

Supreme Court would consider a plea seeking to revive NJAC: Chief Justice of India

Recently, Supreme Court agreed to consider a **PIL questioning the Collegium system for appointment of judges** in the top court and the High Courts and seeking **revival of the National Judicial Appointment Commission (NJAC)**.

About the NJAC Act, 2014

- **Constitutional Amendment:** Established by the **99th Constitutional Amendment** to replace the Collegium system for higher Judiciary appointments.
- **Composition:** Appointments to be recommended by a **six-member** commission: the CJI, two senior Supreme Court judges, the Union Law Minister, and two eminent persons.
- **Judicial Verdict:** Struck down in the **Fourth Judges Case (2015)**, for violating 'Basic Structure' (Judicial Independence).

Concerns with the Collegium

- **Opacity and Accountability Deficit:** Collegium decisions are **not answerable** to any external authority—neither Parliament nor the executive.
- **Exclusionary Nature:** Collegium has been criticised for **under-representation of women judges**, inadequate presence from **marginalized communities**, etc.
- **Constitutional ambiguity:** Collegium system emerged from **judicial interpretation** (Three Judges Cases) undermining the principle that Parliament should determine institutional design.
- **Vacancy:** Persistent **standoffs** between the Collegium and Executive delay appointments.

Conclusion

While the **Collegium system safeguards judicial independence**, the concerns highlight the need for reform, such as a **restructured National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC)** with safeguards, or a collegium-plus model ensuring transparency, accountability, and diversity.

Existing System of appointments in Higher Judiciary

- Appointments are via the **Collegium System** formalized by the **Memorandum of Procedure (MoP)**.
 - ⊗ The MoP is the rulebook outlining the recommendation, approval, and consultation steps between the Judiciary and the Executive.
- **For appointments in Supreme Court:** Collegium consists of the **Chief Justice of India and the four senior-most Supreme Court judges**.
- **For appointments in High Courts:**
 - ⊗ Collegium at HC consists of **Chief Justice of High Court and two senior judges of the concerned court**.
 - ⊗ Collegium at SC consists of **CJI and two seniormost Judges of the Supreme Court**.
 - ⊗ Chief Justice of India seeks views of the Judges of the Supreme Court, outside the Collegium, who are conversant with the affairs of the concerned High Court.

Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying releases Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics 2025

Report reveals a robust livestock sector which is an increasingly vital engine of India's agricultural economy, marked by **significant production growth**, **widespread digital transformation**, and a **strong position in the global market**.

Key Production Estimates	
Sector	Key Highlights
Milk	➤ Global Rank: 1st ➤ Total production: estimated at 247.87 million tonnes. ➤ Per Capita Availability: 485 gm/day in 2024-25, up from 319 gm/day in 2014-15. ➤ Top Producing States: Uttar Pradesh (15.66%), Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra. ➤ Globally, India produced ~25% of the world's milk.
Egg	➤ Global Rank: 2nd ➤ Total production: estimated in 149.11 billion numbers. ➤ Per Capita availability: reached 106 numbers/annum. ➤ Commercial poultry accounted for 84.49% of the national output. ➤ Top Producing State: Andhra Pradesh (18.37%), Tamil Nadu, Telangana, West Bengal, and Karnataka.
Meat	➤ Global Rank: 4th ➤ Total production: estimated at 10.50 million tonnes. ➤ Meat production from poultry constituted 5.18 million tonnes, about half of the total. ➤ Top Producing States: West Bengal (12.46%), Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana.
Wool	➤ Total production: estimated at 34.57 million kg. ➤ Top Producing States: Rajasthan (47.85%), Jammu & Kashmir, Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Himachal Pradesh.

Union Cabinet Approves Scheme to Manufacture Rare Earth Magnets in India

The Union Cabinet has approved the “**Scheme to Promote Manufacturing of Sintered Rare Earth Permanent Magnets (REPMs)**” to secure India’s long-term supply of rare earth magnets and reduce dependence on imports.

- **Sintering** is a process where **magnet materials are heated to high temperatures without melting**. It strengthens the magnets, enhances magnetic performance, and makes them more resistant to corrosion.

Key Features of Scheme

- **Financial Outlay:** ₹7,280 crore.
 - ⊖ **Incentive Structure:-**
 - ₹6,450 crore as sales-linked incentives over five years.
 - ₹750 crore as **capital subsidy** for facility setup.
- **Objective:** Establish 6,000 Metric Tons per Annum (MTPA) of integrated REPMs manufacturing in India.
- **Beneficiaries Allocation:**
 - ⊖ **The 6,000 MTPA capacity** will be allocated to five beneficiaries through global competitive bidding.
 - ⊖ Each beneficiary may receive up to 1,200 MTPA capacity.
- **End-to-End Manufacturing Integration:** It supports the creation of facilities that cover the **complete processing facilities:-**
 - ⊖ **Rare earth oxides → metals → alloys → finished rare earth permanent magnets**
- **Total Duration of the Scheme: 7 years**
 - ⊖ 2 years: facility setup (gestation period).
 - ⊖ 5 years: incentive disbursement on sales.

Rare Earth Permanent Magnets

- They are a type of permanent magnet made from alloys of rare earth elements.
 - ⊖ **Rare Earth Elements** are a group of seventeen elements, including the fifteen lanthanides on the periodic table, along with scandium and yttrium.
- **Properties:** Exceptional magnetic strength, high energy density, and superior performance compared to other types of magnets.
- **Applications:** Electric vehicles, renewable energy, electronics, aerospace, and defence sectors.

PM calls on Citizens to Uphold Fundamental Duties

On Constitution Day, the Prime Minister called upon citizens to uphold their fundamental duties and actively contribute to strengthening India’s democratic framework.

Constitutional Status of Fundamental Duties

- **Constitutional Provision:** Enshrined in **Article 51A (Part IVA)**, inserted by the **42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976**.
- **Committee Recommendation:** Recommended by the **Swaran Singh Committee (1976)**.
- **Amendments:** **Originally 10 duties**. 86th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2002 added the 11th duty.
- **Purpose:** To outline the moral obligations of citizens and promote patriotism, unity, and integrity of the nation.
- **Nature:** **Non-justiciable** in nature, as **courts cannot enforce** them, but they remain essential for governance and citizen responsibility.

Relationship between Rights and Duties

- **Complementary Nature:** Rights and duties are complementary and **interdependent**, as one **cannot be meaningfully** exercised without the fulfilment of the other.
- **Balance in Democracy:** Duties ensure that the enjoyment of individual rights **does not violate** the rights of others or harm societal harmony.
- **Moral Linkage:** Duties foster **discipline**, respect for institutions, and constitutional values, thereby reinforcing the **ethical framework** within which **rights are exercised**.
- **Sustainable Rights:** Rights remain **meaningful** only when citizens fulfil their duties; duties provide the **foundation** for the long-term **sustenance of rights**.

Philosophers Supporting a Duty-Centric Ethical Framework

- **Mahatma Gandhi:** Emphasised that “**the true source of rights is duty**”; rights naturally follow when individuals sincerely perform their obligations; only those rights are genuine which arise from the due performance of duties.
- **Plato:** Argued that a just state rests on individuals fulfilling their assigned duties; when each class and citizen performs their specific obligations to the community, the result is a harmonious and well-ordered society.
- **Immanuel Kant:** **Grounded morality in the idea of duty through the categorical imperative**, asserting that ethical conduct should be guided by obligation rather than the pursuit of personal rights or outcomes.

Also In News



Article 141

The **Supreme Court** recently expressed concern over benches overturning earlier **coordinate-bench** orders, highlighting the importance of **legal consistency**.

About Article 141

- It states that the **law declared by the Supreme Court is binding on all courts in India**.
- Uniformity**: It ensures consistent interpretation of law across states and lower courts.
- Authority**: Supreme Court rulings on statutory and constitutional matters carry final legal weight.
- Scope**: Only the core reasoning, or **ratio decidendi**, is binding while **obiter dicta** (comments or observations made "by the way") are not mandatory.



International IDEA

India's Chief Election Commissioner is set to assume the chairship of International IDEA, enhancing India's leadership role in global electoral governance.

International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA)

- It is an **intergovernmental organisation** that advances democracy worldwide.
- Objective**: Supports **electoral processes**, constitution-building, democratic assessments, participation, and **governance reforms**.
- Members**: 35 countries (USA and Japan are Observers).
 - India is a member.



Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO)

The Prime Minister inaugurated Safran's Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) facility for LEAP aircraft engines in Hyderabad.

- LEAP engine is a next-generation, **fuel-efficient commercial aircraft engine** developed by CFM International.

MRO

- MRO refers to **industrial and technical processes** that ensure aircraft engines, components and systems remain **airworthy and operational**.
- It includes **routine maintenance, repairs, inspections, overhauls, and replacement of parts**.



Finn's Weaver

Finn's Weaver is silently disappearing from the marshy lowlands of the Terai, its last remaining stronghold.

About Finn's Weaver

- Finn's Weaver (**Ploceus Megarhynchus**) is a grassland and wetland bird found mainly in the Terai lowlands of India and Nepal.
 - It is also called **Yellow Weaver** and **Himalayan Weaver**. In Uttarakhand, it is called **Pahari Baya**.
- IUCN Status**: Endangered
- Habitat**: marshy ground, water-edge vegetation, tall grasses.
- Threats**: Habitat loss, agricultural expansion, grassland reclamation and nest predation.



PM 1

PM1 poses greater health risks than PM2.5 but remains unmonitored in India.

About PM1

- Definition**: Refers to particles with a **diameter of less than one micron**.
- Sources**: Mainly originates from vehicle exhaust, industrial emissions, combustion processes and smoke from wood burning or fires.
- Hazard**: It can penetrate lung tissue, enter the bloodstream and reach internal organs, carrying heavy metals, chemicals, and volatile compounds.
- Regulation Gap**: India does not regulate PM1 under existing air-quality standards and has very limited monitoring infrastructure.



Jiangmen Underground Neutrino Observatory (JUNO)

Recently, China has finished building (JUNO).

About JUNO

- China's JUNO is a newly completed **underground neutrino detector in Guangdong**.
- It aims to study **neutrino oscillations** and determine the **neutrino mass ordering**.
- Note**: This is distinct from Japan's Juno mission, which focuses on studying Jupiter.



Commonwealth

India successfully secured the hosting rights for the **Centenary Commonwealth Games in 2030**.

About Commonwealth Games

- A **quadrennial** multi-sport event among Commonwealth nations, inaugurated in **1930**.
- India hosted the **XIX Games in 2010**.
- **Ahmedabad** has been formally declared as the host city for the **Centenary Commonwealth Games 2030**.

About Commonwealth

- Originated in the **1926** Imperial Conference where Britain and the Dominions agreed that they were all equal members of a community within the British Empire.
- **London Declaration (1949)** laid the foundation of **modern Commonwealth** stated that republics and other countries could be part of the Commonwealth.
- **Membership: 56** countries.



Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK)

The government reviewed the implementation of PMJVK and stressed better use of its portal and SNA-SPARSH.

About the PMJVK

- **Type: Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented by the Ministry of Minority Affairs.**
- **Objective:** Providing basic amenities such as schools, health centers, hostels, community halls, drinking water, sanitation and skill development facilities in Minority Concentrated Areas (MCAs)
- **Coverage:** Open to all districts meeting minority-population criteria.
- **Eligibility:** Where the minority population is more than 25% of the total population in the catchment area - 15Km radius.

Single Nodal Agency - Systematic Progressive Accounting Resource for State Harmonisation (SNA-SPARSH)

- SNA-SPARSH is a system designed to improve cash management and enable **just-in-time fund flow** from the Centre and States by integrating State IFMIS with the RBI's e-Kuber platform.

Place in News



Slovenia (Capital: Ljubljana)

India–Slovenia Joint Committee on Trade reviews bilateral trade partnership.

Political Features

- **Location:** Central Europe.
- **Neighbours:** Austria (North), Italy (West) and Hungary (Northeast), and Croatia (South, Southeast, and East).
- **Maritime Boundary:** Adriatic Sea in the South West.
- **EU Member State:** Since 1 May 2004

Geographical Features

- **Physiographical Regions:**
 - ⊕ Alpine region
 - ⊕ Kras (Karst)
 - ⊕ Fertile Subpannonia
 - ⊕ Primorska, or the Slovene Littoral.
- **Major Rivers:** Sava, Drava, Mura.
- **Climate:** Predominantly temperate continental type.



AHMEDABAD



BENGALURU



BHOPAL



CHANDIGARH



DELHI



GUWAHATI



HYDERABAD



JAIPUR



JODHPUR



LUCKNOW



PRAYAGRAJ



PUNE



RANCHI