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### SUPREME COURT VERDICT ON PROPERTY RIGHTS AND STATE ACQUISITION OF PRIVATE PROPERTY

#### Background of the Property Owners Association & Ors v State of Maharashtra Case:

- This case concerned a Maharashtra law allowing the acquisition of certain privately owned dilapidated buildings in Mumbai. The law claimed to enact Article 39(b) of the Constitution of India.
- The Bombay HC upheld this law in 1991, stating it was protected under Article 31C, originally introduced in 1971 to promote socialist objectives under the Indira Gandhi government.

#### Understanding Articles 39(b) & 31C:

- Article 39(b): It requires the state to ensure “ownership and control of the material resources of the community are so distributed as best to subserve the common good.”
- Article 31C:
  - It has two parts:
    - **First part:** Exempts laws promoting Article 39(b) or (c) from being challenged for inconsistency with Articles 14, 19, or 31.
    - **Second part:** Shields these laws from court scrutiny, provided they claim to uphold Article 39(b) or (c). However, this part was struck down in the **Kesavananda Bharti case (1973)**.
  - Later, the scope of Article 31C was expanded by the **42nd Amendment in 1976** but was partially invalidated by the **Minerva Mills case (1980)**.

#### The Property Owners Association & Ors v State of Maharashtra Case:

- About the judgement:
  - It is led by a 9-judge bench of the SC (chaired by the Chief Justice of India [CJI]), and addressed two primary questions:
    - **The current status of Article 31C** of the Constitution of India and whether it still exists despite previous amendments being struck down.

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- **The scope of Article 39(b)** and its implications for the state's authority to acquire private property as “material resources of the community.”
- **The status of Article 31C:**
  - The case challenged the Bombay HC's interpretation, contending that the Minerva Mills ruling effectively invalidated Article 31C.
  - **The court clarified** that Minerva Mills only removed the expanded scope but preserved the original version from Kesavananda Bharti, **keeping Article 31C operative in its original form.**
- **Interpretation of Article 39(b):**
  - **The court established four criteria** to determine if private property could be deemed a community resource:
    - **Nature of the resource:** Its inherent characteristics.
    - **Community impact:** How the resource affects societal well-being.
    - **Resource scarcity:** Availability of the resource.
    - **Concentration consequences:** Risks of resource concentration among private owners.

### Diverging Opinions in the Property Owners Association & Ors v State of Maharashtra Case:

- **Majority opinion:** Emphasised the shift from a purely public-investment economy to one with both public and private investments, suggesting that not all private property qualifies as community resources.

### Conclusion:

- The SC's decision in this case has **redefined the interpretation of Article 39(b) while retaining the original version of Article 31C.**
  - This verdict reflects the judiciary's approach to **balancing state welfare objectives with private property rights**, adapted to India's evolving socio-economic landscape.
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### ON IMPROVING WIND ENERGY GENERATION

- Tamil Nadu has long been a pioneer in wind energy generation in India, with its first wind turbines installed over 30 years ago.
- Recently, the Tamil Nadu government introduced the "**Tamil Nadu Repowering, Refurbishment, and Life Extension Policy for Wind Power Projects - 2024**" to modernize aging wind turbines and improve efficiency.
- However, the policy has faced opposition from wind energy generators who claim it does not effectively support wind energy growth.
- Here's a closer look at the current status of wind energy in Tamil Nadu and the challenges involved in boosting its capacity.

#### **Current Wind Energy Capacity in India and Tamil Nadu:**

- **National Potential:** According to the National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE), **India has a wind power potential of 1,163.86 GW at a height of 150 meters**, making it one of the top countries globally for wind energy capacity.
- **Installed Capacity:** Currently, **India uses only about 6.5% of its potential wind energy capacity**. Tamil Nadu, with 10,603.5 MW of installed capacity, ranks second in India and contributes significantly to the national wind power production.
- **Aging Infrastructure:** Tamil Nadu has around 20,000 wind turbines, half of which are less than 1 MW in capacity, making them less efficient compared to modern turbines.

#### **Understanding Repowering and Refurbishment of Wind Turbines:**

- **Repowering:**
  - This involves replacing old turbines, especially those over 15 years old or with a capacity of less than 2 MW, with new, higher-capacity turbines to increase output.
  - For instance, a 2 MW turbine requires 3.5 acres and can generate up to 6.5 million units of power annually, while a modern 2.5 MW turbine, standing at 140 meters, requires five acres and can generate around 8 million units.



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- **Refurbishment:**
  - This process includes upgrading components such as turbine blades, gearboxes, and increasing the height of turbines to improve efficiency without complete replacement.
- **Life Extension:**
  - Involves implementing safety and structural upgrades on older turbines to extend their operational life.

### Challenges with the New Policy and Industry Opposition:

- The main issues include:
    - **Land Requirements for Higher Capacity Turbines:** Upgrading to larger turbines, like 2.5 MW models, requires more land, which is not always available near existing installations.
    - **Infrastructure Delays:** Projects aimed at enhancing transmission infrastructure, such as the construction of sub-stations, have faced delays. At Aralvaimozhi, a high-potential site, plans for new sub-stations have stalled for six years, impacting the ability to harness maximum wind energy from the area.
    - **Banking Restrictions:** The policy treats repowered turbines as new installations, which makes them ineligible for the banking of generated energy. Without banking facilities, the financial viability of these projects is reduced, as producers cannot store excess energy for future use.
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### LIGHTNING

Climate change is making lightning strikes around the world more common and deadlier.



**Lightning** strikes are possible because **electrical charges can build up in a cloud** beyond the ability of air to keep resisting their movement.



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- It is an electrical discharge between charged particles in a cloud and the ground.
- It can occur between **opposite charges within the thunderstorm cloud** (intra-cloud lightning) or **between opposite charges in the cloud** and on the ground (cloud-to-ground lightning).
- It is one of the oldest observed natural phenomena on Earth. It can be seen in volcanic eruptions, extremely intense forest fires, surface nuclear detonations, heavy snowstorms, large hurricanes, and obviously, thunderstorms.
- While a lightning strike occurs between a cloud and an object on or near the ground, it **takes the path of least resistance**, which means it moves towards the closest object with the highest electric potential.

### What is a lightning rod?

- It is a **metallic rod** (usually copper) that protects a structure from lightning damage by **intercepting flashes and guiding their currents into the ground**.
  - Lightning rods are pointy and pointed things create stronger electric fields near them.
  - The lightning rod is connected to a wire that drops through the length of the building into the ground, where it dissipates its electric charges into its surroundings.
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### HOKERSAR WETLAND



**Lack of water due to excess deficit rainfall at the Hokersar wetland in the Kashmir Valley in recent years has impacted the arrival of migratory bird populations in the region.**

- It is known as the '**Queen Wetland of Kashmir**', Hokersar (also known as Hokera) is a designated Ramsar site located in **Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir**.
- It is a natural perennial wetland contiguous to the **Jhelum basin**.
- It gets water from the **Doodhganga River** (Tributary of Jhelum).



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- It is located in the northwest Himalayan biogeographic province of **Kashmir**, back of the snow-draped Pir Panchal.
- **Fauna:** It is the only site with remaining **reedbeds of Kashmir** and a pathway of 68 waterfowl species like Large Egret, Great Crested Grebe, Little Cormorant, Common Shelduck, Tufted Duck and endangered White-eyed Pochard,
- It is an important source of food, spawning ground and nursery for fishes, besides offering feeding and breeding ground to a variety of water birds.

### What is the Ramsar Convention?

- This convention was signed on **2nd February 1971** to preserve the ecological character of their wetlands of international importance.
- It is named after Ramsar, the Iranian city where the treaty was signed in 1971, and places chosen for conservation under it are given the tag '**Ramsar site**'.

### CONSUMPTION OF KODO MILLET LED TO THE DEATH OF 10 ELEPHANTS IN MP

- Kodo millet, also known as Kodra or Varagu, is believed to have originated in India.
- It is widely grown in regions such as India, Pakistan, and West Africa.
- In India, Madhya Pradesh is a leading producer, with the **crop thriving in arid, tropical, and subtropical regions on poor soils**.
  - Apart from MP, the millet is cultivated in Gujarat, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, and parts of Tamil Nadu.
- It is a staple food for tribal and economically disadvantaged communities due to its drought tolerance, high yield, and nutrient-rich profile, including vitamins, minerals, antioxidants, and dietary fiber.
- **Health Benefits and Culinary Uses of Kodo Millet**



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- Kodo millet is gluten-free, easy to digest, and may have anti-carcinogenic properties.
- It is used to make traditional dishes like idli, dosa, porridge, rotis, and more.
- Its dietary fiber supports digestive health, glucose absorption, and cholesterol management.
- **Historical Cases of Kodo Millet Poisoning**
  - The earliest recorded kodo millet poisoning case dates to 1922, involving human poisoning documented by Dr. Anand Swarup.
  - In the same year, a case of animal poisoning in a dog was also reported.
  - In 1983, a study noted the first documented case of elephant deaths from consuming kodo millet.
  - Research in 1985 identified the **mycotoxin cyclopiazonic acid (CPA) in kodo millet as a cause of “kodua poisoning.”**
- **Causes and Impact of Kodo Millet Poisoning**
  - Kodo poisoning, locally known as ‘Matawna Kodoo’ or ‘Matona Kodo’ in northern India, often occurs when rainfall during the grain's maturation or harvest leads to fungal contamination.
  - Infected grains contain resilient mycotoxins that withstand standard food processing methods, making contaminated kodo millet unsafe for consumption.
  - It affects the nervous, cardiovascular, and gastrointestinal systems.
  - Key symptoms include vomiting, dizziness, unconsciousness, rapid pulse, cold extremities, limb tremors, and in severe cases, cardiomyocyte damage and liver dysfunction.

### Mitigation Strategies for Kodo Millet Poisoning

- Researchers recommend using **biocontrol agents, such as non-toxigenic fungal strains**, to combat fungal development and mycotoxin production in kodo millet fields.
  - These biological control methods can be effective for long-term management.
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### WHAT IS KAYAKALP SCHEME?



- It is an initiative launched by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)** on May 15, 2015, under **Swachh Bharat Abhiyan** to promote cleanliness and enhance the quality of healthcare facilities in India.
- **Objectives:**
  - To promote cleanliness, hygiene, infection control, and **environment-friendly practices in Public Health Facilities (PHFs)**.
  - To incentivise and recognise PHFs that show exemplary performance in adhering to standard cleanliness and infection control protocols.
  - To create and share sustainable practices related to **improved cleanliness in PHFs** linked to positive health outcomes.
- The Kayakalp assessment is a **three-tier process** involving **internal, peer, and external assessment**.
- The **parameters** on which the performance of the facility would be judged are as follows:
  - Hospital/Facility Upkeep
  - Sanitation and Hygiene
  - Waste Management
  - Infection Control
  - Support Services
  - Hygiene Promotion
- To appreciate the hard work and dedication of the healthcare centres, **five awards are provided** under this scheme:
  - Two best district hospitals
  - Two best community health centres or sub-district hospitals
  - One primary health centre in every district
- **Cash awards and citations** are provided to the winners judged by the set criteria.





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### KEY FACTS ABOUT SUTLEJ RIVER

- It is the longest of the **five tributaries of the Indus River**.
- It is also known as "**Satadree**".
- The Sutlej River is primarily located to the **north of the Vindhya Range**, east of the **Pakistani Central Makran Range**, and south of the **Hindu Kush region**.

**Origin:** It rises on north slope of the Himalayas in **Lake Rakshastal in southwestern Tibet** at an elevation above 15,000 feet (4,600 metres).

- It is one of **only three Trans Himalayan rivers** originating in the **high Tibetan Plateau** that cuts across the mighty Himalayan ranges. The other two are the Indus and the Brahmaputra.
  - The Sutlej enters India by flowing west and south-westwards through the **Shipki La Pass in Himachal Pradesh** at an altitude of 6,608 metres.
  - The river **then flows through Punjab** near Nangal before meeting the **Beas River**. The merger of these two rivers goes on to form 105 Km of the **India-Pakistan border**.
  - The river continues to flow for another 350 Km before **joining the Chenab River**. The combination of the **Sutlej and Chenab Rivers forms the Panjnad**, which **finally flows into the Indus River**.
  - **Length:** It has a total length of **1550 km**, out of which **529 km is in Pakistan**.
  - **Tributaries:** It has many tributaries, with **Baspa, Spiti, Nogli Khad, and Soan River** being its main ones.
  - Water from the Sutlej River has been allocated to India according to the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960.
  - There are several major hydroelectric projects on the Sutlej, including the 1,000 MW Bhakra Dam, the 1,000 MW **Karcham Wangtoo Hydroelectric Plant**, and the 1,530 MW **Nathpa Jhakri Dam**.
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