

**29– 09 – 2022**

**News:** Operation Megh Chakra

## **Operation Megh Chakra**

- The operation code-named “Megh Chakra” is being carried out following the inputs received from Interpol’s Singapore special unit based on the information received from the authorities in New Zealand.
- It is a pan-India drive against the circulation and sharing of Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) conducted by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

### **Key Highlights**

- Searches at 59 locations across 20 States and one Union Territory were conducted.
- It has been alleged that a large number of Indian nationals were involved in the online circulation, downloading and transmission of the CSAM using cloud-based storage.
- The operation is sought to collate information from various law enforcement agencies in India, engage with the relevant law enforcement agencies globally and coordinate closely through the Interpol channels on the issue.

- The probe had led to the identification of over 50 groups with more than 5,000 offenders, including the nationals of about 100 countries.
- A similar exercise code named “Operation Carbon” was conducted by CBI in November 2021.

## Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)

- The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is the premier investigating agency of India.
- CBI is constituted as per the recommendations of Santhanam committee.
- It derives its powers from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act (DSPE), 1946.
- Operating under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, the CBI is headed by the Director.
- CBI director is appointed, for not less than a term of 2 years, by the Appointment Committee on recommendation of Home Ministry as mentioned in DSPE Act 1946 amended through the Lokpal & Lokayukta Act 2013.
- Recently, the president promulgated Central Vigilance Commission (Amendment) Ordinance 2021 and the Delhi Special Police Establishment (Amendment) Ordinance 2021 regarding the term of CBI director.

- As per the ordinances, the **Chiefs of the top agencies can be given extensions, every year for up to three years after they complete the two-year term.** The ordinances said, **no such extension will be granted after the completion of a period of five years in total** including the period mentioned in the initial appointment.
- CBI director enjoys the pleasure of President.
- The CBI's functioning is **superintended by the Central Vigilance Commission** when the offenses being investigated come **under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.**
- CBI can suo-moto take up investigation of offences notified in DSPE act, only in the Union Territories.

**Appointment Committee (Mandated in Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946 amended by Lokpal and Lokayukta Act, 2013)**

- **Prime Minister as Chairperson, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha,** or on his/her absence – Leader of the single largest opposition party in Lok Sabha (added in the Delhi Special Police Establishment (Amendment) Act of 2014), **Chief Justice of India (CJI) or an SC Judge nominated by CJI** as its members.
- CBI is **exempted from the provisions of the Right to Information Act.**

- CBI is India's officially designated single point of contact for liaison with the **Interpol**.
- CBI requires a **general consent of the state to enquire in its jurisdiction into cases of corruption against central government employees**.
- In case, **any state revokes such consent, the CBI has to get case – specific consent from the respective State government, except in cases assigned by High Court(s) or Supreme Court**.
- The **revoke of such general consent does not affect cases that are already registered with CBI**.
- Three types of cases are handled by CBI; Anti-Corruption, Economic Offences and Special Crimes Division (Internal Security, Murders etc.).
- The **Central Bureau of Investigation may also refer any case or matter to the Advisory Board for Banking Frauds (ABBF) constituted under Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) where it has any issue or difficulty or in technical matters with the PSB concerned**.

**News:** ASI finds Buddhist caves, temples in Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve in M.P

- The **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) earlier this year discovered Buddhist caves and stupas, and Brahmi inscriptions, dating back to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century, and Hindu temples from the 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> centuries, and possibly the world's largest**

Varaha sculpture also dating to the same period, at the Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh.

- The Varaha sculpture is among the many monolithic sculptures of the 10 incarnations of Lord Vishnu discovered by the ASI at the national park earlier this year.
- The exploration took place 84 years after the last such effort in 1938.
- The ASI team discovered 26 mostly Buddhist caves dating back to the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> centuries.
- The caves and some of their remains had Chaitya [rounded] doors and stone beds typical of Mahayana Buddhism sites.
- This discovery brings the total number of caves found in the Bandhavgarh reserve to 76, as 50 are already in the records since the last survey.

## Chaithyas

- In Indian religions, a chaitya, chaitya hall, or chaitya-griha is a shrine, sanctuary, temple, or prayer hall.
- In Buddhism, the phrase refers to a space with a stupa and a rounded apse opposite the entrance, as well as a high roof with a rounded profile.
- The chaitya is the stupa itself, and the Indian structures are chaitya halls, but this distinction is sometimes overlooked.

## Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve

- Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve is a National Park-cum-Tiger Reserve in **Madhya Pradesh**.
- Bandhavgarh, with an area of 105 km<sup>2</sup>, was declared a **national park in 1968** and then became **Tiger Reserve in 1993**.
- The density **of the tiger population at Bandhavgarh (8 Tiger per square km) is one of the highest known in India**.
- The park has a **large breeding population of leopards, and various species of deer**.

**News:** Venkataramani appointed next AG, says Law Ministry

- **Senior advocate R. Venkataramani has been appointed the new Attorney General (AG)** by President Droupadi Murmu for a period of three years.
- Mr. Venkataramani will succeed K.K. Venugopal, whose term comes to an end on September 30.

## Attorney General

- Article 76 says about the **Attorney General**.

- Attorney General of the Union of India is to be appointed by the President by a warrant under his hand and seal.
- He has to be qualified to be appointed as a Judge in Supreme Court.
- Term of the Attorney General finds no mention in Constitution.
- He enjoys the pleasure of President.
- President at any time can remove him as he truly enjoys the pleasure of President.
- As a convention, Attorney General is changed each time when new council of Ministers is appointed.
- Salary of Attorney General (AG) is determined by President.
- The salary (or retainer) is votable in Parliament and not charged upon the Consolidated Fund of India.
- Attorney General and Solicitor General of India is the ex – officio members of the Bar Council of India.

### **Powers of Attorney General**

- Appears as the advocate of government of India in any court.
- Advices the Union Government, on any legal matter as referred by President.

- Enjoys all parliamentary privileges available to MP's including the right to speak & participating in proceedings of both houses of parliament or becoming member of any committee.
- However, Attorney General is not entitled to vote in Parliament.
- He can practice privately, but not against Government.
- He doesn't fall into the category of Government Servant.
- The consent of Attorney General is mandatory when a third person wants to initiate a case of contempt of court against a person in Supreme Court.
- Unlike the United States, in India, the Attorney General does not have executive authority and is not a Government minister.
- In India, these functions are performed by the law minister. The Attorney General is assisted by the solicitor general of India and several additional solicitors general.

### **Limitations of Attorney General**

In order to avoid any complication and conflict of duty, the following limitations are placed on the Attorney General of India.

- He should not advise or hold a brief against the Government of India.
- He should not advise or hold a brief in cases in which he is called upon to advise or appear for the government of India.



- He should not defend accused persons in criminal prosecutions without the permission of the Government of India.
- He should not accept an appointment as a director in any company or corporation without the permission of the Government of India.