

## Ministry of Law Issues Directive to Minimize Litigation Involving Central Government

The 'Directive for the Efficient and Effective Management of Litigation by Government of India' is an integrated approach towards good governance, public welfare and timely dispensation of justice.

- **Aim:** Serve as a "Standard Operating Procedure" for litigation management.
- **Applicability:** All Central Government Ministries/Departments, their attached and subordinate offices, autonomous bodies and for arbitration matters to CPSEs as well.
- ⊕ State Governments may also consider adopting the Directive.


### Challenges in Government Litigation Management

- **Concentration of Litigation:** E.g., Central government is a party in nearly 700,000 cases pending across courts.
- **Capacity Constraints:** Ministries capacity to manage litigation is limited due to resource constraints. E.g., Most Ministries don't have Legal Cell.
- **Narrow interpretation of statutory provision:** It often serves as the primary catalyst for escalating grievances into litigation.
- **Non-fulfilment of procedural requirement:** E.g., Improper or incomplete submission of forms, affidavits, etc.


### Directives to Manage Litigation

- **Strengthening Capacity:** Dedicated Legal Cell, Appointing a Nodal Officer with legal expertise.
- ⊕ Also, Litigation specific courses be made available on i-GOT Karmayogi platform.
- **Grievance Redressal Mechanism:** Ministries should review grievance redressal quarterly and analyze trends through compiled data.
- ⊕ E.g., Department of Posts holds "Staff Adalats" biannually at Circle level.
- **Establishment of Government Arbitration Portal:** E.g., On the lines of National judicial Data Grid to collate data, etc.


ABOUT LITIGATION


**Litigation**


A process of settling disputes using the judicial process in criminal or civil courts


**Objectives of Litigation**

- Ensure justice and rule of law
- Safeguard rights
- Settle conflicts
- Promote public good


**Issues with Litigation**

- Time-consuming
- Significant delays in resolution
- Complex


**Supreme Court Observation**

70% of government litigation is frivolous and can be curtailed to lessen the court's workload

## India's Raw Silk Production Increased from 31.9 thousand MT in 2017-18 to 38.9 thousand MT in 2023- 24

According to the Ministry of Textiles, India has cemented its position as the world's second-largest silk producer & largest consumer, with silk product exports reaching Rs. 2,027.56 crore.

### About Silk and Sericulture

- Silk is a natural protein fibre produced by silkworms, primarily from the **Bombyx mori** species.
- **Sericulture** is the cultivation of silkworms for the production of silk.
- Silkworms feed on mulberry, oak, castor, arjun leaves, and spin cocoons, which are processed into silk yarn & fabric.
- India is the only country that produces all 4 major varieties of natural silk. (Refer to table).

### Factors for Sustained Growth in India

- **Institutional Support**
  - ⊕ **Central Silk Board (HQ. Bengaluru):** Statutory body Under the Ministry of Textiles works for the inclusive development of sericulture.
  - ⊕ **Silk Mark Organisation of India (SMOI):** Certifies genuine silk products.
  - ⊕ **International Sericultural Commission (HQ. Bangalore):** It is UN affiliated inter-governmental organization committed for global development of silk industry.
- **Policy and Schemes**
  - ⊕ **Silk Samagra & Silk Samagra-2:** Focus on research, quality improvement, & technology transfer.
  - ⊕ **Raw Material Supply Scheme:** Subsidized yarn supply to handloom weavers.
  - ⊕ **Scheme for Capacity Building (SAMARTH):** Skill development in silk, jute, handloom, garmenting; aims to train 3 lakh people (2024-26).
- **Geographical Indications (GI):** Kanchipuram Silk Saree (Tamil Nadu); Muga Silk (Assam); Mysore Silk (Karnataka); Bhagalpuri Tussar (Bihar) etc.

### Types of Silk in India

- **Mulberry Silk** (about 90% of India's silk production): Produced mainly in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal etc.
- **Tussar Silk (Kosa):** Produced by wild silkworms on trees like Arjun and Asan.
  - ⊕ **Major Producers:** Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha.
- **Eri Silk:** Also called Ahimsa Silk (non-violent), as worms are not killed during reeling.
  - ⊕ Mainly produced in the Northeast (Assam, Meghalaya).
- **Muga Silk:** Exclusive to Assam, made by *Antheraea assamensis*.
  - ⊕ Naturally has a golden-yellow shine, highly durable.

## President Must Decide on Bills Reserved by Governor: The Supreme Court (SC)

In the landmark '**State of Tamil Nadu vs Governor of Tamil Nadu**' case, SC has **set timeline for the President to act as per Article 201 of the Constitution** on the Bills which Governor has reserved for the **President's assent**.

- In the judgment, SC has also set **timelines for Governor's actions on Bills under Article 200**.

### Key Observations of the Case by SC

- **Time Limit for Decision:** President must decide **within 3 months** on Bills reserved for him.
- **President has to declare reasons for withholding of assent**, which must be **communicated to State Government**.
- **States are required co-operate:** By answering queries and consider suggestions made by Central government expeditiously.
- **Issuance of writ of mandamus:** If there is no action by President within the time-limit, the States are entitled to file writ petitions against President.
- **No absolute veto for President:** President cannot exercise "absolute veto" by indefinitely sitting over Bills.
  - ⊕ **Absolute Veto:** Power of President to withhold the assent to the bill.
- **Pre-Legislation Consultation:** States must consult Central government before introducing bills requiring Presidential assent. Central government should consider state proposals with due regard and expediency.
- **Article 143:** President ought to seek Court's advice if Bill is reserved on the ground of unconstitutionality.

### ARTICLE 201: PRESIDENTIAL ASSENT TO STATE BILL



**When a Governor reserves a Bill for the President's consideration, the President can either:**

- ➔ Give assent to the Bill, or withhold assent, or,
- ➔ Return (non-Money Bills): For State Legislatures to reconsider.



**Issue with Article 201**

**No time limit for the President to act – Bills can be indefinitely retained**



**Commission Recommendations**  
**Sarkaria Commission (1983) & Punchhi Commission (2007)**  
Both recommended a prescribed timeline for presidential decision

The timeline would prevent indefinite retention of state bills

## Mauritius became the first African country to sign ISA's Country Partnership Framework (CPF)

CPF is a strategic initiative developed by **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** to facilitate long- and medium-term cooperation with its member countries.

- The CPF accelerate the clean energy transition through joint solar energy projects.

### About ISA

- It is a **treaty-based intergovernmental organization** aimed at promoting **solar energy as a sustainable solution** for energy access and climate change.
- **Genesis:** Launched in **2015 by India and France** at the **COP21 summit in Paris**.
- **Headquarters:** Gurugram (Haryana).
- **Member Countries** (signed & ratified the Agreement): **104** (March 2025)
  - ⊕ Following a 2020 amendment to its Framework Agreement, all UN member states are now eligible to join the Alliance.
- **Mission :** ISA is guided by its **Towards 1000' strategy**, which aims to -
  - ⊕ Mobilise **USD 1,000 billion of investments** in solar energy solutions by 2030.
  - ⊕ Delivering energy access to **1,000 million people** using clean energy solutions
  - ⊕ **Installation of 1,000 GW of solar energy capacity.**
  - ⊕ This would help mitigate global solar emissions to the tune of 1,000 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> annually.

### Initiatives undertaken by ISA

- **SolarX Startup Challenge:** Offers **grants and business acceleration support** to start-ups, entrepreneurs etc.
- **STAR-C Initiative:** To **enhance institutional and solar technical capacity of member countries**.
- **Global Solar Facility:** A payment guarantee fund to stimulate investments into solar power projects.
- **Green Hydrogen Innovation Centre:** Explore synergies between solar energy and hydrogen.

### India's Key Role in ISA

- India is a **co-founder** of ISA. It leads initiatives like **One Sun, One World, One Grid (OSOWOG)** to promote global solar energy integration.
- India also offers **solar project funding, training, and technology transfer** to member nations, especially in Africa and Asia.
- India is providing assistance of **Rs. 100 crore per year to ISA** to help energy transition, especially in developing and emerging economies.

## Study Reveals Widespread Absorption of Airborne Microplastics by Plant Leaves

The study published in Nature, showed **Plastic particles enter plant leaves through surface structures such as stomata (small pores formed by specialised cells, called guard cells) and cuticle (protective membrane coated in wax).**

- Research found Polyethylene terephthalate (PET) and Polystyrene (PS) are among the most common polymers present in plant tissues.
  - ⊕ PET is used in **beverage bottles and food containers**;
  - PS is used in disposable **cutlery, cups, etc.**

### About Microplastics

- **Definition:** Plastic particles up to **5 millimeters in diameter** are called **Microplastics**. **Nanoplastics** are **less than 1,000 nanometers**.
- **Characteristics of Microplastics**
  - ⊕ **Microplastics** are **persistent** & are **highly mobile** and difficult to remove.
  - ⊕ **Microplastics have Large Surface Area to Volume Ratio:** As surface area increases, microplastics adsorb (attract and hold substances) more contaminants and become more prone to fouling.
  - ⊕ **Microplastics often contain chemical additives** that accumulate in water bodies over time: **E.g., Bisphenol A (BPA), Brominated flame retardants, Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).**
- **Types of Microplastics:**
  - ⊕ **Primary Microplastics:** **Intentionally manufactured** small plastics. **E.g. Plastic pellets** (used in manufacturing), **Microbeads** in personal care products (e.g., toothpaste, face wash, cosmetics) etc.
  - ⊕ **Secondary Microplastics:** Result from the breakdown of larger plastic items. **E.g. Microfibers**, made of **synthetic fibers** like polyester or nylon.

### Impact of Microplastics



#### Human Health:

Microplastics detected in human blood, lungs, placenta, and breast milk.



#### Food Chain Contamination:

Estimated average person consumes **5 grams of plastic per week** (WWF, 2019).



#### Soil Contamination:

Reduce **soil fertility** and affect **plant growth and microbial activity**.



#### Marine Life:

Zooplankton, fish, mussels, and even whales have been found to eat microplastics leading to **Bio-magnification**.

## International Maritime Organization (IMO) Approves Net-Zero Framework for Global Shipping

The IMO Net-zero Framework is the first in the world to combine **mandatory emissions limits** and GHG pricing across an entire industry sector.

- Shipping accounts for almost **3%** of global greenhouse gas emissions.

### Key Features

- It will be included in Annex VI (Prevention of air pollution from ships) to the **International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL)**.
- **Aim:** Net-zero emissions by or around, i.e. close to 2050.
- **Ships will be required to comply with:**
  - ⊕ **Global Fuel Standard:** Ships must reduce, over time, their annual greenhouse gas fuel intensity (GFI) – that is, how much GHG is emitted for each unit of energy used.
  - ⊕ **Global Economic Measure:** Ships emitting above GFI thresholds will have to acquire remedial units to balance its deficit emissions, while those using **zero or near-zero GHG technologies** will be eligible for financial rewards.
- **IMO Net-Zero Fund:** It will be established to collect pricing contributions from emissions.
- **Implementation:** Set to be formally adopted in October 2025 before entry into force in 2027.
  - ⊕ Once into force, it will become **mandatory** for large ocean-going ships over 5,000 gross tonnage, which emit 85% of the total CO2 emissions from international shipping.

### About MARPOL

- MARPOL is the main international convention aimed at the **prevention of pollution from ships** caused by operational or accidental causes.
- It was adopted at the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in 1973.
  - ⊕ The IMO is a **specialized agency of the United Nations** responsible for regulating maritime transport.
- MARPOL is structured into **six annexes**, each dealing with a different type of pollution.

## Also In News

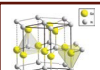


### Shadow Fleet

The US has imposed sanctions on UAE-based Indian associated firms for their alleged involvement in facilitating Iran's **oil trade through the use of a shadow fleet**.

#### About Shadow Fleet

- A shadow fleet is a **group of ships that secretly transport oil** for countries **under international sanctions**, using hidden routes and false documents to avoid detection and tracking.
- **How They Operate**
  - ⊕ **Anonymous Ownership:** Registered under shell companies in jurisdictions like Liberia, Panama, or the Marshall Islands.
  - ⊕ **Spoofing Tactics:** Disable Automatic Identification Systems (AIS) to hide locations.
  - ⊕ **Ship-to-Ship Transfers:** Transfer cargo mid-sea to "clean" vessels of obscure origin.
  - ⊕ **Document Forgery:** Use fake insurance, flags, or cargo manifests.



### Gallium Nitride (GaN)-based semiconductor

Chhattisgarh laid foundation stone for **India's first GaN-based semiconductor plant** in Raipur

#### About GaN-based semiconductor

- Gallium Nitride (GaN) is a **wide bandgap semiconductor** material composed of gallium and nitrogen.
  - ⊕ Semiconductor is a material that **partially conducts electricity**, making it essential for **controlling electrical signals in electronic devices**.
- **Advantages of GaN:**
  - ⊕ It offers **excellent efficiency, thermal stability, and fast switching speeds over Silicon and Other Semiconductor Materials**.
  - ⊕ Lower overall system and operational costs
- GaN is **critical for powering next-gen technologies** such as next-gen 5G and 6G networks, high-performance laptops, defence technologies, data analytics, and power electronics.



### ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA)

India hosts 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Joint Committee on ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA).

- The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), established in August 1967 in Bangkok, Thailand, is a group of **10 countries**.

#### About AITIGA

- **Genesis:** Signed in 2009 and entered into force in 2010.
- **Mandates:** Each party shall accord **National Treatment to goods of other parties in line with GATT, 1994**.
- **Trade:** Bilateral trade between India and ASEAN reached **USD 121 billion (2023-24)**.
- ASEAN constitutes for about **11% share in India's global trade**.



### Long-Range Glide Bomb 'Gaurav'

DRDO successfully conducts release trials of Long-Range Glide Bomb 'Gaurav'.

#### Weapon Specifications

- **Type:** Long-Range Glide Bomb (LRGB).
- **Weight:** 1,000 kg class.
- **Range:** 'Gaurav' achieved 100 km range with pinpoint accuracy.
- **Development:** Designed and developed indigenously.

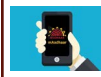


### Lichens

A Study has revealed that certain lichen species can survive and remain metabolically active under simulated Mars-like conditions.

#### About Lichens

- **Nature:** They're **sybiotic association** between a **fungus** (mycobiont) and an **alga or cyanobacterium** (photobiont).
  - **Fungus** provides structure and protection; **alga** provides food via photosynthesis.
- Lichens cover **8 per cent of the land surface**, including some of the most extreme environments on Earth such as Antarctica, tropical deserts.
- India hosts over **2,700 species**, rich in the **Western Ghats, Eastern Himalayas, and Northeast India**.
  - India's **first Lichen Park** was established in 2020 in **Munsiyari, Uttarakhand**.
- **Ecological Importance**
  - **Bioindicators** of air pollution (especially SO<sub>2</sub> and heavy metals).
  - **First colonizers** in ecological succession (on rocks, lava, etc.).
  - Aid in **soil formation** by breaking down substrates.



### mAadhaar App

Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology introduces new Aadhar app.

- It is developed by the **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)**, and aims to **simplify identity verification processes, making them as seamless as UPI payments**.

#### Key Features of the New mAadhaar App

- **QR Code-Based Instant Verification:** Users can scan QR codes at "points of authentication" similar to UPI payments.
- **Face Authentication:** Ensures real-time, secure, face-based verification.
- **Secure Data Sharing:** Shares Aadhaar info directly from the user's device, protecting privacy.
- **User-Controlled Access:** Data is shared only with user consent and limited to what's necessary.



### Sunbird

**Sunbird, a nuclear fusion powered rocket** could help reach **Pluto** in just 4 years: Report

#### About Sunbird

- Sunbird is a **nuclear fusion-based rocket** being developed by Pulsar Fusion (UK) and Princeton Satellite Systems (USA).
- Powered by **Dual Direct Fusion Drive (DDFD) technology**. Using **helium-3** and **deuterium**, DDFD generates both thrust and electricity, marking a revolutionary step in interplanetary travel.
- It is expected to help spacecraft's reach speeds of up to **805,000 kms per hour**.



### Kavach

Union Minister for Railways announced that **Kavach 5.0** will be implemented to upgrade Mumbai's suburban train travel.

- Kavach 5.0 is expected to significantly reduce the inter-train headway, enabling more trains to run safely and efficiently.

#### About Kavach

- The Kavach is an **Automatic Train Protection** system designed to improve train safety and efficiency.
- **Function:** The Kavach assists loco pilots by displaying signals in the train and automatically applying the brakes if the pilot fails to do so.
- **Adjustable weather conditions:** The system ensures that the train operates smoothly even in extreme weather conditions, such as fog.

## Place in News



### Italy (Capital: Rome)

The Italian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs are on a visit to India.

#### Political features:

- **Location:** South-Central Europe
- **Bordering nations:** France, Switzerland, Austria, and Slovenia.
- **Bordering water bodies:** Mediterranean Sea, in particular by the **Adriatic Sea** (northeast), **Ionian Sea** (southeast), **Tyrrhenian Sea** (southwest), and the **Ligurian Sea** (northwest).
- **Surrounded by Rome**, Vatican City (an independent State), is the seat of the Roman Catholic Church.

#### Geographical features:

- **Major mountain ranges:** Alps and Apennines.
- **Highest Point:** Mont Blanc (Monte Bianco)
- **Major Rivers:** Po, Adige, Tiber, Arno
- **Climate:** Mediterranean type



AHMEDABAD



BENGALURU



BHOPAL



CHANDIGARH



DELHI



GUWAHATI



HYDERABAD



JAIPUR



JODHPUR



LUCKNOW



PRAYAGRAJ



PUNE



RANCHI