

SC Halts Lokpal Order Extending Jurisdiction to HC Judges

Syllabus: GS2/Polity and Governance

Context

The Supreme Court has put on hold a Lokpal order that sought to bring High Court judges under its jurisdiction, calling the interpretation “highly concerning.”

Overview

SC's Suo Motu Action

- A Special Bench of the Supreme Court took **suo motu cognisance** of Lokpal's order, citing concerns over judicial independence.
- Lokpal had classified High Court judges as ‘**public servants**’ under the **Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013**, bringing them within its purview.

Lokpal's Justification

- Lokpal argued that **High Courts were created under British-era laws**, whereas the **Supreme Court was established by the Constitution**.
- On **January 3**, Lokpal had ruled out its jurisdiction over **Supreme Court judges**.
- It based its authority on **Section 14(1) of the 2013 Act**, which includes judges of High Courts created by parliamentary enactments.

Supreme Court's Position

- The Court emphasized that **all judges derive their authority from the Constitution**, reinforcing the principle of judicial independence.
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Lokpal and Lokayuktas

About the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013

- Enacted in **2014** to establish **Lokpal at the Centre** and **Lokayuktas in states** for investigating corruption among public servants.
- Inspired by the **Ombudsman system of Scandinavian countries**.
- **Maharashtra was the first state to set up a Lokayukta (1971)**.

Structure and Appointment

- **Selection Process:**
 - **Lokpal members** are appointed by the **President** (Governor for Lokayuktas) based on **recommendations from a Selection Committee**.
 - **Selection Committee Composition:**

- **PM (CM for Lokayuktas)**
- **Speaker of the Lower House**
- **Leader of Opposition**
- **CJI or a nominated judge**
- **Eminent jurist nominated by the President**
- **Composition of Lokpal:**
 - **Chairperson:** Must be a **CJI/former SC judge** or an **eminent non-judicial member**.
 - **Members:** Up to **8 members**, **50% of whom must be judicial members**.
 - Non-judicial members must have **25 years of relevant experience**.

Jurisdiction and Powers

- Covers offences under the **Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988**, applicable to:
 - **Prime Minister** (with safeguards)
 - **Union Ministers & MPs**
 - **Group A-D officers**
 - **Certain private entities**
- **Inquiry against the PM:**
 - Requires **2/3rd approval of Lokpal**.
 - Conducted **in-camera** and cannot cover sensitive areas like **national security, foreign relations, atomic energy, and space**.
- **Investigation Timelines:**
 - The inquiry must conclude within **60 days**.
 - An investigation must be **completed within 6 months**.
- **Lokayuktas' Scope:**
 - Covers **CMs, Ministers, MLAs, state officials, and certain private entities, including religious institutions**.

Penalties

- **False complaints:** Up to **1-year imprisonment** and a fine of **₹1 lakh**.
- **Corruption penalties for public servants:** Increased from **5 to 7 years**.
- **Criminal misconduct:** Punishment raised from **7 to 10 years**.

Challenges

- **Limited Jurisdiction:** This applies only to specific officials and sectors, limiting its scope.
- **Lack of Independence:** Political interference affects autonomy.
- **Whistleblower Protection:** Complainants often face threats and retaliation.
- **Political Will:** Effectiveness depends on the government's commitment to accountability.

Way Forward

- Strengthening **Lokpal and Lokayuktas' powers**.
- Expanding their jurisdiction to **include more public officials and institutions**.
- Implementing necessary reforms to enhance their **credibility and effectiveness in fighting corruption**.

I&B Ministry Advisory on Obscene Content

Syllabus: GS2/Governance

Context

The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (I&B) issued an advisory in response to complaints about the spread of obscene, pornographic, and vulgar content on OTT platforms and social media.

Key Highlights of the Advisory

- OTT platforms must comply with the **Code of Ethics under the IT Rules, 2021**, ensuring strict adherence to age-based content classification.
- The advisory cited multiple laws, including the **Indecent Representation of Women Act, 1986**, **Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita (BNS), 2023**, **POCSO Act**, and the **IT Act, 2000**, emphasizing that publishing obscene content is a punishable offence.
- A **three-tier grievance redressal mechanism** governs OTT and digital news platforms under the IT Rules, 2021:
 1. **Self-Regulation by Publishers** – Platforms must appoint a **Grievance Officer** to resolve complaints within **15 days** and ensure compliance with content classification rules.
 2. **Self-Regulation by Self-Regulatory Bodies (SRBs)** – SRBs oversee publisher decisions, handle appeals, and enforce ethical guidelines. These bodies must be **registered with the Ministry of I&B**.
 3. **Government Oversight** – The **Ministry of I&B** can issue advisories, and warnings, or take action for non-compliance. A **Grievance Appellate Committee (GAC)** may review unresolved complaints.

Challenges in Regulating OTT Content

- **Balancing Freedom & Regulation** – Excessive restrictions could lead to **self-censorship**, affecting creativity. While **Article 19** of the Constitution protects freedom of speech, it allows restrictions based on **decency and morality**.
- **Subjectivity in Content Moderation** – Different interpretations of offensive content can lead to **inconsistent rulings**.
- **Jurisdictional Challenges** – Global platforms may struggle to align with **Indian laws**.
- **Concerns over Censorship** – Fear of **government overreach**, **vague content restrictions**, and **potential political bias** in moderating OTT content.
- **AI Moderation Issues** – Automated content moderation may fail to understand **cultural nuances**, leading to unjustified removals.

Legal Framework on Online Obscenity

- **Section 294 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023** – Penalizes selling, advertising, or distributing obscene material (including digital content) that is **lascivious or overly sexual**.
- **Section 67 of the IT Act, 2000** – Prohibits the transmission of obscene material online, with penalties of up to **three years imprisonment and a ₹5 lakh fine** for first-time offenders.
- **Indecent Representation of Women Act, 1986** – Prohibits content that portrays women in an **indecent manner**.
- **IT Rules, 2021** – Mandates **age-based classification**, access controls for **A-rated content**, and restrictions on transmitting illegal material.
- **POCSO Act** – Protects children from **sexual exploitation and explicit content**.

Supreme Court's Observations on Obscenity

- **Ranjit D. Udeshi v. State of Maharashtra (1964)** – The **Hicklin Test** was applied to define obscenity as material that **corrupts or depraves susceptible minds**, including children.
- **Aveek Sarkar v. State of West Bengal (2014)** – The Court adopted the **community standards test**, ruling that **nudity alone does not constitute obscenity**.
- **March 2024 Judgment on College Romance** – The Supreme Court ruled that **profanity alone is not obscene**; the content must actively **arouse sexual thoughts** to be considered obscene.

Intensified Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) Screening Campaign

Syllabus: GS2/ Health

Context

The Government of India has intensified its fight against **Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)** through the **National Programme for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NP-NCD)**.

Overview

- **Objective:** Achieve **100% screening** of individuals **aged 30 and above** to detect and manage prevalent NCDs such as **Diabetes, Hypertension, and common cancers** (Oral, Breast, and Cervical).
- **Implementation:** NCD divisions are established at the **National, State, and District levels** to ensure effective monitoring and intervention.

Understanding Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)

- NCDs are **chronic** conditions that are **not infectious** but impose significant health and economic burdens.
- As per **WHO (2018)**, NCDs contribute to **63% of total deaths in India**, with key contributors being:
 - **Cardiovascular Diseases** – 27%
 - **Chronic Respiratory Diseases** – 11%
 - **Cancers** – 9%
 - **Diabetes** – 3%
- **Causes of Rising NCD Cases:**
 - **Lifestyle Factors** – Tobacco use, alcohol consumption, poor diet, lack of physical activity, air pollution.
 - **Health Risks** – Obesity, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, high blood sugar.
 - **Other Factors** are genetic predisposition, stress, and environmental conditions.

Impact of NCDs

- **Health Burden:** Increased demand for **long-term treatment and care**.
- **Economic Consequences:** Reduced productivity and **higher medical costs**.
- **Healthcare Disparities:** Limited access to **early diagnosis** in rural areas.

Government Initiatives

- **NP-NCD:** Focuses on **screening, early detection, and awareness programs**.
- **PMBJP Scheme:** Provides **affordable generic medicines**.
- **AMRIT Program:** Offers **low-cost treatment for cancer and heart diseases**.
- **Eat Right India Movement:** Promotes **healthy eating habits**.
- **Ayushman Bharat:** Ensures **free healthcare services for economically weaker sections**.

Way Forward

- **Strengthen Primary Healthcare** to enhance **early detection and prevention**.
- **Encourage Healthy Lifestyles** through widespread **awareness campaigns**.
- **Improve Air Quality** to mitigate pollution-related health risks.
- **Expand Insurance Coverage** to make treatment **more affordable**.
- **Foster Public Participation** in health initiatives to ensure **community engagement**.

RBI Imposes Restrictions on New India Co-operative Bank

Syllabus: GS3/ Economy

Context

The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) restrictions on **New India Co-operative Bank** underscore the persistent challenges within the **urban cooperative banking sector**.

What are Cooperative Banks?

- Cooperative banks are **member-owned** financial institutions that function on principles of **cooperation and mutual benefit**.
- Members serve as both **owners and customers**, with decision-making based on the **"one person, one vote"** principle.
- These banks engage in **both lending and deposit-taking activities**.

Regulation of Cooperative Banks in India

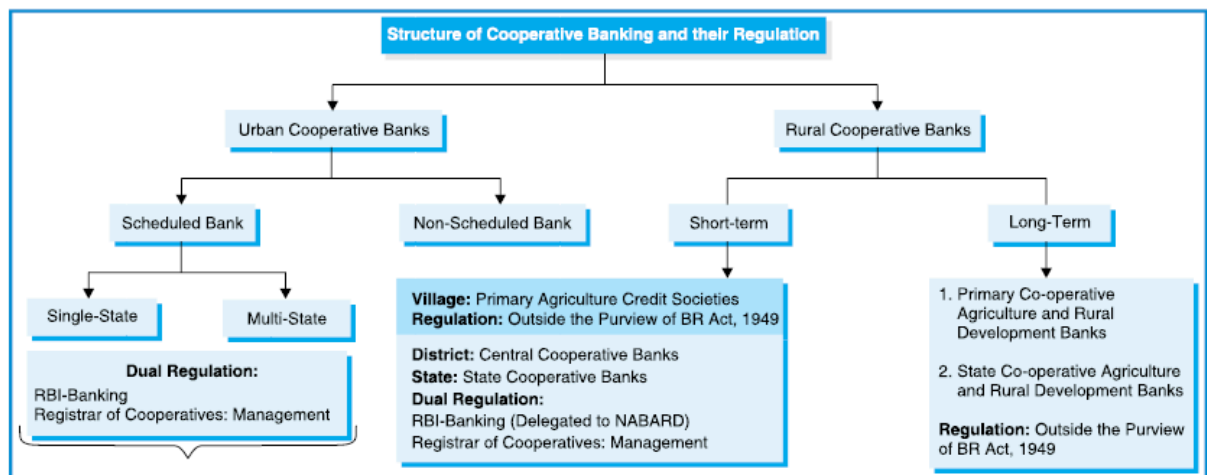
Cooperative banks are subject to **dual regulation** by:

1. **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** – Regulates banking functions under the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949** and the **Banking Laws (Application to Co-operative Societies) Act, 1965**. It oversees **capital adequacy, risk management, and lending policies**.
2. **Registrar of Co-operative Societies (RCS)** – Under the **State or Central Government**, it supervises **registration, management, audits, board oversight, and liquidation**.

Structure of Cooperative Banks

Cooperative banks in India are classified into:

- **Rural Cooperative Banks (RCBs)** – Primarily serving rural areas.
- **Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs)** – Operating in **urban and semi-urban** regions, providing loans to small borrowers and businesses.



UCBs are further divided into:

- **Scheduled Banks** – Listed under the **RBI Act, 1934**, enjoying greater operational flexibility.
- **Non-Scheduled Banks** – Smaller banks with **restricted** financial capabilities.

Challenges in Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs)

- **Financial Weaknesses** – Many UCBs suffer from **low capitalization**, **high NPAs**, and poor **Capital Adequacy Ratios (CAR)**.
- **Fraud & Bank Failures** – Past cases include **PMC Bank**, **Guru Raghavendra Cooperative Bank**, and **Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank**, all of which collapsed due to **financial mismanagement and fraud**.

Reasons for Recurring Issues in UCBs

- **Regulatory Gaps** – Less stringent **RBI oversight** compared to commercial banks.
- **Political Influence** – Governance issues arise due to **local political interference**.
- **Technological Deficiencies** – Lack of **digital banking systems** and security measures make these banks vulnerable to fraud.
- **Weak Risk Management** – Poor internal controls lead to **risky lending and rising bad loans**.

Measures to Strengthen the Cooperative Banking Sector

- **Enhancing Capital Reserves** – UCBs should maintain **higher capital buffers** to absorb financial shocks.
- **Technological Upgradation** – Implement **digital banking**, fraud detection systems, and **cybersecurity measures**.
- **Merging Weak Banks** – Consolidation of financially unstable UCBs with **larger, stable banks** to improve resilience.
- **Improved Governance** – Strengthen **board regulations**, and **director qualifications**, and enforce **independent audits** to enhance accountability.

Government Plans to Lease 10+ Airports Under PPP Model

Syllabus: GS3/ Infrastructure

Context

The **Union government** is exploring the possibility of leasing over **ten airports** across India under the **Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model**.

The objective is to enhance **airport management** by leveraging **private sector efficiency and investment**.

Understanding the PPP Model

The **Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model** is a collaborative approach where the **government** and **private sector** join forces to develop **public infrastructure and services** efficiently.

- In India, PPPs have been widely implemented in **transport, healthcare, education, and urban development**.
- **Advantages:** It brings in **private investment, technology, and expertise** while ensuring **government oversight and public welfare**.

Types of PPP Models

1. **Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT):** Private entities build and operate the infrastructure for a fixed period before transferring ownership to the government.
2. **Build-Own-Operate (BOO):** The private sector **constructs, owns, and operates** the asset indefinitely.
3. **Design-Build-Finance-Operate (DBFO):** The private entity **designs, finances, and manages** the project before transferring it after a concession period.
4. **Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM):** The government partially funds the project to **reduce private sector risks** while maintaining efficiency.
5. **Swiss Challenge Method:** A **private company** submits a project proposal, and the **government invites competing bids** before awarding the contract.

Importance of the PPP Model

- **Encourages Technology Transfer:** Brings in **global best practices** and modern infrastructure solutions.
- **Eases Financial Burden:** Reduces the government's fiscal strain by attracting **private capital**.
- **Boosts Efficiency:** Enhances **service quality, operational effectiveness, and innovation** in infrastructure projects.

Challenges in the PPP Model

- **Regulatory Uncertainty:** Frequent **policy shifts and bureaucratic hurdles** discourage private investment.

- **Financial Risks:** Long gestation periods and **cost overruns** make projects financially challenging.
- **Risk Allocation Issues:** Poorly defined contracts lead to **disputes between the government and private firms**.
- **Project Delays:** Land acquisition problems, **environmental clearances**, and **administrative delays** hinder timely execution.

Government Efforts to Strengthen PPPs

1. **National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP):** Aims to **increase PPP-based investments** in infrastructure.
2. **Viability Gap Funding (VGF):** Provides **financial assistance** to enhance project feasibility.
3. **India Infrastructure Project Development Fund (IIPDF):** Supports **project preparation and planning** in PPP ventures.
4. **National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP):** Launched in **2021** to **mobilize private investment** in public assets.

Conclusion

The **PPP model** remains a crucial strategy for advancing **India's infrastructure and public services**.

While challenges exist, **effective policies and innovative financing mechanisms** can help maximize the benefits, driving **sustainable economic growth**.

'Majorana 1': A Breakthrough Quantum Chip

Syllabus: GS3/Science & Technology

Context

Microsoft has recently introduced its revolutionary **quantum computing chip, Majorana 1**, marking a major advancement in quantum technology.

Understanding Quantum Computing

Quantum computing represents a fundamental shift in computation, offering **exponential speed-ups** for certain problems that traditional computers struggle with.

- It is based on **quantum mechanics**, which governs the behaviour of **subatomic particles**.

How Quantum Computers Work

Unlike classical computers, which use **binary bits (0s and 1s)**, quantum computers utilize **qubits**, which exploit:

1. **Superposition** – A qubit can exist in **multiple states simultaneously**, dramatically enhancing computational power.
2. **Entanglement** – Entangled qubits are **instantaneously correlated**, enabling ultra-fast data transfer.

3. **Quantum Interference** – Manipulating quantum states allows for **highly efficient computations**.

Majorana 1: The Quantum Chip

Microsoft's **Majorana 1** employs **topological qubits**, known for their **higher stability and lower error rates** compared to conventional qubits.

- **Innovative Material Stack:** The chip integrates **Indium Arsenide (a semiconductor)** and **Aluminum (a superconductor)**, creating an optimal environment for **Majorana particles**.
- **Topological Core Architecture:** Uses **topoconductors**, a new class of materials, to enhance qubit stability.

Applications of Quantum Computing

- **Cryptography:** Can **break traditional encryption**, necessitating the development of **quantum-safe cryptographic methods**.
- **Healthcare & Drug Discovery:** Simulates **molecular interactions** at the atomic level, accelerating drug development.
- **Artificial Intelligence (AI) & Machine Learning:** Enhances AI models by solving complex **optimization problems** faster.
- **Financial Modeling:** Processes vast datasets to **predict market trends** with improved accuracy.
- **Climate Modeling:** Simulates atmospheric interactions, improving **climate change predictions**.

Key Milestones in Quantum Computing

- **IBM's Qiskit:** An **open-source quantum computing framework** enabling algorithm research.
- **IBM Eagle Processor (127-qubit) & Condor (2023):** Pioneering quantum processors.
- **Microsoft's Approach:**
 - **Quantum Development Kit (QDK):** A platform for developing quantum applications using **Q# programming**.
 - **Topological Qubits:** More **stable** and **error-resistant** qubits.

Challenges in Quantum Computing

- **Hardware Constraints:** Maintaining **quantum coherence** is difficult due to environmental disturbances.
- **Error Correction:** Quantum systems require **advanced error-correction mechanisms**.
- **Scalability Issues:** Large-scale quantum computers need **cryogenic technology**, making them **costly**.

- **Security Threats:** Existing encryption methods may become **vulnerable**, demanding new cryptographic standards.

Quantum Computing Research in India

- **National Quantum Mission (NQM):** Allocated **₹6,003.65 crore (2023-2031)** to enhance **quantum R&D** and build **indigenous quantum computers**.
- **National Mission on Quantum Technologies & Applications (NM-QTA):** Announced in **2020 Budget (₹8,000 crore)** to boost quantum research.
- **Key Research Institutions:** IISc, IITs, and DST are advancing **quantum communication, cryptography, and materials**.
- **Quantum-enabled Science & Technology (QuEST):** Supports **capacity building** in quantum research.
- **C-DAC & DRDO:** Exploring **quantum computing applications** for national security and defence.

Conclusion

Microsoft's **Majorana 1** is a **major breakthrough** in quantum computing, potentially transforming fields like **AI, cryptography, and climate science**. While challenges persist, **global and national efforts** in quantum research will shape the **future of computing and technology**.

Prelims News

Article 101(4) and MP Disqualification

Syllabus: GS2/Polity and Governance

Context:

Amritpal, facing charges under the National Security Act, may lose his parliamentary seat due to the provisions of Article 101(4).

Overview:

Article 101(4) of the Indian Constitution addresses the disqualification of Members of Parliament (MPs) due to prolonged absenteeism.

- **Absence-Based Disqualification:** An MP may lose their seat if they are absent from all sittings of either the Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha for 60 consecutive days without obtaining permission from the House.
- **Calculation of Absence:** The period of absence is counted based on actual parliamentary sittings.
- **Permission Clause:** If an MP secures permission from the respective House, disqualification does not apply.
- **Purpose:** This provision ensures MPs actively engage in legislative affairs and remain accountable to their constituents.

Freedom of Speech and Expression

Syllabus: GS2/Polity and Governance

Context:

Legal proceedings against "India's Got Latent" for alleged obscene remarks have reignited discussions on the right to freedom of speech under Article 19.

Overview:

Article 19(2) of the Indian Constitution lays out the circumstances under which the state can impose restrictions on free speech, balancing fundamental rights with public order.

- **Grounds for Restriction:** Speech may be limited in cases related to state security, public order, morality, contempt of court, defamation, or incitement to offences.
- **Offensive Speech:** The Constitution does not categorize offensive speech as a separate limitation under Article 19(2).
- **Concept of Constitutional Morality:** This is a dynamic principle that evolves rather than being an inherent sentiment. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar emphasized that governance structures should be determined by the legislature rather than enshrined in the Constitution itself.

Supreme Court's Ruling on Remission

Syllabus: GS2/Governance

In News:

The Supreme Court has directed states to consider the premature release of eligible prisoners, even if they have not formally applied for remission.

Remission Laws:

- **Definition:** Remission involves reducing a convicted individual's sentence.
- **Presidential Powers (Article 72):** The President can grant pardons, respites, remissions, or commute sentences, including death penalties.
- **Governor's Powers (Article 161):** Governors can offer similar relief, except in cases involving death sentences and offences under central laws.
- **State Authority:** Section 473 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, and Section 432 of the CrPC grant states the power to remit sentences, with specific conditions.
- **Life Sentence Restriction:** Convicts serving life imprisonment cannot be released before completing at least 14 years in prison.

Supreme Court Ruling:

- **Earlier Position (2013):** The Court had ruled that remission must be initiated through a convict's application to prevent arbitrary releases.
- **Recent Development:** The SC ruled that states must grant remission under existing policies without requiring applications, ensuring equality under Article 14.
- **Implementation:** States without remission policies must draft one within two months, considering crime motives and public safety.

Did You Know?

- India's prisons operate at 131.4% capacity, with 5,73,220 inmates against a capacity of 4,36,266.
- 75.8% of inmates are undertrials awaiting case resolutions.
- Premature releases in recent years: 2,321 (2020), 2,350 (2021), and 5,035 (2022).

Ayushman Bharat Scheme in Delhi

Syllabus: GS2/Health

Context:

The Delhi Cabinet has approved the implementation of the Ayushman Bharat scheme in the national capital.

About the Scheme:

Launched in 2018, Ayushman Bharat aims to achieve universal health coverage through two key components:

1. **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY)**
 - **Largest Health Assurance Program:** Provides health coverage of ₹5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care.
 - **Coverage Scope:** Includes three days of pre-hospitalization and 15 days of post-hospitalization expenses, such as diagnostics and medications.
 - **Eligibility:** All individuals aged 70 and above qualify, irrespective of socio-economic status.
 - **Nationwide Accessibility:** Beneficiaries can avail of cashless treatment at any empanelled public or private hospital in India.
 - **Funding Structure:** Centre-state cost-sharing follows a 60:40 ratio, with Northeastern and Himalayan states following a 90:10 model.
2. **Ayushman Arogya Mandir (Health & Wellness Centres):**
 - **Infrastructure Expansion:** Establishment of 1,50,000 Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs).
 - **Service Delivery:** Enhances primary healthcare by upgrading Sub Health Centres (SHCs) and Primary Health Centres (PHCs).

- **Community Benefits:** Provides essential medicines, diagnostics, and follow-up care.

Predatory Pricing and Regulatory Reforms

Syllabus: GS3/Economy

In News:

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has proposed new regulations for assessing predatory pricing under the Competition Act.

About Predatory Pricing:

- **Definition:** The practice of selling goods/services below production costs to eliminate competition.
- **Tactics:** Market-dominant firms use this strategy to drive out competitors by sustaining short-term losses.
- **Long-Term Impact:** While initially beneficial to consumers, it can lead to monopolization and reduced market competition.
- **Legal Framework:** Section 4(2)(a)(ii) of the Competition Act, 2002 prohibits predatory pricing as an anti-competitive practice.

Draft Regulations (2025):

- Updates cost-determination methodologies for assessing predatory pricing cases.
- Replaces outdated 2009 regulations.
- Aligns India's competition law with global best practices and modern economic theories.

REITs and InvITs: SEBI's Proposed Framework

Syllabus: GS3/Economy

Context:

SEBI has introduced a new framework to streamline follow-on public offers for Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) and Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs).

About REITs and InvITs:

- **Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs):** Investment trusts pooling funds from investors to manage income-generating real estate assets.
- **Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs):** Investment vehicles that own and operate infrastructure assets such as roads, power plants, and pipelines.
- **Investor Benefits:** Both structures offer liquidity, portfolio diversification, and steady income through dividends.

Technology Adoption Fund (TAF) by IN-SPACe

Syllabus: GS3/Science & Technology

Context:

The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) has launched a ₹500 crore Technology Adoption Fund (TAF).

Objectives:

- Support indigenous space technology development to reduce dependence on imports.
- Offer financial assistance of up to **60% for startups/MSMEs** and **40% for larger firms**, capped at ₹25 crore per project.
- Encourage intellectual property creation and commercialization of space products.
- Provide funding and mentorship to eligible non-government entities (NGEs).

Significance:

- Boosts domestic R&D and fosters collaboration between the government and private sector.
- Strengthens India's position as a global space industry leader.
- Enhances technological capabilities and market competitiveness.
- Creates employment opportunities and drives economic growth.

Software-defined radios (SDRs) for Defence

Syllabus: GS3/Defence

In News:

The Defence Ministry has signed contracts worth ₹1,917.47 crore for procuring Software-Defined Radios (SDRs) and Rough Terrain Forklift Trucks (RTFLT).

What are SDRs?

- Advanced radios replacing traditional hardware with software-based functionalities.
- Capable of wireless communication across various frequency spectrums.
- Enhances military communication, adaptability, and operational efficiency.