

16<sup>th</sup> July, 2024

## 1. SC to hear petitions against passing laws as Money Bills GS 2 (Governance)

- **Why in News:** The Supreme Court of India is set to hear petitions challenging the use of the Money Bill route by the Centre to pass contentious amendments in Parliament.
- **Key-highlights of the Issue**
  - **Referred to Seven-Judge Bench:** The five-judge Bench, led by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi, referred the Money Bill question to a seven-judge Bench in November 2019.
  - **Article 110 of the Constitution:** A Money Bill is deemed to contain only provisions dealing with specified financial matters under clauses (a) to (g) of Article 110(1), including the appropriation of money and taxation.
- **Provisions and Implications**
  - **Legal Questions:** The reference includes legal questions concerning amendments made since 2015, particularly those in the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), passed as Money Bills.
  - **Impact on Tribunals:** The 2017 Finance Act, also passed as a Money Bill, altered appointments to 19 key judicial tribunals, including the National Green Tribunal and the Central Administrative Tribunal.
  - **Executive Control over Tribunals:** Petitioner Jairam Ramesh argued that categorizing the 2017 Act as a Money Bill was intended to extend executive control over tribunals by altering selection committees and downgrading qualifications for staff.
- **Reason behind the Situation**
  - **Circumventing Rajya Sabha:** The core issue is whether the Money Bill route was used to bypass the Rajya Sabha, violating Article 110 of the Constitution.
  - **Amendments via Money Bills:** Since 2015, several contentious amendments have been passed using the Money Bill classification, raising constitutional and legal concerns.
- **Impact of Such Actions**
  - **Judicial Review:** The classification of laws as Money Bills impacts the judiciary's ability to review and check executive actions.
  - **Separation of Powers:** Using the Money Bill route can undermine the separation of powers by limiting the Rajya Sabha's role in scrutinizing significant legislative changes.
  - **Precedent for Future Laws:** The outcome of these petitions could set a precedent for the classification of future laws and the scope of executive powers.
- **Required Measures**
  - **Clarification on Money Bills:** There is a need for a clear definition and guidelines on what constitutes a Money Bill to prevent misuse.
  - **Strengthening Legal Frameworks:** Legislative and judicial measures are necessary to ensure that the Money Bill route is not used to circumvent parliamentary scrutiny.
  - **Ensuring Checks and Balances:** Effective checks and balances should be maintained to uphold the constitutional provisions and the role of the Rajya Sabha in legislative processes.
- **Difference between a finance bill and a money bill**
  - Finance bills are similar to money bills in the sense that it has provisions related to tax, expenditure and that may contain matters specified in **Article 110 (1)**.
  - A money bill specifically centres its identity around the provisions (a) to (g) and is certified by the Speaker as such.
  - A financial bill becomes a money bill only when it carries the Speaker's certification as a money bill.
  - Bills that are not certified by the Speaker are:
  - Bills that contain any of the matters specified in Article 110, but do not contain only those matters **Article 117 (1)**

### SC to hear petitions against passing laws as Money Bills

Chief Justice Chandrachud says pleas challenging the Money Bill route taken by the Centre to pass contentious amendments in Parliament will be listed when he forms Constitution Benches

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud on Monday agreed to list petitions challenging the Money Bill route taken by the Centre to pass contentious amendments in the Parliament.

"I will list when I form Constitution Benches," the Chief Justice addressed senior advocate Kapil Sibal, who made an oral mention on behalf of the petitioners, including Rajya Sabha MP Jairam Ramesh. The Money Bill question was referred to a seven-judge Bench in November 2019 by a five-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi in the case of *Rojer Mathew vs. South Indian Bank Ltd.* The cardinal issue is whether such

The contentious route

Some of the legislations passed as Money Bills in the Parliament include

- Amendments to the Prevention of Money Laundering Act
- The Finance Act of 2017
- Aadhaar Act, 2016

amendments could be passed as a Money Bill, circumventing the Rajya Sabha, in violation of Article 110 of the Constitution.

**The provisions**  
A Money Bill is deemed to contain only provisions dealing with all or any of the matters under clauses (a) to (g) of Article 110(1), largely including the ap-



A Money Bill is a financial legislation that contains provisions exclusively related to revenue, taxation, government expenditures, and borrowing.

Cong. welcomes court's decision

NEW DELHI  
The Congress on Monday welcomed the Supreme Court agreeing to consider a submission for setting up a Constitution Bench to hear pleas challenging the validity of passage of laws as Money Bills. **▶ PAGE 13**

forcement Directorate almost blanket powers of arrest, raids, etc. Though the court had upheld the legality of the PMLA amendments, it left the question of whether the amendments could have been passed as Money Bills to the seven-judge Bench.

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- **What is the Rupee-Rouble mechanism?**

- The Rupee-Rouble trade arrangement is an **alternative payment mechanism** to settle dues in rupees **instead of Dollars or Euros**.
- The idea was **first conceived in 1953** under the **Indo-Soviet trade agreement**.
- **Under Article VI of the Indo-Soviet agreement:**
  - **All payments** between India and the then Soviet Republic USSR may be **made in Indian Rupees**.
  - For this purpose the **State Bank of the U.S.S.R.** will **maintain one or more accounts** with one or more commercial banks in India authorised to deal in foreign exchange.
  - In addition, the State Bank of the USSR will, if that Bank considers necessary, maintain another **account with the Reserve Bank of India**.
  - All commercial **transactions** to be financed in Rupees will take place **through the commercial bank accounts** while the **account with the Reserve Bank of India will be used only for replenishing the balances** with the commercial banks when necessary
  - Payments made to and by Indian residents and USSR residents will be done only in those specified accounts by debiting/crediting.
  - The **accounts will be replenished by**
    - by **transfer of funds** from another account of the State Bank of the USSR with another commercial bank or with the Reserve Bank of India; or
    - by the **sale of Sterling to the bank concerned**
  - The **payments covered:**
    - Commercial transactions and covering insurance, freight, port charges, storage and forwarding expenses and bunkering
    - Distribution of films
    - Technical assistance
    - Tours of commercial or cultural nature
    - Maintenance of Embassy of India in the USSR and of the Embassy and the Trade Representation of the U.S.S.R. in India
    - Other non-commercial payments agreed between Reserve Bank of India and the State Bank of the USSR

- **Reasons Behind the Surge**

- **Sanctions and Opportunities:** The sanctions imposed on Russia by the U.S. and the EU have created opportunities for Indian businesses. The exit of Western companies from the Russian market has left a vacuum that Indian businesses can fill.
- **Enhanced Trust in Rupee:** Sberbank reported an increase in trust towards the rupee among its clients, with rupee-denominated accounts and deposits becoming more prevalent.
- **Strategic Visits and Agreements:** Prime Minister Modi's visit to Moscow and the \$100 billion trade target set for 2030 with Russian President Vladimir Putin have boosted confidence in bilateral trade.

- **Impact of the Increased Payments**

- **Trade Balance and Growth:** The doubling of rupee-rouble payments is expected to contribute to a more balanced and substantial trade relationship between India and Russia.
- **Sectoral Opportunities:** Sectors such as auto and aviation components, chemicals, microelectronics, consumer electronics, machinery, medical devices, and agricultural products are highlighted as potential areas for Indian exports to Russia.
- **Competitive Edge:** Indian businesses have the potential to gain a competitive edge in the Russian market, which is currently being dominated by Chinese products.

- **Required Measures**

- **Government Support:** The Indian government must provide robust support to businesses venturing into the Russian market, including secure payment mechanisms, insurance, and logistics.
- **Filling Market Vacuums:** Indian businesses should capitalize on the opportunities created by sanctions and fill the market vacuums with Indian products.
- **Strategic Alliances:** Strengthening strategic alliances and enhancing cooperation in key sectors will be crucial for achieving the trade targets and sustaining growth.

## 4. ICAR to release 323 new varieties of 56 crops

### GS 2 (Governance)

- **Why in News:** The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is set to launch its "one scientist, one product" programme and release 323 new varieties of 56 crops, including cereals, oilseeds, forage crops, and sugarcane, on its 96th foundation day.
- **Key Highlights**
  - **Programme Launch:** The "one scientist, one product" programme aims to improve research in agriculture and animal husbandry. It will be inaugurated by Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.
  - **New Varieties:** ICAR will announce the release of 323 varieties, which include 289 climate-resilient and 27 bio-fortified varieties.
  - **Five-Year Plan:** The programme requires each of the 5,521 ICAR scientists to develop a product, technology, model, concept, or publication, with progress monitored quarterly at the institute level and biannually at the headquarters level.
- **Reason Behind the Initiative**
  - **Enhancing Research and Innovation:** The initiative encourages scientists to focus on specific products or technologies, fostering innovation and improving the quality of research outputs.
  - **Climate Resilience and Nutrition:** Developing climate-resilient and bio-fortified crop varieties addresses challenges posed by climate change and nutritional deficiencies.
  - **Government Prioritization:** The government is prioritizing seed hubs for high-yielding oilseeds and pulses varieties as part of its broader agricultural strategy.
- **Impact of the Initiative**
  - **Increased Production:** The deployment of climate-resilient technologies has already led to enhanced production, even during abnormal weather conditions.
  - **Nutritional Security:** Bio-fortified varieties contribute to improved nutritional security, with significant areas under crops like wheat, rice, pearl millet, lentil, and mustard being cultivated with these varieties.
  - **Innovation and Collaboration:** The programme promotes collaboration among scientists and aligns research efforts with national priorities, ensuring that agricultural research addresses pressing issues effectively.
- **Required Measures**
  - **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Continuous monitoring at both institute and headquarters levels ensures accountability and progress towards targets.
  - **Support for Scientists:** Providing resources and support for scientists to develop innovative products and technologies is crucial for the success of the programme.
  - **Policy Integration:** Integrating the outcomes of this programme into broader agricultural policies and initiatives will enhance its impact and sustainability.
- **About Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR):**
  - The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) was established on 16 July 1929 as a registered society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.
  - It is an autonomous organisation under the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India.
  - It is headquartered at New Delhi. With 102 ICAR institutes and 71 agricultural universities spread across the country this is one of the largest national agricultural systems in the world.
  - It is the apex body for coordinating, guiding and managing research and education in agriculture including horticulture, fisheries and animal sciences in the entire country.
  - The ICAR has played a pioneering role in ushering Green Revolution and subsequent developments in agriculture in India through its research and technology development that has enabled the country to increase the production of foodgrains by 5.6 times, horticultural crops by 10.5 times, fish by 16.8 times, milk by 10.4 times and eggs by 52.9 times since 1950-51 to 2017-18.

## ICAR to release 323 new varieties of 56 crops today

Council to launch 'one scientist, one product' programme for its 5500 scientists to come up with a product, technology, model or publication every year; plan afoot for 100 seed varieties in 100 days

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) will launch its "one scientist, one product" programme on Tuesday to improve research in the field of agriculture and animal husbandry.

The council will formally announce the release of 323 varieties of 56 crops, including cereals, oilseeds, forage crops, and sugarcane, at a function here on Tuesday as part of its 96th foundation day.

These crops include 289 climate-resilient varieties and 27 bio-fortified varieties. The "one scientist, one product" programme will be inaugurated by Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

**Five-year plan** Explaining the programme, ICAR Director-General Himanshu Pathak told presspersons here on Monday that the ICAR had given a target to all 5,521 scientists under the institution to come up with a product, technology, model, concept or good publication.



**Expanding fruit bowl:** A glimpse of the exhibition of the technologies and products developed by ICAR, on the sidelines of its 96th Foundation Day and Technology Day in New Delhi on Monday.

At the beginning of every year, the scientist or a group of scientists will have to identify the product, and the ICAR will map the work. "We will monitor it at the institute level every three months and at the headquarters level every six months. This is a long plan," he said. The scheme will work for five years.

"This year, we are prioritising seed hubs for high-yielding oilseeds and pulses varieties," he said. Dr. Pathak said the ICAR was also working to develop

100 new seed varieties and 100 farm technologies in 100 days as part of the Centre's 100-day action plan. He said the council would request Prime Minister Narendra Modi's time to launch these programmes by mid-September.

**Production boost** The ICAR said in a release that with the help of breeder seeds, about 16 million hectares (mha) are under bio-fortified varieties of different crops, including wheat (13 mha), rice (0.5

mha), pearl millet (1.5 mha), lentil (0.5 mha) and mustard (1 mha) during 2023-24. "Deployment of climate-resilient technologies led to enhanced production even during the abnormal years," the ICAR said. It said that from 2014-15 to 2023-24, a total of 2,593 high-yielding varieties were released. These include 2,177 climate-resilient (85% of total) varieties with biotic and abiotic stress resistance, and 150 bio-fortified crop varieties.



## 5. Rules for civil servants

### GS 2 (Executive)

#### • Why in news:

- The Centre has set up a single-member committee under the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) to review the documents submitted by IAS probationer Puja Khedkar, who secured a rank of 821 in the 2022 UPSC Civil Services Examination.
- Khedkar was allotted the IAS under the OBC and Physically Handicapped quotas. Questions have been raised about her appointment under these categories.
- It should be noted that Khedkar's actions as a civil servant are governed primarily by two rules: the **All-India Services (Conduct) Rules, 1968**, and the **Indian Administrative Service (Probation) Rules, 1954**.

#### • Rules on 'integrity of services'

##### ○ Rules

- All IAS, Indian Police Service (IPS) and Indian Forest Service (IFoS) officers are governed by the All-India Services (Conduct) Rules from the time they join their respective services, and begin their probation period.

##### ○ Integrity and Devotion to Duty

- **According to Rule 3(1)**, officers must uphold absolute integrity and dedication to their duties at all times.

##### ○ Gifts and Benefits

- **Rule 11(1)** regulates the gifts and benefits received by a civil servant.
- Acceptance of gifts is limited to those from near relatives, with strict reporting requirements for any gift exceeding Rs 25,000 to prevent influence on their duties.
- This rule also prohibits officers from engaging in any trade or business to maintain impartiality and prevent conflicts of interest.

##### ○ Unbecoming of an officer

- Rule 4(1) is more specific about what is unbecoming.
- It states that officers must not use their position or influence to secure employment for any member of his family with any private undertaking or NGO.

#### • Property details

- **Rule 13** of the All-India Services (Conduct) Rules mandates that officers must annually submit property returns.
- These returns must detail all immovable properties that officers or their family members own, inherit, acquire, or hold through lease or mortgage.
- This requirement ensures transparency and prevents illicit accumulation of wealth among civil servants.

#### • Sub-rules added in 2014

- In 2014, the government added a few sub-rules.
- This included that officers should maintain:
  - high ethical standards, integrity and honesty;
  - political neutrality;
  - accountability and transparency;
  - responsiveness to the public, particularly to the weaker sections;
  - courtesy and good behaviour with the public.

#### • Rules for probationers

##### ○ Rules

- There is an additional set of rules that govern the conduct of officers during their probation period, which lasts for at least two years after selection to the services.
  - IAS officers, in addition, are governed by the IAS (Probation) Rules during their probation period.

## Rules for civil servants

IAS probationer Puja Khedkar is facing a DoPT inquiry. Actions of civil servants are governed mainly by the All India Services (Conduct) Rules, 1968, and the IAS (Probation) Rules, 1954. What do they say?

SHYAMAL YADAV

14 JULY 2023

THE CENTRE last Thursday constituted a single-member committee under the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) to examine documents submitted by probationer Puja Khedkar to ensure her candidature in the civil services.

Khedkar secured a rank of 821 in the 2022 UPSC Civil Services Examination and was allotted the IAS under the OBC and Physically Handicapped (PH) quotas.

Questions have been raised about her appointment under these categories.

Khedkar also has multiple allegations of misconduct, from seeking special privileges to not attending to her duties.

Khedkar's actions as a civil servant are governed primarily by two rules: the All-India Services (Conduct) Rules, 1968, and the Indian Administrative Service (Probation) Rules, 1954. What do they say?

**Rules on 'integrity of services'**

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**• Rules for probationers**

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IAS probationer Puja Khedkar (center) and the Andh police officer who was with her in the custody of police in Pune. (AP)

do so 'solely in public interest, declare any pecuniary interest in his public duties, not place himself under any financial or other obligation to any individual or organization which may influence him, and ensure inspection and audit of his accounts and other documents in order to derive financial or material benefits for himself, his family or his friends.

According to Rule 11(1), officers may accept gifts from 'near relatives' or 'personal friends' with whom they have 'no official dealings'—associates such as wedding, anniversary, birthday and religious functions. However, they must report to the government any gift whose value exceeds Rs 2,000. This threshold was not updated in 2015.

**Rules for probationers**

There is an additional set of rules that govern the conduct of officers during their probation period, which lasts for at least two years after selection to the services. This includes the IAS (Probation) Rules, 1954. These rules are more stringent than the All-India Services (Conduct) Rules, 1968. For example, probationers are 'discharged' if they are found to be 'unbecoming' or 'incapable' of performing their duties. They are also required to submit annual property returns and to maintain high ethical standards, integrity and honesty, political neutrality, accountability and transparency, responsiveness to the public, particularly to the weaker sections, and good behaviour with the public.

Also added were specific guidelines about what officers must not do. They must not use their position or influence to secure employment for any member of his family with any private undertaking or NGO.

Legal battle at the CAT regarding her PH status. As per a CAT order dated February 23, 2023, UPSC had asked Khedkar to undergo a medical examination at the AIIMS, New Delhi in April 2022 but she sought a postponement citing a Covid-19 infection.

She did not arrive at the now-cheked-up examination as well, although she is known to have later submitted an MRI report from a private facility to support her claim. Despite making multiple attempts by the DoPT to contact the applicant, no response was received from her. Furthermore, the PH certificate submitted by her was not authentic, the CAT order read.

Critics have pointed to Khedkar's employment with the government as a probationer as a 'backdoor' entry into the civil service. They argue that she should have been recruited through the normal process, and that her appointment as a probationer was a 'bypass' of the normal recruitment process.

For those whose parents work in the private sector, the current threshold is usually for the non-creamy layer status to an income of under Rs 1 lakh annually. For those with parents who work in the public sector, income is not taken into account. Rather, as per DoPT rules, what qualifies people to be in the creamy layer is either parent becoming a Group A officer before the age of 40, or both being Group B officers with initial salary.

Puja Khedkar's father, Shri. S. S. Khedkar, is a retired Maharashtra Police Commissioner, who is now in politics.

- **Probation Conditions**
  - Officers undergo training at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) in Mussoorie.
  - At the end of two years, they must pass an examination to be confirmed in their service.
- **Salary and Allowances**
  - Probationers receive a fixed salary and travel allowance but do not have entitlements like an official car, official accommodation, or an official chamber with staff.
- **Probationer Discharge**
  - **Rule 12** outlines circumstances under which probationers can be discharged, such as being found ineligible or unsuitable for the service by the central government, neglecting duties, or lacking essential qualities needed for the service.
- **Enquiry Process**
  - If disciplinary action is initiated against a probationer, a summary enquiry is conducted by a committee appointed by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT).
  - The committee submits its report within two weeks to inform decisions regarding the probationer's status.
- **Allegations against Khedkar**
  - Puja Khedkar, despite her low rank, secured a position in the prestigious IAS through reservations meant for OBC and Persons with Disabilities (PH).
    - Since the batch of 1995, 27% seats in the services have been reserved for the OBC category.
    - The PH reservation was introduced with the batch of 2006 — 3% seats in every category (General, OBC, SC, and ST) are reserved for the differently abled.
  - However, allegations have surfaced regarding the validity of her OBC and PH certificates.
    - If these allegations are proven true — that she falsified these certificates — Khedkar faces potential discharge from service.
    - Probationers are discharged, while confirmed officers are dismissed.
  - The issue is compounded by a legal battle over her PH status, where she failed to attend a medical examination required by the UPSC, citing reasons including a Covid-19 infection.
  - Critics have raised questions about her eligibility for **OBC (non-creamy layer) benefits**, highlighting her family's background in politics and her father's former government service.
    - For those whose parents work in the private sector, the current threshold to qualify for the non-creamy layer status is an **income of under Rs 8 lakh annually**.
    - For those with parents who work in the public sector, income is not taken into account.
    - Rather, as per DoPT rules, what qualifies people to be in the creamy layer is either parent becoming a Group-A official before the age of 40, or both being Group-B officials with similar ranks.

## 6. Vishalgad Fort GS 1 (Art and Culture)

- **Why in News:** The anti-encroachment drive at Vishalgad Fort took an ugly turn recently after miscreants resorted to violence, roughed up the local shopkeepers, and pelted stones at policemen on duty at the fort premises.
- **About Vishalgad Fort:**
  - It is an ancient fort situated at Vishalgad village in **Kolhapur district of Maharashtra**.
  - Also called **Khelna or Khilna** by the locals, Vishalgad Fort was one of the **important forts of the Maratha Empire**.
  - **History:**
    - It was **built in the year 1058 by Shilahara king Marsinh** and was initially known as Khilgil.
    - In 1209, the then king of Seuna Yadavas of Devagiri defeated Shilaharas and captured the fort.
    - In **1309, Allauddin Khilji** defeated King Ramchandra of the Seuna Yadavas of Devagiri, and soon the fort was attached to the Khilji dynasty.
    - **Later**, the fort was under the rule of the **Vijayanagar Empire, and then the Adil Shahi dynasty**.
    - In **1659, Shivaji captured** the fort from Adil shah and renamed the fort 'Vishalgad' which means grand or giant fort.
    - During the times of the Maratha Empire, Vishalgad was **made the capital of a large region** consisting of ninety towns and villages in Kolhapur and Ratnagiri districts.



- **Features:**

- The structure covers an area of 1130 m and was **built on a hilltop in the Sahyadri mountain ranges** at a height of 3500 feet above sea level.
- The famous **Dargah of Hazrat Sayed Malik Rehan Meera Saheb**, which is visited by thousands of tourists, is located in the fort.
- Some of the temples inside the complex are **Amruteshwar Temple**, Shri Nrusinha Temple, and Sati's Vrindavan.
- The fortress also includes tombs dedicated to Phulaji Prabhu Deshpande and Baji Prabhu Deshpande, who served under Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

## 7. FishMIP Initiative

### GS 2 (Governance)

- **Why in News:** The report produced by the Ecosystem Model Intercomparison Project (FishMIP) projects that exploitable fish biomass declined more than 10 per cent, particularly under the high-emissions scenario, by mid-century for many regions of the world.
- **About FishMIP Initiative:**
  - **Fisheries and Marine Ecosystem Model Intercomparison Project (FishMIP)** was officially launched in 2013.
  - It provides knowledge to industry and governments to support effective **planning for adaptive and resilient seafood sectors under climate change**.
  - It has a network of more than 100 **marine ecosystem modellers and researchers from around the world**.
  - The **FishMIP and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** collaborated to understand the long-term impacts of climate change on marine ecosystems and fisheries through a set of state-of-the-art numerical models.
  - In 2024, FishMIP 2.0 was established to increase the reliability of modelling projections and to answer a **broader set of policy-related questions** relevant to food security and marine resource management, with climate change remaining the overarching theme.
- **Key facts about Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**
  - It is a **specialized agency of the United Nations** that leads international efforts to defeat hunger and improve nutrition and food security.
  - Its goal is to achieve food security for all and make sure that people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active and healthy lives.
  - **Member countries:** With 195 members - 194 countries and the European Union.
  - Its sister bodies are the **World Food Programme (WFP)** and the **International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)**.
  - **Reports published by the FAO:** The State of the World's Forests (SOFO), The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA), The State of Agricultural Commodity Markets (SOCO), The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI)
  - **Headquarter:** Rome (Italy).

**MCQ Current Affairs**  
**16<sup>th</sup> July, 2024**

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**1. Vishalgad Fort, recently seen in the news, lies in which one of the following states?**

- a) Odisha
- b) Bihar
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Maharashtra

**2. Tirzepatide drug, recently in news, is advised for:**

- a) Shingles
- b) HIV treatment
- c) TB treatment
- d) Weight loss

**3. Consider the following statements with reference to the FishMIP initiative:**

- A. It provides knowledge to industry and governments to support effective planning for adaptive and resilient seafood sectors.
- B. It is an initiative of the Food and Agriculture Organization.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) A only
- b) B only
- c) A and B
- d) Neither of two

**4. Consider the following statements regarding the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO):**

- A. It was established by the Chicago Convention and is headquartered in Montreal, Canada.
- B. It sets standards and regulations necessary for aviation safety, security, efficiency, and regularity, as well as for aviation environmental protection.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) A only
- b) B only
- c) A and B
- d) Neither of two

**5. Consider the following statements regarding the Kashmiri willow:**

- A. It is a deciduous tree grown in places with sufficient soil moisture.
- B. It exhibits high rates of evapotranspiration during the growing season.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) A only
- b) B only
- c) A and B
- d) Neither of two



**Answers Current Affairs**  
**16<sup>th</sup> July, 2024**

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1. d
2. d
3. a
4. c
5. c

