CBI files chargesheet against Chidambaram

Karti's firm 'received ₹9.96 lakh without doing any service'

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Friday filed a chargesheet against 14 accused, including former Union Finance Minister P. Chidambaram and his son Karti, in the INX Media case. Mr. Chidambaram "misused his official position" in

Legal Correspondent

New Delhi

Five Supreme Court lawyers on Friday issued a joint statement refraining media reports that the Muslim parties were willing to relinquish their claim over the Ramjanmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land. They said the Supreme Court-appointed mediation committee or the Nirvan Akhara could be behind the "joke.

The statement was issued by the advocates for the va

Legal Correspondent

New Delhi

The RSS expects the Supreme Court's verdict in the Ayodhya case to go in favour of Hindus, its 'Sarkaryavah' Suresh Joshi said on Friday. He said the National Register of Citizens (NRC), compiled in Assam, should be extended to the whole country and the Centre should make efforts to implement a uniform civil code.

Ahmed Syed, M.R. Shamsuddow, Irshad Ahmad and Fuzaiz Ahmad Ayyubi. On Wednesday the nar

They claimed that a consensus had been struck among certain Hindu and Muslim parties, in which the

The RSS expects the Supreme Court hearing of the Ayodhya appeal.

This was followed by news reports attributed to Shahid Rizvi, advocate on record, that the Waqf Board was willing to withdraw the claim to the site of the Babri Masjid.

The lawyers' statement contended that the "recent attempts before the mediation committee were not representative". The statement said only a
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*C – Chennai; B – Bengaluru; D – Delhi; H – Hyderabad; T – Thiruvananthapuram;
Native flora to make a comeback in the Nilgiris

Shola saplings planted in Avalanche, Cairn Hill and Kotagiri

ROMAN PREMKUMAR
UDHAIGAMANDALAM

After a gap of over two years, the forest department is reintroducing thousands of native Shola trees to habitats from where they were displaced by invasive wattle and eucalyptus plantations. D.Guruswamy, District Forest Officer, Nilgiris Division, told The Hindu that Shola saplings, grown at the nurseries run by the forest department, are being planted in Avalanche, Cairn Hill and Kotagiri.

“In Avalanche, over 2,000 trees are being planted by the banks of a river flowing through the area, where invasive trees have been removed or were washed away during recent floods,” an official from the Forest Department said.

Mr. Guruswamy said the plantation drive was happening after two years with funds from the Special Area Development Programme.

The plantation is being done in forest patches which have been most affected by the spread of invasive species.

Prevent Incursions
“Some of these areas had previously been plantations, while others had been affected by the spread of invasive species from adjoining habitats. After their removal, the Shola saplings are being planted to first increase the composition of native trees in forest cover, and to also prevent invasive fl ora from re-establishing themselves,” an official said.

The heavy rains that lashed parts of the Nilgiris, especially Avalanche and Korakundah, had caused many landslips and damaged vast tracts of native forests, officials said.

With the plantation drive, it is hoped that at least some of the damage caused to the forests could be undone, with proper conservation and management.

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks)

- Current events of national and international importance.
- General issues on Environmental ecology, Bio-diversity and Climate Change - that do not require subject specialization.

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-IV


- Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.
Invasive Alien Species

- Alien species (non-native species) that threaten the native plants and animals or other aspects of biodiversity
- Plants, animals, pathogens or any other organisms
- Exotic/introduced/foreign/non-indigenous/non-native species
- Introduced intentionally or accidentally
- Naturalized Alien species → displace native biota
- Causes huge damage to the ecosystem

- IUCN - “Alien species → established in natural or semi-natural ecosystem; Agent of change; threatens native biological diversity”
- Leads to extinction of native species
  - Decrease in the species richness of the existing ecosystem (Negative interaction)
  - Negative interaction
    - Competition
    - Predation
    - Parasites
- **Effects**
  - Loss of biodiversity
  - Decline of native species (Endemics)
  - Habitat loss
  - Introduced pathogens reduce crop and stock yields
  - Degradation of marine and freshwater ecosystems
  - Economic, environmental harm → affecting human health

- **Convention on Biodiversity**
  - Urgent need to address the impact of invasive alien species
  - Article 8(h)
    - “Each contracting party shall as far as possible and as appropriate, prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate those alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species”
  - Entered into force - 29th December 1993
  - 196 countries - Party to the Convention, including India (Ratified - 1994)
3 Objectives

1. Conservation of biological diversity
2. Sustainable use of components of biological diversity
3. Fair and equitable share of benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources

News

- Reintroduction of native Shola tree species in place of Wattle and Eucalyptus trees
- Shola forest - grasslands ecosystem
- Unique to Western Ghats
Zomato, BioD Energy tie up for cooking oil-to-biodiesel project

To collect 1,000 tonnes of used oil a month from hotels

Restaurant aggregator and food delivery service Zomato and biodiesel manufacturer BioD Energy have inked a partnership to collect used cooking oil from restaurants around the country so that it could be converted into biodiesel, which would then be sold to oil marketing companies to be blended with regular diesel.

The government has been pushing hard for used cooking oil in the country to be converted into biodiesel as an environment-friendly measure. Through the partnership, Zomato and BioD are aiming to collect 1,000 tonnes of used cooking oil per month and converting it into biodiesel.

“The idea was to look at some of the deep-rooted problems in the restaurant industry that affect health and the environment,” Ritesh Khera, spokesperson at Zomato, said in an interview.

“We are looking at one of the biggest culprits in the industry, which is used cooking oil, and are trying to solve the main problem of responsible disposal of it.”

‘No traceability’

A lot of times, Mr. Khera said, used cooking oil is given to small vendors and there is no traceability of how they dispose of the oil, and most of the techniques used are not in line with the standards set by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India.

“We have been collecting used cooking oil for the last two-and-a-half years and the biggest challenge we have faced is scaling it and increasing our collection rate,” Shiva Vig, CEO of BioD Energy said. “Because of our challenges, we decided that we focus on our expertise, that is biodiesel production, and partner with Zomato for their reach and their tech to take out as much used cooking oil from the kitchens as possible.”

At the outset, Zomato is looking to tap into 1,000 kitchens in Delhi NCR and expand the collection drive with BioD to five cities by next month.

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks)

• Current events of national and international importance.
• General Science.

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-III

General Studies- II: Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations.

• Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.
• Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.

PAPER-IV

General Studies-III: Technology, Economic Development, Biodiversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Management

• Food processing and related industries in India—scope and significance, location, upstream and downstream requirements, supply chain management.
• Science and Technology—developments and their applications and effects in everyday life.
News
- Zomato and Bio D energy - collect used cooking oil from restaurants → for producing biodiesel
- Importance of energy for India's development
  → polluting fossil fuel → biofuel is an alternative

Biofuel
- from renewable sources
  → waste, residue from agriculture
  → vegetable oil, etc
  → industrial waste
- a type → biodiesel: methyl or ethyl ester fatty acids
  → produced from non-edible vegetable oil, used cooking oil, etc

National Policy on Biofuels, 2018
- Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas
  → Objective
    → 20% blending in ethanol in petrol + 5% blending of biodiesel in diesel, by 2030
- Domestic raw material:
  → non-edible oil seeds, Used Cooking Oil (UCO), Animal fallow, etc
- Issue: Diversion to small traders and vendors
Adverse health impacts of Used Cooking Oil (UCO)

- Frying → changes properties of oil
- Total Polar Compounds (TPC) formed → Repeated frying
- Can cause: hypertension, Alzheimer’s disease, liver disease, etc
- FSSAI - Limited TPC at 25% - beyond which oil is not usable

4. RUCO (Repurpose Used Cooking Oil):
   Used Cooking Oil → Biodiesel

Procedure → Transesterification

I. Collection of UCO → Refining of UCO

II. Triglyceride + Alcohol (methanol or ethanol) → Mixture of fatty esters + Glycerin
**National Milk Safety and Quality Survey 2018**

- Conducted by FSSAI
- Survey period: May to October 2018
- Samples
  - Organised and unorganised sectors
  - Raw milk and processed milk
  - On the spot testing

**Adulterants in milk**
- Detergents/Caustic Soda
- Hydrogen Peroxide
- Urea
- Boric acid
- Nitrates
- Neutralizer

**Unsafe**

**Contaminants in milk**
- Pesticides
- Aflatoxin M1
- Antibiotics

**Quality**
- Vegetable Oil/Fat
- Sugar
- Glucose
- Starch
- Maltodextrin
- Ammonium Sulphate
- Cellulose

**Fat and Solid Non-Fat (SNF)**
Survey outcomes

- **12/6432 milk samples → Adulterated**
  - Unsafe for human consumption
  - Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala

- **Processed Milk:**
  - 37.7% of total samples → Did not meet the quality requirements
    - Fat, Maltodextrin, Sugar
  - 10.4% of total samples → Non-compliant to FSSAI Norms
    - Aflatoxin-M1, antibiotics, pesticides

- **Raw milk:**
  - 47% of total samples → Non-compliant to FSSAI norms
    - Aflatoxin-M1, antibiotics, pesticides

- **FSSAI has directed the organised dairy sector to strictly start complying with the quality norms by Jan 1, 2020**

- **Aflatoxin-M1**
  - Family of toxins produced by fungi
  - Found in agricultural crops
    - Agri fodder → Cow → Milk
  - Carcinogen; Can cause death
  - Dominant in processed milk than raw milk
  - First time checked for the presence in the survey
CJI Gogoi names Justice Bobde as successor

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI
Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi has recommended Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde as his successor and the 47th Chief Justice of India in keeping with convention and the seniority norm, sources said. The Chief Justice, due to retire on November 17, has sent his recommendation to the government.

The written communication from the incumbent, ideally a month before his retirement, is the first step in the process of the appointment of the next CJI. It will be put up before the Prime Minister and forwarded to the President.

The Memorandum of Procedure for appointment of judges to the Supreme Court prescribes that the "appointment to the office of Chief Justice of India should be of the senior-most judge of the Supreme Court considered fit to hold the office".

Justice Bobde will have a tenure of 16 months. He will retire on April 22, 2021.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks)

- Current events of national and international importance.
- Indian Polity and Governance-Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues, etc.

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-III

General Studies—II: Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations.

- Indian Constitution—historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure.
- Structure, organization and functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary—Ministries and Departments of the Government; pressure groups and formal/informal associations and their role in the Polity.
Indian Judiciary
- Single and integrated judiciary system
- Independent Judiciary

Chief Justice of India
- Article 124 (1) - Constitutional Post
- Appointed by the President (Article 124 (2))

News
- Outgoing Chief Justice of India has recommended the successor
- Memorandum of Procedure for the appointment of Judges to the Supreme Court exist (CJI and other judges)
  - Senior most judge of the Supreme Court who is considered fit to hold the office.

- Procedure
  - CJI recommends
  - Ministry of Law & Justice forwards
  - Prime Minister advises
  - President appoints
  - New CJI

- Doubt of fitness (Article 124 (2))
  - Consultation with other judges of the Supreme Court shall be done
Terror-funding: FATF retains Pak. on grey list

It cites lack of progress on action plan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) retained Pakistan on the “grey list” and gave a stern warning that it will be blacklisted if it does not fulfil the global standards criteria for combating terrorist financing by February 2020.

The terror financing watchdog discussed Pakistan’s actions for countering terror financing and anti-money laundering at the International Co-operation Review Group (ICRG) plenary in Paris that concluded on Friday. Pakistan has been under the enhanced monitoring process or grey list since June 2018 and has not made sufficient progress, said FATF president Xiangmin Liu.

“Despite the high-level commitment to fix these weaknesses, Pakistan has not made enough progress but has made tangible progress under this new government, which the FATF welcomes,” Mr. Liu said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks)

- Current events of national and international importance.

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-III

General Studies- II: Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations.

- India and its neighborhood- relations.
  - Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India’s interests.
- Important International institutions, agencies and fora-their structure, mandate.
23rd June 2019 – The Hindu News Analysis

FATF warns Pak, but keeps it off the blacklist

Time running out to curb terror, Pak, told

Part A—Preliminary Examination
Paper I—(200 marks)
- Current events of national and international importance.

Part B—Main Examination
PAPER-III
General Studies-III: Governance, Constitution, Policy, Social Justice and International relations.
- Important International institutions, agencies and their structure, mandate.
- Role of external state and non-state actors in creating challenges to internal security.

24th August 2019 – The Hindu News Analysis

FATF group ‘blacklists’ Pakistan

Part A—Preliminary Examination
Paper I—(200 marks)
- Current events of national and international importance.

Part B—Main Examination
PAPER-III
General Studies-II: Governance, Constitution, Policy, Social Justice and International relations.
- India and its neighborhood relations.
- Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India’s interests.
- Important International institutions, agencies and their structure, mandate.
Next wave of growth in world coffee from Asia

India will be a key driver, says ICO

MINI TEJASWI
BENGALURU

The next wave of growth in the international coffee industry will come from Asia, and India is expected to play a lead role in driving this growth, says the International Coffee Organization (ICO), a London-based body set up under the auspices of the United Nations in 1963 to highlight the economic importance of coffee.

Major chunk
Jose Dauster Sette, executive director, ICO, said Asia’s coffee production had almost doubled in recent years from 16-32%, with Vietnam and India contributing a major chunk. Also, most Asian countries are reporting a 5% increase in the consumption of the beverage. In India, it is 6%.

ICO has conducted a comprehensive stakeholder consultation study to understand the problems of the coffee industry and also to find ways and means to get coffee farmers out of deep distress and debt.

“We have tried to understand the root cause of the problem and identified some 50 solutions. But there is no one super bullet that can kill the pain of coffee farmers, because the challenges they face are too many and too deep,” said the ICO top executive.

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks)  Duration: Two hours

- Current events of national and international importance.
- Indian and World Geography-Physical, Social, Economic Geography of India and the World.

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-II

General Studies-I: Indian Heritage and Culture, History and Geography of the World and Society.

- Distribution of key natural resources across the world (including South Asia and the Indian sub-continent);

PAPER-III

General Studies-II: Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations.

- Important International institutions, agencies and fora, their structure, mandate.

PAPER-IV

General Studies-III: Technology, Economic Development, Biodiversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Management

- Major crops-cropping patterns in various parts of the country, - different types of irrigation and irrigation systems storage, transport and marketing of agricultural produce and issues and related constraints; e-technology in the aid of farmers.
Coffee in India:

- 4.54 lakh hectares + 3.66 lakh farmers
  - South:
    - Karnataka - 54%, Kerala - 19%
    - Tamil Nadu - 8%
  - Distribution:
    - Andhra Pradesh and Odisha - 17.2%
    - North East States - 1.8%
- Baba Budan → Baba Budan Giris, Karnataka
- Coffee Board
  - Coffee Act VII, 1942
  - Under Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Source: Coffee Board of India
Functions
- Enhancing production, productivity and quality
- Development of domestic market
- Export promotion

Growing conditions
1. Sufficient shade - 50 different types of shade trees
2. High elevation for Arabica
   Warm Humid conditions for Robustas

Important varieties
1. Kents Arabica, 8795, Selection 9,
   Cauvery Coffee, Robusta Coffee

GI tag for 5 varieties
1. Coorg Arabica (Karnataka)
2. Wayanad Robusta (Kerala)
3. Chikmagallur Arabica (Karnataka)
4. Araku valley Arabica (Andhra Pradesh and Odisha)
5. Baba Budangiris Arabica (Karnataka)

International Coffee Organization (ICO)
- Formed in 1963 - under the auspices of UN
- Administers International Coffee Agreement
- Members - 50
  - 44 - Exporting (India)
  - 6 - Importing
• Objectives

- Sustainable world coffee sector
- Enable Government, Private sector talks
- Finance for projects
- Enhance capacity of local communities
- Training, technology transfer

News

• Asia's coffee production - almost doubled (16% - 32%)

- Major contributors: India, Vietnam
- 5% Increase in rate of consumption
Practice Question – Prelims

Q1. Which of the following statement is not correct with respect to invasive alien species?
   a) They are not native to the ecosystem to which they have been introduced.
   b) It supports the population of the native species.
   c) They cause degradation of marine and freshwater ecosystems.
   d) Wattle and eucalyptus trees are certain examples of invasive alien species.

Practice Question – Prelims

Q2. Shola forest-grassland ecosystem can be found in which of the following?
   a) Eastern Ghats
   b) Western Ghats
   c) Chota Nagpur Plateau
   d) Shiwalik Ranges
Q3. Consider the following statements regarding the National Policy on Biofuels-2018.

1. One of the objective of the policy is an indicative target of 20% blending of ethanol in petrol and 5% blending of biodiesel in diesel is proposed by 2030.

2. It was formed by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 only  
b) 2 only  
c) Both 1 and 2  
d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q4. Consider the following.

1. Hydrogen Peroxide  
2. Sugar  
3. Pesticides  
4. Detergents  
5. Aflatoxin M1

Which of the above are common adulterants that can be found in milk?

a) 2, 4 and 5 only  
b) 1, 2, 3 and 5 only  
c) 1, 2 and 4 only  
d) 2, 3 and 5 only
Practice Question – Prelims

Q5. Consider the following statements.

1. Coffee cultivation is mainly done in the Northeastern States of India.

2. Coffee was introduced in India by the Europeans with commercial objectives.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answers

1. Option (b) - It supports the population of the native species.
2. Option (b) – Western Ghats
3. Option (a) – 1 only
4. Option (c) – 1, 2 and 4 only
5. Option (d) – Neither 1 nor 2