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## Current Affairs - 07 September 2024

### WHAT IS NATIONAL COMPANY LAW APPELLATE TRIBUNAL (NCLAT)?



**National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT)** is a quasi-judicial body constituted under Section 410 of the **Companies Act, 2013** for hearing appeals against the orders of the **National Company Law Tribunal(s) (NCLT)**, with effect from **1st June 2016**.

- It aims to expedite the resolution of corporate disputes and promote transparency and efficiency in the corporate governance and insolvency processes in India.
- **Functions:**
  - **Hear appeals against the orders passed by the NCLT(s)** under Section 61 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC).
  - **Hear appeals against the orders passed by the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)** under Sections 202 and 211 of the IBC.
  - To hear and dispose of appeals against any direction issued, or decision made, or order passed by the **Competition Commission of India (CCI)**.
  - It is also the Appellate Tribunal to hear and dispose of appeals against the orders of the **National Financial Reporting Authority**.
  - It also enjoys advisory jurisdiction when a legal issue has been referred to it by the President of India for opinions and advice.
- **Headquarters: New Delhi.**
- **Composition:**
  - It is composed of a **chairperson and judicial and technical members**.
  - These members are appointed by the **Central Government based on their expertise and experience** in relevant fields such as law, finance, accountancy, management, and administration.

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- **Powers:**
    - It has the authority to regulate its own procedures and has powers similar to those vested in a **civil court under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908.**
    - These powers include summoning and examining witnesses, requiring the production of documents, receiving evidence on affidavits, issuing commissions, and more.
    - **Any order made by the NCLAT can be enforced in the same manner as a decree made by a court in a suit.**
    - There shall be no jurisdiction of a civil court to hear any suit or proceeding to any matter which the NCLAT has been authorised to determine by or under the Companies Act, 2013, or any other law for the time being in force.
    - No injunction shall be granted by any Court or other authority in respect of any action that is taken or that ought to be taken by the NCLAT in pursuance of any power conferred on it by or under this Act or any other law for the time being in force.
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### WHAT ARE TECHNICAL TEXTILES?



- Technical textiles are defined as textile materials and products **used primarily for their technical performance and functional properties** rather than their aesthetic or decorative characteristics.
- Other terms used for defining technical textiles include **industrial textiles, functional textiles, performance textiles, engineering textiles, invisible textiles, and hi-tech textiles.**
- They are designed to have high levels of physical, mechanical, thermal, and/or chemical properties for use in specific applications within industrial sectors such as earthworks, construction, civil engineering, transport, defence, medical, and healthcare.
- They are used individually or as a component/part of another product.

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- Technical textiles are used **individually to satisfy specific functions, such as fire-retardant fabric for uniforms of firemen and coated fabric to be used as awnings.**
- As a component or part of another product, they are used to enhance the strength, performance or other functional properties of that product.
- They are manufactured using natural as well as man-made fibres.
- They are classified into 12 major groups based on their application areas, namely: Agrotech, Geotech, Buildtech, Mobiltech, Hometech, Clothtech, Indutech, Meditech, Sportstech, Protech, Packtech and Oekotech.

### National Technical Textiles Mission:

- It was launched by the **Union Ministry of Textiles to increase the penetration level of technical textiles in India** while leveraging the extraordinary growth rate of the sector.
  - The mission aims to position India as a global leader in technical textiles.
  - The mission will comprise of the following **four components**:
    - Research, Innovation and Development
    - Promotion and Market Development
    - Export Promotion
    - Education, Training, and Skill Development
  - **Target:** The Mission has a target to take the domestic market size of the technical textile sector to \$ **40-50 Billion** by the year 2024 with an **average growth rate of 15-20% per annum.**
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### WHAT IS NATIONAL TIGER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY (NTCA)?



**National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** is a statutory body under the **Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** constituted to strengthen tiger conservation.

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- NCTA was created in 2005 following the recommendation of the Tiger Task Force and was given the status of statutory authority under Section 38L of the **Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act, 2006.**

### **Powers and Functions:**

- **Approving the tiger conservation plan prepared by the State Government.**
- Maintaining sustainable ecology and disallowing any such use of land within the tiger reserves which is detrimental to the ecology.
- Making rules and guidelines for **tourism activity for Project Tiger** in the tiger reserves and also ensuring their due compliance.
- Measures for addressing **conflicts between men and animals** and emphasize on co-existence between the two outside the national parks, tiger reserves, or sanctuaries.
- Facilitating capacity-building programmes for the officers and staff.

### **What is Project Tiger?**

- It is a tiger conservation programme launched in **1973** as a **centrally sponsored scheme by the Government of India.**
- It was the first of its kind Project in India to maintain the population of Tigers in India and to protect them from poaching and other threats.
- **It is administered by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).**
- It aims at:
  - Ensuring a viable population of the **Bengal tiger ('endangered')** in its natural habitats,
  - Protecting it from extinction,
  - Preserving areas of biological importance as a natural heritage that represent the diversity of ecosystems across the tiger's range in the country

Initially, the Project covered nine tiger reserves spread over 18,278 sq. km.

- Now, the project includes 54 tiger reserves sprawling over around 75,000 km.



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### AGNI-4 MISSILE



Agni-4 is an intermediate-range ballistic missile.

- The launch of this Agni-4 was carried out from the Integrated Test Range in **Odisha's Chandipur**.
- The launch successfully validated all operational and technical parameters. It was conducted under the aegis of the **Strategic Forces Command, a part of India's Nuclear Command Authority (NCA)**.
- **Features:**
  - It can hit as far as **4,000 kilometres**.
  - The 20-metre-long missile can carry a **payload of 1,000 kg** and can be fired from a road-mobile launcher.
  - It is a **surface-to-surface**
  - It is a mobile, **two-stage solid-fuel system**.
- The Agni missiles are designed and developed by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**.

### **Key Facts about Strategic Forces Command (SFC)**

- It sometimes called **Strategic Nuclear Command**, forms part of India's Nuclear Command Authority (NCA), which is responsible for command-and-control decisions regarding India's nuclear weapons programme.
- SFC is responsible for the management and administration of the **country's tactical and strategic nuclear weapons stockpile**.
- It was created on January 4, 2003.



### WHAT IS ENEMY PROPERTY IN INDIA?

A parcel of land in Uttar Pradesh, previously belonging to the family of former Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf, is set to be auctioned under The Enemy Property Act.



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- The **Enemy Property Act 1968** defined an ‘enemy’ as a country (and its citizens) that committed external aggression against India (i.e., Pakistan and China).
    - Enemy property means any property for the time being belonging to or held or managed on behalf of an enemy, an enemy subject or an enemy firm.
    - These properties are of those left behind by the people who took **citizenship of Pakistan and China** after leaving India during the partition and after 1962 war.
  - In 2017, Parliament passed the **Enemy Property (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2016**, which amended the 1968 Act and the **Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971**.
  - It expanded the definition of the terms “**enemy subject**”, and “**enemy firm**” to include the **legal heir and successor** of an enemy, whether a citizen of India or a citizen of a country which is not an enemy; and the succeeding firm of an enemy firm, irrespective of the nationality of its members or partners.
  - The amended law provided that enemy property shall continue **to vest in the Custodian even if the enemy or enemy subject** or enemy firm ceases to be an enemy due to death, extinction, winding up of business or change of nationality, or that the legal heir or successor is a citizen of India or a citizen of a country which is not an enemy.
  - Maximum number of enemy properties are in Uttar Pradesh - 4,991. West Bengal has 2,735, and Delhi has 487.
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### INDIA – EU BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP

- India and the EU formally established diplomatic relations in 1962, though it wasn’t until the early 2000s that both entities started engaging at a strategic level.
- The 2004 India-EU Strategic Partnership marked a turning point, expanding cooperation across political, economic, and security areas.

#### **Trade & Investment Relationship:**

- Trade remains the cornerstone of the India-EU relationship.



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- The EU is **India's third-largest trading partner**, accounting for about 11% of India's total trade in 2022.
- In the same year, **bilateral trade in goods between India and the EU reached over €115 billion**, a significant increase from the previous years.
- **Key Exports from India:** Pharmaceuticals, textiles, chemicals, and machinery.
- **Key Imports from the EU:** Engineering goods, chemicals, gems, and precious metals.

### Strategic Cooperation:

- India and the EU have expanded their collaboration in key strategic areas:
  - **Climate Change and Clean Energy:** Both regions are committed to the Paris Agreement and have been working together on clean energy transitions.
  - **Security and Defense:** India and the EU are increasingly aligning their interests in defense cooperation, particularly in maritime security in the Indo-Pacific region.
  - **Digital and Technological Cooperation:** Digitalization and emerging technologies have been identified as key areas for collaboration. The two sides are working on data protection, cyber security, and **artificial intelligence (AI)**.

The **upcoming India-EU Summit, scheduled for November, 2024**, is expected to be a crucial platform for advancing cooperation, particularly in areas like climate action, digital governance, and defense partnerships.

### News Summary:

- A group of officials from the Defence Ministry and Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) are in Europe on a three-day study visit, facilitated by the EU delegation in India.
- India and the European Union are working to strengthen military-to-military engagements, focusing on enhancing maritime security and defense cooperation.
- A recent study visit by Indian officials to Europe highlighted efforts to deepen ties through staff interactions and collaboration in the Indo-Pacific region.
- The visit included discussions on joint naval operations, with a focus on ensuring free, open maritime zones, and promoting regional stability.



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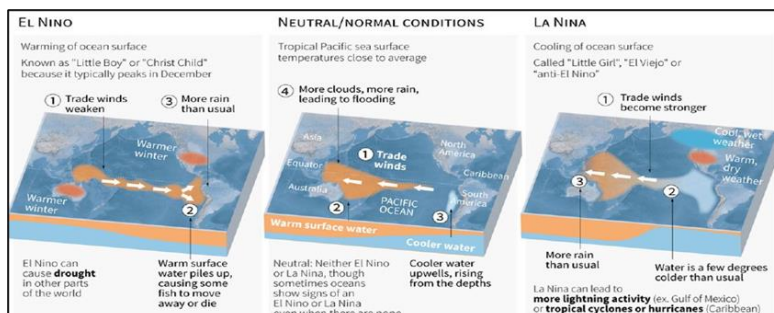
### LA NIÑA AND ITS IMPACT ON THE INDIAN CLIMATE

#### What is the Phenomenon of the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO)?

- The ENSO is a phenomenon **characterised by changes in sea temperatures** along the tropical Pacific Ocean due to atmospheric fluctuations overhead.
- **The ENSO has three phases** - warm (El Niño), cool (La Niña) and neutral/normal, which occurs in irregular cycles lasting anywhere from two to seven years.
- Because it **disrupts the global air circulation and affects weather patterns worldwide**, ENSO is a major contributor to the variability of the natural climate on a global scale.

#### What is El Niño and La Niña?

- **El Niño** (or 'The Little Girl' in Spanish) and **La Niña** (or 'The Little Boy' in Spanish) are two opposing climate trends that deviate from the normal conditions and normally run 9 to 12 months.
- **El Niño** (which is more frequent than La Niña) is typically known as the **warm phase** of ENSO, in which a band of warmer water spreads from west to east in the equatorial Pacific Ocean.
- On the other hand, **La Niña** is identified as the **cold phase** of ENSO, in which a band of cooler water spreads east-west in the equatorial Pacific Ocean.



- Both El Niño and La Niña can have global effects on **weather, wildfires, ecosystems and economics.**
- Comparing El Niño, La Niña with Normal Conditions:**

- **During the neutral/normal phase**, the eastern Pacific (off the northwestern coast of South America) is cooler than the western Pacific (around Philippines and Indonesia).





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- This is because prevailing trade winds - caused by Earth's rotation, between 30 degrees north and south of the equator - move east to west.
- This sweeps warmer surface water along with them and relatively cool waters from below rise to the surface to replace the displaced water.
- **During the El Niño phase**, these wind systems weaken, leading to lesser displacement of warmer waters off the American coasts.
  - As a result, the eastern Pacific becomes warmer than usual.
- **The opposite happens in the La Niña phase**, trade winds become stronger than usual and push larger quantities of water to the western Pacific.
- **In India**, El Niño is associated with suppressed rainfall during the monsoon season, while La Niña is known to help monsoon activity.
- The effects of El Niño and La Niña-related risks, such as high temperatures, heavy precipitation, and droughts, have been **intensified due to anthropogenic climate change**.

### Latest Predictions of La Nina and Impact of Delayed Onset on the Indian Monsoon:

- **Latest Predictions of La Nina:**
    - One of the longest recorded **La Niña** episodes lasted from 2020 to 2023 and the previous **El Niño** event occurred between June 2023 and May 2024, following which ENSO entered the **neutral phase**.
    - **The latest predictions** suggest that the earliest signs of the onset of La Niña will likely emerge by the end of September or in early October.
    - La Niña would peak in November, and is expected to last throughout the winter in the northern hemisphere.
    - **Initial projections** suggested that the onset of La Niña conditions would occur around July.
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