

# NEWS TODAY

## INDIA JUSTICE REPORT (IJR) RELEASED

• **The third edition of the report was released** by Tata Trusts in **collaboration with** representatives from a number of civil society organizations including the Centre for Social Justice, DAKSH, Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy, etc.

➤ Report assesses and ranks each state's progress in **capacitating its major justice delivery mechanisms**—the judiciary, police, prisons, and legal aid.

• **Key Findings of the Report:**

<b>Judiciary</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>No court works with a full capacity of judges</b> in the country except the <b>High Court of Sikkim and the district courts in Chandigarh.</b></li> <li>• At the district court level <b>no state/UT could fully meet all its SC, ST and OBC quotas.</b></li> <li>• Data on SC/ST/ OBC judges is not available for High Courts.</li> </ul>
<b>Police</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Not a single state/UT meets their reserved quotas for women in police.</b></li> <li>• <b>Only Karnataka fulfilled</b> the mandated quotas for <b>SC, ST and OBCs in the police force.</b></li> <li>• In 19 states/UTs <b>urban police stations serve greater populations than their rural counterparts.</b></li> </ul>
<b>Prisons</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Share of undertrials is more than 60%</b> in 32 states.</li> <li>• Only less than 5% inmates were educated in <b>24 states during 2020-21.</b></li> </ul>
<b>Legal aid</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The number of <b>Legal services clinics dropped from 14,159 (2020) to 4,742 (2022).</b></li> <li>• The <b>Lok Adalats has settled cases to the value of 7,322 cr</b> in 2021-2022.</li> </ul>
<b>State Human Rights Commission (SHRC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>33,312 cases are pending</b> across all 25 SHRC as on March 2021.</li> <li>• There is a <b>44% vacancy on average in all 25 SHRCs.</b></li> </ul>

## FINLAND JOINS NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION (NATO)

• Finland became the **31st country to join NATO.**

➤ Finland, once neutral under a **"friendship agreement"** with the Soviet Union, moved closer to **NATO after the collapse** of the Soviet Union.

• As a member of the Alliance, **Finland is part of NATO's collective defence** and is covered by the security guarantees enshrined in Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty.

➤ Collective defence means that an attack against one Ally is considered as an attack against all Allies.

• **About NATO**

➤ NATO was established in **1949 by the Washington Treaty.**

➤ It was established **as a military alliance, against the then USSR in the European region.**

➤ It derives its authority from **article 51 of the UN charter.**

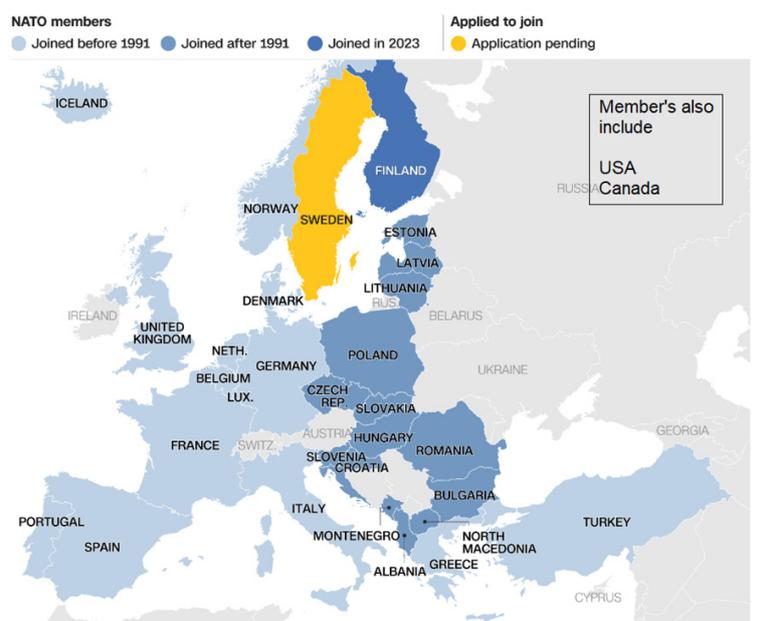
• **Significance of NATO:**

➤ It **promotes democratic values and encourages cooperation** between member countries.

➤ It has played a crucial role in **crisis management in the region.**

➤ It has helped to **maintain peace and stability in the region** among member countries.

• **Major Non-NATO Ally (MNNA) status** is a designation under U.S. law that provides foreign partners with certain benefits in the areas of defence trade and security cooperation.



# LOKPAL WORKING IS NOT EFFICIENT: PARLIAMENTARY PANEL ON PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES, LAW AND JUSTICE

## • Key Observation

- **Only three complaints were fully investigated** and approx. 90% complaints were not in the prescribed format.
- **It disposed of 68% corruption complaints** against public servants without any action.
- It has not prosecuted even a single person accused of graft till date.
- **The Post of the Chairman was left vacant for around 10 months**, which is against the directions of the Lokpal act 2013
  - It has also noted that around 50 posts are vacant in the organisation

## • Recommendations

- **Not to reject complaints merely on the basis of technical grounds** and for reasons for non-formatted complaints.
- **To deal with complaints on corruption diligently** and to strengthen the anti-corruption landscapes within the country.
- **To reduce the delays in appointments.**

## • About Lokpal

- The Lokpal act of 2013 calls for anti-corruption ombudsman called **Lokpal at the Centre and Lokayukta at the State-level.**
- The Lokpal consists of **A Chairman and maximum of 8 Members.**
- It can deal with corruption cases on all categories of public servants including the PM.
- The **Armed forces do not fall under the ambit of Lokpal.**

# WTO CONCERNED WITH DOMESTIC QUALITY CONTROL

• **Canada, Japan, the UK and the EU** said that India's Quality Control Orders (QCOs) appeared to have a protectionist orientation and said they may not be compliant with the Agreement on Technical Barriers.

## • Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade

- **It provides regulations on technical standards** including packaging, labeling requirements, and often environmental quality standards to be kept during the trade.
- The WTO prescribes that members **shall not adopt unnecessary obstacles to international trade** while following these measures.
- **It harmonized the international standards** of trade, technical regulations, and conformity assessment procedures.

## • About QCOs

- **The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)**, is the certifying authority for the QCOs.
- **The main aim** of the QCO is to control the import of sub-quality and cheaper items and to ensure that customers get quality products.
- **They are applicable** for International as well as domestic products.

## • India's Stand

- All orders are **completely in line with WTO norms** and all countries have standards to ensure the **safety of goods that are consumed.**
- **Each country can have its separate standards**, despite international norms being in place.



World Trade Organisation (WTO)



▪ The **only global international organization** dealing with the rules of trade between nations.



▪ Cover over **98% of world trade.**



▪ Ministerial conferences **every 2 years.**



▪ **General Council**, the top day-to-day decision-making body.



# PM HOLDS TALKS WITH BHUTAN'S KING

## • Key outcome of the meet

- **India to step up support for** Bhutan's upcoming 13th Five-Year Plan.
  - For the 12th Five Year Plan, India assisted Bhutan with Rs 4500 crore for various multi-sectoral project-tied assistance, small development projects, direct budgetary support etc.
- India would work to **extend an additional standby credit facility above existing one.**
- India has agreed to an **upward revision of the tariff of the Chhukha hydro-electric project.**
- Expedite the proposed **Kokrajhar-Gelephu rail link project.**

• **The Indo-Bhutan Treaty of Peace and Friendship** of 1949, is the bedrock of India and Bhutan's relationship.

- India is **Bhutan's largest trading partner.**
- India has **constructed three Hydroelectric Projects (HEPs)** in Bhutan which is operational and exporting surplus power to India
  - These are Chhukha HEP, Kurichhu HEP, and Tala HEP.

• Recently, Bhutan Prime Minister Lotay Tshering stated that **China have an equal say in resolving the border dispute at Doklam which increased security concerns for India.**

- Bhutan has always maintained **silence on its boundary negotiations with China**, and it does not have any formal diplomatic relations with China.

# PRIME MINISTER ADDRESSED THE 5TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DISASTER RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE (ICDRI)

● **ICDRI** is an annual international conference by the **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)**

● Disaster resilient infrastructure include vital buildings, public communal facilities, transit systems, telecommunications, and power systems **that are strategically designed to withstand the impact of a natural disaster** like a flood, earthquake, or wildfire.

● **Significance**

➤ It could **bring down the economic cost** of rebuilding the whole infrastructure after natural disasters.

➤ Assist in achieving **targets pertaining to a reduction in mortality** due to disasters.

➤ Help in **non-disruption of Energy, transportation,** and telecommunications for an effective post-disaster response.

➤ The frequency and severity of disaster events have been increasing which makes DRI inevitable e.g., Turkey Earthquake.

● **Initiatives**

➤ India announced the creation of a **CDRI** after the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (2016).

➤ **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030)** identifies investing in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) for resilience and to “build back better” in reconstruction as priorities

➤ **Infrastructure Resilience Accelerator Fund** was announced in 2023 acts as a financial resource and is key to the success of initiatives.

➤ Inclusion of the **CDRI in working groups of G20.**

**CDRI** COALITION FOR DISASTER RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE (CDRI) New Delhi

**Genesis:** A global partnership of national governments, UN agencies and programmes, private sector, and academic and research institutions, launched in **2019 by Indian Prime Minister at UN Climate Action Summit (New York).**

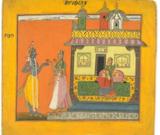
**Objective:** To promote **resilience of infrastructure systems to climate and disaster risks**, thereby ensuring sustainable development.

**Membership:** Currently, it has **31 Countries, 6 International Organisations and 2 private sector organisations** as members.

**Other Key information:** It'll work at intersection of **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and Paris Climate Agreement.**

## ALSO IN NEWS

<p><b>Windfall tax</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Centre cuts windfall tax on crude production to nil.</b></li> <li>● Windfall taxes are <b>designed to tax the profits a company derives from an external, sometimes unprecedented event</b>— for instance, the energy price rise as a result of the Russia-Ukraine conflict.</li> <li>● It is generally levied as a one-off tax retrospectively over and above the normal rates of tax on such profits.</li> <li>● Its <b>purpose is to redistribute excess profits</b> in one area for the greater social good.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ E.g., inheritance tax or taxes on lottery or game can also be construed as a windfall tax.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An EU-style CBAM is expected to dent India’s metal exports to the UK.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The <b>UK’s proposed CBAM is a replica of the European Union’s Carbon Border Tax</b> to achieve net neutrality in carbon emissions by 2050.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● CBAM, aims to <b>cut carbon emissions by imposing a levy on imported goods based on their carbon footprint.</b></li> <li>● Developing countries relying on exports are against the move that the CBAM could result in market distortion and make exports costly.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Deep Learning Geomagnetic Perturbation (DAGGER) model</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● NASA researchers have developed a <b>new computer model called DAGGER, to forecast geomagnetic disturbances and provide a warning for solar storms.</b></li> <li>● <b>The model integrates Artificial intelligence with Satellite data,</b> to predict the incoming solar winds</li> <li>● It <b>provides a lead time of 30 minutes for an impending solar storm</b> anywhere on Earth, enough to protect the critical systems from solar storms.</li> <li>● The solar wind is a stream of material that flows from the Sun carrying the Sun’s magnetic field out into space and can cause damage to existing electrical infrastructure in the world.</li> </ul>

 <p><b>MK 54 lightweight torpedo</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• As per the report India is going to sign a weapons deal with the United States that includes Mark 54 anti-submarine torpedoes.</li><li>• MK 54 lightweight torpedoes are used by US surface ships, fixed-wing aircraft, and helicopters, and are their primary anti-submarine warfare weapon.</li><li>• It was <b>previously known as Lightweight Hybrid Torpedo (LHT)</b>.</li><li>• Features<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➢ It can <b>operate in shallow waters</b> and in the presence of countermeasures.</li><li>➢ It is <b>powered by a reciprocating external combustion engine</b>, which burns Otto II liquid fuel</li><li>➢ It can <b>track, classify, and attack underwater targets</b>.</li></ul></li></ul>
 <p><b>First Anti-Spyware Declaration</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The USA and 10 other nations issued the <b>first-ever significant anti-spyware declaration</b>.</li><li>• It <b>recognized the threat posed by the misuse of commercial spyware</b>.</li><li>• It seeks to realize the importance of stringent domestic and international <b>controls on the proliferation and use of this technology</b>.</li><li>• <b>About Spyware</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➢ Spyware is a <b>type of malicious software or malware</b> that is installed on a computing device without the end user's knowledge.</li><li>➢ It <b>invades the device, steals sensitive information</b> and internet usage data, and relays it to advertisers, data firms, or external users.</li></ul></li></ul>
 <p><b>Snailfish</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The animal, an unknown snailfish species belonging to the genus Pseudoliparis, was filmed at a depth of 8,336 metres in the Izu-Ogasawara trench, south-east of Japan.</li><li>• <b>About Snailfish</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➢ It is also called a <b>sea snail and it is a deep-sea fish</b>.</li><li>➢ There are over <b>400 known species of snailfish</b>, and they range in size from just a few centimeters to nearly a meter in length.</li><li>➢ They are <b>found in cold water in the North Atlantic, North Pacific, Arctic and Antarctic seas</b>.</li></ul></li></ul>
 <p><b>Avalanche</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Several tourists were killed after an avalanche struck the Gangtok-Nathu La road in Sikkim.</li><li>• <b>Avalanche</b> is a <b>mass of material moving rapidly down a slope</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➢ Snow avalanche begins when an unstable mass of snow breaks away from a slope.</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Types:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➢ <b>rock avalanches</b> (consist of shattered rock),</li><li>➢ <b>ice avalanches</b> (occur in the vicinity of a glacier),</li><li>➢ <b>debris avalanches</b> (contain unconsolidated materials, e.g., loose stones and soil).</li></ul></li></ul>
 <p><b>Prosopis chilensis</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• As per the study Prosopis chilensis, an alien invasive plant <b>is threatening to pulverize native vegetation across 21 islands in the Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve (GoMBR)</b>.</li><li>• <b>About Prosopis chilensis:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➢ It is a <b>drought-resistant plant native to the arid regions</b> of four South American countries namely Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, and Peru.</li><li>➢ It is a <b>small to medium-sized legume tree</b> that grows up to 12 m in height and 1 m in diameter.</li><li>➢ The Prosopis chilensis is also <b>known as Chilean mesquite</b>.</li></ul></li><li>• The <b>GoMBR, India's first marine biosphere reserve</b>, is one of the important habitats for coastal birds migrating from the Arctic Circle.</li></ul>
 <p><b>Basholi Painting</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• They are known for their <b>miniature art style from the Kathua district</b> (Jammu) and have received the Geographical Indication (GI) Tag.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➢ <b>It is the first independent GI-tagged product from the Jammu region</b>.</li></ul></li><li>• It is considered the first school of Pahari paintings</li><li>• These are <b>painted on paper, cloth, or wood using natural pigments and dyes</b>.</li><li>• GI tag is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin.</li></ul>
 <p><b>SLINEX-23</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• It is a <b>Bilateral Maritime Exercise between India and Sri Lanka</b>.</li></ul>