

## Mop for Judge Appointment

- Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) is an agreement between the judiciary and the government.
- It contains a set of guidelines for making appointments to the Supreme Court and High Court.
- Significance: The MoP is a crucial document as the Collegium system of appointing judges is a judicial innovation that is not mandated through legislation or the text of the Constitution.
- He said judges of HCs were transferred according to the procedure laid down in the MoP.
- The proposal for the transfer of an HC judge is initiated by the Chief Justice of India in consultation with four senior -most judges of the Supreme Court.
- As per the MoP, the CJI is expected to take into account the views of the Chief Justice of the HC from which the judge is to be transferred as well as the Chief Justice of the HC to whom the said judge is being transferred to.

### Evolution of MoP:

- The MoP evolved based on three SC decisions the First Judges Case (1981), Second Judges Case (1993), and the Third Judges Case (1998).
- In 2016, the MoP re-negotiations took place following the Supreme Court's decision to strike down the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC).
- However, a judicial order can overturn the negotiations as an order of the SC is the law of the land binding the government.
- "No timeline" was prescribed in the Memorandum of Procedure for the transfer of judges from one HC to another.
- The Supreme Court explained that the "suitability" of a candidate cleared by the Collegium for appointment as a judge in a constitutional court cannot be a subject of judicial review.
- "We are clearly of the opinion that this court while exercising the power of judicial review, cannot issue a writ of certiorari quashing the recommendation, or mandamus calling upon the Collegium of the Supreme Court to reconsider its decision..."

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### SC on the suitability of candidates as judges

- To do so would violate the law as declared, as it would amount to evaluating and substituting the decision of the Collegium, with an individual or personal opinion on the suitability and merits of the person,
- The Bench distinguished between the 'suitability' and 'eligibility' of a candidate zeroed in for a High Court judgeship.
- Eligibility was based on "objective factors" given in Article 217 (2) of the Constitution like citizenship and 10 years of experience as a judicial officer or a lawyer in a High Court.
- Suitability of a candidate was the domain of the Collegium as it involved a procedure "designed to test the fitness of a person, including her character, integrity, competence and knowledge"

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### Winter Games in India

- The 3rd edition of the Khelo India National Winter Games began at Gulmarg
- Around 1,500 players from across the country converged in snow-covered Gulmarg in Kashmir to take part in the winter games here, aspiring to make it to international platforms like the Winter Olympics.

### Employment and renewable energy

- India's solar and wind energy sectors added 52,700 new workers in project development roles in the last financial year, an eight-fold increase from the financial year 2021
- Nearly 99% of the new workforce (52,100 workers) were employed in the solar energy sector, with the wind energy sector registering very small growth (600 new workers).
- India's solar and wind energy sectors employed 1,64,000 workers as of FY'22, showing a 47% increase from FY'21. 84% of this workforce is in the solar energy sector.
- The study was jointly conducted by the Council on Energy, Environment, and Water (CEEW), NRDC India (Natural Resources Defence Council India), and Skill Council for Green Jobs (SCGJ).
- Were these trends to continue, new on-grid solar (238 GW) and wind (101 GW) capacities planned as part of India's commitment to ensure half its electricity, or nearly 500 GW, is from non-fossil fuel sources can potentially create about 3.4 million jobs temporary and permanent jobs, the report suggests.

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## Discovery of lithium in J&k

- The discovery of 5.9 tonnes of lithium deposits in Jammu and Kashmir, a first for India, would reduce the need for imports and improve employment opportunities, officials in the Union Territory the find was a major boost to the manufacture of rechargeable batteries for smartphones, laptops, and electric cars.
- The lithium inferred resources have been established in Reasi district.
- “There was a presence of bauxite in composite form and during its processing lithium was also discovered

## How much lithium does the world need?

- The global market for the alkali metal lithium is growing rapidly. Between 2008 and 2018 alone, annual production in the major producing countries rose from 25,400 to 85,000 tons.
- An important growth driver is its use in the batteries of electric vehicles. However, lithium is also used in the batteries of laptops and cell phones, as well as in the glass and ceramics industry.

## Where is lithium available from?

- With 8 million tons, Chile has the world’s largest known lithium reserves.
- This puts the South American country ahead of Australia (2.7 million tons), Argentina (2 million tons) and China (1 million tons).
- Within Europe, Portugal has smaller quantities of the valuable raw material.
- The total global reserves are estimated at 14 million tons. This corresponds to 165 times the production volume in 2018.

## Where is the most lithium mined?

- With 51,000 tons, Australia was by far the most important supplier of lithium in 2018 ahead of Chile (16,000 tons), China (8,000 tons) and Argentina (6,200 tons).
- This is shown by figures from the USGS (United States Geological Survey).
- The four countries mentioned have long dominated the picture, with Australia only gaining a clear lead over Chile in recent years.

## How do the mining methods differ?

- Put simply, lithium from Australia comes from ore mining, while in Chile and Argentina, lithium comes from salt deserts, so-called salars.

- The extraction of raw materials from salars functions as follows: lithium-containing saltwater from underground lakes is brought to the surface and evaporates in large basins.
- The remaining saline solution is further processed in several stages until the lithium is suitable for use in batteries.

### **Why is lithium mining under criticism?**

- There are always critical reports on the extraction of lithium from Solar: In some areas, locals complain about increasing droughts, which for example threaten livestock farming or lead to vegetation drying out.
- From the point of view of experts, it is still unclear to what extent the drought is actually related to lithium mining.
- It is undisputed that no drinking water is needed for the lithium production itself.
- What is disputed, on the other hand, is the extent to which the extraction of saltwater leads to an influx of fresh water and thus influences the groundwater at the edge of the salars.
- In order to assess this, the underground water flows in the Atacama Desert in Chile, for

example, have not yet been sufficiently researched.

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### **Char**

- Birders, wildlife enthusiasts, and forest officials have sighted 145 different bird species during the first Sundarbans bird festival.
- The first- ever festival was organized by the Sundarbans Tiger Reserve (STR) division of the West Bengal Forest Department, where six teams visited different areas inside the Sundarbans Biosphere Reserve.
- Despite being home to so many species of birds the habitats face threats including plantation activity along the chars (river islands) which disturbs the birds, and illegal activities along chars and uninhabited islands.

### **What are char??**

- Char is a tract of land surrounded by the waters of an ocean, sea, lake, or stream; it usually means, any accretion in a river course or estuary.
- It includes all types of bars including both lateral (point bars) and medial (braid bars).
- Eq-Bhashan Char Island has formed about two decades ago on the mouth of river Meghna.

- The uninhabited island is located around 30 kilometers east of Hatiya Island in South-East Bangladesh.

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## **MSCI**

### **What is MSCI?**

- MSCI, or Morgan Stanley Capital International, is owned by the multinational investment management and financial services company Morgan Stanley.
- It is a leading provider of critical decision support tools, including stock indexes, and services for the global investment community.
- MSCI Indexes facilitate the construction and monitoring of portfolios in a cohesive and complete manner, avoiding benchmark misfits.
- At the core is its modern index strategy, which provides consistent treatment across all markets, followed globally by investors.

### **What are MSCI indices?**

- MSCI has indexes for countries, regions, emerging markets, developed markets, small cap, all cap and even Islamic indexes.
- It selects stocks for its equity indexes that are easily traded and have high liquidity, with companies having high free float getting more weightage.

- It prefers stocks that have active investor participation, and are without owner restrictions.
- These indices include enough stocks to represent the underlying equity market or the direction and performance of the market.

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