

15 – 11 – 2021

News: President Kovind promulgates two Ordinances to extend tenure of CBI and ED Directors up to 5 years.

- Recently, President Ram Nath Kovind promulgated two Ordinances to **extend the tenure of Directors of probe agencies Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Enforcement Directorate (ED) up to five years.**
- The Ordinances are, the Central Vigilance Commission (Amendment) Ordinance 2021 and the Delhi Special Police Establishment (Amendment) Ordinance 2021.
- 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.

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. This 2 year limit has been extended to 5 years through an ordinance.
- 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 type 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.

Ordinances

- The Constitution permits the central and state governments to make laws when Parliament (or the State Legislature) is not in session.
- The Indian Constitution, in Article 123, authorizes the executive to promulgate ordinances if certain conditions are satisfied.
- Ordinances may be promulgated only if at least one House of Parliament is not in session.
- These ordinances have the same force and effect as an Act of Parliament but are in the nature of temporary laws.
- President is satisfied that “immediate action” is necessary.
- The Constitution states that the ordinance will lapse at the end of six weeks from the time Parliament (or the State Legislature) next meets. So, the maximum time term of an Ordinance is 6 months and 6 weeks (or precisely, 7 months and 2 weeks).
- Similar provisions also exist for state governments under article 213.

News: Tiger tourism in Telangana.

- Amrabad Tiger Reserve in Telangana has been decided to open for tourists.

Amrabad Tiger Reserve

- Amrabad Tiger Reserve is located in **Nallamala hills, Telangana.**
- It is the **second largest tiger reserve in India, next only to Nagarjunasagar Srisailem Tiger Reserve situated in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.**
- It has a presence of **Chenchu Tribe.**
- Recently, **Centre granted “in-principle” clearance for uranium exploration in Amrabad Tiger Reserve.**
- The area proposed for mining falls under the **Amrabad and Nudigal Reserved Forests of the ‘core area’ of the tiger reserve.**
- It has a good diversity of forests and wildlife.
- The area lies along a patch where the **Nallavagu and Dindi rivers merge, forming a major tributary and catchment of the Krishna river.**
- The forest here is pristine.
- Some of the areas have been given as pattas under the Forest Rights Act.
- The rich diversity of wildlife includes **tiger, leopard, dhole, wolf, Indian fox, jackal, honey badger, nilgai, sambar, chowsingha and sloth bear.**
- There is also the **endemic yellow throated bulbul and the star tortoise.**

- The exploration will expose and pollute surface water, ground water and leech the minerals and dangerous chemicals into the Nagarjunasagar dam.
- The roads will fragment and degrade the dry forests, which may never recover after such a massive exercise.

News: Kaiser-I-Hind is Arunachal's State butterfly

- Recently, **Kaiser – I – Hind** has been selected as the state butterfly of Arunachal Pradesh.

Kaiser – I – Hind

- Kaiser-i-Hind (*Teinopalpus imperialis*) **literally means Emperor of India.**
- This butterfly with a **90-120 mm wingspan** is found in **six States** along the Eastern Himalayas at elevations from 6,000-10,000 feet in well-wooded terrain.
- The butterfly also flutters in **Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Laos, Vietnam and southern China.**
- It has been selected as **the State butterfly of Arunachal Pradesh.**
- The move was made with a view to **boosting butterfly tourism and saving the species from extinction** in the State.
- It is protected in the **Schedule II of Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.**

➤ Maharashtra was the first state to declare a state butterfly (Blue Mormon), followed by Karnataka (Southern birdwing), Kerala (Buddha Mayoori or Malabar Banded Peacock), Tamil Nadu (Tamil Yeoman) and Uttarakhand (Common peacock).