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Chandrayaan-2 lunar lander

Chandrayaan-2 is India's most challenging and India's second mission to Moon. It is advanced version of previous Chandrayaan-1 mission (launched in 2008) which only involved orbiting around moon, Chandrayaan-2 is much complicated mission as it involves an orbiter, lander and rover.

Lunar lander faces crucial test – Chandrayaan-2's landing sensors will be tested at a special site in Karnataka.

The test on ground, called the Lander Sensor Performance Test or LSPT, will be conducted at ISRO's new R&D campus in Chitradurga district, Karnataka.

The lander is being developed and tested by the U.R. Rao Satellite Centre in Bengaluru.

<p>Litmus test</p> <p>The Chandrayaan-2 lander's sensors are all set to be tested at Challakere, Karnataka</p>	<p>SCALED-DOWN VERSION OF LANDER</p> <p>Laser altimeter</p> <p>RF antenna</p> <p>50 N thrusters</p> <p>800 N liquid engine</p>
<p>HOW WILL SENSORS HELP THE LANDER?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess height from the landing spot Decide speed of lander Help lander navigate boulders or uneven surfaces 	<p>NOV. 24, 2018: Test flight scheduled</p> <p>JAN. 31, 2019: Targeted launch of rover and lander</p> <p>FEB. 2019: Expected time lander and rover will reach the moon</p> <p><i>For the test, sensors need to guide ISRO's small aircraft to a soft landing on an artificial lunar surface</i></p>

Source: The Hindu.

30th Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit

30th Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit took place in Papua New Guinea.

For the first time since its inception APEC has failed to release a joint communique due to lack of consensus among the members over trade and security issues. All 20 countries except China agreed to the joint statement.

Lack of consensus between China and the US: US targeted China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and called it as "constricting belt" and a "One-way Road". US also warned smaller countries to be cautious of "debt-trap" by China and said not to accept debt which compromise sovereignty.

China defended BRI and said that there is no geo-political agenda behind it and it is not an exclusive club closed to non-members, nor is it a trap. China targeted US policy of “America First” and said that erecting barriers and cutting ties is a short-sighted approach doomed to fail. The U.S.-China discord at APEC highlighted the dangers of their trade war, trade war between the US and China could cripple the Pacific Rim economy.

Source: The Hindu.

Statute in Braille to mark Constitution Day

The Constitution will be made available in Braille for the first time ahead of the Constitution Day on November 26.

In a joint project undertaken by The Buddhist Association for the Blind along with Saavi Foundation and Swagat Thorat, who started India’s first Braille newsletter Sparshdnyan, the Constitution will be made available in five parts in Braille for the benefit of visually challenged individuals.

Source: The Hindu.

FinMin may stick to capital infusion plan for PSU banks

The Finance Ministry is expected to finalise infusion of about ₹54,000 cr. in the next few weeks to the public sector banks.

The proposal to not curtail its capital infusion plan for this financial year comes even as state-owned banks would be needing lesser funds following the Reserve Bank’s decision to defer the deadline to meet Basel III norms by a year. The RBI extended the deadline for meeting the CCB of 2.5%, under Basel-III norms, until March 2020, which according to rating agency Crisil could reduce the burden of PSBs by ₹35,000 crore this fiscal.

The CCB currently stands at 1.875 per cent and the remaining 0.625 per cent was to be met by March 2019, as per the earlier deadline fixed by the RBI.

Counter cyclical capital buffer: The countercyclical capital buffer is intended to protect the banking sector against losses that could be caused by cyclical systemic risks. It requires banks to add capital at times when credit is growing rapidly so that the buffer can be reduced when the financial cycle turns

After assessing the requirement of each bank, the ministry is expected to finalise capital infusion of about ₹54,000 crore soon. Under the new dispensation, the capital infusion by the government in public sector banks (PSBs) for meeting the capital buffer norms would come down to around ₹15,000-20,000 crore.

The infusion would help improve banks’ financial health, and some banks would get necessary regulatory capital while others would get it for fuelling growth.

Source: The Hindu.

Drug Control General of India

DCGI under gamut of Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) is responsible for approval of licenses of specified categories of drugs such as blood and blood products, vaccines, IV fluids and sera in India.

DCGI lays down standards and quality of manufacturing, selling, import and distribution of drugs in India.

It acts as appellate authority in case of any dispute regarding quality of drugs. It prepares and maintains national reference standard.

It brings about uniformity in enforcement of Drugs and Cosmetics Act. It trains Drug Analysts deputed by State Drug Control Laboratories and other Institutions.

Source: PIB.

Editorial

To Read

Not by ordinance

Proposals to hasten construction of a Ram temple at Ayodhya are extremely ill-advised

There is a clamour by the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and Sangh Parivar for an ordinance and later a statute (i.e. Act) for building a Ram temple over the ruins of the Babri Masjid in Ayodhya immediately. No more waiting, they say. The supposedly neutral Justice J. Chelameswar, who retired as a Supreme Court judge earlier this year, joined the fray, saying it was possible. The ex-justice is learned and bold, but needed to show the downside.

The Centre's remit

Any ordinance would have to be passed by the Central government if the President (as advised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's cabinet) "is satisfied that circumstances exist which render it necessary for him to take immediate action" to promulgate an such an ordinance, which will cease if it is negated or lapses. If it lapses, re-promulgation can take place. Repeated re-publication was frowned upon in the D.C. Wadhwa case (1986).

Again, by brute strength an Act may be passed amidst upheavals and rancour throughout India. But can the Central government as statutory receiver pass such an ordinance or even table a Bill in Parliament? There is an immediate conflict of interest. The alternative is a Private Member's Bill. Given the conflict of interest, the Central government is obliged to oppose it, albeit with a three-line whip. The State of Uttar Pradesh is bound by its stance in the Allahabad High Court that it is not interested in the site.

Even if passed, any such statute would have to cross many hurdles. First, there is the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act of 1991. In this Act, the cut-off date for freezing the religious character of a place of worship is August 15, 1947 and all suits regarding their status would abate. Section 6 prescribes punishment of up to three years or fine or both if this is violated. But Section 5 of the Act said: "Nothing contained in this Act shall apply to the place or place of worship commonly known as Ram Janma Bhumi-Babri Masjid situated in Ayodhya in the State of Uttar Pradesh and to any suit, appeal or other proceeding relating to the said place or place of worship." This, however, does not pave the way for simply repealing the section, for that would give further protection to the Muslim case.

Second, we have to turn to the Acquisition of Certain Area at Ayodhya Act, 1993, which acquired the site to put an end to the litigation, and vested the property in Central government.

Third, the Act of 1993 was interpreted in *Ismail Faruqui v. Union of India* (1994) so that the property would remain with the Central government as a "statutory receiver", a concept invented by the court. The cessation or abatement of the pending Ayodhya case between the Muslims and Hindus (Section 4(3)) was set aside by the Supreme Court while unfairly

allowing Hindu worship. The court declared: “The best solution in the circumstances, on revival of suits is, therefore, to maintain status quo as on 7th January, 1993 when the law came into force.” Any action taken now (i.e. 2018 onwards) would violate this status quo. As the “statutory receiver”, the Central government has the responsibility to wait for the result of the suit. No ordinance or statute can sit in appeal on the *Ismail Faruqui* judgment of 1994.

Separation of powers

There is a well-known principle, emanating from the doctrine of separation of powers in the Constitution, that the legislative power of Parliament cannot usurp the judicial powers to sit in appeal over the judicial decision-making – still less where the case is pending as a suit or in appeal. This decision, which was considered earlier, was firmed up on a tax case — *Shri Prithvi Cotton Mills* (1969) — after which there have been dozens of cases going one way or the other. But the legislature can change the basis of the law. It's more complicated than you think. What will a proposed Act or ordinance say? Can it say that this first appeal to the Supreme Court under the Code of Civil Procedure will be taken away? The right to adjudicate cannot be taken away as it would be discriminatory if applied to a particular case to take away a valuable right. The new basis for the law would have to invalidate the Allahabad High Court judgment of 2010, *Ismail Faruqui* (1994) and the orders subsequent to it and then injunct the pending proceedings in the Supreme Court. The justification for this can only be that strident members of the Hindu majority are impatient to reverse the Allahabad decision which gives one-third of the land to the Muslims. There is also a resistance by the Nirmohi Akhara, which claims the entire site and does not want to give the Deity its one-third.

As soon as the ordinance or Act is passed, it will be challenged in the Supreme Court because it is of national importance and affects the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court. True, there is a presumption of the constitutional validity of a statute. Even if no stay is granted, the urgency of the matter may mean an assurance sought by the court that no precipitous steps would be taken during these new proceedings. There will be counter-clamour, protests, news that India favours Hindus over Muslims. Throughout the world the destruction of the Babri Masjid has provoked doubts on the capacity of India to be neutral. India has one of the largest Muslim populations in the world — short of 200 million. The case against the constitutionality of the new ordinance or Act will take some time to decide. The decision in the Ayodhya case will be delayed further.

There is only one part of Justice J.S. Verma's majority in *Ismail Faruqui* (1994) that I like. He begins by quoting Jonathan Swift: “We have enough religion to make us hate, but not enough to make us love one another.”

A secular state?

With the rise of an uncompromising fundamentalism, India is faced with extreme populist demands against minorities and the rule of law. The Constitution is secular, but parts of civil society are rabidly communal. The demand for the state to intervene to allow the Ram temple is part of an aggressive Hindu fundamentalism which seeks to suborn the state to its wishes. The state has to remain neutral. To yield to a demand of one faith against another not only condones the destruction of the Masjid, but abandons the very basis of India's multi-religious and cultural ethos which it is bound to protect. It is the Constitution that has pledged our diverse people together. It is not a plaything – still less in the hands of a motivated majoritarianism that puts 'India' to ransom. Muslim fundamentalism is allegedly terrorists, its violent elements banned. Hindu fundamentalism reigns free with its Hindutva, “*ghar wapsi*”, cow protection, violence, murders of activists and the Ram temple movement seeking immediate solution

Mains Question

Q: Explain briefly, appointment, powers and functions of J&K governor.

YesUPSC