

### WRIT JURISDICTION OF HIGH COURTS

The Allahabad High Court recently refused to exercise its writ jurisdiction in a petition seeking compliance of a Supreme Court order.



#### About Writ Jurisdiction of High Courts:

- According to Articles 12-35 of the Indian Constitution, every citizen is given a number of **Fundamental rights**.
- **Article 32 and Article 226** provide a remedy for the protection of fundamental rights by allowing the Supreme Court and the High Court's, respectively, to issue **writs** when a citizen's basic rights are violated.
- It allows the courts to **issue formal orders to the authorities in cases of violations of fundamental rights** by government authorities or government bodies.

#### Types of writs mentioned in the Indian Constitution:

- **Habeas Corpus:**
  - 'Habeas Corpus' literally means "to have a body of".
  - This writ is used to release a person who has been unlawfully detained or imprisoned.
  - By virtue of this writ, the Court directs the person so detained to be brought before it to examine the legality of his detention.
  - **If the Court concludes that the detention was unlawful, then it directs the person to be released immediately.**
- **Mandamus:**
  - Mandamus' means 'we command'.
  - It is issued by the Court to direct a public authority to perform the legal duties which it has **not or refused to perform.**
  - It can be issued by the Court against a public official, public corporation, tribunal, inferior court or the government.

- It cannot be issued against a private individual or body, the President or Governors of States, or against a working Chief Justices.
- **Prohibition:**
  - It is issued by the High Court or the Supreme Court to the subordinate court or the tribunal to prevent them from exceeding their jurisdiction which hasn't been vested upon them under the law.
  - It cannot be applied to statutory bodies, administrative agencies, or private individuals or businesses.
  - Only judicial and quasi-judicial organisations are subject to it.
- **Certiorari:**
  - It is issued by the High Court or the Supreme Court to the judicial or quasi-judicial authorities when such authority passes the order without having jurisdiction in such case, exceeding the jurisdiction conferred upon it, or when it violates the principle of natural justice.
  - It is issued against a lower court or tribunal in order to transfer the matter to another superior body for careful consideration.
- **Quo Warranto:**
  - It is issued by the court to inquire into the legality of the claim made by the person who is holding a public office.
  - The ministerial office cannot be the target of it.
  - This writ is used to determine who has the legal authority to hold a public office in the event of a disagreement.

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## WHAT IS DAVID'S SLING?

Israel recently confirmed using its David's Sling air-defense system to intercept a Hamas rocket.



### About David's Sling:

- It is an Israeli medium-range air defense system designed to defeat

short-range ballistic missiles, large-caliber rockets, and cruise missiles.

- Co-developed with the United States, it occupies middle part of Israel's sophisticated and multi-layer air-defense network, between the point-defense Iron Dome and upper-tier Arrow systems.

### Features:

- It incorporates a vertical missile firing unit, a fire control radar, a battle management/operator station, and the Stunner interceptor.
- Each firing unit can hold up to 12 missiles.
- It is designed to intercept ballistic and cruise missiles at ranges of 40 to 300 km.
- It uses a three-pulse solid propellant motor to reach speeds of up to Mach 7.5; its first two pulses accelerate the missile through its initial trajectory while the third activates to maneuver the interceptor and increase speed prior to intercept.
- Unlike Iron Dome's, Stunner has no warhead, defeating targets by striking them directly.
- Each Stunner missile costs an estimated \$1 million to produce.

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## WHAT IS INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION (IPU)?

Vice President of India recently interacted with the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union on the sidelines of the G20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit (P20).



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
For democracy. For everyone.

### About Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU):

- IPU is the international organization of Parliaments.
  - I was established in 1889 in Paris to promote representative democracy and world peace.
- The IPU facilitates parliamentary diplomacy and empowers parliaments and parliamentarians to promote peace, democracy, and sustainable development around the world.
- It was the first multilateral political organization in the world, encouraging cooperation and dialogue between all nations.



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- **Slogan: “For democracy. For everyone”**
- Today, the IPU comprises **179 member parliaments** and **13 associate members**.
- It promotes democracy and helps **parliaments become stronger, younger, gender-balanced**, and more diverse.
- It also **defends the human rights of parliamentarians** through a dedicated committee made up of MPs from around the world.
- The IPU moved its **headquarters to Geneva** in 1921.
- **Funding:** The IPU is financed **primarily by its members out of public funds**.
- **Structure:**
  - **IPU Assembly:**
    - It is the **principal statutory body that expresses the views of the IPU** on political issues.
  - **Governing Council:**
    - It is the **plenary policymaking body** of the IPU.
    - It is **composed of three representatives from each member parliament**.
  - **Executive Committees:**
    - In accordance with the IPU statutes, this **17-member body oversees the administration of the IPU** and provides **advice to the Governing Council**.
    - The **15 members** of the Executive Committee are elected by the Council for a **four-year term**.
    - The **President of the IPU is an ex officio member and President** of the Committee.
  - **Standing Committees:** There are **three Standing Committees** set up by the IPU Governing Council to assist the Assembly in its work.
  - **Meeting of Women Parliamentarians:**
    - It is a **separate organ** of the IPU, which **meets on the occasion of the first round of Statutory Meetings of the IPU** and reports on its work to the Governing Council.
    - The meeting can be **attended by the parliamentarians of both sexes**.

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## PALK STRAIT

India and Sri Lanka recently launched a ferry service across the Palk Strait under a new roadmap for greater connectivity.



## About Palk Strait:

- It is a strait that **lies between the Tamil Nadu state of India and the island nation of Sri Lanka.**
- The strait is **named after Robert Palk**, who was a **governor of Madras Presidency (1755-1763)** during the British Raj period.
- It is **bounded on the south by Pamban Island (India), Rama's Bridge (a chain of shoals), the Gulf of Mannar, and Mannar Island (Sri Lanka).**
- It **connects the Bay of Bengal in the northeast with the Gulf of Mannar in the southwest.**
- The **southwestern portion** of the strait is also **called Palk Bay.**
- The strait is **40 to 85 miles (64 to 137 km) wide, 85 miles long, and less than 330 feet (100 metres) deep.**
- **Several rivers flow into it, including the Vaigai River of Tamil Nadu.**
- The **port of Jaffna**, the commercial centre for northern Sri Lanka, **lies on the strait.**

## Key Facts about Ram Setu:

- Rama's Bridge or Rama Setu, is a **chain of limestone shoals, between Pamban Island, also known as Rameswaram Island, off the south-eastern coast of Tamil Nadu, India, and Mannar Island, off the north-western coast of Sri Lanka.**
- Geological evidence suggests that this bridge is a **former land connection between India and Sri Lanka.**
- The bridge is **50 km long and separates the Gulf of Mannar (south-west) from the Palk Strait (northeast).**

## SARASWATI SAMMAN AWARD

Recently, Tamil writer Sivasankari was presented with the 'Saraswati Samman' 2022 for her book of memoirs **Surya Vamsam.**



About Saraswati Samman Award:

- It is given annually for **outstanding literary works in 22 Indian languages** in the last 10 years.
- It is among the highest recognitions in the **field of Indian literature**.
- The selection follows a **rigorous three-tier process** leading up to a final decision by Chayan Parishad
- It was instituted by the **K. Birla Foundation**. (the **Vyas Samman** and the **Bihari Puraskar** are other literary awards instituted by the foundation.)
- It carries a citation, a plaque and **prize money of 15 lakh rupees**.

### Other works of Sivasankari

- Sivasankari's literary career spans over five decades. She is the author of 36 novels, 48 novellas, 150 short stories, 15 travelogues, seven collections of essays, and three biographies.
- Her 2019 memoir, **Surya Vamsam, unfolds in two volumes** -- the first is the metamorphosis from a child to a young writer, and the second is the life and times of an acclaimed author spreading her wings.

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## G20 PARLIAMENTARY SPEAKERS SUMMIT

### Why in news?

- The Ninth G20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit (**P20 Summit**) was hosted by Parliament of India in cooperation with IPU on 13-14 October 2023 in New Delhi.
  - The P20 Summit was established in Canada in 2010.
  - It aims to strengthen parliaments to make them more representative and effective.
- During the summit, India registered its protest on the European Parliament's recent move to bring a resolution on the Manipur issue.

### Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

- **About**
  - The IPU is the global organization of national parliaments.
  - It began in 1889 as a small group of parliamentarians. It has since grown into a truly global organization with 179 Members and 14 Associate Members.



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- **Headquarter:** Geneva, Switzerland.
  - **Slogan:** For democracy. For everyone.
  - **IPU's goals**
    - Promoting representative democracy and world peace
    - Encouraging cooperation and dialogue between all nations
    - Contributing to better knowledge of the working of representative institutions
    - Strengthening and developing the means of action of representative institutions
    - Empowering parliaments and parliamentarians to promote peace, democracy, and sustainable development
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## TEESTA-III DAM BREAK: NHPC ADMITS DAMAGE, 9 YEARS AGO IT SAID NO THREAT

### Why in News?

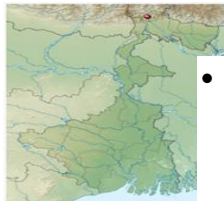
- Responding to the Teesta-III dam break due to the glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF), the National Green Tribunal (NGT) issued notices to 3 key stakeholders including National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC).
- Not so long ago, the same NHPC had dismissed any threats from GLOF and the tribunal had accepted this explanation.

### What is the National Green Tribunal (NGT)?

- The NGT has been established in **2010** under **the National Green Tribunal Act 2010** for -
  - Effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources.
  - Enforcement of any legal right relating to the environment.
  - Giving relief and compensation for damages to persons and property, etc.
- **It is a specialised body** equipped with the necessary expertise to handle environmental disputes involving multi-disciplinary issues.
- The Tribunal shall not be bound by the procedure laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure 1908, but shall be guided by principles of **natural justice**.

- The Tribunal's dedicated jurisdiction in environmental matters **shall provide speedy environmental justice and help reduce the burden of litigation** in the higher courts.
- The Tribunal is mandated to make and endeavour for disposal of applications or appeals finally **within 6 months of filing of the same**.
- **New Delhi** is the Principal Place of Sitting of the Tribunal and Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata and Chennai shall be the other four place of sitting of the Tribunal.

## What is the Teesta-III Dam Project?



- Teesta Low Dam - III Hydropower Plant is a **run-of-the-river hydroelectric station** built on the **Teesta River**. It is located in **Reang, Kalimpong district of West Bengal**.
- Unit I and II of the Teesta Project were commissioned in (January) 2013 and Unit III and IV in (February and March) 2013 respectively.
- **The state of West Bengal is the sole beneficiary of this power station**. With the construction of the project the area is also benefited by development infrastructure, education, medical facilities and employment avenues.

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## PM MODI INAUGURATES IOC SESSION IN MUMBAI

### Why in news?

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 141<sup>st</sup> Session of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in Mumbai.
  - The 141<sup>st</sup> session of the IOC will be held in Mumbai from October 15 to 17.
- During the opening ceremony, he announced that India aspires to host the 2036 Summer Olympics.

### International Olympic Committee (IOC)

- The International Olympic Committee is the guardian of the Olympic Games and the leader of the Olympic Movement.



- The vision of IOC is to Build a Better World through Sport.
- **As an organisation**
- In 1892, Pierre de Coubertin of France declared his intention to spearhead a movement to revive the ancient Greek Olympics.
- His efforts led to the establishment of IOC in June 1894 as a not-for-profit independent international organisation.
- It is based in Lausanne, Switzerland, the Olympic Capital.
- **Roles & Responsibilities**
- IOC is the authority responsible for organising the modern (Summer, Winter, and Youth) Olympic Games.
- It is the governing body of the National Olympic Committees (NOCs).

## **IOC session**

- An IOC session is the annual meeting of the members of the IOC. It comprises 101 voting members and 45 honorary members.
- It decides on the key activities of the global Olympics movement.
- The powers of the Session are:
  - To adopt or amend the Olympic Charter.
  - To elect the members of the IOC, the Honorary President and the honorary members.
  - To elect the President, the vice-presidents and all other members of the IOC Executive Board.
  - To elect the host city of the Olympic Games.
- An Olympic Session is the general meeting of the members of the IOC and its supreme organ.
- **All IOC Session decisions are final.**