



Article 142: The Supreme Power or Judicial Overreach?

Presented By-Prabhakar Jha

Article 142 of Indian Constitution

- It empowers the Supreme Court to 'pass any decree or make any order as is necessary **for doing complete justice** in any cause or matter pending before it'.
- The intent was to allow judicial intervention in extraordinary cases where strict adherence to statute might result in injustice.
 - However, '**complete justice**' is **not defined**, making the clause inherently discretionary and potent.
- Originally envisioned as an extraordinary remedy, it was meant to fill gaps where laws were silent, or justice would otherwise be denied.

Landmark Uses and Emerging Controversies

- Tamil Nadu Governor vs. State Government (2025): The Tamil Nadu Government passed 10 bills that were either withheld or not assented to by the Governor under **Article 200**.
 - The Supreme Court, invoking **Article 142**, '**deemed the bills passed**' — effectively bypassing the constitutional process that involves the Governor/President.
- Collegium Conflict and Judicial Appointments (2015): Supreme Court of India struck down the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC), reinstating the collegium system.
 - When the Centre delayed collegium-recommended appointments, the Court threatened to use Article 142 to enforce compliance.
 - It undermines the **President's role** as the constitutional **appointer of judges** under **Article 124**.
- Earlier, the Supreme Court has invoked Article 142 in cases like the **Bhopal Gas Tragedy settlement**, and **Ayodhya verdict**.

15th meeting of BRICS Agriculture Ministers

- BRICS Agriculture Ministers launched the **BRICS Land Restoration Partnership** to address land degradation, desertification, and the loss of soil fertility.
- **In the Joint Declaration**, BRICS nations collectively reiterated their resolve to make the global agri-food system fair, inclusive, innovative, and sustainable.
- **India's Stand: Empowering the Backbone of Agriculture**
 - India highlighted the need to **socially, economically and politically empower** small and marginal farmers, especially women, at the center of global agricultural strategies.
 - The world's **510 million smallholder farmers** are the backbone of the global food system and are also the most vulnerable in the face of climate change, price volatility, and resource scarcity.

BRICS EXPANDS

EXISTING COUNTRIES

NEW COUNTRIES





Justice BR Gavai To Be the Next CJI

Appointment of the CJI

- The **Constitution of India does not mention** any procedure for appointment of the CJI.
- **Article 124 (1)** of the Constitution merely says, “there shall be a Supreme Court of India consisting of a Chief Justice of India.”
- **Clause (2) of Article 124** of the Constitution says that every Judge of the Supreme Court shall be **appointed by the President**.
- Thus, in the **absence of a constitutional provision**, the procedure to appoint CJI relies on **convention**.

What is the Convention?

- The outgoing **CJI recommends his successor** a practice, which is **based on seniority**.
- **Seniority at the apex court**, however, is **not defined by age**, but by the **date a judge was appointed to the SC**.
- If two judges are elevated to the Supreme Court on the same day,
 - the one who was **sworn in first** as a judge would trump another;
 - if both were sworn in as judges on the same day, the one with **more years of high court service** would ‘win’ in the seniority stakes;
 - an appointment **from the bench** would ‘trump’ in seniority an appointee from the bar.

Supreme Court on Child Trafficking

Child Trafficking

- It is defined as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation.
- **Forms of Child Trafficking:**
 - **Forced Labor:** Children are trafficked into industries such as domestic work, agriculture, and construction.
 - **Sexual Exploitation:** Many victims are forced into prostitution or online exploitation.
 - **Illegal Adoption:** Criminal networks abduct children to sell them for adoption.

Current Scenario and Statistics

- Over 10,000 cases of trafficking were reported, yet only 1,031 convictions were secured (Between 2018 and 2022).
 - Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Andhra Pradesh are among the top states with the highest number of trafficked children.
- According to **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)** data of 2022, 3098 victims (below 18 years) are rescued.

Legal and Institutional Framework in India

- **Article 23 of the Constitution:** It prohibits trafficking in human beings and forced labor.
- **The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 (ITPA):** It criminalizes human trafficking and provides penalties for offenses involving children, especially those trafficked for sexual purposes.
- **Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012:** It is designed to protect children from sexual assault, sexual harassment, and pornography.
 - It was passed to address child sexual abuse comprehensively and includes provisions for special courts to try these offenses.
 - It defines a **child as anyone under 18 years of age**.
- **The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015:** It defines a child in need of care and protection, including those at risk of trafficking.
 - It mandates rehabilitation through child welfare committees.
- **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023:** Sections 143 and 144 are related to provisions for the offences of human trafficking.
 - Also, **Section 111 in BNS** is related to Organized Crimes, covers the crime of trafficking of persons for prostitution.
- **Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS):** It recognizes trafficking as a **cognizable and non-bailable offence**.
- **Anti Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs):** Central Government has provided financial assistance to States/ UTs for setting up/ strengthening of AHTUs.
 - Currently, 827 AHTUs are functional including 807 in States/ UTs, 15 in Border Security Forces (BSF) and 5 in Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).
- **Crime Multi Agency Centre (Cri-MAC):** It was launched by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) for **online sharing of information** on crime & criminals on **24x7** basis among various Law Enforcement Agencies and ensure seamless flow of information between them.
- **Ujjawala Scheme (by Ministry of Women and Child Development):** A comprehensive scheme for the prevention of trafficking and rehabilitation of victims through rescue, reintegration, and repatriation.

Global Initiatives Related To Child Trafficking

- **United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons:** It is known as the **Palermo Protocol** (*adopted by UNGA in 2000*), that provides a framework for countries to combat trafficking through prevention, protection, and prosecution.
- **Global Report on Trafficking in Persons:** It is published by the **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)**, highlighting the trends, patterns, and regional analyses of trafficking.
 - **2024 Edition:** It revealed a 25% increase in detected trafficking victims, with children accounting for 38% of all victims detected worldwide.
- **International Labour Organization (ILO):** It works to eliminate child labor, a form of trafficking, through initiatives like the **International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC)**.

Startup Mahakumbh

- – Startup Mahakumbh is a landmark event that showcases innovation and entrepreneurship in India.
 - The **theme** ‘**Startup India @ 2047**: Unfolding the Bharat Story.’
 - It aims to promote global exposure and collaboration, drive innovation, and position India as a global startup hub by 2047.

Weaponization of Trade and Finance

What is Weaponization of Trade and Finance?

- Weaponization of trade and finance refers to the **strategic use of trade policies and economic measures** by countries to **exert political or economic pressure** on others.
- This practice departs from the traditional role of trade and finance as instruments of cooperation and globalization.
- **Tools of trade weaponization:** Tariffs and Sanctions, Restrictions on exports of critical technologies or materials, Currency Manipulation etc.

Recent incidents of trade and finance weaponization

- **Tariff War 2.0:** The ongoing US-China trade friction has seen high tariffs and investment restrictions being imposed to gain strategic advantage and secure supply chains.
- **Financial Sanctions:** The West's exclusion of Russia from the **SWIFT network** and freezing of its central bank reserves post-Ukraine invasion is a classic case of financial weaponization.
- **Technology Denial Regimes:** Restrictions on semiconductor exports to China and controls over AI or quantum computing hardware highlight technology weaponization.

Jatra Utsav

Syllabus: GS1/ History and Culture

Context:

Tripura is planning to host a *Jatra Utsav* with the objective of safeguarding its traditional art, culture, and heritage.

About:

Jatra or *Jatrapala* is a well-known folk theatre form originating from Bengal, typically staged in open-air settings, which encourages direct engagement with the audience.

The term *Jatra* translates to "journey," reflecting its roots in itinerant theatrical performances.

Geographical Spread:

Jatrapala enjoys popularity in states like West Bengal, Odisha, Assam, and Tripura, showcasing the shared cultural and linguistic traditions of these regions.

Key Characteristics:

- Blends narrative drama with music, dance, and elements of social critique
- Known for its vibrant costumes, expressive acting, booming dialogues, and often includes a moral message
- **Themes :**
The content usually revolves around mythological epics, historical narratives, and pressing contemporary social

Mahavir Jayanti

Syllabus: GS 1 - History, Famous Personalities

In News:

Mahavir Jayanti is being observed with deep reverence across India.

About Mahavir Jayanti:

The festival marks the birth anniversary of **Lord Mahavir**, the 24th and final **Tirthankara** in Jainism. It is an important day for Jains to reflect upon and practice the core teachings of Lord Mahavir. The celebration includes **prayers, meditation**, and acts of **compassion**, encouraging individuals to live an ethical life grounded in kindness toward all beings. It is predominantly celebrated in **India**, as well as in countries like **Nepal**, the **United States**, and the **United Kingdom**.

Vardhaman Mahavira:

- Regarded as the **founder of Jainism** and the last Tirthankara.
- Born in **599 BCE in Vaishali**, the capital of the **Vajji confederacy**.
- His father, **Siddhartha**, was a Kshatriya chief.
- At the age of **30**, he renounced worldly life to seek spiritual truth, leading a life of severe austerity.
- Upon attaining enlightenment, he was titled **Mahavira** (the Great Hero).
- He advocated for strict **celibacy (brahmacharya)** and self-discipline.

Philosophy and Teachings:

- Mahavira **rejected the concepts of God**, elaborate rituals, and the **caste hierarchy**, promoting **equality** and **spiritual independence**.
- He encouraged followers to observe the **five great vows**:
 - **Ahimsa** (non-violence)
 - **Satya** (truthfulness)
 - **Asteya** (non-stealing)
 - **Brahmacharya** (celibacy)
 - **Aparigraha** (non-attachment)
- His path to **liberation (moksha)** included the **Three Jewels**:
 - **Right Belief**,
 - **Right Knowledge**,
 - **Right Conduct**.
- His core message of **Ahimsa** influenced practices like **vegetarianism** and meticulous care for all life

Legacy:

- He preached across regions such as **Anga, Mithila, Magadha,** and **Kosala.**
- He attained nirvana in **527 BCE at Pawapuri.**

Did You Know?

- The term **Jaina** stems from the Sanskrit word *Jina*, meaning “conqueror”—one who has overcome inner passions.
- Mahavira earned the title *Jina* after achieving spiritual victory over desires.
- He spread his teachings in **Ardha Magadhi,** a common language, making them accessible to all.
- **Jainism later split into two main sects:**
 - **Digambaras** (sky-clad)
 - **Swetambaras** (white-clad)
- Jainism flourished under rulers like **Bimbisara** and **Ajatashatru,** with significant growth in its **art, architecture, and literature.**

Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Anniversary

Syllabus: GS 1 – History

In News:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah paid homage to social reformer **Mahatma Jyotirao Phule** on his birth anniversary.

About Jyotiba Phule:

Jyotirao Phule was a pioneering **social reformer** who dedicated his life to fighting caste-based discrimination, promoting **education**, and uplifting **women and marginalized communities** in India.

Early Life:

- Born in **1827** into a **Mali (gardener)** family in **Poona (Pune)**, Maharashtra.
- The Mali caste belonged to the **Shudra varna**, ranked just below the Maratha-Kunbi peasant caste.
- A turning point in his life came in **1848**, when he faced **humiliation at a Brahmin wedding**, which strengthened his resolve to challenge casteism.
- He drew inspiration from reformist thinkers and missionaries like **Cynthia Farrar** and **Thomas Paine**.

Major Contributions:

- In **1848**, Phule and his wife **Savitribai Phule** established **India's first girls' school**, later expanding to **18 schools**.
- He also set up **night schools** for laborers and farmers.
- In **1873**, he founded the **Satyashodhak Samaj (Society of Truth-Seekers)**—an anti-caste, inclusive reform movement positioned as an

Social Reforms and Ideological Stance:

- Phule opposed **upper-caste dominance** in social reform movements and had ideological clashes with figures like **Bal Gangadhar Tilak**, though he showed generosity by helping Tilak during his imprisonment.
- He did not view the **1857 Revolt** as a struggle for independence but as a danger of restoring **Peshwa-era Brahminical oppression**.
- In his work **Gulamgiri**, he drew a parallel between caste-based discrimination in India and **slavery in the U.S.**, criticizing Brahminical authority as rooted in superstition and narrow-mindedness.
- He was a strong advocate of **universal primary education**, proposing incentives such as **scholarships** and **prizes** to encourage poor families to send their children to school.
- His book **Sarvajanik Satya Dharma Pustak** rejected religious exclusivity and emphasized **equality and rationalism**, challenging religious orthodoxy and caste hierarchies.
- In **Shetkaryanche Asud**, he urged the government to focus on **farmer education, irrigation, soil development, and military-led infrastructure building**.
- He also criticized **polygamy** and questioned **gender-based double standards** in religion and marriage practices.
- **Legacy:**
Mahatma Phule **denounced the caste system**, questioned religious orthodoxy, and envisioned an egalitarian and rational society. His courageous and compassionate activism laid the groundwork for future **social justice movements in India** and continues to inspire

Chittorgarh Fort

Syllabus: GS1 - History

Context:

The Rajasthan government informed the Supreme Court that it is *seriously considering* a **total ban on mining** within a 10-kilometre radius of the historic Chittorgarh Fort's boundary.

About the Fort:

- Chittorgarh Fort was originally built in the **7th century AD** by **Chitrangada Mori**, a ruler from the **Maurya dynasty of Rajasthan**.
- In **728 AD**, it was taken over by the **Mewar rulers**, who made it their capital and developed it into a **symbol of Rajput strength and resistance**.
- The fort holds a key place in Rajput history, representing the **valor and sovereignty** of Mewar.
- According to **Malik Muhammad Jayasi's** epic *Padmavat*, **Alauddin Khilji** attacked the fort in pursuit of **Queen Padmini**, wife of **Rana Ratan Singh**.
- In **2013**, it was recognized as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** under the category of **Hill Forts of Rajasthan**.

Architectural Highlights:

- The fort is protected by **thick stone walls** and fortified with **seven large gateways (pols)**.
- Notable structures within the complex include:
 - **Vijay Stambh (Tower of Victory)**: Erected by **Rana Kumbha** to commemorate his triumph over Malwa; it is a **nine-story tower** with detailed carvings.
 - **Kirti Stambh (Tower of Fame)**: A **Jain monument**, adorned with sculptures of **Jain Tirthankaras**.

Panama Canal

Syllabus: GS1 - Places in News

In News:

Panama reaffirmed that the **United States acknowledges Panama's sovereignty** over the **Panama Canal**, despite recent tensions. Both countries have also agreed to expand **U.S. military training efforts** in Panama.

About the Canal:

- The **Panama Canal** is a **man-made waterway** linking the **Atlantic and Pacific Oceans**, serving as a crucial passage for **global maritime trade**, with nearly **6% of global shipping** transiting through it.
- It was **opened in 1914** by the **United States**, symbolizing a major feat of **American engineering and economic dominance**.
- Initially under U.S. control, the canal was handed over to Panama on **December 31, 1999**, following the **Torrijos-Carter Treaties**.
- However, the U.S. retains the right to ensure the **neutrality of the canal** and to **prioritize military access** in times of emergency.

Did You Know?

- The **Panama Canal Treaty** dissolved the **Canal Zone** and formally transferred authority to Panama.
- The **Permanent Neutrality Treaty** guarantees **open access** to ships from all nations under neutral terms.

Vitamin D Deficiency

Syllabus: GS2 – Health

In News:

A recent study has highlighted that **20% of Indians suffer from Vitamin D deficiency**, with the **eastern region** being most affected.

Key Highlights:

- **Urban populations** are more prone to deficiency due to predominantly **indoor lifestyles** and **insufficient sun exposure**, unlike their rural counterparts.
- **Vitamin D** (calciferol) is a **fat-soluble vitamin** crucial for maintaining overall health.
- The body naturally synthesizes Vitamin D when the skin is exposed to **UVB rays** from sunlight.
- It is also found in **eggs, meat, fish**, and **fortified foods** like cereals, dairy, and plant-based milk.
- It helps regulate **calcium and phosphate** levels in the body.
- Deficiency can result in **osteomalacia** (bone softening), **osteoporosis** (bone density loss), and **rickets** in children.

Dharavi Redevelopment Project (DRP)

Syllabus: GS2 – Governance

Context:

The **Maharashtra government** has approved the allocation of **256 acres** of salt pan land in **Mulund, Kanjurmarg, and Bhandup** for the DRP.

About the Project:

- **Dharavi**, in central Mumbai, is one of **Asia's largest slums**, covering 240 sq. km.
- The **Dharavi Redevelopment Project** aims to upgrade this informal settlement into a **planned urban locality** with **proper housing, sanitation, and infrastructure**.
- It is being developed under a **Public-Private Partnership (PPP)** model.

Significance:

- **Decent Living Conditions:** Supports **SDG 3** (Good Health) and **SDG 6** (Clean Water and Sanitation).
- **Reducing Inequality:** By accommodating all dwellers, including ineligible ones, it furthers **SDG 10** (Reduced Inequality).
- **Sustainable Urban Development:** Aims to fulfill **SDG 11** (Sustainable Cities) by transforming slums into

Vizhinjam International Seaport

Syllabus: GS3 – Economy

In News:

MSC Türkiye, one of the world's **largest and most fuel-efficient** container ships, docked at Vizhinjam Port – a **first** for any Indian or South Asian port.

About Vizhinjam Port:

- A **deepwater international transshipment port** in Kerala, focused on container handling and multipurpose cargo.
- Developed under the **landlord model** with a **PPP** component on a **DBFOT (Design, Build, Finance, Operate, Transfer)** basis.
- It is India's **first deepwater transshipment port**, with a **natural depth of 18 meters**,

National Investigation Agency (NIA)

Syllabus: GS3 - Security

Context:

A Delhi court has sent **Tahawwur Rana**, a 26/11 accused extradited from the U.S., to **NIA custody**.

About NIA:

- **Established under** the NIA Act, 2008, following the **26/11 Mumbai attacks**.
- Acts as the **central counter-terrorism agency** of India.
- Investigates offences affecting **sovereignty, security, and international obligations**.

NIA (Amendment) Act, 2019:

- **Jurisdiction extended** to cover crimes involving Indian citizens/interests **outside India**.
- Expanded to include crimes under laws like the **Explosive Substances Act, Arms Act, Human Trafficking, and Cyber Terrorism**.
- Works under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**, with headquarters in **New Delhi**.
- Operates **51 Special Courts**, including **2 exclusive NIA courts** in **Ranchi and Jammu**.

Sea Lions

Syllabus: GS3 - Species

In News:

Off the coast of **California**, **sea lions** have displayed **unusual aggression** towards humans, attributed to an **algal bloom**.

About Sea Lions:

- Belong to the **pinniped** family (fin-footed marine mammals).
- Have **short, coarse hair, large front flippers**, and the ability to “walk” on land using **rotating hind flippers**.
- Known for being **vocal**, highly **social**, and forming **large herds**.

Latest Findings:

- The aggression is due to **domoic acid**, a **neurotoxin** secreted by the algae *Pseudo-nitzschia*.
- The toxin affects the **brain**, leading to **stress, muscle spasms, aggression**, and even **permanent damage**.
- The bloom is caused by **nutrient-rich upwelling** (linked to climate change) and **runoff** containing fertilizers that promote algal growth.