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### CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA (CJI)



#### Qualifications of CJI

A person is eligible to be appointed as **Chief Justice of India** if they:

- Are a **citizen of India**.
- Have served as a **Judge of a High Court** for at least five years.
- Have been an **advocate in a High Court** for at least ten years.
- Are considered a **distinguished jurist** by the **President of India**.

#### Appointment of CJI

- The **President** appoints the CJI under Article 124(2) of the Constitution.
- The **outgoing CJI** recommends their successor based on seniority.
- The **Union Law Minister** forwards the recommendation to the **Prime Minister**, who then advises the **President**.
- As per the **Second Judges Case (1993)**, the **senior-most Supreme Court judge** is appointed as the CJI.

#### Role and Powers of the CJI

- **Master of the Roster:** The CJI allocates cases to Supreme Court benches and decides the composition of benches.
- **Head of the Collegium System:** The CJI leads the Supreme Court Collegium, responsible for appointing and transferring judges.
- **Administrative Authority:** The CJI supervises court administration, staff appointments, and judicial proceedings management.
- **Judicial Leadership:** The CJI is first among equals and does not hold superior judicial power over other judges.

#### Removal of CJI or Judges

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- A Supreme Court judge, including the **CJI**, can be removed by the **President** after an address by **Parliament** supported by a **special majority**.
- **Grounds for removal** (Article 124(4)):
  - **Proven misbehavior**
  - **Incapacity**

### What is the Collegium System?

- A mechanism for **appointing and transferring judges** in the **Supreme Court and High Courts**.
- Not established by an **Act of Parliament**, but evolved through **Supreme Court judgments (Judges Cases)**.
- **For SC Appointments**: **CJI + four senior-most judges**.
- **For HC Appointments**:
  - **HC-level Collegium**: **Chief Justice of HC + two senior judges**.
  - **SC-level Collegium**: **CJI + two senior-most SC judges**.

### ANTHURIUM



- **Anthurium** is a **tropical flowering plant** known for its **ornamental value** and **air-purifying properties**.
- It is grown mostly indoors and helps remove toxins like **formaldehyde**, **ammonia**, **toluene**, **xylene** and **allergens** from the air.
- Anthurium was included in NASA's list of air-purifying plants due to its ability to improve indoor air quality.

### About Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)

- **APEDA** is a **statutory body** under the **Ministry of Commerce & Industry**, **Government of India**.
- It is responsible for:

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- Developing and promoting exports of agricultural and processed food products.
- Facilitating market linkages for Indian agricultural products worldwide.

### ASTRONAUTS' RECOVERY PROCESS AFTER SPACE MISSIONS

#### Effects of Extended Spaceflight on the Human Body

- Microgravity impacts the human body in several ways, including fluid shifts towards the brain, muscle weakening, and reduced bone density.
- To counteract these effects, astronauts follow strict exercise and diet routines while aboard the ISS.
- **Managing Psychological and Physiological Stress**
  - Space agencies, including NASA, implement programs to help astronauts cope with stress caused by workload and confinement in space.
  - These measures ensure their mental and physical well-being during long missions.
- **Challenges in Spaceflight Research**
  - Despite increasing space missions, data on the long-term effects of space travel remains limited due to the small number of astronauts, individual biological variations, and differing mission conditions.
  - There are also indications of gender-based physiological differences in response to spaceflight, though conclusive evidence is still lacking.

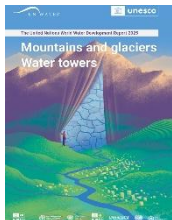
#### Post-Flight Rehabilitation Process

- After splashing down on March 19, astronauts begin a structured rehabilitation program involving medical tests and physical activities to aid recovery from microgravity effects.
- **Individualized Recovery Plans**
  - NASA tailors post-flight reconditioning for each astronaut.
  - While most regain their pre-flight fitness within 45 days, some may require extended rehabilitation based on their recovery pace.
- **Medical Assessments Upon Return**

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- **Immediate Tests (Day of Return):** Physical exam, neurological assessment, ECG (resting and ambulatory), eye tests, skin checks, and blood and urine analysis.
  - Astronauts are also tested for orthostatic tolerance (symptoms triggered by standing).
- **Follow-up Examinations:** Additional physical exams are conducted three days, one to two weeks, and two months post-return.
  - Further tests are performed as clinically required.
- **Psychological and Long-Term Monitoring**
  - A mission psychologist may conduct psychological evaluations to assess mental well-being, ensuring astronauts adapt smoothly to life on Earth.

### UNITED NATIONS WORLD WATER DEVELOPMENT REPORT (WWDR) 2025



- WWDR is UN-Water's flagship report on water and sanitation issues.
- It offers an authoritative and comprehensive assessment of the overall state, use and management of the world's freshwater resources.
- **Launched on World Water Day (March 22)**, the report focuses on a **different theme each year** and gives policy recommendations to decision-makers by offering best practices and in-depth analyses.
- UNESCO publishes the WWDR on behalf of UN-Water and its production is coordinated by the UNESCO World Water Assessment Programme.

#### Highlight of the WWDR 2025:

- **Theme: Mountains and glaciers - Water towers**
- The report says that “**all mountain ranges**” have shown **evidence of warming** since the early 20th century.

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- It warns that, as global temperatures rise, more mountain precipitation will fall as rain instead of snow, causing snowpacks to thin and melt earlier in the year.
- It finds that receding snow and ice cover in mountain regions could have “severe” consequences for people and nature.
- This **acceleration in snowpack melt** often **causes river flow to increase** in glacier-fed water basins and rivers in the short term.
  - However, once the snow melts **beyond a certain threshold**, a “**peak water**” **point is passed** and **river flow declines again**.
  - The report says there is “**strong evidence**” that this “**peak water**” **point has already been passed** in the glacial-fed rivers of the **tropical Andes, western Canada and the Swiss Alps**.
- Retreating glaciers **threatens the food and water supply of 2 billion people** around the world.
- **Two-thirds of all irrigated agriculture** in the world is **likely to be affected** in some way by receding glaciers and dwindling snowfall in mountain regions, driven by the climate crisis.

### WHAT IS THE DOCTRINE OF PRECEDENT?



- The doctrine of precedent is the **custom of the courts to stand by previous decisions**, so that **once a point of law is decided upon by a court, then the same law must be applied to future cases** with materially similar facts.
- It is often **referred to as 'stare decisis'**.
- The **lower courts** will take account of and **follow the decisions made by the higher courts**.
- It ensures consistency, predictability and stability by obligating courts to follow the legal principles established in previous decisions.

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- The **foundation** of the doctrine of precedent **lies in Article 141** of the Indian Constitution.
  - This article states that the **law declared by the Supreme Court is binding on all courts** within India.
  - Essentially, lower courts must follow the legal interpretations and judgments laid down by the Supreme Court.
- **Key Aspects:**
  - **Ratio Decidendi:** The **legal reasoning that forms the binding part of a judgment.** Courts must follow this in similar cases.
  - **Obiter Dicta:** **Non-essential remarks** made by the court. Although **not binding**, they can be **influential in future cases.**
- **Landmark Judgment:**
  - The **State of Orissa v. Mamata Patnaik (1978)** case highlighted the significance of following precedent.
  - The Supreme Court emphasised that adherence to established legal principles ensures consistency in the application of law.

### EXERCISE VARUNA



Exercise Varuna 2025, the 23rd edition of the India-France bilateral naval exercise, took place in the Arabian Sea from March 19–22, 2025

#### About Exercise Varuna

- It is a **bilateral Naval Exercise** between **India and France**, first initiated in **1993**.
- Officially named '**Varuna**' in **2001**, it has become a **key pillar of Indo-French strategic cooperation.**
- The **2025 edition** saw **high-intensity drills** across **sub-surface, surface, and aerial domains.**



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- Key objectives:
  - Enhancing combat readiness.
  - Strengthening joint tactical coordination.
  - Deepening maritime security cooperation.

### Other India-France Military Exercises

- **FRINJEX** – Army Joint Exercise.
- **GARUDA** – Air Force Exercise.

### France's Role in the Indo-Pacific

- France is a **resident nation in the Indian Ocean** with military bases in:
    - **United Arab Emirates (UAE).**
    - **French territories in the Southern Indian Ocean.**
  - The **French Carrier Strike Group (CSG)** has been **deployed in the Indian Ocean since November 2024** as part of **Clémenceau 25 mission** to strengthen Indo-Pacific partnerships.
  - France **regularly conducts naval exercises** with India to maintain **regional stability and freedom of navigation.**
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### TAVASYA



### Stealth Frigate 'Tavasya' Launched at Goa Shipyard.

- 'Tavasya', the last of the four Krivak-class stealth frigates, was launched at Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) on March 22, 2025.
- It is the second ship under construction at GSL under a technology transfer agreement with Russia.
- The launch marks a milestone in India's naval self-reliance and defence production capabilities.

### About Krivak-Class Stealth Frigates

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- **India and Russia** signed an **Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA)** in October 2016 for four additional Krivak-class stealth frigates.
- **Under the agreement:**
  - Two ships were imported directly from Russia.
  - Two ships were manufactured at Goa Shipyard under technology transfer.
- **Frigate specifications:**
  - **Length:** 124.8 m | **Width:** 15.2 m | **Draught:** 4.5 m.
  - **Displacement:** 3,600 tonnes.
  - **Maximum speed:** 28 knots.
- **Engines:** Powered by **Zorya-Mashproekt (Ukraine)** engines.
- **First ship manufactured in India:** **Triput**, launched in **July 2024**, set for **delivery in 2026**.
- **First ship commissioned from Russia:** **Tushil**, commissioned on **December 9, 2024**, now based in **Karwar**.
- **Second Russian-manufactured frigate:** **Tamal**, in advanced trials, expected to be commissioned in **June 2025**.
- **Tavasya** is expected to be the last warship built under foreign license, as India transitions to indigenous warship construction.

### NANO DI-AMMONIUM PHOSPHATE (DAP)



- Nano DAP is a **liquid nano-fertilizer** developed to **improve nutrient absorption and enhance plant growth**.
- It was launched by the **Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO)** in **2023**.
- It contains **8% Nitrogen and 16% Phosphorus** by volume.
- Unlike **conventional DAP**, which is **granular**, **Nano DAP is in liquid form**, improving its **efficiency and absorption by crops**.



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- Due to its **nano-size** (less than 100 nm), it has a **higher surface area-to-volume ratio**, making it **more effective** than traditional fertilizers.

**How is Nano DAP Different from Conventional DAP?**

Feature	Nano DAP	Conventional DAP
<b>Form</b>	Liquid	Granular
<b>Nitrogen content</b>	8%	18%
<b>Phosphorus content</b>	16%	46%
<b>Efficiency</b>	High (nano-sized particles for better absorption)	Less efficient
<b>Application</b>	<b>Foliar spray and seed treatment</b>	Soil application
<b>Environmental impact</b>	<b>Eco-friendly</b> (reduced soil, water, and air pollution)	<b>Higher environmental footprint</b>
<b>Cost-effectiveness</b>	<b>500 ml Nano DAP replaces 50 kg of conventional DAP</b>	Requires higher quantity