

Session 5 – Current Affairs, including GK



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Passage 1



The passing of the Consumer Protection Bill by the Lok Sabha in the ongoing session of Parliament is a welcome step. Originally brought out in 2015, the Bill was referred to a standing committee and later reintroduced in 2018, only to lapse with the end of the term of the earlier government. A lot has changed in the way goods and services are bought and sold since 1986, when the first Consumer Protection Act was enacted.

It seeks to **strengthen the consumer rights** and provides a **mechanism for redressal of complaints** regarding defects in goods and deficiency in services.

The Bill recognises this, bringing within its fold online sales, tele-shopping, direct selling and multi-level marketing in addition to the traditional methods. The new law will apply to all goods and services, including sale or construction of homes or flats and telecom services. While the earlier law did cover unfair trade practices, the current one makes it more comprehensive. It also defines unfair contracts.

(Source: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/opinion/editorial/the-new-consumer-protection-bill-is-a-big-step-forward-in-consumer-empowerment/article28804949.ece>)

Question 1



Apart from the consumer courts at the district, state and national level, the bill proposes a _____ to promote, protect and enforce consumer rights as a class and protect them from unfair trade practices.

- a. Central Consumer Protection Council
- b. State Consumer Protection Council
- c. Consumer Districts Re-dressal Commission
- d. Central Consumer Protection Authority

Answer: d



The central government will set up a Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) to promote, protect and enforce the rights of consumers. It will regulate matters related to violation of consumer rights, unfair trade practices, and misleading advertisements.

CCPA, envisaged as a regulator, can file a class action suit if required and would take immediate action on any consumer complaint.

Question 2



How many rights have been guaranteed under the CPA, 2019?

- a. Three
- b. Four
- c. Five
- d. Six

Answer: d



Six consumer rights have been defined in the Bill, including the right to: (i) be protected against marketing of goods and services which are hazardous to life and property; (ii) be informed of the quality, quantity, potency, purity, standard and price of goods or services; (iii) be assured of access to a variety of goods or services at competitive prices; and (iv) seek redressal against unfair or restrictive trade practices.

Question 3



Consumer Disputes Redressal Commissions (CDRCs) will be set up under the act at _____ levels in India.

- a. District and State levels
- b. State and National levels
- c. National Level only
- d. District, State and National Levels

Answer: d



A consumer can file a complaint with CDRCs in relation to: (i) unfair or restrictive trade practices; (ii) defective goods or services; (iii) overcharging or deceptive charging; and (iv) the offering of goods or services for sale which may be hazardous to life and safety. Complaints against an unfair contract can be filed with only the State and National. Appeals from a District CDRC will be heard by the State CDRC. Appeals from the State CDRC will be heard by the National CDRC. Final appeal will lie before the Supreme Court.

Question 4



_____ is the liability of a product manufacturer, service provider or seller to compensate a consumer for any harm or injury caused by a defective good or deficient service.

- a. Product Liability
- b. Goods liability
- c. Consumer Liability
- d. Goods and Services Liability

Answer: a



To claim compensation, a consumer has to prove any one of the conditions for defect or deficiency, as given in the Act.

Question 5



The act enables strict action against ____ in case of misleading advertisements.

- a. Media publishing the ad
- b. Advertiser
- c. Celebrities
- d. Both b & c

Answer: d



The Act proposes **strict action against the advertiser** in case of misleading advertisements but **not against the media** through which the advertisement is being publicised.

Celebrities can be fined up to ₹10 lakh. For repeat offences, this may rise to ₹50 lakh, with a jail term of up to five years

Question 6



When do we observe National Consumer Day in India?

- a. June 20
- b. July 10
- c. November 30
- d. December 24

Answer: d



December 24 is observed as National Consumer Day as the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 received the assent of the President on this day.

Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2019



- It seeks to amend the Companies Act, 2013.
- The bill aims to tighten Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) compliance, transfer certain responsibilities to National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) and re-categorise certain offences as civil offences.
- **Re-categorisation** of 16 minor offences as purely **civil defaults**

CSR



- Management concept whereby companies integrate social and environmental concerns in their business operations and interactions with their stakeholders.
- India has become the first country to make **CSR spending mandatory** through a law, i.e. through **Section 135** of the Companies Act, 2013.

India's Act East Policy



India Act East Policy was unveiled by Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, at the 12th ASEAN-India Summit in 2014 held in Myanmar. **Act East Policy is the successor of Look East Policy.**

- **Look-east policy:** In order to recover from the loss of the strategic partner -USSR (end of the Cold war 1991), India sought to build up a relationship with the USA and allies of the USA in Southeast Asia. It focused on the **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries + Economic Integration.**
- Act East Policy focused on **ASEAN countries + Economic Integration + East Asian countries + Security cooperation.**

QUAD Grouping



- an informal strategic dialogue of like-minded democracies converging across the Indian and Pacific oceans.
- It comprises of the US, Japan, India and Australia.
- Quad is perceived to be symbiotically linked military alliance, formed to contain China.

Passage 2



The much-awaited tiger census is likely to be released on ___A___, Global Tiger Day, two officials independently confirmed to *The Hindu*.

The results of the census, conducted once in four years, has been delayed for over 7 months because of the intervening Lok Sabha elections, data collection anomalies from the States as well as a first-ever initiative to coordinate the counting exercise with neighbouring Bangladesh and Nepal to avoid double-counting of the animal.

Since 2006, the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) — an Environment Ministry funded body — has been tasked with coordinating the exercise. That year, the once in four years exercise calculated that India had only 1,411 tigers. This rose to 1,706 in 2010 and 2,226 in 2014 on the back of improved conservation measures and new estimation methods.

As part of an agreement in 2010, ___B___, among these countries, there is a goal to double the global tiger count by 2022.

(Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/fresh-tiger-census-likely-to-be-out-on-july-29/article28712338.ece>)

Question 1



Global Tiger Day is celebrated annually on:

- a. July 8
- b. July 12
- c. July 25
- d. July 29

Answer: d



Question 2



Fill in the blank B.

- a. Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit
- b. Rome convention
- c. Geneva Conference
- d. New York convention

Answer: a



At the ***Petersburg Tiger Summit in 2010***, leaders of 13 tiger range countries resolved to do more for the tiger and embarked on efforts ***to double its number in the wild, with a popular slogan 'T X 2'***.

Question 3



Identify the ongoing scheme of the Union Government providing central assistance to the tiger States for tiger conservation in designated tiger reserves.

- a. Project Tiger
- b. Tiger Conservation
- c. M-Stripes
- d. Project Conservation

Answer: a



Project Tiger was launched in 1973 with 9 tiger reserves for conserving our national animal, the tiger. Currently, the **Project Tiger coverage has increased to 50**, spread out in 18 tiger range states.

Question 4



Identify the mobile monitoring system for forest guards launched by the National Tiger Conservation Authority in India.

- a. M- Stripes
- b. Project Tiger Mob
- c. MobiTiger
- d. M-Tiger

Answer: a



An app based monitoring system, launched across Indian tiger reserves by the NTCA in 2010. The system would enable field managers to assist intensity and spatial coverage of patrols in a geographic information system (GIS) domain.

Draft National e-Commerce Policy



Government has prepared a draft National e-Commerce Policy to address the six broad issues of e-commerce ecosystem in the country. They include e-commerce market place, regulatory matters, infrastructure development and export promotion through e-commerce.

CA – July 2019



- The first commercial rocket of China, **Hyperbola-1** has been launched into the Earth's orbit by iSpace, a Chinese startup.
- Jordan has unveiled its first Underwater Military Museum on the bed of the Red Sea, off the coast of Aqaba.
- The first flight director of the US space agency, NASA, **Chris Kraft** died at the age of 95, days after the 50th anniversary celebrations of the first Moon landing in 1969. Kraft set up NASA's Mission Control operations to manage America's first manned space flight and the subsequent Apollo missions to the Moon. In 2006, NASA honoured Kraft with the Ambassador of Exploration Award.



- National Broadcasting Day is observed every year on 23rd July in India to commemorate the first ever radio broadcast in the country that went on air from the Bombay Station under a private company, the Indian Broadcasting Company on 23rd July, 1927. The Indian State Broadcasting Service became All India Radio on 8th June, 1936.
- **Bhabha Kavach**, an indigenously produced lightweight bullet-proof jacket, was launched at the International Police Expo 2019 held at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. The Ministry of Home Affairs has approved its use for the Paramilitary Forces and the Indian Armed Forces. The jacket, which was developed by the Ordnance Factory Board and Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited



- **International Nelson Mandela Day** is observed every year **on 18th July**. The day remembers Mandela's achievements in working towards conflict resolution, democracy, human rights, peace, and reconciliation. Mandela Day is a global call to action that celebrates the idea that each individual has the power to transform the world, the ability to make an impact. 2019 Theme: ***“Take Action; Inspire Change; Make Every Day a Mandela Day.”***
- The ***20th Anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas*** was celebrated with the theme ***‘Remember, Rejoice and Renew’*** on 26th July, 2019. The day is named after the successful **Operation Vijay** in 1999, when India regained the control on the high outposts which had been stealthily taken over by Pakistan.
- **Priti Patel** has taken charge as United Kingdom's first Indian-origin Home Secretary in the Boris Johnson-led Cabinet. She will succeed Pakistani-origin Sajid Javid, who was elevated as the first ethnic minority Chancellor of the Exchequer.
- The **Motihari-Amlekhgunj Petroleum Products Pipeline** is now ready for commercial operation. This 69 km long pipeline between India and Nepal was constructed in 15 months and will be the first oil pipeline in Nepal. It is also the first transnational petroleum pipeline from India and the first South Asian oil pipeline corridor.

Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Act, 2019



- It aims to accelerate the process of appointment of Chairperson and members of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) was passed by the Lok Sabha on July 19th, 2019.
- The bill amends the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 to include the provision that besides the Chief Justice of India, even a Judge of the Supreme Court can be the chairperson of the NHRC.
- The bill also proposes reduction of the term of office of Chairpersons and members of NHRC and SHRC from five years to three years.



The Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 was enacted to provide for the constitution of:

- **National Human Rights Commission (NHRC),**
- **State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) and**
- **Human Rights Courts for the protection of human rights.**



- **Human Rights Day** is observed every year on **10 December** – the day the United Nations General Assembly adopted, in 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- 2019 Theme – ‘Youth Standing Up for Human Rights’

Passage 3



The [National Green Tribunal](#) has sought an action plan from a committee headed by CPCB to stop discharge of polluted water in the [Yamuna river](#) and prosecute the offenders.

A bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel directed various authorities -- Central Pollution Control Board, Delhi Pollution Control Committee, Delhi Jal Board, East Delhi Municipal Corporation, Noida and Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board -- to hold a joint meeting on the issue within a month.

(Source: <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/ngt-seeks-action-plan-to-stop-discharge-of-polluted-water-in-yamuna-1550670785621.html>)

Question 1



NGT was established under:

- a. Environmental Protection Act, 1986
- b. Wildlife Protection Act, 1972
- c. National Green Tribunal Act, 2010
- d. Forest Conservatio Act, 1980

Answer: c



It aims for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources including enforcement of any legal right relating to the environment and giving relief and compensation for damages to persons and property and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Question 2



The procedure in NGT is guided BY:

- a. Civil Procedure Code, 1908
- b. Criminal Procedure Code, 1973
- c. Principles of Natural Justice
- d. Both a and c

Answer: c



- The concept of natural justice though not provided in Indian Constitution but it is considered as necessary element for the administration of justice.
- Natural justice is a concept of common law which has its origin in 'Jus Natural' which means a law of nature.
- It aims to prevent arbitrariness and injustice towards the citizens with an act of administrative authorities.

Question 3



NGT draws inspiration from which of the following fundamental rights?

- a. Right to Equality
- b. Right to Life
- c. Right to Freedom and Expression
- d. Right against exploitation

Answer: b



It assures the citizens of India the right to a healthy environment.

Question 4



NGT has _____ Jurisdiction on matters of “substantial question relating to environment” and & “damage to the environment due to specific activity” (such as pollution).

- a. Original
- b. Appellate
- c. Advisory
- d. Both a and b

Answer: d



- The Tribunal has jurisdiction over all civil cases involving substantial question relating to environment (including enforcement of any legal right relating to environment).
- Being a statutory adjudicatory body like Courts, apart from original jurisdiction side on filing of an application, NGT also has appellate jurisdiction to hear appeal as a Court (Tribunal).
- The Tribunal is not bound by the procedure laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure 1908, but shall be guided by principles of 'natural justice'.
- While passing any order/decision/ award, it shall apply the principles of sustainable development, the precautionary principle and the polluter pays principle.

Question 5



The present chairperson of NGT is:

- a. Hon'ble Justice Swatender Kumar
- b. Hon'ble Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel
- c. Hon'ble Justice Lokeshwar Singh Pantia
- d. Justice K Ramakrishnan

Answer: b

