.
- **IUCN Status** - Near threatened.

National Voters Day



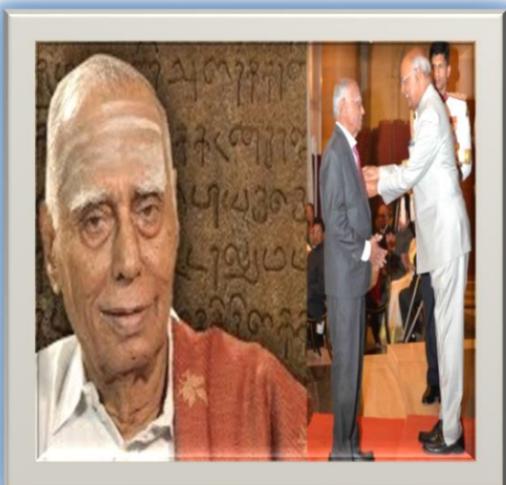
❖ Context

- On January 25, the National Voters Day was celebrated.

❖ Key Highlights

- The day is **commemorated to raise awareness about the importance of voting in a democratic society** and to educate people about their right to vote.
- **Theme of National Voters Day 2022-** Making elections Inclusive, Accessible and Participative
- This year, it is the **12th edition which is being celebrated**. (1st was in 2011).
- It began as an **initiative by the Election Commission of India**.
 - The Election Commission of India (ECI) was established on January 25, 1950
- **National Awards are conferred each year** to district and state-level election officers, personnel from agencies, PSUs, CSO, and members from the media.
- Various districts conduct competitions and cultural activities to spread awareness about the importance of voting.
- An ECI Publication titled '**Leap of Faith: Journey of Indian Elections**' has been released to celebrate NVD 2022.

R. Nagaswamy



❖ Context

- The **first Director of the Department of Archaeology**, died of age-related complications. **He was 92**,

❖ Key Highlights

- An authority in archaeology, architecture, epigraphy, numismatics, iconography, south Indian bronzes and temple rituals, Born at Kodumudi in Erode district, He had deep knowledge of Tamil and Sanskrit. He obtained his MA in Sanskrit from the University of Madras. He was awarded a Ph.D. in Indian arts by Pune University. After serving the Department of Archaeology in various capacities, he became its Director in 1966 and held the post till his retirement in 1988.
- Nagaswamy, whose name was synonymous with archaeology, was always available for his views on South Indian history, its temples, *ahamas*, Chola bronzes and the *shastras* of Bharatanatyam. He penned a book, *Masterpieces of Early South Indian Bronzes*, in 1983 and compiled a coffee-table book for the Tamil Nadu government to mark the World Classical Tamil Conference. His other important books are on Mamallapuram, published by the Oxford University Press, Uthiramerur and Gangaikondacholapuram. He had also published books in Tamil.

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