

Question 1. The law commission has recommended that criminal defamation should be retained within the scheme of criminal laws in India. In its report on the law on criminal defamation, the panel asserted that it is important to keep in mind that the right to reputation flows from Article 21 of the Constitution, and being a facet of right to life and personal liberty, it needs to be “adequately protected” against defamatory speech and imputations. “Reputation is something which can’t be seen and can only be earned. It’s an asset which is built in a lifetime and destroyed in seconds. The whole jurisprudence around the law on criminal defamation has the essence of protecting one’s reputation and its facets,” it said.

Question 2. As per an aircraft tracking website, two aircrafts, a Dassault Falcon 2000 with registration VT-ARO and an Embraer ERJ-135LR with registration VT-JSI departed from Ranchi and landed at Begumpet airport around 3.30 p.m. Sources have confirmed that a total of 44 MLAs, representing Congress, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) have arrived in Hyderabad. The MLAs are en route to the Leonia resort in Shamirpet, according to the same source. The unfolding drama began on Thursday when reports emerged that Jharkhand MLAs were being transported to Hyderabad from Ranchi. Confusion ensued regarding whether the planes carrying the MLAs would land at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) in Shamshabad or Begumpet Airport.

Question 3. Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) leader Hemant Soren stepped down as the Chief Minister of Jharkhand on Wednesday moments before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) arrested him on allegations of money laundering. Mr. Soren faces charges of benefiting from tribal land transactions based on forged documents. The judiciary will examine these allegations, but what necessitates the arrest of an accused is a serious question that the judiciary needs to settle in clearer and enforceable terms. The ED, under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), commands sweeping powers of arrest. Barriers for bail are very high in PMLA cases. Petitions challenging the July 2022 judgment of the Supreme Court upholding these powers are pending before it. Meanwhile, the ED has raised the stakes by arresting a Chief Minister of an Opposition party, which cannot be viewed as a routine law enforcement event. Mr. Soren’s lawyers mentioned in the Court on February 1 that this has implications for the polity of the country, seeking an urgent hearing of his plea against the arrest. Meanwhile, the ED has asked Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party leader Arvind Kejriwal to appear before it on February 2, after his failure to turn up for questioning four times. Mr. Soren has called for ‘a war against a feudal system that oppresses poor, dalit and tribals’, terming the case against him an assault on the tribal communities that he represents. Faced with allegations, politicians often seek cover behind their community identities, but it is undeniable that the long arm of the Indian law reaches the weaker sections of society more easily. The JMM’s troubles did not end with Mr. Soren’s arrest. The selection of a new Chief Minister became entangled in a family feud. Instead, as a compromise, it will be a veteran fighter for tribal rights, Champai Soren, but the Governor has not yet invited him to form the government. The Jharkhand police has filed a first information report based on a complaint by Mr. Soren under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, but it is unlikely to stand. That said, ED investigations have now established a pattern that fits perfectly with the political designs of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party. Mr.

Question 4. The Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha have taken up discussion on President Droupadi Murmu's address to the joint sitting of both the Houses of Parliament. Initiating the discussion, BJP member Dr. Heena Gavit highlighted the series of measures taken by the government for the welfare of women, the poor, farmers, youth, and marginalized sections of society. She added that the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has focused on five elements - women, poor, youth, farmers, and infrastructure. The BJP leader highlighted how women in the country progressed after 2014 listing out Self Help Groups, women's reservation in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies as well as special measures for women in central schemes. Talking about the new education policy, she said it has become a policy for equal opportunity for all. Dr. Gavit said around 14 thousand PM Shree Schools are being established to provide better education to children. She added that 315 new medical colleges have been started in the last ten years and the number of AIIMS has also increased in the country. The MP highlighted that under Mr. Modi's leadership Indian economy has become one of the top five economies of the world from being fragile five. She noted that 18 lakh crore rupees worth UPI transactions were done last year in the country. Dr. Gavit asserted that India has emerged as a global leader in the last ten years. Participating in the discussion, Union Minister Prof SP Singh Baghel said Mr. Modi has run a corruption-free government as not a single allegation of corruption has emerged against his government in the last ten years. He added that Mr. Modi will never compromise on issues of corruption, dynastic politics, and injustice. He attacked Congress over the issue of poverty saying it used to give slogans like Garibi Hato but never took concrete steps in this direction. The Minister listed out several schemes and efforts of the government for the welfare of the people. The discussion is underway in the Lok Sabha. Initiating the discussion in Rajya Sabha, Kavita Patidar of the BJP said, that in the last 10 years, women of the country have been empowered. She also listed out achievements of the Government saying 25 crore people have come out of poverty. Ms. Patidar said, the number of airports in the country has doubled and four lakh kilometers of new roads have been constructed in the rural areas. She also said that metro train services have reached 20 cities which was earlier concentrated in only five cities, while Vande Bharat trains are running on 39 routes. She said, that Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat have become the strength of the country and India has emerged as the second largest exporter of mobile phones.

Participating in the discussion, Vivek Thakur of BJP said, Narendra Modi Government has brought the country from the policy paralysis era. He said, that from Fragile Five, India has entered in the top five economies. Mr. Thakur said, India has become the bright spot in the world. He also highlighted several measures taken by the Government for the welfare of countrymen.

Question 5. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that India is moving forward with the vision to make the country 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047. He said to achieve this goal, the mobility sector is going to play a crucial role. The Prime Minister was addressing Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2024 at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi on Friday. Mr Modi said, this event has brought together the mobility community and the entire supply chain on one platform. He said India's economy is expanding fast, and in the third term of his government, India is bound to become the third biggest economy in the world. Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2024 is set to showcase India's capabilities across the entire mobility and automotive value chains. The Expo will feature exhibitions, conferences, buyer-seller meets, state sessions, road safety

pavilion and also public-centric attractions like go-karting. With over 800 exhibitors from more than 50 countries, the Expo will highlight cutting-edge technologies, sustainable solutions and breakthroughs in mobility. The Expo will feature participation from over 28 vehicle manufacturers. About thousand brands from over 13 global markets will showcase their complete range of products, technologies, and services at the event. Along with the exhibition and conferences, Bharat Mobility Expo will also feature state sessions for states to showcase regional contributions and initiatives to enable collaboration at both national and regional levels.