

### THE REGULATOR'S CHALLENGE IN THE AGE OF AI

#### Context

- There have been a lot of discussions and regulations surrounding artificial intelligence (AI) which require a critical focus on upcoming challenges, particularly the urgency for regulatory skill-building in the digital era.
- Recent global initiatives, such as the US executive order and the EU legislation on AI, underscore the need for effective regulation in managing the risks associated with evolving technology.

#### Recent Global Efforts to Regulate AI

- **The world's first ever AI Safety Summit (at Bletchley Park, UK)**
  - 28 major countries including the US, China, Japan, the UK, France and India, and the EU agreed to sign on a declaration saying global action is needed to tackle the potential risks of AI.
  - The declaration incorporates an acknowledgment of the substantial risks from potential intentional misuse or unintended issues of control of frontier AI - especially cybersecurity, biotechnology, and disinformation risks.
- **GPAI (Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence) Summit, Delhi**
  - It is a multi-stakeholder initiative which aims to bridge the gap between theory and practice on AI by supporting cutting-edge research and applied activities on AI-related priorities.
  - 29 countries of the GPAI have unanimously adopted the GPAI New Delhi Declaration.

#### Regulatory Challenges of Growing Use of AI

- **Deployment of Regulatory Tools**
  - **Regulatory bodies**, such as the Reserve Bank of India and the Securities and Exchange Board of India, are initiating AI tools for regulatory supervision.

- Since 2019, SEBI has required mutual funds to disclose the use of AI in their product offerings and product managements.
- However, they and other regulators will need to do much more to prepare for potentially transformative changes.
- Moreover, the transformation in professional practices, like AI-driven book-keeping and legal contracts, will necessitate adjustments in regulatory frameworks.
- **Capability Building Challenges**
  - Governments globally have laid down initial AI regulatory frameworks, but regulatory agencies must focus on building the capabilities to implement these frameworks effectively.
  - While these frameworks focus on the substance of AI regulation, regulatory agencies that have to implement these frameworks have to build the capabilities to implement them as these capabilities are not easy to build in-house.

## Conclusion

- In India's context, it is critical how rapidly AI capabilities can be produced at a mass scale; otherwise, development of such capacities will be unequal and ad hoc.
- Therefore, the imperative for regulatory skill-building emphasises the need for proactive government intervention, systemic development of capabilities, and strategic coordination.
- These efforts will effectively navigate the evolving landscape of technological advancements.

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## WHAT IS AN EX-PARTE DECREE?



The Supreme Court recently held that a Civil Revision Petition under Section 115 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (CPC) is not maintainable against the dismissal of an application filed under Order IX Rule 13 of the CPC to set aside an ex-parte decree.

## About Ex-Parte Decree:

- An 'Ex parte decree' is a **decree passed against a defendant in absentia**.
- Even after a summons is served, if only the plaintiff shows up for the hearing and the defendant does not, the court may proceed to hear the lawsuit ex parte and issue a decree against the defendant.
- The legal validity, enforceability, and operation of such a decree are **similar to those of any bipartite decree**.

## Can an Ex-Parte Decree be set aside?

- Courts generally aim to ensure fairness and due process, and if a **genuine reason for the party's absence is established**, the **ex-parte order can be set aside, allowing for a re-evaluation of the case with both parties present**.
- **The defendant** against whom an ex-parte decree is passed, **can file an application to the court** that passed such a decree to set it aside **on two grounds**:
  - **Summons were not duly served** upon him.
  - He was **prevented by sufficient cause from appearing** before court.
- As per the CPC, there is **no specific time limit mentioned to file an application** to set aside the ex-parte order, but it is advisable to file the application as soon as possible after becoming aware of the ex-parte order.
- **Hearing**: The **court will schedule a hearing to consider the application**. The court will **assess the validity of the grounds** presented by the applicant and may inquire into the circumstances that led to the ex-parte order.
- **Discretion of the Court**:
  - The **court has the discretion to decide** whether the grounds presented are sufficient and **whether the ex-parte order should be set aside**.
  - The **court may also impose conditions and terms**, including costs and other factors, when setting aside the order.

## WHAT ARE CAMELIDS?

The United Nations recently declared 2024 the International Year of Camelids.



### About Camelids:

- A Camelid refers to any of the even-toed ungulates of the family Camelidae. g. camels, llamas, alpacas, guanacos, and vicuñas.
- They are known for their remarkable adaptations to arid and high-altitude environments.
- These ungulates can be classified into two major groups: the Old World and the New World.
- The Old-World Camelids, found in northern Africa and central Asia are the true camels, such as the dromedary camels (one-humped camel) and the Bactrian camels (two-humped camel), characterised by:
  - their humps on their backs and
  - the dulla, which is an organ found on the throat of male camels and is believed to be associated with the display of dominance among males and for attracting females.
- The South American Camelids (New World Camelids) include the modern llamas, alpacas, guanacos, and vicuñas. Wild populations of South American Camelids, such as vicuñas, inhabit the high-altitude regions of the Andes Mountains.

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## THE LEADS [LOGISTICS EASE ACROSS DIFFERENT STATES] 2023 REPORT

### Why in News?

- As many as 11 States and two UTs have been named as ‘Achievers’ in the LEADS [Logistics Ease Across Different States] 2023 report released by the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I).

### Logistics market in India:

- Logistics is the process of planning and executing the efficient transportation and storage of goods from the point of origin to the point of consumption.
- The goal of logistics is to meet customer requirements in a timely, cost-effective manner. The worth of Indian logistics market is estimated at over **USD 200 billion**.
- The sector provides livelihood to more than 22 million people.

### Need for a wholistic logistics policy in India:

- The need for a national logistics policy was felt since the logistics cost in India is high as compared to other developed economies.
- It is imperative to reduce the logistics cost in India for improving the competitiveness of Indian goods both in domestic as well as export markets.
- Reduced logistics cost improves efficiency cutting across various sectors of the economy, encouraging value addition and enterprise.

### Steps taken by govt to improve logistics market

- **National Logistics Policy:**
  - In order to facilitate a seamless flow of goods across India, Indian government launched a **National Logistics Policy in September 2022**.
  - With the implementation of National Logistics Policy, there will be further boost to the development in an **integrated logistics ecosystem**, reduction in time, wastage & cost, and ensuring sustainability.
- **Other measures to improve logistics:**
  - The government had introduced **PM GATI Shakti Master Plan** in 2021.
    - Under the plan, a digital platform is created to bring 16 Ministries including Railways and Roadways together for integrated planning and coordinated implementation of infrastructure connectivity projects.
  - The government has also approved the development of 35 New Multi-Modal logistics Parks under **Bharat Mala Pariyojana** to reduce logistics cost.
  - For promoting export, **40 air cargo terminals** have been constructed. **30 airports** have been provided cold-storage facilities.

## About the LEADS:

- LEADS was conceived on the lines of the Logistics Performance Index of World Bank in 2018 by the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**, MoC&I.
  - While the LPI relies entirely on perception-based surveys, **LEADS incorporates both perception as well as objectivity** thereby enhancing the robustness and comprehensiveness of this exercise.
  - **The LEADS highlights shift in States' performance across the key pillars -**
    - Logistics Infrastructure,
    - Logistics Services and
    - Operating and Regulatory Environment
  - **The 5th edition of the LEADS annual exercise - LEADS 2023 report**, provides insights into improvement of logistics performance at State/UT level.
    - **It highlights an enhanced overall stakeholder perception** and impact of various reforms, across States and UTs.
    - This report, signalling a **positive shift in States' performance across the key pillars**, empowers the State/UT Governments by providing region specific insights for informed decision making and comprehensive growth.
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## SIGNIFICANCE OF SURAT DIAMOND BOURSE

### Why in News?

- India will be among the world's three largest economies during his third term in office, PM Modi said, while inaugurating the **Surat Diamond Bourse**.

### About Surat Diamond Bourse:

- **About**
  - The Surat Diamond Bourse (SDB) launched by former Chief Minister of Gujarat, Smt. Anandiben Patel, in February 2015.
  - The SDB is a diamond trade centre located at DREAM (Diamond Research and Mercantile) city in **Surat, Gujarat**.

- The city is also known as "diamond city" for its diamond industry which processes 85 to 90% of the world's rough diamond here.
  - It is the world's largest diamond trading hub with a floor space of 660,000 square metres, as well as the world's largest office building, ahead of The Pentagon.
- **Theme**
  - The thematic landscaping of the project is based on the ‘**panch tatva**’ theme, representing the five elements of nature – air, water, fire, earth, and sky.
- **Features**
  - It will be a global centre for trading of both rough and polished diamonds as well as jewellery.
    - From cutting, polishing, and trading activities, the Surat Diamond Bourse will bring brings together a vast community under one roof.
  - Bourse will comprise state-of-the-art ‘Customs Clearance House’ for Import – Export; a Jewellery mall for retail jewellery business and a facility for International Banking and Safe Vaults.

WHAT SURAT DIAMOND BOURSE OFFERS		
Spread across <b>35 acres</b>	Floor area <b>67 lakh sq feet</b>	<b>PARKING FACILITY</b> Bikes <b>11,000</b> Cars <b>5,100</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Platinum-rated green building has 9 towers with 15 floors each</li> <li>■ Has over 4,500 offices ranging from 300 sq feet to 1 lakh sq feet.</li> <li>■ Each floor connected through spine structure of 1,407 feet in length and 25 feet in width</li> <li>■ Has 4,000 CCTV cameras with C4 (Central Command &amp; Control Centre)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Panchtatva theme garden spread across 15 acres of land</li> <li>■ 131 high-speed lifts can move at 3m/s</li> <li>■ Solid, water waste recycling facility with zero discharge</li> <li>■ 400 KW solar facility and centralised cooling system</li> <li>■ 27 international jewellery showrooms</li> </ul>	
		

### Significance of the SDB Project:

- The SDB will house various diamond-related businesses, including the sale of rough and polished diamonds, diamond manufacturing machinery, diamond planning software, diamond certificate firms, lab-grown diamonds, and more.
- The SDB is expected to generate significant employment opportunities. It is expected to provide direct employment to over 1.5 lakh people in various roles related to the diamond industry.
- The complex is a pre-certified green building by the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) because of its eco-friendly and sustainability measures adopted to function itself.

### About DREAM City:

- Diamond Research and Mercantile City is an upcoming business district in Surat.

- It is being built on 810 hectares (2,000 acres) of land near Khajod, along the lines of the **Gujarat International Finance Tec (GIFT) City** and Dholera Smart city near Ahmedabad.
- The district is projected to have office space, residential areas, and facilities for these residential areas.
- It will be established and run by a special purpose vehicle formed by the Government of Gujarat.
- Expected to open in 2030, it will be Gujarat's third smart city.

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## ASSAM RIFLES PLANS OP CHANGES FOR DEPLOYMENT ON LAC

### Why in news?

- The Assam Rifles is planning critical operational changes so that it can be deployed for conventional roles along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in contingencies.
- At the same time, it will continue to perform its traditional counter-insurgency duties in the Northeast and guarding the India-Myanmar border.

### The Assam Rifles

- **About**
  - Assam Rifles is one of the seven Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) that come under the MHA's administrative control.
    - The other forces being: Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Border Security Force (BSF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), National Security Guard (NSG) and Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).
  - Besides maintaining law and order in the Northeast (a task it performs together with the Army), the Assam Rifles also guards the border with Myanmar in the region.
- **Historical Background**



- Its history dating back to 1835 when its precursor, **Cachar Levy**, was formed in the Northeast to protect British Tea estates and their settlements against tribal raids.
  - Over the period of time, it was expanded and rechristened Assam Military Police Battalion, with additional battalions.
  - It was later renamed as Assam Rifles. This is where the dual structure was perhaps born.
    - This is because even as it continued to operate as a police force, the ‘Rifles’ tag indicated it was on a par with Army units.
  - **Contributions of Assam rifles**
    - Since its formation in 1835, Assam Rifles has gone on to fight in two World Wars, the Sino-Indian war of 1962.
    - It is used as an anti-insurgency force against militant groups in the North East.
    - The Post-Independence role of the Assam Rifles continued to evolve ranging from
      - conventional combat role during Sino-India War 1962,
      - operating in foreign land as part of the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) to Sri Lanka in 1987 (Op Pawan)
      - peacekeeping role in the North-Eastern areas of India.
  - **Uniqueness of Assam Rifles: Dual Control**
    - It is the only paramilitary force with a dual control structure.
      - The administrative control of the force is with the MHA.
      - Its operational control is with the Indian Army, which is under the Ministry of Defence (MoD).
    - Hence, salaries and infrastructure for this force is provided by the MHA, but the deployment, posting, transfer and deputation of the personnel is decided by the Army.
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