THE PROCESS / RULES OF SUSPENSION OF MPs

Context

- Recently, some Members of Parliament (MPs) of both houses of Parliament (Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha) have been **suspended for disrupting the parliament functions** and **violating the directives of the chair.**

- Lately, the fundamental idea about the disciplinary powers of the Houses seems to be changing and, therefore, it is **necessary to assess the problems associated with the suspension of MPs.**

The Process / Rules of Suspension of MPs

- **General Principle**

o It is the role and duty of the Presiding Officer; Speaker of Lok Sabha and Chairman of Rajya Sabha, to maintain order so that the House can function smoothly.

o To ensure that proceedings are conducted in the proper manner, the Speaker/ Chairman is empowered to force a member to withdraw from the House.

Suspension Rules in the Lower House (Lok Sabha)

o **According to Rule 373** of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business, if the speaker finds the conduct of any Member is **grossly disorderly**, s/he may direct such Member to **withdraw immediately from the House** and **to remain absent** during the rest of the day's sitting.

o **As per Rule 374,** the Speaker may name a member if **deems it necessary**, who disregards the authority of the Chair or abuses the rules of the House by persistently and wilfully obstructing the business thereof.

▪ If a Member is named by the Speaker, the **Speaker shall put the question whether such Member be suspended from the service of the House.**

▪ When the House adopts the motion, the member stands suspended.

o **Rule 374A** was incorporated in the **Rule Book in December 2001.**

▪ In case of gross violation or severe charges, on being named by the Speaker, the **member stands automatically suspended** from the service of the House for **five** consecutive sittings or the remainder of the session, whichever is less.

Suspension Rules in the Upper House (Rajya Sabha)

o **Under Rule 255,** the **Chairman of Rajya Sabha** is empowered to direct any Member whose conduct is in his opinion grossly disorderly to withdraw immediately from the House.

▪ Unlike the Speaker of Lok Sabha, the Rajya Sabha **Chairman does not have the power to suspend** a member. Therefore, the House may by another motion, terminate the suspension.

▪ The Chairman may **name a member who disregards the authority** of the Chair or abuses the rules of the Council by persistently and wilfully obstructing business.

▪ In this type of situation, the House may adopt a motion suspending the Member from the service of the House for a period not exceeding the remainder of the session.

o **Rule 256** provides for **suspension** of members. The **Chairman can suspend a member from the service of the Council** for a period **not exceeding the remainder of the Session.**

Way Forward

• **Suspension Should be Considered as a Last Resort**

o Wilful and persistent obstruction of the business alone qualifies for the naming and suspension of a member.

o This means that a very aggravated form of defiance and obstruction can leave the Chair with no option other than suspension of the member.

o The basic principle is that the House needs the uninterrupted services of all its members and so **suspension is to be a last resort.**

• **Suspension Should be a Temporary Provision**

o There are numerous instances in both Houses when suspension has been revoked within a day or two, even though the members were initially suspended for the remainder of the session.

o It is because the **House does not want to be deprived of the services of its members for a long time.**

PRESIDENT MURMU LAUNCHES STEALTH FRIGATE INS VINDHYAGIRI

Why in news?

- President Droupadi Murmu launched INS Vindhyagiri, the last in the series of three Project 17A (Alpha) frigates.

- It was built by the Indian Navy at Kolkata-based Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE).

Stealth Frigate

- A stealth frigate is a type of naval warship designed with advanced stealth technology and features to minimize its radar cross-section and overall visibility to enemy detection systems.

- This technology allows the frigate to operate with **reduced chances of being detected** by radar, making it harder for adversaries to track, target, and engage the vessel.

- Stealth frigates are often designed to have reduced signatures in various ways, including:

o **Radar Cross-Section Reduction**:

▪ The shape of the hull and superstructure is carefully designed to deflect and absorb radar waves, reducing the ship's radar cross-section.

▪ This helps in minimizing the reflections of radar signals and making the vessel less visible on enemy radar screens.

o **Reduced Emission and Signature Management**:

▪ These are equipped with technologies that help manage their electromagnetic emissions, such as radar, radio, and other communication systems.

▪ These emissions are carefully controlled to minimize detection by enemy sensors.

o **Low Infrared and Thermal Signatures**:

▪ The design and materials used in stealth frigates also aim to reduce their infrared and thermal signatures, making them less visible to infrared and heat-seeking sensors.

o Acoustic Signature Reduction:

▪ Sound-absorbing materials and techniques are used to minimize the noise generated by the ship's machinery and propulsion systems.

- This makes it harder for adversaries' sonar systems to detect the vessel underwater.
- Stealth frigates are typically used in naval operations for tasks such as anti-submarine warfare, anti-air warfare, maritime patrol, surveillance, and escort missions.
- Their stealth features contribute to their survivability and effectiveness in modern naval warfare scenarios, where reducing detection and engagement ranges is crucial.

Project 17A

- **Project 17 Alpha frigates** (P-17A) were launched by the Indian Navy in 2019.
- o Project 17A Frigates are the **follow-on class of the Project 17 (Shivalik Class) Frigates**, with improved stealth features, advanced weapons and sensors and platform management systems.
- The project was launched by the defence forces of India to construct a series of stealth guided-missile frigates.
- These frigates are currently being constructed by two companies - **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders (MDL) and Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE)**.
- o Under Project 17A program, a total of four ships by MDL and three ships by GRSE are under construction.
- o The project's first five ships have been launched by MDL and GRSE, between 2019-2022.
- o The first stealth ship launched under Project 17A was the Nilgiri, which was launched in 2019.
- o Udaygiri, the second ship, was launched in May 2022.
- Project 17A ships have been designed in-house by Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau WDB.
- Aligning with country's resolute commitment to Aatma Nirbharta, a substantial 75% of the orders for equipment and systems of Project 17A ships are from indigenous firms, including Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises MSMEs.

News Summary: President Murmu launches stealth frigate INS Vindhyagiri

- President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday launched the advanced stealth frigate 'Vindhyagiri' for the Indian Navy in Kolkata.
- The ship was built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd's (GRSE) facility at Kolkata.

Key highlights

- **Sixth vessel to be rolled out as part of the Project 17A Frigate**
  - Stealth frigate Vindhyagiri is the sixth vessel rolled out as part of the Project 17A Frigate.
  - The five other ships – **INS Nilgiri, Udaygiri, Himgiri, Taragiri, and Dunagiri** – were launched between 2019 and 2022.
- **Features**
  - The P17A ships are guided missile frigates.
  - They are 149 metres long, with a displacement of approximately 6,670 tonnes and a speed of 28 knots.
  - These ships are capable of neutralising threats in all three dimensions of air, surface and sub-surface.

MATTI BANANA

The Matti banana variety, native to Kanniyakumari district was recently granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

About Matti banana:

- There are six known types of the Matti banana and **they are indigenous to Kanniyakumari,** where it thrives in the unique climate and soil.
- They are **known as 'Baby Banana'** which flourishes mainly in Kalkulam and Vilavancode taluks.
- Even if it takes root and yields in other areas, the **fruit will be without the sweet fragrance and honey-like taste** unique to the Matti bananas grown in Kanniyakumari.
- Unlike typical banana bunches that grow straight, the Matti's fingers exhibit a distinct wind-blown appearance.
- Its low **total soluble solids content** (TSSC) recommends it as a **baby food.**

Types of Matti Banana

- o **Nal Matti** boasts a yellowish-orange colour and fine aroma, while **Theyn** [honey] Matti's pulp tastes like honey.
- o **Kal Matti** gets its name from the calcium oxalate crystals forming in its pulp and black dots on the skin.
- o **Nei Matti** exudes the aroma of ghee, and **Sundari Matti**, a Matti clone, with its elongated fingers, thick peel, and creamy white rind, is facing extinction.

What is a Geographical Indication Tag?

- It is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin.
- This is typically used for **agricultural products, foodstuffs, wine and spirit drinks,** handicrafts and industrial products.
- The **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999** seeks to provide for the registration and better protection of geographical indications relating to goods in India.
- This GI tag is **valid for 10 years** following which it can be renewed.

FLOODWATCH APP

Recently, the Chairman of Central Water Commission (CWC) launched the mobile application, "FloodWatch.

About Floodwatch App:

- This app gives information related to the flood situation **and forecasts up to 7 days on** a real-time basis to the public.
- The in-house developed user-friendly app **has readable and audio broadcast** and all the information is **available in 2 languages, viz. English and Hindi.**
- Other feature of the app includes real-time flood monitoring where users can check up-to-date flood situation throughout the country.
- The app utilizes **near real-time river flow data from various sources**.

- The app also provides flood forecast at nearest location where users can check the flood advisory at the station nearest to them on the Home Page itself.
- The app will also **provide State-wise/Basin-wise Flood Forecast** (up to 24 hours) or Flood Advisory (up to 7 days) which can be accessed by selecting specific stations, state wise or basin wise from the dropdown menu.
- This app utilizes advanced technologies such **as satellite data analysis, mathematical modelling, and real-time monitoring** to deliver accurate and timely flood forecasts.

Key facts about Central Water Commission

- It is a premier Technical Organization of India in the field of Water Resources.
- It is presently functioning as an **attached office of the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department** of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.
- **Functions**
  o The Commission is entrusted with the general responsibilities of initiating, coordinating and furthering in consultation of the State Governments concerned, schemes for control, conservation and utilization of water resources throughout the country.
  o It also undertakes the investigations, construction and execution of any such schemes as required.
- It is headed **by a Chairman**, with the **status of Ex-Officio Secretary** to the Government of India.

NATIONAL SUPERCOMPUTING MISSION

The Union Cabinet recently approved an outlay of ₹ 14,903 crore for the extension of the Digital India programme, which also proposes nine more supercomputers to be added under the National Super Computer Mission.

About National Supercomputing Mission:

- It was **launched in 2015** to **provide the country with supercomputing infrastructure** to **meet the increasing computational demands of**

academia, researchers, MSMEs, and startups.

- The Mission is **steered jointly by the Department of Science and Technology (DST)** and **Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY)** and **implemented by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Pune and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru.**

The **main objectives** of the mission are:

o **Make India a world leader in High-Performance Computing (HPC)** and **enhance the national capability in solving** grand challenge **problems of national and global relevance.**

o **Empower scientists & researchers with state-of-the-art computing facilities for** their **cutting-edge research** in their respective Domains.

o **Reduce redundancies and avoid duplication of efforts** and investments.

o Create an ecosystem for positioning India as a major power for supercomputing and **attain global competitiveness and self-reliance in HPC**.

- The **Mission envisages empowering academic and R&D institutions** spread over the country **by installing a vast supercomputing grid comprising of more than 70 HPC facilities.**

- These supercomputers **will also be networked on the National Supercomputing grid over the National Knowledge Network (NKN).** The NKN is another programme of the government which connects academic institutions and R&D labs over a high speed network.

- **Academic and R&D institutions,** as well as key user departments/ministries, **would participate by using these facilities and developing applications of national relevance**.

Indian supercomputers in the Top 500 Global Supercomputing List:

- The **AI Supercomputer 'AIRAWAT'**, installed at **C-DAC, Pune,** has been ranked at **75.**

- **PARAM Siddhi-AI supercomputer** installed at **C-DAC, Pune,** has been ranked at **131.**

- **Pratyush supercomputer** installed at the **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology** has been ranked at **169.**

- **Mihir supercomputer** installed at the **National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting** has been ranked **at No. 316.**

UNCLAIMED DEPOSITS – GATEWAY TO ACCESS INFORMATION (UDGAM) PORTAL

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently launched a Centralised Web Portal, UDGAM (Unclaimed Deposits – Gateway to Access information), for the public to search for their unclaimed deposits across multiple banks at one place.

About UDGAM Portal:

- It has been **developed by RBI for use by members of public** to facilitate and make it easier for them **to search their unclaimed deposits across multiple banks at one place**.

- **Reserve Bank Information Technology Pvt Ltd (ReBIT)**, **Indian Financial Technology & Allied Services (IFTAS),** and **participating banks have collaborated on developing** the portal.

- The portal will **enable users to either claim the deposit amount or make their deposit accounts operative** at their respective banks.

- **Procedure**:
  o Customers can **register on the 'Udgam' platform using their mobile number**.
  o Once registered, **they can search for unclaimed deposits under their name** and provide additional inputs such as PAN, voter ID, driving licence and passport number.
  o Customers can **then retrieve their deposits by completing a KYC process** with their branch.
  o **In case the deposit-holder has passed away, their nominee will be required to submit documents.**

What are Unclaimed Deposits?

- According to RBI, "Unclaimed Deposits" **refers to funds held in savings or current accounts that have remained inactive for duration of 10 years**, or in the case of **fixed deposits (FDs), have not been withdrawn within 10 years from the maturity date.**