

### NAVRATNA STATUS

**rites Limited, a PSU under the Ministry of Railways involved in transport consultancy and the engineering sector, was recently granted Navratna status.**



#### About Navratna Status:

- The government categorises all Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) into three categories, namely **Maharatna, Navratna, and Miniratna.**
- **Criteria to grant Navratna status:**
  - To get Navratna status, the PSU should be a **Miniratna-I, Schedule 'A' company**, should have **obtained an 'excellent' or 'very good' MoU rating in three of the last five years**, and must have a **composite score of 60 in six performance indicators.**
  - For a company to achieve Navratna status, **it must report a net profit of more than Rs 5,000 crore for three consecutive years**, and maintain an **average annual turnover of Rs 25,000 crore for three years**, or have an **annual average net worth of over Rs 15,000 crore for three years.**
- Navratna companies can achieve 'Maharatna' status by meeting specific performance benchmarks and fulfilling certain eligibility criteria.

#### How does Navratna status benefit PSUs?

- Navratna PSUs have a comparative advantage over other companies as they have been **granted financial independence to invest up to Rs 1,000 crore without seeking approval from the Union government.**
- The board of the 'Navratna' companies **has autonomy to incur capital expenditure on the purchase of new items or for replacement without any monetary ceiling** and to enter into **technology joint ventures or strategic alliances**, among others.
- The status gives the **Board of Directors** of these CPSEs the **power to allow mergers and acquisitions in India and abroad.**

## WHAT IS A SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (SLP)?

The Supreme Court (SC) recently highlighted that Special Leave Petitions (SLPs) in criminal cases often lacked crucial information.



### About Special Leave Petition (SLP):

- The Supreme Court of India has been given extraordinary jurisdiction under Article 136 of the Constitution.
- By virtue of this Article, the court can grant special leave to appeal from any judgment, decree, determination, sentence, or order in any cause or matter, passed or made by any court or tribunal in the territory of India (with the exception of military tribunals and court martial).
- It can only be exercised when a substantial question of law or gross injustice has been committed.
- A judgement, decree, or order need not be final for an SLP. An interim or interlocutory order, decree or judgement can also be challenged.
- It is a discretionary/optional power of the SC and the court may, in its discretion, decrease to grant leave to appeal.
- The aggrieved party can't affirm a special leave to offer under Article 136 as a right.

### Who can file an SLP?

- Any aggrieved party can file SLP against judgement or order of refusal of grant of certificate for appeal to SC.
- An SLP can be filed for any civil or criminal matter, etc.
- **Time limit to file SLP:**
  - It can be filed against any judgment of the High Court within 90 days from the date of judgment or
  - It can be filed within 60 days against the order of the High Court refusing to grant the certificate of fitness for appeal to SC.

## Procedure for a Special Leave Petition (SLP):

- A SLP must contain all the facts upon which the SC is to decide, which revolve around the grounds on which an SLP can be filed.
- The said petition needs to be **duly signed by an Advocate-on-Record.**
- The petitioner must **include a statement** within the SLP stating that **no other petition has been filed in a High Court.**
- Once the petition is filed, the SC will hear the aggrieved party and depending upon the merits of the case, will allow the opposite party to state their part in a counter affidavit.
- **After the hearing, if the Court deems the case fit for further hearing, it will allow the same; otherwise it will reject the appeal.**

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## AIRPORTS ECONOMIC REGULATORY AUTHORITY AERA

The Airports Economic Regulatory Authority AERA recently cautioned airport operators in India against imposing unapproved tariffs on passengers.



### About Airports Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA):

- AERA is a **statutory body** constituted under the **Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India Act, 2008.**
- **Function:** The AERA regulates **tariffs and other charges** (development fee and passenger service fee) for **aeronautical services** (air traffic management, landing, and parking of aircraft, ground handling services) **at major airports.**
- AERA is an **independent economic regulator** that aims to **create a level playing field,** foster **healthy competition** amongst all major airports, **encourage investment in airport facilities,** and regulate tariffs for aeronautical services.
- It was set up keeping in mind that the country needs to have an independent regulator who has **transparent rules** and **can take care of the interests of the service providers as well as those of the consumers.**
- **Headquarters: Delhi**

## Key Facts about Airports Authority of India (AAI):

- AAI is a **statutory body** constituted by an Act of Parliament and **came into being on 1st April 1995, by merging** the erstwhile **National Airports Authority** and the **International Airports Authority of India**.
  - It is entrusted with the **responsibility of creating, upgrading, maintaining, and managing civil aviation infrastructure both on the ground and in the air space** of the country.
  - **Main Functions:**
    - **construction**, modification, and **management of passenger terminals**;
    - **development** and management of **cargo terminals**;
    - **development** and maintenance of **apron infrastructure**, including **runways, parallel taxiways, apron, etc**;
    - provision of **Communication, Navigation and Surveillance**, which includes the provision of DVOR / DME, ILS, ATC radars, visual aids etc;
    - provision of **air traffic services**;
    - provision of **passenger facilities and related amenities** at its terminals;
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## WHAT IS THE PRESIDENT'S COLOURS AWARD?

The Chief of Army Staff recently presented the prestigious 'President's Colours' to the Third Battalion of the Naga Regiment.



### About President's Colours Award:

- It is the **highest honor** that can be awarded to any **military unit, military training establishments, or state/UT Police Forces** of India.
- It is bestowed upon a military unit in **recognition of exceptional service rendered** to the nation, **both in peace and in war**.
- It is also known as **"Rashtrapati ka Nishaan"** in Hindi.
- **History:**

- The tradition **began under colonial rule**, but on **November 23, 1950**, the ‘**king’s colour**’ of the erstwhile British Indian regiments **was laid to rest** in Chetwode Hall, Dehradun, to **make way for the ‘colours’ of the President of the Republic of India**.
- The **Indian Navy was the first** Indian Armed Force to be awarded the **President Colour** by Dr. Rajendra Prasad on **May 27, 1951**.

## Award:

- It is a type of **special flag**, also **known as ‘Nishaan’**, which is **awarded** to a military unit **in an organised ceremony**.
- The flag consists of a **golden border in the middle** and the **insignia of a respective military unit**, training establishments, and police forces **in the centre**.
- Sometimes, **it may also contain the motto, important achievements**, and battle participation of **those military units** to which the award is bestowed.
- **During any ceremonial parade**, the President’s Colour, i.e., the special flag of a military unit, is **kept in a special position**, and **soldiers often march with the President’s Colour on important dates**, like their establishment anniversary.

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## WAR CRIMES LAWS APPLICABLE TO THE ISRAEL-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

### Why in news?

- Conflict between Israel and Palestinian forces since militant group Hamas’ recent assault have created a huge and rising death toll on both sides.
- The war falls under a complex international system of justice that has emerged since World War Two.

### Laws governing the conflict

- **1949 Geneva Conventions**
  - Internationally accepted rules of armed conflict emerged out of the 1949 Geneva Conventions.
  - These rules have been ratified by all UN member states and supplemented by rulings at international war crimes tribunals.

- **International Humanitarian Law**

- A series of treaties governs the treatment of civilians, soldiers and prisoners of war in a system collectively known as the **Law of Armed Conflict** or **International Humanitarian Law**.
- It applies to government forces and organised armed groups, including Hamas militants.

- **The International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague**

- If alleged Palestinian perpetrators of atrocities in Israel and all alleged perpetrators of crimes on the occupied Palestinian territories are not brought to justice at home, the ICC can charge them.
- It is the only global court that can hold them accountable.
- The ICC's founding Rome Statute gives it legal authority to investigate alleged crimes on the territory of its members or by their nationals, when domestic authorities are "unwilling or unable" to do so.

### What is the role of the ICC?

- **About**

- The International Criminal Court (ICC), the world's permanent war crimes tribunals, opened in The Hague in 2002.
- It has jurisdiction over war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide in its 123 member states or committed by its nationals.

- **Members**

- Many of the world's major powers are not members, including China, the United States, Russia, India and Egypt.
- The ICC recognises Palestine as a member state, while **Israel rejects the court's jurisdiction** and does not formally engage with it.

- **ICC and investigation in the Palestinian territories**

- With a limited budget and staff, ICC prosecutors are already investigating 17 cases ranging from Ukraine and Afghanistan to Sudan and Myanmar.
- The ICC budget has allocated just under a million euros for investigations in the Palestinian territories for 2023 and is seeking additional resources.

- The ICC has had an ongoing investigation into allegations of war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in the occupied Palestinian territories since 2021.

## Do the Geneva Convention apply?

- A siege can be considered a war crime if it targets civilians, rather than a legitimate means to undermine Hamas' military capabilities, or if found to be disproportionate.
- Attacks on military objectives have to be proportional under international law.
- This means they must not lead to excessive loss of civilian life or damage to civilian objects in relation to the direct and concrete military advantage expected.

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## LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK TO TERMINATE PREGNANCY IN INDIA

### Why in News?

- The Supreme Court is hearing a married woman's request to end her 26-week pregnancy.
- The case has travelled to two different Benches of the SC, raising crucial questions on the **decisional autonomy of a woman to abort**, and the legislative framework.

### What is the Case About?

- A 27-year-old married woman, who already has two boys, has argued that the pregnancy was unplanned and her **family income is insufficient to support another child**.
- Recently, a two-judge Bench of the SC **allowed the termination of the pregnancy**.
- **The court reasoned** that an unwanted pregnancy due to failure of contraceptive methods is the same as a forced pregnancy for which termination is allowed up to 24 weeks.

### What is the Law on Abortion in India?

- **The Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act, 1971:**
  - It was introduced **to liberalise access to abortion** since the restrictive criminal provision (in the IPC) was leading to women using unsafe and dangerous methods for termination of pregnancy.
  - The Act allowed termination of pregnancy by a medical practitioner in **two stages**.

- For termination of pregnancy up to 12 weeks from conception, the opinion of one doctor was required.
- For pregnancies between 12 and 20 weeks old, the opinion of two doctors was required.

### **The MTP (Amendment) Act, 2021:**

- The law allowed for a termination under the opinion of one doctor for pregnancies up to 20 weeks.
- For pregnancies between 20 and 24 weeks, the amended law requires the opinion of two doctors.
- The government has issued the new **Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Rules, 2021**, which define the situations that define eligibility criteria for termination of pregnancy up to 24 weeks.
- The amended act and the **MTP (Amendment) Rules, 2021**, specified **seven categories** (Survivors of sexual assault or rape or incest; Minors; etc) of women who would be eligible for seeking termination of pregnancy, for a period of up to 24 weeks.
- **After 24 weeks**, a medical board must be set up in “approved facilities”, which may “allow or deny termination of pregnancy” **only if there is substantial foetal abnormality**.

### **Has the Court Allowed Termination Beyond 26 Weeks?**

- **Yes, in several cases.** For example, the SC (on August 21) allowed termination of pregnancy of a rape survivor whose pregnancy was at 27 weeks and three days.
- However, the difference in this case seems to be the marital status of the woman, which indicates that the conception is consensual and not a forced pregnancy in that sense.
- **In September 2022**, the SC allowed abortion for an unmarried woman who was 24 weeks pregnant, and was in a consensual relationship.
- The Bench cited “**transformative constitutionalism**” that promotes and engenders societal change.
- There are also instances in which courts have **overruled the decision of the medical board to allow termination**.



## WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION

- It was created in 1967 "to encourage creative activity, to promote the protection of **intellectual property (IP)** throughout the world."



- It is one of the 17 **specialised agencies of the United Nations.**
- Currently, there are **193 members** of the World Intellectual Property Organisation.
- **India joined** this organization in 1975.

- **Headquarter:** Geneva

It provides

- A **policy forum** to shape balanced international IP rules for a changing world;
- A global **services to protect IP across borders** and to resolve disputes;
- Technical infrastructure to connect IP systems and share knowledge;
- Cooperation and capacity-building programs to enable all countries to use IP for economic, social and cultural development;
- A **world reference source for IP** information