

# CURRENT AFFAIRS

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## Topic:

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# SC agrees to list plea for Collegium system review

Petitioners seek revival of National Judicial Appointments Commission that gave government a say in appointment of judges; call Collegium mode a 'synonym for nepotism and favouritism'

**Krishnadas Rajagopal**  
NEW DELHI

**C**hief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud on Thursday agreed to list in due course a writ petition to reconsider the Collegium system of judicial appointments to the Supreme Court and the High Courts.

The petition sought the revival of the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC), which briefly gave the government an equal role along with the judiciary in the appointment of judges to the constitutional courts before it was struck down by the Supreme Court in 2015.

The petition follows recent verbal attacks by Law Minister Kiren Rijju on the

### An open case

The Supreme Court has agreed to list a writ petition to reconsider the Collegium system of judicial appointments to the Supreme Court and the High Courts. Following recent exchanges between the executive and the judiciary over the fairness of the system, a new front seems to have opened:

**1993:** The Supreme Court Collegium comes into existence by virtue of a judgment of a nine-judge Bench

**2014:** Parliament amends the Constitution and simultaneously enacts the National Judicial Appointment Commission Act to substitute the Collegium with the commission

**October 16, 2015:** A five-judge Constitution Bench declares the 99th Constitution Amendment Act and the NJAC Act unconstitutional and revives the Collegium

Collegium system, calling it opaque.

The petitioner-in-person, advocate Mathews J. Nedumpara, with other lawyers, said the Constitution Bench judgment of

 Nowhere in the world except India is there a practice that judges appoint their brothers as judges



**KIREN RIJJU**  
Union Law Minister, at a function on October 18

October 2015 had thwarted the "will of the people" by striking down the 99th Constitution Amendment Act, which introduced the NJAC mechanism.

The petition said the

 In the elaborate procedure (followed by the Collegium)... there are enough checks and balances



**SUPREME COURT**  
in a November 11 judgment

2015 judgment should be rendered *void ab initio* as it had revived the Collegium system.

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- ▶ NJAC is a body responsible for the appointment and transfer of judges to the higher judiciary in India.
- ▶ A new article, Article 124A, (which provides for the composition of the NJAC) was to be inserted into the Constitution.
- ▶ The Bill provided for the procedure to be followed by the NJAC for recommending persons for appointment as Chief Justice of India and other Judges of the Supreme Court (SC), and Chief Justice and other Judges of High Courts (HC).
- ▶ According to the bill the commission will consist of the following members:

## Topic:

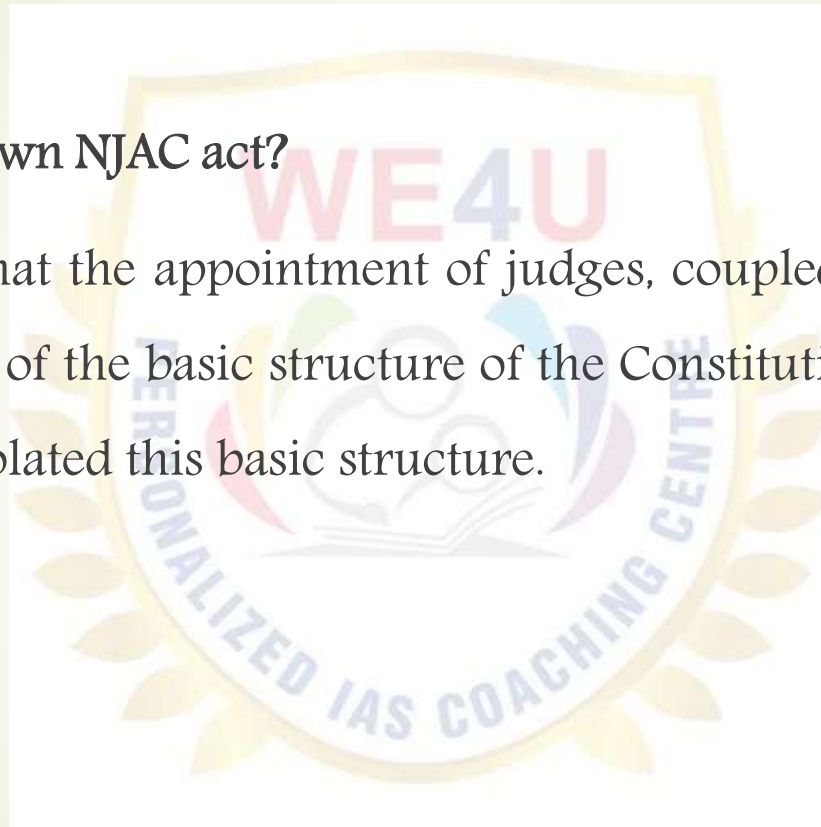
1. Chief Justice of India (Chairperson, ex officio)
2. Two other senior judges of the Supreme Court next to the Chief Justice of India – ex officio
3. The Union Minister of Law and Justice, ex-officio
4. Two eminent persons (to be nominated by a committee consisting of the Chief Justice of India, Prime Minister of India and the Leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha or where there is no such Leader of Opposition, then, the Leader of single largest Opposition Party in Lok Sabha), provided that of the two eminent persons, one person would be from the Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes or OBC or minority communities or a woman. The eminent persons shall be nominated for a period of three years and shall not be eligible for re-nomination.

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Why the court struck down NJAC act?

- ▶ The court has held that the appointment of judges, coupled with primacy of judiciary and the CJI, was part of the basic structure of the Constitution and that the parliament, through NJAC act, violated this basic structure.



HC quashes  
money  
laundering  
case against  
DMK MP

## Topic:

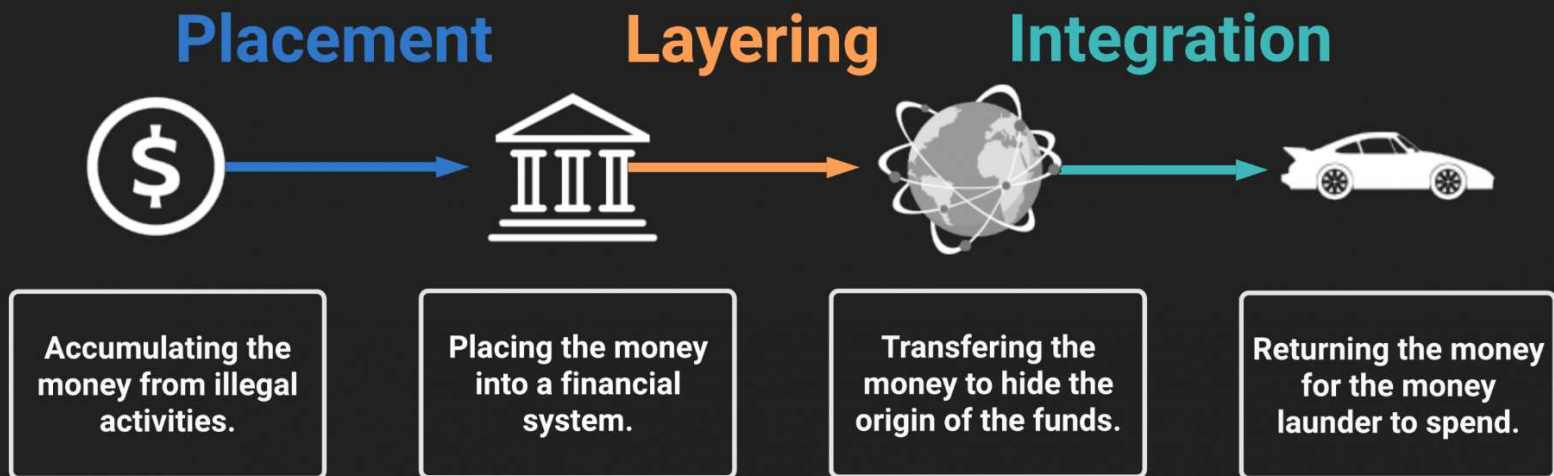
### Money Laundering

- Money Laundering refers to the conversion or misrepresentation of money which has been illegally obtained by unlawful sources and methods.
- It is a criminal offence in India and charges in this instance refer to statutory provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002.

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## Money laundering stages



## Topic:

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### *Siberian rubythroat recorded in the Nilgiris*

The bird, which breeds in the coniferous forests of Siberia, is known to winter in Thailand, India, Indonesia and Bangladesh

- ▶ It is a migratory insectivorous species breeding in mixed coniferous forests with undergrowth in Siberia. It nests near the ground. It winters in Thailand, India, Indonesia and Bangladesh (See wintering range map).
- ▶ IUCN Least Concern



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## Rhino horns trafficked with impunity: report

### One Horned Rhino

- Only the Great One-Horned Rhino is found in India.
- Also known as Indian rhino, it is the largest of the rhino species.
- It is identified by a single black horn and a grey-brown hide with skin folds.
- IUCN Red List: Vulnerable.
- Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule I.

## Topic:

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# FM asks NIIF to guide private capital into infrastructure

The National Investment and Infrastructure Fund proposes its first bilateral fund with Japan, banking on government funding; Sitharaman urges the fund to expand its lending operations

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

**F**inance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has urged the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) to expand its operations and explore ways to crowd in private capital for projects under the National Infrastructure Pipeline, PM Gati Shakti and National Infrastructure Corridor.

The loan book of two major infrastructure focused non-banking finance companies, where the government-funded NIIF has a majority stake, has

### Investment shepherd

NIIF can help crowd in private capital into infrastructure projects

- Finance Minister urges fund to back National Infrastructure Pipeline, PM Gati Shakti projects
- NIIF says two infra-focused NBFC units have grown loan book to ₹26,000 cr. in 3 years
- NIIF's maiden bilateral fund involves MoU with Japan Bank for international Development



- FM urges fund to leverage attractive investment fundamentals, tap countries keen to invest in India

grown from ₹4,200 crore to ₹26,000 crore in three years with no loans turning into NPAs till date, the NIIF informed its governing

council chaired by Ms. Sitharaman.

The NIIF has proposed setting up its first bilateral fund, an 'India Japan

Fund' with contributions from the government, and signed an MoU on November 9 with the Japan Bank for International Development, it told the council.

### 'Tap fundamentals'

"The Finance Minister asked the NIIF team to build on the work done so far and leverage India's attractive investment fundamentals to expand its operations," the Finance Ministry said in a statement. The Minister also encouraged NIIF 'to continue discussions with investors from countries that are keen to invest in India'.

# Topic:

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## PM Gati shakti Scheme

- Aim: To ensure integrated planning and implementation of infrastructure projects in the next four years, with focus on expediting works on the ground, saving costs and creating jobs.
- The Gati Shakti scheme will subsume the Rs 110 lakh crore National Infrastructure Pipeline that was launched in 2019.
- Besides cutting logistics costs, the scheme is also aimed at increasing cargo handling capacity and reducing the turnaround time at ports to boost trade.

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- ▶ It also aims to have 11 industrial corridors and two new defence corridors - one in Tamil Nadu and other in Uttar Pradesh. Extending 4G connectivity to all villages is another aim. Adding 17,000 kms to the gas pipeline network is being planned.
- ▶ It will help in fulfilling the ambitious targets set by the government for 2024-25, including expanding the length of the national highway network to 2 lakh kms, creation of more than 200 new airports, heliports and water aerodromes.

**THANK YOU**

