

1. Dumping of Chinese Goods

Why Now?

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) recently imposed anti-dumping duty on five Chinese goods, including vacuum-insulated flasks of a certain thickness and aluminium foil.



What Is Dumping

It's when a country sells goods in another country's market at a lower price than its own market.

To determine "dumping", the prices of the same goods are compared in both markets. However, WTO notes, "The situation is rarely, if ever, that simple, and in most cases it is necessary to undertake

a series of complex analytical steps in order to determine the appropriate price in the market of the exporting country (known as the 'normal value') and the appropriate price in the market of the importing country (known as the 'export price'."

Anti-Dumping Duties

Under WTO rules, a country has the option to impose anti-dumping countermeasures to balance the effects of dumping. To do so, the investigating authorities of the importing country must determine the "injury" suffered due to dumping. This includes financial losses to the domestic industry.

Countries can impose duties up to the margin of dumping – the difference between the normal value and the export price. Further, the anti-dumping duty is levied over and above the normal customs duty chargeable on importing the goods.

Administrative Bodies

In India, while the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (in the Department of Commerce) recommends the anti-dumping duty, the Ministry of Finance levies them. The CBIC (under Ministry of Finance) has to accept or refuse DGTR's anti-dumping duty recommendation within three months from the date of the final hearing in such cases.

The national authority of a country also has the remedy to terminate or suspend the investigation after the preliminary findings, if the exporter concerned furnishes an undertaking to revise her price to remove the dumping.

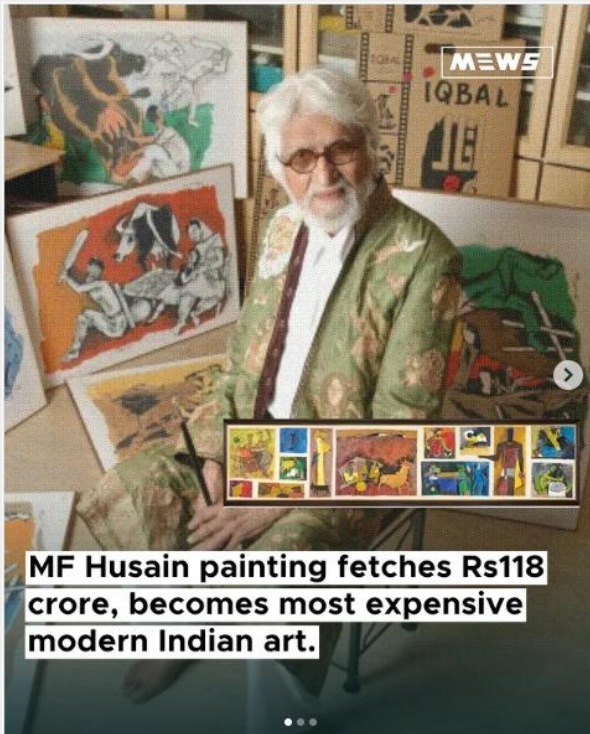
Relevance: GS Prelims; Economics

Source: Indian Express

2. From Delhi to Oslo, story of M F Husain's painting that has been sold for a record Rs 118 crore

Introduction

M.F. Husain's painting was sold for \$13.8 million (more than Rs 118 crore) at a Christie's auction in New York on March 19, becoming the most expensive Indian artwork to be auctioned, and the first to cross the Rs 100-crore mark.



MF Husain painting fetches Rs118 crore, becomes most expensive modern Indian art.

'Untitled (Gram Yatra)', a monumental oil-on-canvas measuring nearly 14 feet x 3 feet, comprises 13 vignettes that appear as a celebration of rural life in India.

It had remained in the collection of Oslo University Hospital, Oslo for several decades, largely away from the public eye. How did the painting travel to Norway; what is the story of its 'rediscovery' and sale?

Story of the painting

Husain painted the work in 1954, and displayed it that same year at an exhibition titled 'M F Husain and Krishen Khanna' at the All India Fine Arts & Crafts Society (AIFACS) in Delhi.

In the city at the time was Leon Elias Volodarsky (1894-1962), a Ukrainian-born surgeon based in Norway. An avid art collector, Volodarsky would often visit museums and art galleries in India. He reportedly bought the painting from Husain for his home in Oslo.

In 1964, Dr Volodarsky's estate donated the painting to the collection of Oslo University Hospital, where it was exhibited in a private corridor, mostly hidden from public view. Some 13 years ago, the existence of the painting was brought to the attention of Nishad Avari, Head of the Department, Indian Art, at Christie's. Avari brought the painting to Christie's auction in New York.

Last highest sold Indian Painting

Prior to last week's sale, the most expensive work of Indian art to be sold at an auction was Amrita Sher-Gil's 1937 'The Story Teller' that fetched \$7.4 million (Rs 61.8 crore) at a Saffronart auction in India in 2023.

The work, its significance

The first decade after Independence was a time of intense artistic development in the country. Through the 1950s, Husain produced several of his seminal works, including the iconic 'Zameen' (1954-55), which is now in the collection of the National Gallery of Modern Art in New Delhi.

His modernism was deeply rooted in India, and is in evidence in the 1954 work sold last week. Its 13 vignettes include varied scenes from village life – a man and a woman riding a bullock cart, a woman dancing with a drummer, another woman pounding wheat, etc.

An open field rendered with expressive brushstrokes was ostensibly inspired by Husain's visit to China in 1952, where he was impressed by the calligraphic strokes; another landscape shows a more fragmented cubist approach.

Last years of Husain's life

While his work received wide acclaim, it also provoked anger among some who saw his art as insulting to Hindu deities and the motherland. Husain received multiple death threats, and hundreds of cases were registered against him. He finally left India on self-imposed exile in 2006, and accepted Qatari citizenship in 2010. While still in exile, he passed away in London in 2011.

Relevance: GS Prelims

Source: Indian Express

3. How the judiciary' in-house inquiry against Justice Yashwant Varma will work

Introduction

Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sanjiv Khanna initiated an unprecedented three-member in-house inquiry into the conduct of Delhi High Court judge Justice Yashwant Varma following allegations that wads of currency notes were found in his official residence where a fire broke out on March 14.



The internal inquiry of the judiciary follows a process that is distinct from that of impeachment under the Constitution.

Origin of In-house procedure

The need for an internal mechanism was felt in 1995, after allegations of financial impropriety surfaced against then Bombay High Court Chief Justice A M Bhattacharjee.

While hearing the case, the SC noted there was no process to hold a judge accountable for "bad conduct inconsistent with the high office", when such conduct did not meet the high bar of removal of judge as given in the Constitution.

To fill what the judges called "a yawning gap between proved misbehaviour and bad conduct inconsistent with the high office", the SC decided to formulate an in-house procedure.

In House Procedure at Present after Revisions

1. Beginning of Process: Essentially, this process begins when the Chief Justice of a HC, the CJI, or the President of India receives a complaint. The CJ of the HC or the President will forward the complaint to the CJI.

2. Preliminary Report: This complaint can be dropped at any stage, if not found serious enough by the CJI. However, to test the veracity of the complaint, the CJI can seek a preliminary report from the CJ of the HC concerned.

3. Deeper probe: If the CJ of the HC, in the preliminary report, recommends that a “deeper probe” is warranted, the CJI may examine the recommendation and the statement of the judge facing the accusations, and then decide to order a three-member inquiry, comprising two other HC Chief Justices and one HC judge.

This committee has the powers to devise its own procedure “consistent with the rules of natural justice” (which, in this case, would include giving Justice Varma a chance to explain his case).

4. Submission of Report: Once the inquiry has been concluded, the committee will submit its report to the CJI. This report must state whether:

- There is any substance to the allegations against the concerned judge and,
- If there is sufficient substance to the allegations, whether they are serious enough that they require initiation of removal proceedings against the judge.

5. Action against erring judge: If the report finds there is substance to the allegations, it will be sent to the judge concerned as well. If the committee concludes that the misconduct is not serious enough to warrant removal proceedings, the CJI may “advise” the judge concerned, and direct that the committee’s report be placed on record.

If the committee decides that the allegations are serious enough to initiate removal proceedings, the CJI will advise the concerned judge to resign or retire voluntarily.

If the judge does not accept, the CJI will direct the HC Chief Justice not to assign any judicial work to said judge. (In Justice Varma’s situation, CJI Khanna has already asked Chief Justice of Delhi High Court Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya not to assign any judicial work to Justice Varma.)

If the judge does not abide by the CJI’s advice to resign or retire, the CJI will inform the President and the Prime Minister of the committee’s finding that removal proceedings should be initiated.

Relevance: GS Prelims & Mains Paper II; Governance

Source: Indian Express

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