

CURRENT AFFAIRS

29 SEPTEMBER 2022



Venkataramani
appointed
next A-G, says
Law Ministry

TOPIC: UNION EXECUTIVE

- ✓ Article 76 of the Constitution provides for the office of AG of India.

Appointment and Eligibility:

- ✓ AG is appointed by the President on the advice of the government.
- ✓ S/he must be a person who is qualified to be appointed a judge of the Supreme Court, i.e. s/he must be a citizen of India and must have been a judge of some high court for five years or an advocate of some high court for ten years or an eminent jurist, in the opinion of the President.
- ✓ **Term of the Office:** Not fixed by the Constitution.

Removal: Procedures and grounds for the removal of AG are not stated in the Constitution. S/he holds office during the pleasure of the President (may be removed by the President at any time).

Duties and Functions:

- ✓ To give advice to the Government of India (GoI) upon such legal matters, which are referred to her/him by the President.
- ✓ To perform such other duties of a legal character that are assigned to her/him by the President.
- ✓ To appear on behalf of the GoI in all cases in the Supreme Court or in any case in any High Court in which the GoI is concerned.
- ✓ To represent the GoI in any reference made by the President to the Supreme Court under Article 143 (Power of the President to consult the Supreme Court) of the Constitution.
- ✓ To discharge the functions conferred on her/him by the Constitution or any other law.

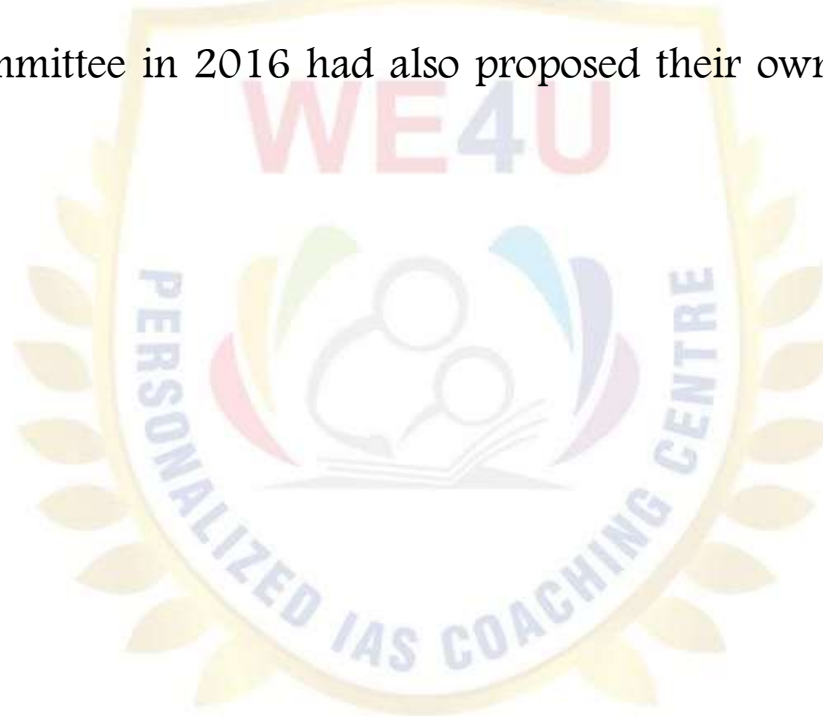
TOPIC:DEFENCE

Eastern Command's ex-chief Anil Chauhan is Chief of Defence Staff

CDS:

- ✓ The Chief of Defence Staff of the Indian Armed Forces is the head and the highest-ranking officer of the Indian Armed Forces.
- ✓ The President of India is the supreme commander of the Armed Forces.
- ✓ The Chief of Defence is the military's chief executive with operational and strategic authority over the defence forces and not its commander.
- ✓ General Bipin Rawat was the first Chief of Defence Staff

- ✓ Recommendation of the Kargil Review Committee after the end of the Kargil War (which ended on July 26, 1999). Subsequent commissions such as the Naresh Chandra task force in 2012 and the Lieutenant General D.B. Shekatkar Committee in 2016 had also proposed their own versions of a Chief of Defence Staff position.



TOPIC: POLLUTION

Rediscovering the Bay of Bengal

The Bay of Bengal (the Bay) is experiencing an increase in geopolitical, economic, and geo-cultural activity. It is poised to once again play a key role in shaping the maritime order in Asia. Therefore, it is noteworthy that at the fourth BIMSTEC summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the opening of the Centre for Bay of Bengal Studies (CBS) at Nalanda University. The official launch of the CBS has once again demonstrated India's commitment to advancing constructive agendas by forging connections and setting up platforms for all those with an interest in the Bay.

Rethinking the Bay

CBS will offer collaborations in areas such as geo-economics and geopolitics, ecology, trade and connectivity, maritime security, maritime law, cultural heritage, and blue economy to generate opportunities for the Bay region. This will strengthen India's overall framework for maritime engagement, which aims to advance sustainable economic growth for all by fostering closer nautical ties.

The Bay has long been a major commerce hub for the Indian Ocean. It created a conduit between the East and the West in terms for trade and culture. An Indo-Pacific orientation and the realignment of global economic and military power towards Asia have had a considerable impact on the Bay region. The key sea lanes of communication in this area are lifelines for global economic security and are crucial to the economies of many countries in the region. Further, non-traditional dangers including terrorism and climate change have become more prevalent. The Bay also provides an opportunity for greater regional cooperation in the environmentally friendly exploration of marine and energy resources. The Bay has a biodiverse marine environment. It



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The Centre for Bay of Bengal Studies will strengthen India's overall framework for maritime engagement

receives water from some of the world's largest rivers. It is a partially enclosed sea that has given rise to several geological characteristics. It is home to many rare and endangered marine species and mangroves, which are essential to the survival of the ecology and the fishing sector.

Disorder at the Bay

The region's maritime environment has changed as a result of major powers expanding their economic and geopolitical influence. Political and cultural engagement, together with economic competition, have taken on new dimensions. More crucially, the Bay's ecosystem is going through an unprecedented crisis brought on by widespread environmental exploitation and geopolitical unrest. Species extinction is a result of careless exploitation of the maritime environment, which has severe consequences on biodiversity.

Problems such as population growth, altered land use, excessive resource exploitation, salinisation, sea level rise, and climate change are exerting significant strain on the Bay's environment. Operational discharge from small and medium feeder ships, shipping collisions, unintentional oil spills, industrial waste, pollution, and the accumulation of non-biodegradable plastic litter are all contributing to the deterioration of the Bay. A dead zone has formed as a result, and the mangrove trees that protect the shore from the fury of nature

are under more threat than ever.

For a better knowledge of challenges, and strategies to overcome them for the sustainable development of the region, more focused and interdisciplinary study is required on these issues. By founding the CBS, Nalanda University has already started its journey and given the nation a unique interdisciplinary research centre devoted to Bay-focused teaching, research, and capacity building. Additionally, scholars from many countries and academic streams are already participating in CBS's first certificate programme on the Bay.

It is essential that nautical neighbours develop a partnership and cooperate because of the maritime domain's interrelated and interdependent nature, transnational character, and cross-jurisdictional engagement of various governments and diverse organisations and enterprises. A few concerns that need immediate attention include expanding cooperation in maritime safety and security, enhancing cooperation on maritime connectivity and the ease of maritime transit, and boosting investment possibilities in the maritime connectivity sector. The latter subject involves addressing non-traditional threats and fostering group efforts to reduce illicit, unreported, and unregulated fishing. Standardising and harmonising data reporting remains a challenge. Furthermore, regional marine entities should strive to balance opportunities and goals on a national, regional, and international scale.

Littoral governments need to support and promote skill-building, research, and training. Countries in the region will need to mobilise incentives and investments, manage oceanic affairs more effectively, and support people as they switch to alternative lifestyles. Working together is important due to shared nautical concerns and the complexity of the marine environment.



SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)

- ✓· Dhaka, Bangladesh (1997)
- ✓· 7 members: Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand , Nepal and Bhutan.
- ✓· Summits every four years.



TOPIC: WILDLIFE PROTECTION

Temples, Buddhist caves revealed in M.P. tiger reserve

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) earlier this year discovered Buddhist caves and stupas, and Brahmi inscriptions, dating back to the 2nd century, and Hindu temples from the 9th-11th centuries, and possibly the world's largest Varaha sculpture also dating to the same period, at the Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh.

The Varaha sculpture is among the many monolithic sculptures of the 10 incarnations of Lord Vishnu



The ruins of temples at Bandhavgarh Reserve in Madhya Pradesh.

discovered by the ASI at the national park earlier this year. The exploration took place 84 years after the last such effort in 1938.

"A total of 46 sculptures have come to light and have been reported," Shi-

vakant Bajpai, Superintending Archaeologist, Jabalpur Circle, who led the exploration team, said here on Wednesday.

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✓ Bandhavgarh National Park is spread at Vindhya hills of the Umaria district in Madhya Pradesh. It was declared a national park in the year 1968.

✓ Bandhavgarh is a combination of two words Bandhav (Brother) and Garh (Fort)

✓ The name Bandhavgarh given to the reserve is due to the presence of an ancient fort which is believed to be gifted by Lord Rama, to his younger brother Lakshmana

✓ The Bandhavgarh National Park was declared a Tiger Reserve in 1993 under the Project Tiger

TOPIC:WELFARE SCHEMES

Centre extends free ration scheme for three months

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union government has extended the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) for another three months from October 1.

This will allow beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act to continue to get five kg of food grains per person per month till December 31. The decision was taken at a Cabinet meeting here on Wednesday. This would help the poor and vulnerable sections in the festive season, the Centre said.

The scheme has been in operation since April 2020.

Madan Sabnavis, chief economist, Bank of Baroda, said the impact of the decision on fiscal deficit would be marginal. He said the challenge would be to ensure that procurement of rice was on target because its production is likely to decline by seven million tonnes this year and the government is focussing on giving rice instead of wheat as the stocks of the latter are down. "Stocks of rice and wheat are at 49 million tonnes as of September, one of the lowest stock since 2017," he said.

Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY)

✓The last announcement on PMGKY was made on 29th June 2020. Earlier on 26th March 2020, the government took an initiative towards the loss caused by the outbreak. The lockdown in the nation due to Coronavirus expected to cost the Indian Economy a cost of around 9 lakh crores.

Announcements made by the Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman on 26th March 2020 are mentioned below:

- ✓ To provide an insurance cover of Rs 50 lakhs per health worker affected by COVID-19.
- ✓ To provide free resources of 5 kg wheat or rice and 1 kg of preferred pulses for 80 crore poor people for the next three months under the PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana.
- ✓ 20 crore Women Jan Dhan account holders will be provided Rs 500 per month for the next three months.
- ✓ There will be an increase in MNREGA wage to Rs 202 per day to benefit 13.62 crore families.
- ✓ The Central Government has given orders to State Governments to use the Building and Construction Workers Welfare Fund to provide relief to Construction Workers.

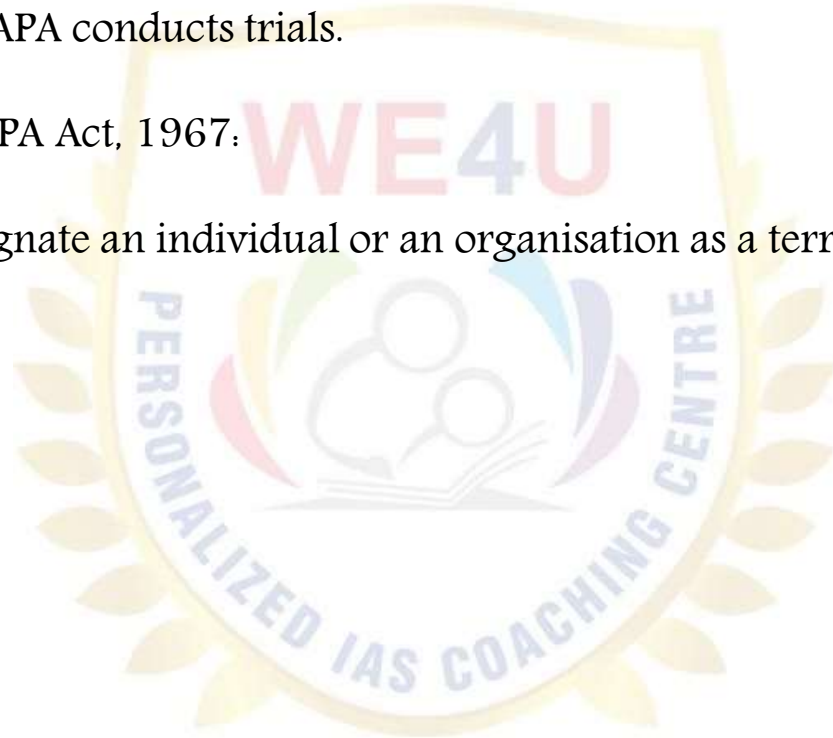
TOPIC: PREVENTIVE DETENTION

Centre bans PFI, 8 front bodies for five years under UAPA

Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA)

- ✓ It was enacted to provide for more effective prevention of certain unlawful activities of individuals and associations, and for dealing with terrorist activities.
- ✓ Both Indian and foreign nationals can be charged.
- ✓ It is applicable even if the offence is committed outside india.
- ✓ A charge sheet can be filed in maximum 180 days after the arrests.
- ✓ The investigation has to be completed within 90 days and if not, the accused is eligible for default bail.

- ✓ A Special Court under the UAPA conducts trials.
- ✓ 2019 Amendment under UAPA Act, 1967:
- ✓ Union government may designate an individual or an organisation as a terrorist



THANK YOU

