



YOJNA IAS

OCTOBER 2022

WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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24/10/2022 TO 30/10/2022

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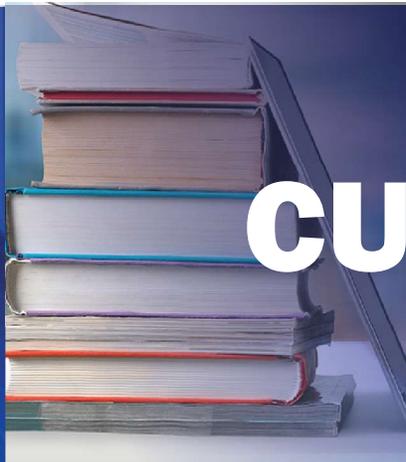
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CURRENT AFFAIRS

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Living Planet Report 2022

Source: The Indian Express

News: Report shows that biodiversity populations shrinks to 69% in nearly 5 decades.

About Living Planet Report

- Report is flagship World Wildlife Fund (WWF).
- This is a biennial report that is published after every 2 years.
- Report is a comprehensive study of trends in global biodiversity and the health of the planet.
- Living Planet Report 2022 reveals an average decline of 69% in species populations since 1970.
- Along with conservation efforts urgent actions are required to reverse nature loss.
- It also measures species response to environmental pressure due to loss of biodiversity and climate change.

Key findings of Living Planet Report 2022:

- Addition of just over 11, 000 new populations after tracking 32,000 species populations of 5,230 species, with 838 species.
- Percentage of monitored wildlife populations (mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles and fish) dropped by 69 percent between 1970 and 2018.
- India has seen a decline in honeybees and 17 species of freshwater turtles population in between 1970 and 2018 period.
- Most vulnerable regions in the country in terms of biodiversity losses are Himalayan region and Western Ghats.
- Expectations of the future biodiversity loss with increase in temperature.
- Significant increase in the number of fish species (481).
- Largest decline of monitored wildlife populations is seen in Latin America and the Caribbean regions. Average decline of 94% is seen in Latin America and the Caribbean regions between 1970 and 2018.
- Monitored populations in Africa and Asia Pacific plummeted by 66% and 55% respectively.
- Most decline is seen in freshwater populations with an average 83% decline between 1970 and

2018.

- According to threat perception Cycads (an ancient group of seed plants) are the most threatened species, while decline in corals are the fastest, followed by amphibians.
- Main drivers of decline in wildlife population: Loss of habitat and degradation and exploitation of land, introduction of invasive species, pollution, climate change and disease.
- Biggest threat to nature is Land Use Change i.e. destruction or fragmentation of natural habitats of many plant and animal species on land, in freshwater and in the sea.
- Climate Change may emerge as the dominant cause of biodiversity loss if nations are unable to limit warming to 1.5°C.
- Every degree of warming is expected to increase mass mortality events, as well as the first extinction of an entire species and will negatively impact people.
- Around 50% of warm water corals have already become extinct. Further, 1.5 degrees Celsius warming may lead to loss of 70-90% of warm water corals. Due to sea level rise Bramble Cay melomys (small Australian rodent) became extinct after sea-level rise.
- Continued deforestation of mangroves through aquaculture, agriculture and coastal development at annual rate of 0.13%.
- Degradation of mangrove is due to overexploitation and pollution along with natural stressors such as storms and coastal erosion. Myanmar remains hotspots of mangrove loss.
- Migration of fish is threatened as only 37% of rivers that are over 1,000 km long remain in their natural state.
- Most prevalent threats to amphibians (animals that live both on land and in water) are agriculture and for birds and mammals hunting and trapping remains the most prominent threats.
- The Southeast Asia region is facing a significant level of threat. Impact probabilities for climate change are highest in Polar regions and the east coast of Australia and South Africa driven particularly by impact on birds.

Initiatives to promote conservation of species

- Recent project of Cheetah translocation that will create an umbrella effect for preservation or conservation of other species.
- Success of projects such as Project Tiger or One-horned rhino and lions.

Article: Shrinking biodiversity: 69% drop in wildlife populations in nearly 5 decades, shows report

Sharad

World Economic Outlook Report 2022

Source: The Indian Express

News: Red flags for India after publish of IMF's latest world economy report.

About World Economic Outlook Report

- Report is published by the International Monetary Fund.
- The IMF publishes two World Economic Outlook (WEO) reports (in April and October) and two updates (January and July) every year.
- The World Economic Outlook Report warned the policymakers around the globe: "The worst is yet to come" for the world economy.
- Report highlights the toughest economic policy challenge that is persistent high inflation and stalling growth.
- Global economy continues to face steep challenges due to various scenarios around the world.

Reasons for steep challenges faced by global economy:

- Russian invasion of Ukraine.
- Cost-of-living crisis caused by persistent and broadening inflation pressures.
- Slowdown in China.
- Partially healed post-pandemic economic wounds got opened by this Overall, this year's economic shocks.

Four sources of threat to India that will worsen the government's financial health:

- Higher crude oil and fertiliser prices that will spike domestic inflation.
- Global slowdown hurting exports, dragging down domestic growth and worsening the trade deficit.
- Strong dollar puts pressure on the rupee's exchange rate that may reduce India's forex reserves and capacity to import goods.
- Low Indian economic demand forcing the government to spend more towards basic relief such as food and fertiliser subsidies.

Key findings from the report:

- This year or next year more than a third of the global economy will contract.
- Growth of three largest economies i.e the United States, the European Union and China will continue to stall.
- Immediate threat to current and future prosperity is “increasing price pressures as it will squeeze real incomes and undermine macroeconomic stability.
- Highlighted the policy makers’s dilemma: Generally, inflation containment drags down growth while policy measures to boost growth tend to spike inflation.
- WEO’s Economic Counsellor Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas stated that: “As storm clouds gather, policymakers need to keep a steady hand.”
- Growth Outlook: Current IMF’s growth forecast is the weakest growth profile for the world since 2001 barring the global financial crisis of 2008 and the sharp fall immediately after the Covid pandemic in 2020. IMF has drastically reduced its projection for global growth, from 6.0% in 2021 to 3.2% in 2022 and 2.7% in 2023.
- Current predictions of peak global inflation in late 2022 is 9.5%. The inflation is anticipated to stay high for longer than previously imagined and is projected to drop to 4.1% by 2024.
- Worrying trajectory of core inflation: Rise and fall in core inflation are more gradual than inflation in food and fuel.
- IMF statement on global core inflation is expected to be 6.6 per cent on a fourth-quarter-over-fourth-quarter basis.
- Current global core inflation reflects the pass-through of energy prices, supply chain cost pressure, and tight labour markets especially in advanced economies.
- Core inflation will take more time to go away as food and fuel price inflation has spiked headline inflation that has now entered into core inflation.

Downside Risks in IMF projections:

- Policy miscalibration: As there is massive uncertainty about the future and most economies are facing precarious situations.
- Chances of fiscal and monetary policies running against each other: When this happens there is high chances of mini-financial collapse. Example: Current mini-financial collapse in the UK is due to expansionary fiscal policy by Liz Truss government when Bank of England was trying to contain high inflation by raising interest rates.
- Other mistakes can also happen even in case of aligned fiscal and monetary policies:

Over-tightening of monetary policy risks stalling down growth while under-tightening risks inflation.

- Worry about financial stability's interplay with a stronger US dollar: Sharp revision of interest rates will likely expose the weakest links in the global credit chain.
- Geopolitical risks due to the Ukraine war: Prolonged conflict in Ukraine can make the economic pressures worse.

IMF Projections meaning for India:

- India appears to be better placed than others at first glance as GDP growth rate of India is better and without high inflation.
- But these metrics hide the fact that India is barely out of the contraction suffered in 2020 and World Bank data shows that India was home to the most people pushed below abject poverty in 2020 or are unemployed.
- India's growth in 2022-23 will be 5.8 per cent if RBI cuts its growth rate forecast in April (7.2 percent) by the same measure as IMF has (1.4 percent points).

Key concepts or terms:

- **Stagflation:** Stagflation is an economic state where growth stalls or contracts even in case of high and persistent inflation.
- **Core inflation:** Inflation rate without prices of food and fuel or Inflation measured by excluding food and energy prices.
- **Expansionary fiscal policy:** Tax cuts and unfunded hikes in expenditures by the government.
- Over-tightening of monetary policy stance by policymakers meaning raising interest rates more than required.

Article: IMF's latest world economy report: Red flags for India

Sharad

Ancient Water Management System

Source: The Hindu

News: Kings in Indian history developed the water management system of the highest order. Visnu and Vasistha's Dharma Shastras as well as Chanakya's Arthashastra also consist of instructions on water management.

Contribution of Chola in water management:

- **Creation of great anicut of Kallanai (Tamil Nadu)** and this oldest water regulatory structures and a heritage irrigation structure created by **Karikala Chola**. Waters of the Cauvery reach the fields through multiple channels of great/grand anicut.
- **Raja Raja Chola I was also credited for construction of Brihadisvara temple (Thanjavur district, Tamil Nadu).**
- **Cholas considered the work of water and flood management as a pious duty.**
- **Chola Myth: Lord Shiva descended to strengthen flood banks after an old woman prayed to him.**

Raja Raja Chola's water governance model: Raja Raja Chola I was micro manager, an ambitious planner and an executor-par-excellence.

- Raja Raja Chola I built the still functional **Uyyakondan** channel (985-1013 AD) and over 5,000 dams and set up a water ministry.
- **Focus on water conservation and rainwater harvesting:** Thousands of ancient tanks serving communities in his kingdom.
- **Planning and the management of water through proper rules:** Tanks were built keeping in mind topography of the Deccan plateau.
- **Neerkatti in-charge of irrigation for every village** supplied water from these tanks to the fields by following a schedule.
- **Discussion, planning and management of water resources** for judicious use at village council.
- **Parakesarivarman inscriptions also** mention the punishment for unauthorised withdrawal of water.
- At that time the minimum parameter for utilisation of water is 2.5 times the capacity of the tank, which is still followed by the Government of India.

Other Contributions of Raja Raja Chola(Uttaramerur inscriptions):

- Contribution towards democratic governance: Uttaramerur inscriptions in Tamil Nadu show the prevalence of the panchayat system during the Chola empire.
- Every village was categorized as Kudumbu or present day ward. General Assembly consists of one representative from these kudumbus.
- Right to recall available to people in case a candidate/representative failed to declare details of his property.
- During the reign of Chola kings decision making autonomy was guaranteed to village councils about their villages and the kingdom audited those decisions.
- Stable Kingdom as Kingdom operated around the fulcrum of the king and his central cabinet: Great Chola king unified the land under him by converting landlords into dependent government servants.

Recent Government initiatives based on Raja Raja Chola I's model

- Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act(MGNREGA): MGNREGA is based on Raja Raja Chola I's model of cost equivalent to labour for various works of irrigation and water management.
- Jal Shakti Abhiyan followed the cooperation model between government and people followed during the Raja Raja Chola I for water conservation.

Other examples of water conservation practices:

- Kempegowda founded Bengaluru based on his mother's advice 'Keregalam Kattu, and Marangalam Nedu (Build lakes, plant trees)' that's why Bengaluru is known as 'the Garden City'.
- Eri Varyam was a separate body for lake management under Pallavas' reign.
- Embankments of Lake Sudarshana were repaired by the King Rudradaman of Junagadh, Gujarat, when it was destroyed in a cloud burst.
- Rani Ki Vav (or the queen's stepwell) in Gujarat that quenches the thirst of millions is built by queen Udayamati in memory of King Bhimdev represents love.

Conclusion: Our great ancestors' Kingdom is based on empathy that makes them truly great. Teachings of the past can be used to build technologies of the future.

Article: Ancient stewardship now stamped on the present(Gajendra Singh Shekhawat)

Sharad

New varieties of Basmati rice seeds

Source: The Hindu

News: New five paddy seeds developed by IARI in 2020 and 2021 can resist diseases and herbicides.

Initially, out of five, three varieties can resist two common fungal and bacterial diseases of paddy while in the case of the other two seeds Direct Sowing of Rice (DSR) method is used to raise them that saves 35% of water.

- Qualities of Basmati rice: It is known for its mouthfeel, aroma and length of the grain.
- Seven states are major Basmati Rice producing states that is Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.
- These states want a Geographical Indication tag for Basmati Rice.
- Major diseases affecting traditional varieties are bacterial leaf blight (BLB) and blast (leaf and collar) diseases caused by the fungus *Magnaporthe oryzae*.
- High levels of pesticides and fungicides used to tackle these diseases increased the permitted residue levels required in developed countries.
- **Market of Basmati rice:** India exports 75% of its Basmati rice to West Asian countries. India also imports Basmati rice to European Union countries.

Process use to develop these varieties:

First step: Mutation breeding through Ethyl Methanesulfonate (EMS) chemical. This chemical helps to identify plant variants that survive herbicide application.

Release of non-genetically modified herbicide-tolerant seed to farmers on an experimental basis.

Submission of application to the Central Insecticide Board's registration committee for expansion of label claim to this variety.

Recent trials prove effective weed control, excellent cooking quality and absence of herbicides.

Impact of this development

- Landmark achievement as this revolution is 100% indigenous that used indigenous

breeding programmes.

- Major impact is an increase in farmers' income through reduction in cost of cultivation or farming by ₹3,000 per acre.
- It will improve production by realising the price of labour and input cost.
- It will reduce the use of pesticides and water as farmers need not use pesticides.
- Better prices of production in case production is free from residue.
- Efficient control of weeds: as these seeds are resistant to disease and herbicides. All Pusa Basmati varieties consist of four genes, two to resist BLB and two to resist blast disease.
- Enhanced Export: Huge abroad Basmati market currently brings about ₹30,000 crore foreign exchange every year. New development has potential to further enhance the value of export.
- Decrease in pesticide residue levels will help India to export Basmati rice to the European Union(EU) as there is no pesticide residue.Hence,no rejection of Indian consignments.
- Increase in production through effective disease control.
- Application of direct sowing of rice (DSR) increases water saving by 35% and hence reduction in greenhouse gas emission.

Article: Five new varieties to expand India's Basmati platter

Sharad

Express Editorial: Weaving a safety net

Source: The Indian Express

News: Reports published in Indian Express raises issues of labour violations and exploitation of Indian workers in the Gulf countries.

Migrant issues in Gulf countries:

- Violation of labour rights in destination countries, especially in Gulf countries.
- Vulnerabilities of low-skill migrant workers doing jobs at Dubai Expo, the construction of stadiums for the Qatar world cup and the Covid pandemic.
- Lack of access to healthcare services and the absence of health service firewalls for undocumented migrants in Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries created panic during Covid-19.
- Issue of wage theft in the GCC-South Asia region: Return Migration Survey conducted among 2,000 Vande Bharat returnees revealed the extent of job loss, non-payment of wages, reduction in wages, contract violations and intimidation of workers.
- Concerns over the rights violations and deaths of migrant workers during construction of stadiums for the football World Cup in Qatar.
- GCC countries's aim to reform the Kafala system is merely symbolic as these countries simultaneously started implementing nationalisation policies, which may lead to forceful job termination.
- Country of origin reacts to large-scale violation of labour rights only when an issue is reported.
- Little impact on existing MoUs with GCC countries on domestic workers' recruitment and prevention of irregular recruitment.
- Governments failed to develop a collective conscience on global labour mobility.
- Lethargy of Indian government towards migrant welfare: Indian government's migrant welfare efforts are limited only to "repatriation exercises" during the crisis.

Initiatives to address migrant issues:

- "Madad" portal by the government that can be used by migrant workers from the country to file their grievances. Madad portal resolves around 95 percent of the registered grievances.
- Abu Dhabi Dialogue process for cooperation between Asian countries that are the

origin of and destination for labour.

Way forward:

- Joint efforts by civil society, trade unions, recruitment agents and governments to prevent large-scale violation of labour rights.
- India as a key player in the South Asia-GCC migration corridor should serve as a role model for South Asia to address grievances of migrant workers.
- Pass draft Emigration Bill of 2021 (originally drafted in 2019) as soon as possible to address issues of low -skilled migrant workers.
- Joint effort between countries of destination and origin to address the migrants issues in situations like the pandemic and migrant deaths.
- Build regional alliances in the South Asia-GCC corridor to address the issues faced by South Asian migrants.
- Abolish Kafala and other anti-labour laws of Gulf countries to make the GCC region as migrant-labour friendly.

Sharad



First private bio-energy plant in Punjab

Source: The Hindu

News: Punjab is witnessing the beginnings of a renewable energy revolution rooted in agriculture as the first private bio-energy plant commenced its commercial operation. Plant aims to convert agricultural waste into wealth through production of Compressed BioGas (CBG) from paddy straw.

Common practice among Punjab, Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh farmers:

- Farmers prepare fields for the next crop by burning paddy stubble and biomass in the field.
- The resultant clouds of smoke after paddy burning engulf the entire National Capital Territory of Delhi and neighboring States between October to December.
- **Outcome:** Negative environmental effects on human and livestock health.
- Current situation is that crop residue burning is spreading to the rest of the country and even among rabi crops.

Measures taken to tackle stubble burning:

- **Commission for Air Quality Management in the National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) framework:** CAQM had developed an action plan for the effective prevention and control of stubble burning.
- **In-situ management:** In this heavily subsidized machinery is used to incorporate paddy straw and stubble in the soil.
- The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare started the Crop residue management (CRM) Scheme.
- **Ex-situ CRM efforts:** (a) Utilization of paddy straw for biomass power projects and co-firing in thermal power plants (b) feedstock for 2G ethanol plants (c) feed stock in CBG plants (d) fuel in industrial boilers (e) waste-to-energy (WTE) plants (f) in packaging materials, etc.
- **Additional measures:** Monitor and enforce stubble burning ban and awareness generation campaigns.

New Study and its finding:

- NITI Aayog and FAO India explored methods to convert paddy straw and stubble into energy.
- Study aims to complement the in-situ programme through possible ex-situ uses of rice straw.
- FAO's report calls for development of crop residue supply chain in Punjab for collection, storage and final use of rice straw for production of renewable energy and other services.
- **Result of the study:** Investment of ₹2,201 crore (\$309 million) needed to collect, transport and store it within a 20-day period to mobilise 30% of the rice straw produced in Punjab. This would not only reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by about 9.7 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent and around 66,000 tonnes of PM_{2.5}, but also improve the earning potential of farmers.

Outcome of techno-economic assessment of energy technologies:

- Cost-effective nature of rice straw for producing CBG and pellets. Pellets can be used as a substitute of coal in thermal power plants. CBG can be used as a transport fuel.
- Rice straw production in Punjab i.e. 30% of total straw production will help in achieving the 5% CBG production target set by the Government of India scheme, "Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT)".
- New energy technologies can also increase local entrepreneurship, increase farmers' income and reduce open burning of rice straw.

Other benefits associated with new energy technologies:

- **Replenish soil with organic matter:** As slurry or fermented organic manure from the plant (CBG) will be used as compost.
- Reduce dependence on chemical fertilizers.
- Creation of a large value chain from paddy harvest, collection, baling, transport and handling of biomass due to installation of CBG plant will provide additional employment opportunities to rural youth.
- Initiative can change the face of the rural economy across the country due to value addition to the economy, farmers' income and sustainability through environmen-

tal benefits, renewable energy.

Way forward: Focus on 'wealth from waste' approach and circular economy.

Article: A renewable energy revolution, rooted in agriculture (Ramesh Chand, Konda Reddy Chavva)

Sharad



ISRO's heaviest rocket launches 36 satellites.

Source: The Hindu

News: Recently, ISRO's heaviest rocket Launch Vehicle Mark 3 (LVM3 or GSLV Mark 3) placed 36 satellites in low earth orbit.

About OneWeb:

- U.K. government and India's Bharti Enterprises launched OneWeb as a joint venture.
- OneWeb partnered with NSIL and ISRO to fulfill its commitment to provide connectivity across the length and breadth of India by 2023 from Ladakh to Kanyakumari and Gujarat to Arunachal Pradesh.
- Launch Vehicle Mark 3 (LVM3 or GSLV Mark 3) successfully orbited 36 satellites of the U.K.-based OneWeb in its 14th launch, bringing the constellation to 462 satellites.
- Currently, OneWeb's connectivity solutions live in regions north of 50-degree latitude. After this launch, OneWeb is just four satellites away to provide global satellite coverage in 2023.
- **Benefits associated with OneWeb:** Secured satellite solutions to enterprises, towns, villages, municipalities and schools, including the hardest-to-reach areas across the country.

Features of LVM3-M2 mission:

- LVM3-M2 is the dedicated commercial satellite mission.
- It is part of NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), a Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under the Department of Space, Government of India.
- LVM3-M2 mission is part of the commercial arrangement between NSIL and m/s Network Access Associates Limited (m/s OneWeb Ltd).
- ISRO's statement said that in a historic mission all the satellites got separated successfully in a slow process and the mission happened exactly as planned in the shortest possible time. ISRO is planning to place another 36 satellites in the next M3 mission.
- Purpose of LVM3 was to launch geo-stationary satellites with payload capacity of

4T and launching 6T payloads for LEO.

- In the LVM3 mission C25 stage was handled through in-house built inertial navigation systems.

Impact of the mission: New chapter for India in the space sector.

- LVM3 mission is a great opportunity for ISRO to meet the requirements of launch vehicles.
- **High foreign direct investment in the country:** As LVM3 mission launch opens up the space sector in India for billion dollars foreign investment.
- Less execution time of mission illustrated the opportunities for satellite connectivity in India.
- Mission utilizes LEO connectivity potential to deliver broadband services across India.
- LVM3 mission exemplifies **Atmanirbharta** and enhances India's **competitive edge** in the global commercial launch service market.

Article:

ISRO's heaviest rocket successfully places 36 satellites in orbit

Sharad

From Lodha to Ramana: the Chief Justices of the Modi era

- From Lodha to Ramana: the Chief Justices of the Modi era
- **The Supreme Court (SC)** of India known as the custodian of the Indian Constitution.
- **Primary responsibility of the SC: To ensure protection of fundamental rights of citizens guaranteed under the Constitution from the state.**

Supreme Court emerges as the most powerful court among other courts of the world due to:

- Its power of judicial review through its decision in Keshavananda Bharati case.
- It assumed the power of judicial appointments to itself and High Courts through various judgements in first judge, second judge and third judge cases and CJI is appointed through seniority convention.
- SC of India ensures the citizens wide ranging protections by expanding scope of the fundamental right to life and liberty guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution.
- **Provision of Public interest litigation(PIL)** through which common citizens approach the courts even by sending a letter.
- **Powerful Chief Justice of India (CJI):** Besides performing normal judicial duties. CJI is responsible for selecting judges for appointment to the higher judiciary and deciding the number and composition of benches to adjudicate on different kinds of cases.

Evolution of the office of CJI: It is a classic example of a constant shifting and re-balancing of power between the judiciary and the executive.

- **From 1950 to 1971:** During this period CJI had complete authority over judicial appointments, and CJI can even veto any judicial appointments.
- **Between 1971 and 1993:** Executive became strong due to strong single party central governments and executive started appointing 'committed judges' to the Supreme Court, in a clear attempt to change the size of Supreme Court in its favor. SC in 'first judges' case (1981) or SP Gupta case held that the opinion of the Chief Justice of India would not be binding on the government.
- **In the second judge's case (1993)** creation of Judicial primacy and the collegium took place. Through the second judge case of 1993 the judiciary seized the power of appointments back from the executive.
- **After 2014:** Due to the rise of the Narendra Modi-led BJP government single party

majority the executive is once again back in control and as a consequence of it the power of the judiciary is weaker than before and weak judiciary is unable to control autocratic tendencies of the executive such as communal polarisation, misuse of investigating agencies and slow destruction of democratic institutions etc.

CJIs of the Modi era (2014 - 2022):

- Just after ending the tenure as CJI, Justice P. Sathasivam was appointed as Governor of Kerala without an appropriate cooling period against the own policy of BJP govt. After the NJAC judgment, matters were still not settled, and the memorandum of procedure for appointments to the higher judiciary became the centrepiece of the dispute between the executive and the judiciary
- Tenure of Justice R.M. Lodha: He revived the dormant trend of direct appointments from Bar to the Bench in the Supreme Court. This practice was permitted under the Constitution, but rarely attempted. Justice Lodha was also famous for report on reforms in the Board of Control for Cricket in India. The Executive under the Modi government first confronted the judiciary when it refused the appointment of Gopal Subramaniam as judge of SC.
- Tenure of Justice H.L. Dattu: His tenure was known for the first major confrontation between the executive and the judiciary. Judiciary struck down the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) Act. But, Supreme Court failed to fix the flaws in the NJAC Act, by addressing its shortcomings. Memorandum of procedure for appointments to the higher judiciary remains the centerpiece of the dispute between the executive and the judiciary.
- Justice T.S. Thakur: He highlighted the plight of the overburdened Indian judiciary and worked actively for mechanisms of filling up vacancies. He was responsible for setting up the National Judicial Data Grid to connect all levels of the judicial system and to provide easy information to litigants. He fell in conflict with Modi government when he attempted about 20 transfers of judges across High Courts. Due to ambiguous nature of the decision and since it is threatening independence and overall integrity of the judiciary, he had to reverse his decision.
- Justice J.S. Khehar: Many landmark judgments such as Right to Privacy and Triple Talaq were passed during his short tenure. He also revived the debates on the lack of transparency and fairness in managing the roster in the Supreme Court. His response towards procedure followed by him when allegations were made against him in a suicide note of Kalikho Pul (former Arunachal Pradesh CM) was without precedent and also without propriety. In a complete disregard of basic principles of natural justice and clear case of conflict of interest, Justice Khehar chose to list the letter written by Pul's wife seeking permission to file an FIR against the judges mentioned in the as a writ petition (converting an administrative question into a judicial one). In his tenure High Court judge, Justice C.S. Karnan, was convicted and

imprisoned for contempt of court but some experts felt that decision was unconstitutional as it overlooked Parliament's exclusive privilege to remove a member of the higher judiciary in an act.

- Justice Dipak Misra: During his tenure four fellow judges held an unprecedented press conference condemning the CJI's internal administrative decisions, specifically related to disregard for court conventions of bench strength and bench composition in the allocation of cases. Impeachment motion was also proceeded against him in parliament which was as eventually quashed by the Rajya Sabha. Issue of the master of roster and conflict of interest also emerged during his tenure. Justice Misra tried to achieve a balance between adjudication and disposal and known for setting up the maximum number of constitutional benches as CJI.
- Justice Ranjan Gogoi: He had been party to the unprecedented press conference held by judges. But during his tenure he disregarded the conflict of interest when he sat in the hearing of a sexual harassment complaint made by an employee of the Supreme Court against himself breaking all principles of natural justice. He was obsessed with secrecy, and preferred information to be submitted to the court in 'sealed covers' and this was employed in Assam's National Register of Citizens (NRC) matter, the Rafale dispute, the electoral bonds issue. His tenure gave rise of the 'executive court' when judiciary took over the executive's role in NRC. He refused to admit habeas corpus petitions filed from Jammu & Kashmir in the wake of the abrogation of Article 370. He gave rise to the practice of 'judicial evasion' as Supreme Court avoided hearing certain cases altogether such as the electoral bonds case, the Citizenship Amendment Act case, the abrogation of Article 370, etc. He also accepted an appointment as a Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) soon after retirement which he opposed during his judicial tenure. Also there is increased interference of executive and legislative in the matters of the judiciary. Also the tendency towards sycophancy started among Supreme Court judges, some judges like Justice Arun Mishra and Justice M.R. Shah publicly praised the PM. His Bench also concluded the long-standing Ayodhya dispute.
- Justice Sharad A. Bobde: He has the longest tenure in the Modi era. Judiciary experimented boldly with technology, but it also shows greater subservience towards the government. Judicial evasion continued in his tenure. In his period the Court gave preferential treatment to certain matters, for example, in the bail matters of journalists Siddique Kappan versus Arnab Goswami. He stayed the farm laws and set up a committee to examine the law that seems to be biased in favor of law. He discouraged the use of Article 32 petitions as a means of approaching the court. He tried to take away the right to adjudicate on COVID cases from High Courts. Supreme Court's attitude towards plight of migrant laborers in India during the pandemic was blight. In his tenure there was a case of stand off within the collegium when Justice Bobde was reluctant to recommend Justice Akil Kureshi to the Supreme Court which was recommended by Justice Nariman.

- Justice N.V. Ramana: He started the judiciary's engagement with the public through his speeches and brought back some of the old glory of the Supreme Court. He once again revived the 'sentinel on the qui vive' of the Judicial institution. He improved the public confidence in the judiciary through certain bail orders and stays (e.g., sedition), and the Pegasus inquiry. But some judgments from his associate judges during his tenure seriously undermined civil liberties. Court's decision on the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (the Watali case), had the effect of virtually detaining people for an indefinite period. The Supreme Court was held responsible for criminalizing petitioners who dared to approach the Court on civil liberty matters for example, The Teesta Setalvad/Zakia Jafri and Himanshu Kumar cases. To improve the diversity in the system he appointed many women judges and made a significantly large number of appointments in the higher judiciary to fill all the vacancies of the SC. But, despite efforts to improve the image of the judiciary, the practice of judicial evasion continued and no constitutional Benches were formed in Justice Ramana's term. Current CJI of SC is U.U. Lalit: He improved processes of filing and listing of cases. He initiated certain orders such as granting bail to individuals in the Kappan and Setalvad cases.

Future Challenges and responsibilities of SC/Judiciary:

Protect the judiciary from powerful executives.

Strengthening the Indian judiciary, especially the lower courts.

Evolving the office of the CJI in the right direction.

Source: The Hindu: From Lodha to Ramana: the Chief Justices of the Modi era (A.P. Shah)