**INDIAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE, HISTORY**

### [Sree Narayana Guru](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/03/sree-narayana-guru/)

164th birth anniversary of Sree Narayana Guru observed on 2nd September.

***Who was Sree Narayana Guru?***

Narayana Guru (1856 – 1928) was a social reformer. He has been credited with transforming the social fabric of kerala and changing the beliefs of keralites in ways unimaginable at that point in time.

He was born into an Ezhava family in an era when people from such communities, which were regarded as Avarna, faced much social injustice in the caste-ridden society of Kerala.

***Contributions/achievements:***

**Social reform movements:**

* He led a reform movement in Kerala, rejected casteism, and promoted new values of spiritual freedom and social equality.
* He stressed the need for the spiritual and social upliftment of the downtrodden by their own efforts through the establishment of temples and educational institutions.
* In the process, he denounced the superstitions that clouded the fundamental Hindu cultural convention of caste.
* He preached the ‘oneness’ of humanity, crossing the boundaries of caste and creed.
* In 1888, he installed an idol of siva at Aravippuram in Kerala in his effort to show that the consecration of god’s image was not a monopoly of the brahmins. This is popularly known as Aravippuram movement.
* In one temple he consecrated at Kalavancode, he kept mirrors instead of idols. This symbolised his message that the divine was within each individual.
* He also founded an Advaita Ashram in Kalady.
* He also lent his support to the Vaikkom Satyagraha which was aimed at temple entry in Travancore for the lower castes. Mahatma Gandhi met Guru during this time.

**Important literary works:**

He contributed many important literary works, the most influential being Atmopadesa Satakam which he composed in 1897.

**INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS- BILATERAL, GROUPINGS, ORGANISATIONS**

**International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights**

***Why in News?***

The International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) has said civil rights lawyer Prashant Bhushan’s conviction for criminal contempt of court by the Supreme Court seemed to be inconsistent with the freedom of expression law guaranteed by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights that India was a party to.

***What is International Commission of Jurists (ICJ)?***

It is an international human rights non-governmental organization.

Composition: It is a standing group of 60 eminent jurists—including senior judges, attorneys and academics.

Functions: To develop national and international human rights standards through the law.

Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland.

***What has the ICJ said on Prashant Bhushan’s case?***

* The conviction appears to be inconsistent with international standards on freedom of expression and the role of lawyers.
* The judgment risked having a “chilling effect on the exercise of protected freedom of expression in India”.
* While some restrictions of freedom of expression are permitted by international standards, a particularly wide scope must be preserved for debate and discussion about such matters as the role of the judiciary, access to justice, and democracy, by members of the public, including through public commentary on the courts.

***What is International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights?***

It is a multilateral treaty adopted by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

Monitored by the United Nations Human Rights Committee.

* The covenant commits its parties to respect the civil and political rights of individuals, including the right to life, freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, electoral rights and rights to due process and a fair trial.
* The ICCPR is part of the International Bill of Human Rights, along with the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).
* It became effective in 1976. Article 49 allowed that the covenant would enter into force three months after the date of the deposit of the thirty-fifth instrument of ratification or accession.
* India is a party to this treaty.

[**Qatari labour laws reforms:**](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/02/qatari-labour-laws-reforms/)

Qatar has brought about a change in its labour laws. The reforms, which were announced by the Emir of Qatar in October 2019, were signed into law recently.

* These reforms are now applicable to workers of all nationalities and in all sectors, including domestic workers who were previously excluded.

***What are Qatar’s new labour laws?***

Abolition of the unjustified ‘kafala system’ or requirement for a “no objection certificate” that migrant workers needed to get from their employers before changing jobs.

* Now, workers will have to serve a one-month notice period if they have worked for less than two years and notice period of two months if they have worked longer.

Increasing the minimum wage by 25 per cent to $274 or 1000 Qatari riyals and an additional 300 QAR for food and 500 QAR for accommodation in case not provided by the company.

***Background:***

Qatar has introduced a series of labour reforms since its selection as the 2022 World Cup host, with the event setting in motion a huge construction programme employing foreign workers.

***What is kafala?***

The ‘kafala’ system is a system that lays down obligations in the treatment and protection of foreign ‘guests’. Kafala means ‘to guarantee’ or ‘to take care of’ in Arabic.

* Under the system, a migrant worker’s immigration status is legally bound to an individual employer or sponsor (‘kafeel’) during the contract period.
* The migrant worker cannot enter the country, transfer employment nor leave the country for any reason without first obtaining explicit written permission from the kafeel.

***When did the kafala system start?***

The kafala system began in the 1950s when several Middle East countries started hiring foreign workers to accelerate development following the discovery of oil.

***Where is the kafala system practiced?***

It is being practiced in the Gulf Cooperation Council member countries of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, and also in the Arab states of Jordan and Lebanon.

***Concerns associated with this practice, why it should be abolished?***

1. Human rights groups say the migration management system enables exploitation and forced labor—labor extracted by under the threat of penalty, and not offered voluntarily by the worker.
2. The media have likened employment conditions under kafala to “modern-day slavery.”
3. Some migrant workers end up absconding from their employers to seek refuge elsewhere. In the Gulf states, absconding is considered a crime and that leads to indefinite detention and deportation.
4. Complaining puts them in conflict with their sponsor, who has the power to cancel their residence visa and have them deported.
5. The kafala directly contradicts the labour law. The employer can dictate the recruitment process and working conditions.
6. It restricts labour mobility. It prohibits any mobility on part of the worker unless approved by the kafeel. If the kafeels are unwilling to let them go, workers cannot leave them for better employment.

**NATIONAL AFFAIRS & CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES**

[**Mission Karmayogi- National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB):**](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/03/mission-karmayogi-national-programme-for-civil-services-capacity-building-npcscb/)

***What is it?***

It is a New National Architecture for Civil Services Capacity Building.

It is also a Comprehensive reform of the capacity building apparatus at individual, institutional and process levels for efficient public service delivery.

***Institutional framework and implementation of the programme:***

1. PM led Public Human Resources (HR) Council to approve and monitor Civil Service Capacity Building Plans.
2. Capacity Building Commission to harmonize training standards, create shared faculty and resources, and have supervisory role over all Central Training Institutions.
3. Wholly owned Special Purpose Vehicle to own and operate the online learning platform and facilitate world-class learning content market-place.
4. Coordination Unit headed by the Cabinet Secretary.

***The core guiding principles of the Programme will be:***

1. Supporting Transition from ‘Rules based’ to ‘Roles based’ HR Management.
2. To emphasize on ‘on-site learning’ to complement the ‘off-site’ learning,
3. To create an ecosystem of shared training infrastructure including that of learning materials, institutions and personnel,
4. To calibrate all Civil Service positions to a Framework of Roles, Activities and Competencies (FRACs) approach and to create and deliver learning content relevant to the identified FRACs in every Government entity.
5. To make available to all civil servants, an opportunity to continuously build and strengthen their Behavioral, Functional and Domain Competencies in their self-driven and mandated learning paths.
6. To enable all the Central Ministries and Departments and their Organizations to directly invest their resources towards co-creation and sharing the collaborative and common ecosystem of learning through an annual financial subscription for every employee.
7. To encourage and partner with the best-in-class learning content creators including public training institutions, universities, start-tips and individual experts,
8. To undertake data analytics in respect of data emit provided by iGOT- Karmayogi pertaining  to  various  aspects  of capacity  building, content creation, user feedback and mapping of competencies and identify areas for policy reforms.

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| ***What is iGOT Karmayogi Platform?***  The Programme will be delivered by setting up an Integrated Government Online Training-iGOTKarmayogiPlatform.  ·    The platform brings the scale and state-of-the-art infrastructure to augment the capacities of over two crore officials in India.  ·     The platform will evolve into a vibrant and world-class market place for content where carefully curated and vetted digital e-learning material will be made available.  ·     Besides capacity building, service matters like confirmation after probation period, deployment, work assignment and notification of vacancies etc. would eventually be integrated with the proposed competency framework. |

***Functions of various proposed bodies:***

**Capacity Building Commission:**

1. To assist the PM Public Human Resources Council in approving the Annual Capacity Building Plans.
2. To exercise functional supervision over all Central Training Institutions dealing with civil services capacity building.
3. To create shared learning resources, including internal and external faculty and resource centers.
4. To coordinate and supervise the implementation of the Capacity Building Plans with the stakeholder Departments.
5. To set norms for common mid-career training programs across all civil services.

***A wholly owned Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV):***

It will be set up under Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013.

It will be a “not-for-profit” company.

It will own and manage iGOT-Karmayogi platform.

* The SPV will create and operationalize the content, market place and manage key business services ofiGOT-Karmayogi platform, relating to content validation, independent proctored assessments and telemetry data availability.
* It will own all Intellectual Property Rights on behalf of the Government of India.

***Public Human Resources Council:***

* It will include select Union Ministers, Chief Ministers, eminent public HR practitioners, thinkers, global thought leaders and Public Service functionaries under the Chairmanship of Hon’ble Prime Minister.
* It will serve as the apex body for providing strategic direction to the task of Civil Services Reform and capacity building.

***Larger significance of the programme:***

It aims to prepare the Indian Civil Servant for the future by making him more creative, constructive, imaginative, innovative, proactive, professional, progressive, energetic, enabling, transparent and technology-enabled. Empowered with specific role-competencies, the civil servant will be able to ensure efficient service delivery of the highest quality standards.

[**Ban on Chinese Mobile apps:**](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/03/ban-on-chinese-mobile-apps/)

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| ***What?***  118 mobile apps blocked.  ***By?***  The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.  ***How?***  By invoking it’s power under section 69A of the Information Technology Act read with the relevant provisions of the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking of Access of Information by Public) Rules 2009. |

***Why?***

In view of the emergent nature of threats. It has been said that these apps are engaged in activities which is prejudicial to sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, security of state and public order.

***Why this was necessary? (Arguments by the government):***

* Government had received many complaints from various sources including several reports about misuse of some mobile apps available on Android and iOS platforms for stealing and surreptitiously transmitting users’ data in an unauthorized manner to servers which have locations outside India.
* The compilation of these data, its mining and profiling by elements hostile to national security and defence of India, which ultimately impinges upon the sovereignty and integrity of India, is a matter of very deep and immediate concern which requires emergency measures.
* The Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre, Ministry of Home Affairs has also sent an exhaustive recommendation for blocking these malicious apps.

***Background:***

This was the goverment’s third round of bans. Besides, the Centre’s latest move comes in the backdrop of the tension between India and China on the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

* China’s People’s Liberation Army (PLA) has, for over four months now, been trying to shift its boundary with India in Ladakh.

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| ***Section 69A of IT act:*** |
| Section 69A of the IT Act, empowers the Central Government to order that access to certain websites and computer resources be blocked in the interest of the defense of the country, its sovereignty and integrity, the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States, public order or for preventing incitement to the commission of an offence. |

[**Entrepreneurs in Residence (EIR) programme:**](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/03/entrepreneurs-in-residence-eir-programme/)

A brochure featuring Entrepreneurs in Residence (EIR) under the National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations (NIDHI) programme was recently launched.

***What is Entrepreneurs-in-Residence (EIR) Programme?***

It is under the National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing innovations (NIDHI) of Department of Science and Technology.

* It supports aspiring or budding entrepreneur of considerable potential for pursuing a promising technology business idea over a period up to 18 months with a subsistence grant up to Rs 30000 per month with a maximum cap for total support of Rs 3.6 lakh to each EIR over a maximum of 18 months.

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| ***What is NIDHI program?***  Department of Science & Technology has launched a NIDHI program (National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations) under which programmes for setting up of incubators, seed fund, accelerators and ‘Proof of concept’ grant for innovators and entrepreneurs have been launched.  ·      Under NIDHI, PRAYAS (Promoting and Accelerating Young and Aspiring innovators & Startups) programme has been initiated in which established Technology Business Incubators (TBI) are supported with PRAYAS grant to support innovators and entrepreneurs with grants for ‘Proof of Concept’ and developing prototypes. |

[**Special Frontier Force**](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/03/special-frontier-force/)

***Why in News?***

There have been reports that a Special Frontier Force (SFF) unit, referred to as Vikas Battalion, has been instrumental in occupying some key heights on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China in Ladakh to thwart any occupation by the Chinese troops.

***What is the Special Frontier Force (SFF)?***

SFF was raised in the immediate aftermath of the 1962 Sino-India war.

It was a covert outfit which recruited Tibetans (now it has a mixture of Tibetans and Gorkhas) and initially went by the name of Establishment 22.

* It falls under the purview of the Cabinet Secretariat where it is headed by an Inspector General who is an Army officer of the rank of Major General.
* The units that comprise the SFF are known as Vikas battalions.
* Strictly speaking, the SFF units are not part of the Army but they function under operational control of the Army.
* Women soldiers too form a part of SFF units and perform specialised tasks.

[**NCRB report on accidental deaths, suicides**](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/02/ncrb-report-on-accidental-deaths-suicides/)

Report was released recently by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

* Overall, the report shows that the number of suicide cases and accidental deaths registered an increase across the country last year from the 2018 figures.

***Report on Suicides in the country:***

1. Suicides in the country went up slightly from 1,34,516 to 1,39,123.
2. Of the 97,613 male suicides, the most were of daily wage earners (29,092), followed by self-employed persons (14,319) and the unemployed (11,599).
3. Of the 41,493 female, over half were housewives.
4. Most suicides by unemployed persons were in Kerala at 14% (1,963), followed by 10.8% in Maharashtra, 9.8% in Tamil Nadu, 9.2% in Karnataka and 6.1% in Odisha.
5. Most suicides by those in business activities were in Maharashtra (14.2%), Tamil Nadu (11.7%), Karnataka (9.7%), West Bengal (8.2%) and Madhya Pradesh (7.8%).
6. The suicide rate in cities (13.9%) was higher compared to the all-India average.
7. Most cases of mass/family suicides were reported from Tamil Nadu (16), followed by Andhra Pradesh (14), Kerala (11) and Punjab (9) and Rajasthan (7).

***Report on Accidental deaths:***

1. Accidental deaths in the country increased by 2.3%. Compared with 4,11,824 in 2018, the figure stood at 4,21,104 last year.
2. The most casualties of 30.9% were reported in the 30-45 age group, followed by 26% in the 18-30 age group.
3. Maharashtra reported the highest deaths (70,329), amounting to nearly one-sixth of the total figure.
4. A total of 8,145 deaths was due to the causes attributable to forces of nature, including 35.3% due to lightning, 15.6% by heat/sun stroke and 11.6% deaths in floods.
5. Most deaths (400) due to lightning was reported each from Bihar and Madhya Pradesh, followed by Jharkhand (334) and Uttar Pradesh (321).
6. The major causes were ‘traffic accidents’ (43.9%), ‘sudden deaths’ (11.5%), ‘drowning’ (7.9%), ‘poisoning’ (5.1%), ‘falls’ (5.1%) and ‘accidental fire’ (2.6%). A majority (57.2%) of deaths was in the age groups of 18-45 years.

***About NCRB:***

Set -up in 1986 under the Ministry of Home Affairs to function as a repository of information on crime and criminals so as to assist the investigators in linking crime to the perpetrators.

Set up based on the recommendations of the National Police Commission (1977-1981) and the MHA’s Task Force (1985).

NCRB brings out the annual comprehensive statistics of crime across the country (‘Crime in India’ report).

* Being published since 1953, the report serves as a crucial tool in understanding the law and order situation across the country.

[**Green Term Ahead Market (GTAM)**](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/02/green-term-ahead-market-gtam/)

Green Term Ahead Market (GTAM) in electricity launched as a first step towards greening the Indian short term power market.

***What is GTAM?***

It is an alternative new model introduced for selling off the power by the renewable developers in the open market without getting into long term PPAs.

***Key features of GTAM:***

* Transactions through GTAM will be bilateral in nature with clear identification of corresponding buyers and sellers, there will not be any difficulty in accounting for Renewable Purchase Obligations (RPO).
* GTAM contracts will be segregated into Solar RPO & Non-Solar RPO as RPO targets are also segregated.
* Daily & Weekly Contracts – Bidding will take place on MWh basis.
* Price discovery will take place on a continuous basise. price time priority basis. Subsequently, looking at the market conditions open auction can be introduced for daily & weekly contracts.
* Energy scheduled through GTAM contract shall be considered as deemed RPO compliance of the buyer.

***Significance and benefits of the move:***

* The introduction of GTAM platform would lessen the burden on RE-rich States and incentivize them to develop RE capacity beyond their own RPO.
* This would promote RE merchant capacity addition and help in achieving RE capacity addition targets of the country.
* GTAM platform will also lead to increase in number of participants in renewable energy sector.
* It will benefit buyers of RE through competitive prices and transparent and flexible procurement.
* It will also benefit RE sellers by providing access to pan- India market.

***Insta Facts:***

* The Government has a target of 175 GW RE Capacity by 2022.
* As a signatory to the Paris Climate Agreement 2016, India has committed to install 40 per cent i.e. 450 GW of renewable capacity by the year 2030.

**INDIAN ECONOMY**

[**Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS)**](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/03/merchandise-exports-from-india-scheme-meis/)

***Why in News?***

A limit has been imposed on total rewards under the Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS).

Limits imposed (Not so important for the exam. However, have a brief overview of the changes):

* The total reward which may be granted to an Import Export Code (IEC) holder under the scheme shall not exceed Rs.2 Crore per IEC of exports made in the period 1.9.2020 to 31.12.2020.
* Any IEC holder who has not made any exports for a period of one year preceding 1.9.2020 or any new IECs obtained on or after 1st September would not be eligible for submitting any claim under MEIS.

***About MEIS- What is it?***

Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) under Foreign Trade Policy of India (FTP 2015-20) is one of the two schemes introduced in Foreign Trade Policy of India 2015-20, as a part of Exports from India Scheme (The other scheme is Service Exports from India Scheme (SEIS)).

* The rewards are given by way of duty credit scrips to exporters.
* The MEIS is notified by the DGFT (Directorate General of Foreign Trade) and implemented by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

***Objective of the scheme:***

To offset infrastructural inefficiencies and associated costs involved in export of goods/products, which are produced/manufactured in India, especially those having high export intensity, employment potential and thereby enhancing India’s export competitiveness.

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| ***MEIS replaced the following five other similar incentive schemes present in the earlier Foreign Trade Policy 2009-14:***  1.       Focus Product Scheme (FPS).  2.       Focus Market Scheme (FMS).  3.       Market Linked Focus Product Scheme (MLFPS).  4.       Infrastructure incentive scheme.  5.       Vishesh Krishi Gramin Upaj Yojna (VKGUY). |

[**Red Bull’s plea on trademark rejected**](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/03/red-bulls-plea-on-trademark-rejected/)

The Intellectual Property Appellate Board (IPAB) has rejected a plea from Red Bull, manufacturer of an energy drink, for the removal of a trademark registered in the name of Dr. Reddy’s Laboratories Limited.

***What’s the issue?***

* Red Bull has adopted a trademark with tagline “Gives You Wings” and said due to the extensive publicity, the concept of an animal/human acquiring wings after consumption of the Red Bull Energy Drink has become exclusively associated with it.
* However, another trademark was registered in November 2001 with the tagline “Your Wings to Life”, in the name of Dr. Reddy’s Laboratories Limited. Now, Red Bull had sought its cancellation.

***What has the IPAB said while dismissing the petition?***

The rival trademarks are neither deceptively similar nor identical with. The applicant mark “Your Wings to life” is not the main mark. It is the sub-brand.

* Therefore, the goodwill and reputation alleged by the applicant is not pertaining to the main mark Red Bull. Hence, both trademarks are not similar.

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| ***What is a trademark?***  In layman’s language, it is a visual symbol which may be a word signature, name, device, label, numerals or combination of colours used by one undertaking on goods or services or other articles of commerce to distinguish it from other similar goods or services originating from a different undertaking. |

***The legal requirements to register a trademark under the Act are:***

1. The selected mark should be capable of being represented graphically (that is in the paper form).
2. It should be capable of distinguishing the goods or services of one undertaking from those of others.
3. It should be used or proposed to be used mark in relation to goods or services for the purpose of indicating or so as to indicate a connection in the course of trade between the goods or services and some person have the right to use the mark with or without identity of that person.

***Different types of trademarks that may be registered in India:***

1. Any name (including personal or surname of the applicant or predecessor in business or the signature of the person), which is not unusual for trade to adopt as a mark.
2. An invented word or any arbitrary dictionary word or words, not being directly descriptive of the character or quality of the goods/service.
3. Letters or numerals or any combination thereof.
4. The right to proprietorship of a trademark may be acquired by either registration under the Act or by use in relation to particular goods or service.
5. Devices, including fancy devices or symbols
6. Monograms
7. Combination of colors or even a single color in combination with a word or device
8. Shape of goods or their packaging
9. Marks constituting a 3- dimensional sign.
10. Sound marks when represented in conventional notation or described in words by being graphically represented.

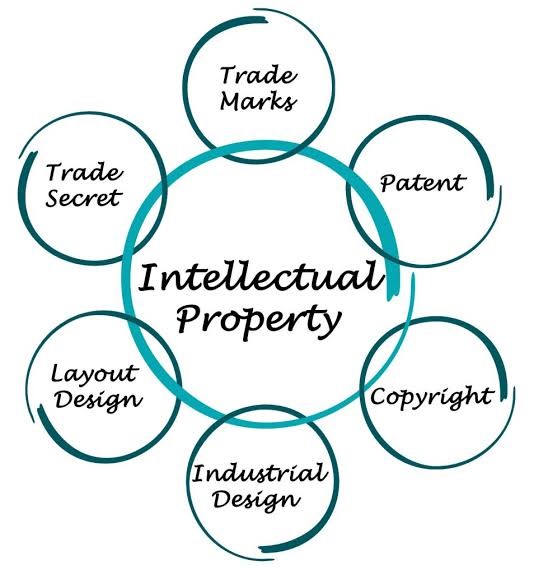
***Registrar:***

The Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks heads the TRADE MARKS Registry offices and functions as the Registrar of TRADE MARKS.

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| ***What is Intellectual Property Appellate Board (IPAB)?***  It was constituted on September 15, 2003 by the Indian Government to hear and resolve the appeals against the decisions of the registrar under the Indian Trademarks Act, 1999 and the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999.  ·      Since April 2, 2007, IPAB has been authorized to hear and adjudicate upon the appeals from most of the decisions, orders or directions made by the Patent Controller under the Patents Act. Therefore, all pending appeals of Indian High Courts under the Patents Act were transferred to IPAB. |

***Organization of an IPAB Bench:***

Each Bench of the IPAB includes a Judicial Member and a Technical Member. The qualifications for appointment as a technical member of the IPAB are mentioned in The Trade Marks Act and the Patents Act.



***Jurisdiction:***

Appeals from the decision of the Controller to the IPAB must be made within three months from the date of the decision/ order or direction, according to the, or within such further time as the IPAB permits, with the appropriate fees. An extension is available for filing the appeal by way of a Condonation of Delay (COD) petition.

[**Adjusted gross revenue (AGR)**](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/02/adjusted-gross-revenue-agr/)

***Why in News?***

The Supreme Court has allowed telecom companies 10 years’ time to pay their adjusted gross revenue (AGR) dues to the government.

***The judgment:***

1. The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) should decide whether or not spectrum can be sold under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code.
2. Due to the current [Covid-19](https://indianexpress.com/about/coronavirus/)situation, telcos should pay 10 per cent of the total dues by March 31, 2021.
3. Telecom companies would also have to make payments on or before February 7 every year. The non-payment of dues in any year would lead to accrual of interest and invite contempt of court proceedings against such companies.

***What’s the issue?***

An October 2019 judgment of the court in the AGR issue originally wanted the telcos to make the repayments in three months. The court had concluded that the private telecom sector had long reaped the fruits of the Centre’s liberalized mode of payment by revenue sharing regime.

* Later, the government had proposed in court a 20-year “formula” for telcos to make staggered payments of the dues. But, the court observed that the period of 20 years fixed for payment is excessive.

Even after part payment, the dues still run to ₹1.43 lakh crore.

***What is AGR?***

Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) is the usage and licensing fee that telecom operators are charged by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT). It is divided into spectrum usage charges and licensing fees, pegged between 3-5 percent and 8 percent respectively.

***How is it calculated?***

As per DoT, the charges are calculated based on all revenues earned by a telco – including non-telecom related sources such as deposit interests and asset sales.

***What are issues associated? When it all began?***

The telecom sector was liberalised under the National Telecom Policy, 1994 after which licenses were issued to companies in return for a fixed license fee.

However, to provide relief from the steep fixed license fee, the government in 1999 gave an option to the licensees to migrate to the revenue sharing fee model.

* Under this, mobile telephone operators were required to share a percentage of their AGR with the government as annual license fee (LF) and spectrum usage charges (SUC). License agreements between the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and the telecom companies define the gross revenues of the latter.

The dispute between DoT and the mobile operators was mainly on the definition of AGR.

* The DoT argued that AGR includes all revenues (before discounts) from both telecom and non-telecom services. The companies claimed that AGR should comprise just the revenue accrued from core services and not dividend, interest income or profit on sale of any investment or fixed assets.

[**Index Linked Products in the life insurance segment**](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/02/index-linked-products-in-the-life-insurance-segment/)

The IRDAI has set up a working group on Index Linked Products to examine the various aspects of Index Linked Products in the life insurance segment.

* Current IRDAI product regulations do not specifically permit insurers to sell index-linked products.

***Background:***

Life insurers had approached Irdai with a request to allow them to offer index-linked products. Life insurance companies currently offer two product categories — unit-linked insurance plans and traditional plans.

***What are Index Linked Insurance Products?***

They are insurance products whose returns are linked to benchmark indices. These products are linked to the 10-year government bonds or equity indices such as Sensex or Nifty.

* Such products allow the policyholder to get a guaranteed value.

**SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY- EVERYDAY SCIENCE, SPACE, NUCLEAR, DEFENCE ETC**

[**Global Innovation Index 2020 released**](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/03/global-innovation-index-2020-released/)

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| ***What?***  13th edition of Global Innovation Index released.  ·         The index is a leading reference for measuring an economy’s innovation performance.  ***Released By?***  The GII is co-published by Cornell University, INSEAD, and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), a specialized agency of the United Nations. |

Theme: Who Will Finance Innovation? is timely given the human and global economic damage wreaked by the COVID-19 global pandemic.

***How are countries ranked?***

GII rankings are based on 80 indicators, from traditional measurements like research and development investments and international patent and trademark applications.

India’s performance:

* This year, India climbed four spots and is now at 48th position in the list.
* India is at the top position among the nations in central and southern Asia.
* India has now become the third most innovative lower middle-income economy in the world.
* India ranks in the top 15 in indicators such as ICT (Information and Communication Technology) services exports, government online services, graduates in science and engineering, and R&D-intensive global companies.

***Global scenario:***

* The rankings show stability at the top but a gradual “eastward shift in the locus of innovation” as Asian economies like China, India, the Philippines and Vietnam have advanced considerably in the innovation ranking over the years.
* Top 5: Switzerland, Sweden, the US, the UK and the Netherlands lead the innovation ranking.

[**State to declare 600 acres of Aarey as reserve forest**](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/03/state-to-declare-600-acres-of-aarey-as-reserve-forest/)

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has announced the reservation of 600 acres of Aarey land near Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP) as forest, claiming it as the first instance of an extensive forest blossoming within the limits of metropolis anywhere in the world.

***What is a reserve forest? How is it different from protected forests?***

A reserve forest denotes forests accorded a certain degree of protection. The term was first introduced in the Indian Forest Act, 1927 in British India, to refer to certain forests granted protection under the British crown in British India, but not associated suzerainty.

Unlike national parks or wildlife sanctuaries of India, reserved forests are declared by the respective state governments.

* At present, reserved forests and protected forests differ in one important way: Rights to all activities like hunting, grazing, etc. in reserved forests are banned unless specific orders are issued otherwise.
* In protected areas, rights to activities like hunting and grazing are sometimes given to communities living on the fringes of the forest, who sustain their livelihood partially or wholly from forest resources or products.

The Indian Forests Act 1927 defines the procedure to be followed for declaring an area to be a reserved forest, a protected forest or a village forest.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**Places in News- Chushul**

* It is a village in Leh, Ladakh, India.
* It is located in the Durbuk tehsil, in the area known as “Chushul valley”.
* It is close to Rezang Laand Panggong Lake at a height of 4,360 metres.
* Chushul is one of the five officially agreed Border Personnel Meeting points between the Indian Army and the People’s Liberation Army of China for regular consultations and interactions between the two armies to improve relations.
* This place is famous for the Indian Army who fought to the ‘last man, last round’ at Rezang La (Chushul) on November 18, 1962. Without this crucial victory, the territory might have been captured by China.

**Question Hour**

* The first hour of every parliamentary sitting is termed as Question hour.
* It is mentioned in the Rules of Procedure of the House.
* During this time, the members ask questions and the ministers usually give answers.

Question Hour in both Houses is held on all days of the session. But there are two days when an exception is made:

1. There is no Question Hour on the day the President addresses MPs from both Houses in the Central Hall.
2. Question Hour is not scheduled on the day the Finance Minister presents the Budget.

***Why in News?***

The Lok Sabha Secretariat has officially released the schedule for the monsoon Parliament session that starts on September 14, with Question Hour being dropped.

**3 more official languages for J&K**

The Union Cabinet has approved a Bill to include Kashmiri, Dogri and Hindi as official languages in the newly-created Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Only English and Urdu were official languages in the erstwhile State.

**Mundra Port**

It is the largest private port of India located on the north shores of the Gulf of Kutch.

***Why in News?***

Mundra Port terminal deal under scrutiny over link with Chinese company. In this regard, the government is evaluating an agreement between the Adani Ports’ French joint venture partner CMA CGM and the China Merchants Group.

**Hamas**

Hamas is a Palestinian Islamist political organization and militant group that has waged war on Israel since the group’s 1987 founding, most notably through suicide bombings and rocket attacks. It seeks to replace Israel with a Palestinian state. It also governs Gaza independently of the Palestinian Authority.

**Places in News-Crete Island**

It is the largest and most populous of the Greek islands.

* Crete became part of Greece in December 1913.
* It is located in the southern part of the [Aegean Sea](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aegean_Sea)separating the Aegean from the [Libyan Sea](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Libyan_Sea).

**DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE**

### Q. What is [National Security Act, 1980:](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/02/national-security-act-1980/) How it has checked anti-national activity in the country?

***Why in News?***

The Allahabad High Court has set aside the National Security Act order passed against Gorakhpur doctor Kafeel Khan, terming it illegal, and directed the Uttar Pradesh government to forthwith release him from jail.

* The court also declared the extension of the period of his detention under the NSA as “illegal”.

***Background:***

government had in February slapped the NSA on Dr. Khan for allegedly making inflammatory and provocative comments during a speech by him against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) at Aligarh Muslim University in December 2019.

***About National Security Act:***

It is a stringent law that allows preventive detention for months, if authorities are satisfied that a person is a threat to national security or law and order.

* The person does not need to be charged during this period of detention. The goal is to prevent the individual from committing a crime.
* It was promulgated on September 23, 1980, during the Indira Gandhi government.

***As per the National Security Act, the grounds for preventive detention of a person include:***

1. acting in any manner prejudicial to the defence of India, the relations of India with foreign powers, or the security of India.
2. regulating the continued presence of any foreigner in India or with a view to making arrangements for his expulsion from India.
3. preventing them from acting in any manner prejudicial to the security of the State or from acting in any manner prejudicial to the maintenance of public order or from acting in any manner prejudicial to the maintenance of supplies and services essential to the community it is necessary so to do.

***Duration:***

Under the National Security Act, an individual can be detained without a charge for up to 12 months; the state government needs to be intimated that a person has been detained under the NSA. No such order shall remain in force for more than 12 days unless approved by the State Government.

* A person detained under the National Security Act can be held for 10 days without being told the charges against them.

Appeal: The detained person can appeal before a high court advisory board but they are not allowed a lawyer during the trial.

***History of preventive detention in India:***

* Preventive detention laws in India date back to early days of the colonial era when the Bengal Regulation III of 1818 was enacted to empower the government to arrest anyone for defence or maintenance of public order without giving the person recourse to judicial proceedings.
* A century later, the British government enacted the Rowlatt Acts of 1919 that allowed confinement of a suspect without trial.

***Constitution of Advisory Boards:***

1. The Central Government and each State Government shall, whenever necessary, constitute one or more Advisory Boards for the purposes of this Act.
2. Every such Board shall consist of three persons who are, or have been, or are qualified to be appointed as, Judges of a High Court, and such persons shall be appointed by the appropriate Government.

* The appropriate Government shall appoint one of the members of the Advisory Board who is, or has been, a Judge of a High Court to be its Chairman, and in the case of a Union territory, the appointment to the Advisory Board of any person who is a Judge of the High Court of a State shall be with the previous approval of the State Government concerned.

***Reference to Advisory Boards:***

As provided in this Act, in every case where a detention order has been made under this Act, the appropriate Government shall, within 3 weeks from the date of detention of a person under the order, place before the Advisory Board constituted by it, the grounds on which the order has been made and the representation if any made by the person affected by the order and in case where the order has been made by an officer.

Concerns associated with NSA and how is it different from normal arrests?

In the normal course, if a person is arrested, he or she is guaranteed certain basic rights.

* These include the right to be informed of the reason for the arrest.
* Section 50 of the Criminal Procedure Code (Cr.PC) mandates that the person arrested has to be informed of the grounds of arrest, and the right to bail.
* Sections 56 and 76 of the Cr. PC also provides that a person has to be produced before a court within 24 hours of arrest.
* Additionally, Article 22(1) of the Constitution says an arrested person cannot be denied the right to consult, and to be defended by, a legal practitioner of his choice.

But none of these rights are available to a person detained under the NSA.

* A person could be kept in the dark about the reasons for his arrest for up to five days, and in exceptional circumstances not later than 10 days.
* Even when providing the grounds for arrest, the government can withhold information which it considers to be against public interest to disclose.
* The arrested person is also not entitled to the aid of any legal practitioner in any matter connected with the proceedings before an advisory board, which is constituted by the government for dealing with NSA cases.