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A. GS1 Related

Category: SOCIETAL ISSUE

1. [Cinema & censorship](#)

Context

- Supreme Court rejected a petition filed by a person claiming to be the daughter of the late Sanjay Gandhi to set aside the certificate granted to **Indu Sarkar** , a film directed by Madhur Bhandarkar

Freedom of expression

- **Supreme Court observation:** freedom of expression cannot be curtailed without a valid reason.
- Film is nothing but artistic expression within the parameters of law and that there is no warrant or justification to curtail it.

CBFC and its censorship role

- Recent experience suggests that the CBFC (Central Board of Film Certification) does not always see itself as a certifying authority, but rather plays the censor quite merrily. In the case of Uda Punjab last year, it was seeking to be the guardian of Punjab’s honour against the depiction of the high prevalence of drug addiction in the State.
- The Bombay High Court had to remind the CBFC that certification, and not censorship is its primary role and that its power to order changes and cuts must be exercised in accordance with constitutional principles.
- More recently, the CBFC sought to play the moral censor with regard to Lipstick Under My Burkha, a film it thought was too “lady-oriented” to be given a certificate, presumably because it depicts their fantasies.
- The Film Certification Appellate Tribunal had to intervene to secure the release of the film, with an “A” certificate.
- These instances demonstrate that challenges to freedom come from both within the systemic framework and outside.

Role of court in protecting freedom of expression

- Courts prefer to protect the right to free expression rather than entertain excuses such as maintenance of law and order and public tranquility, or someone’s sense of hurt or the fear of someone being portrayed in a bad light.

B. GS2 Related

Category: POLITY

1. [SC rejects abortion plea of 10-year-old](#)

KNOCKING ON COURT'S DOORS

List of recent cases decided by SC on abortion plea

July Allowed abortion plea of Kolkata-based 26-week pregnant lady as fetus was suffering from congenital disorder	old pregnant woman facing danger to her life due to pregnancy and allowed her to abort 23-week fetus
May Turned down plea of 35-year-old destitute HIV positive rape survivor from Patna to abort 26-week pregnancy, as docs said it was risky	Feb Turned down plea to abort fetus suffering from Down Syndrome saying that there was no danger to life of the mother
March Turned down plea of woman to abort 27-week-old fetus having severe physical abnormalities as docs said baby might be "born alive"	January Allowed 24-week pregnant woman from Mumbai to undergo abortion due to life-threatening abnormalities in fetus
Feb SC allowed 22-year-	April 2016 Allowed 14-year-old rape survivor from Ahmedabad to abort 24-week fetus

Context

- On July 24, a Bench led by Chief Justice of India J.S. Khehar had directed doctors from P.G.I., Chandigarh, to medically examine the 10-year-old rape victim and file a report in court on whether the "health of the girl child concerned, who is stated to be of the age of 10 years, and also that of the foetus, would be adversely affected, if the pregnancy is continued for the full term".

Termination is not possible

- Medical opinion: abortion will endanger both the girl and her 32-week-old foetus.
- Supreme Court: denied the permission to grant abortion of the foetus.

State-level MTP boards

- Supreme Court urged the government to consider setting up permanent medical boards across the States so that women, especially child rape victims, could receive expedient access to medical care.
- Why such boards? To expedite the process.**
- Presently, women are forced to undertake the cumbersome process of approaching different courts, from district courts to high courts and finally the Supreme Court, for permission to medically terminate their pregnancies which are over 20 weeks.
- The frequent number of such cases which have come to the Supreme Court range from child rape victims to destitute women to women with substantial foetus abnormalities.

Basic Information

What is MTP Act, 1971?

- Abortion in India is legal only up to twenty weeks of pregnancy under specific conditions and situations.**
- One, the continuance of the pregnancy would involve a risk to the life of the pregnant woman or of grave injury of physical or mental health, or**
- Two, there is a substantial risk that if the child were born, it would suffer from such physical or mental abnormalities as to be seriously handicapped.**

What the draft MTP bill 2014 provides?

- The draft MTP increased the legal limit for abortion from 20 weeks to 24 weeks.**
- It provides for abortion beyond 24 weeks under defined conditions.**
- The Bill amends Section 3 of the 1971 Act to provide that "the length of pregnancy shall not apply" in a decision to abort a foetus diagnosed with "substantial foetal abnormalities" or if it is "alleged by the pregnant woman to have been caused by rape".**
- Under the 1971 Act, even pregnant rape victims cannot abort after 20 weeks, compelling them to move court.**
- It allows a woman to take an independent decision in consultation with a registered health-care provider.**
- It also takes into account the reality of a massive shortage of both doctors and trained midwives, and seeks to allow Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha practitioners to carry out abortions.**

Why is it essential to change the MTP law?

- Foetal abnormalities show up only by 18 weeks, so just a two-week window after that is too small for the would-be parents to take the difficult call on whether to keep their baby.**
- Even for the medical practitioner, this window is too small to exhaust all possible options before advising the patient.**
- There is an urgent need to empower women with sexual rights, legal protection against sex crimes and sex choices both in their own interest and for the sake of reducing the fertility rate as a whole.**
- The lack of legal approval moves abortion to underground and they are done in unhygienic conditions by untrained, thus, putting thousands of women at risk.**

Category: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

1. [Pakistan Supreme Court removes Sharif from office](#)

PANAMA PAPERS TAKE A TOLL

➤ 3 of **Nawaz Sharif's** children owned offshore firms & assets not shown as part of family wealth, according to Panama Papers leaks

➤ Sharif's family also accused of living beyond their means, **hiding their assets, perjury and forgery**

➤ Sharif's daughter **Maryam** produced a **forged trust deed** about 4 London flats she owned

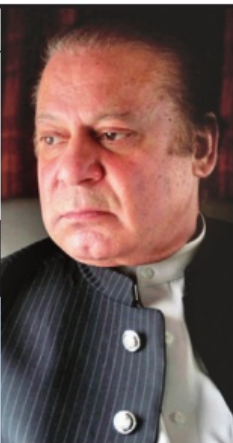
➤ **AG says there is no law to file any appeal against this judgment.** SC also orders a court to open references against Sharif and kin

“MIAN MUHAMMAD NAWAZ SHARIF IS NOT HONEST... AND THE BENCH HAS UNANIMOUSLY DEEMED HIM UNFIT FOR HOLDING OFFICE —PAK SC

WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED IN INDIA?

An MP/MLA in India would get off lightly for a similar offence, inviting a **bare fine or/and maximum imprisonment of six months**. Besides, there exists no

provision in the Representation of the People Act (RP Act) for disqualification of an elected representative convicted of filing a false affidavit



In news:

- Pakistan's Supreme Court disqualified **Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif** from office over **undeclared assets** and ordered registration of corruption cases against him and his children, plunging the country into a political turmoil.
- Attorney-General said the disqualification is for life, ending any hope for the three-time Prime Minister to return to active politics.

C. GS3 Related

Category: ECONOMICS

1. Most private hospitals evade tax: CAG

Highlights of "A performance audit of India's private hospitals" by CAG

- Majority of the institutions is evading tax.
- Data on "non-filers" of income tax was available only in three states " West Bengal, Assam and Gujarat.
- Delhi, Kerala, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu had no process of identifying hospitals that were evading tax.
- Most private hospitals and practitioners did not submit valid Permanent Account Numbers (PAN).

Key Fact: The private sector accounts for 80% of outpatient care and 60% of inpatient care in the country.

2. "Regulators shouldn't restrain innovation"

In news

- Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant opinion: India's financial sector regulators should stop hindering ideas in the financial technology sector and instead opt for a **regulatory sandbox** approach to nurture innovative financial technology applications.

What is a regulatory sandbox?

- A regulatory sandbox is an experimental oversight mechanism for innovative products and services that do not fall into an existing regulatory regime or cut across traditional regulators' domains.
- For example when you make payment transfers or remittances, assess your personal finance or insurance needs, compare financial products that you are considering buying or to track the performance of your investments.
- Such innovations are permitted to operate for a limited period of time at a limited scale to understand its efficacy and implications, so that the best alternatives for regulation can be evolved based on concerns that emerge.
- The (sandbox) option can be a great way to unlock innovations for mass public adoption, because a regulatory sandbox balances the twin objectives of nurturing financial innovation and safeguarding consumer interests.

Practice elsewhere

- Globally, regulatory sandboxes have been introduced in the U.K., Singapore, Australia, Malaysia and UAE. Each country has a certain "target group" for which sandboxing is done.
- All these countries have so far created a sandboxed environment to support financial institutions (FIs) and fintech firms

Allowing the start-ups

- There are over 600 start-ups in the country in the financial technology (fintech) space
- Letting them operate in a "live, but controlled environment with some regulations relaxed, will provide a solid evidence base" on their strengths and weaknesses.
- More than 30 of those start-ups are focused on the peer-to-peer lending space alone and their market potential is expected to reach \$5 billion by 2020.
- Several start-ups are working in areas such as virtual currencies like Bitcoins, Blockchain-based settlements and so on.
- The total fintech market in India is estimated to be worth \$8 billion and is expected to grow to about \$14 billion by 2020. India is ranked amongst the top ten FinTech markets globally

Category: INTERNAL SECURITY

3. [CAG spots weaknesses in missile defence system](#)

Highlights of the report tabled by CAG in Parliament:

- **Deficient in quality** – The **strategic missile system**, a medium range supersonic surface to air missile system to counter aerial threats were “deficient in quality,”
- Over 70 % of the under vehicle scanners (UVS) installed at Indian Air Force (IAF) bases were **non-functional**
- The IL series of aircraft, which provide vital transport support to IAF during contingencies, “has **not** been **upgraded**”, and continue to fly with 1985 vintage avionics. Air to air refuelling is a crucial capability both during combat as well as peace time operations. IL-78 aircraft are dedicated for this purpose. However, due to inadequate infrastructure and support facilities the air to air refuelling capability was hampered.

Importance of Strategic missile system:

- Strategic missile system is vital for the country’s air defence and deterrence capability.
- Audit found that the system delivered by Bharat Electricals Limited (BEL) was deficient in quality.
- Out of 80 missiles received up to November 2014, 20 were test fired during April-November 2014. Six of these missiles i.e., 30 % failed the test.
- Preliminary failure analysis report revealed that the missiles fell short of the target, had lower than the required velocity, and also there was malfunctioning of critical units like Servo Control Unit and Connector.
- Two missiles had failed to take off because the booster nozzle had failed. These deficiencies posed an operational risk during hostilities.

Category: **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

1. [Building block of life found on Saturn’s moon Titan](#)

In news

- An important building block of life has been discovered in the hazy upper atmosphere of Saturn’s largest moon, Titan.
- Using data from the Cassini mission, scientists identified negatively charged molecules **called “carbon chain anions”** in the atmosphere of Titan.

Inference: These linear molecules are understood to be building blocks towards more complex molecules, and may have acted as the basis for the earliest forms of life on Earth.

D. GS4 Related

Nothing here for Today!!!

[PIB Articles Editorials Roundup](#)

E. Concepts-in-News: Related Concepts to Revise/Learn

Nothing here for Today!!!

F. Bills/Acts/Schemes/Orgs in News

Nothing here for Today!!!

G. Practice Questions for UPSC Prelims Exam

G. UPSC Mains Practice Questions

GS Paper I

1. Should there be censorship of films? Critically discuss in the light of recent moves by Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) to ban or cut scenes in movies.

GS Paper II

1. The Union Health Ministry’s and NITI Aayog’s recent proposal to allow the private sector to run district hospitals has its risks. Examine?

GS Paper IV

1. You are a young, aspiring and sincere employee in a Government office working as an assistant, to the director of your department. Since you’ve joined recently, you need to learn and progress. Luckily your superior is very kind and ready to train you for your job. He is a very intelligent and well-informed person having knowledge of various departments. In short, you respect your boss and are looking forward to learn a lot from him.

Since you’ve good tuning with the boss, he started depending on you. One day due to ill health he invited you at his place for finishing some urgent work. You reached his house and you heard shouting noises before you could ring the bell. You waited for a while. After entering, boss greeted you and explained the work. But you were constantly disturbed by the

crying of a woman. At last, you inquired with the boss but his answer did not satisfy you. Next day, you were compelled to inquire further in the office and found out that his behavior is very bad at home with his wife. He also beats up his wife.

His wife is not well educated and is a simple woman in comparison to her husband. You see that though your boss is a nice person in the office, he is engaged in domestic violence at home. In such a situation, you are left with the following options. Analyse each option with its consequences.

- I. Just ignore thinking about it because it is their personal matter.
 - II. Report the case to the appropriate authority.
 - III. Your own innovative approach towards the situation. (250 words)
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Also, check previous [Daily News Analysis](#).