Chidambaram arrested in INX Media case

He was held from his residence after making surprise appearance at press meet

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation on Wednesday arrested former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram soon after he held a press conference at the Congress headquarters refuting all charges against him in the INX Media case.

“He has been arrested on an arrest warrant issued by a
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The risks of legalising cannabis
Commercialisation could be dangerous

There is a growing movement in the West to legalise cannabis, with rumblings of the same in India. Having conducted medical research on cannabis at Yale University for several decades, we urge India to carefully weigh the risks and benefits of cannabis before blindly following suit with the West.

In India, cannabis, also known as bhang, ganja, charas or hashish, is typically eaten (bhang gola, bhandia, pakora, lassi, etc.) or smoked (chillum or cigarette). Its potency depends on the content of its principal active constituent, tetrahydrocannabinol, though cannabis contains more than 500 other chemicals. In India, there is a tradition of using cannabis in many religious contexts. But although Ayurvedic texts refer to cannabis as a treatment for several maladies, what is often overlooked is that it is categorised as Euphoria Narga (sub poisonous), and its recreational use has been described as toxic.

The tobacco industry can compensate for the health toll on billions of tobacco users over the last century. Despite knowledge of the risks of smoking, cigarettes remain legal and the tobacco industry continues to thrive. This also highlights the point that once out, the genie cannot be put back into the bottle.

It’s important to make a distinction between legalisation, decriminalisation and commercialisation. While legalisation and decriminalisation are mostly used in a legal context, commercialisation relates to the business side of things. The goal of commercialisation is to sell as much of the product, and the cannabis industry is steadily growing in the U.S. In fact, as the sale of tobacco products have shown signs of a decline in the West, some tobacco companies have entered the cannabis market. Altria, the maker of Marlboro cigarettes, has invested $2.4 billion (512,400 crores) in the cannabis grower Cronos Group. These commercial entities will bring their wealth of experience navigating the law, their successful marketing, their well-oiled lobbying, and deep pockets to influence the government to maximise profit and minimise risk to their commercial enterprise. In the U.S., cannabis is being incorrectly advertised as being “natural” and “healthier than alcohol and tobacco”. Com-

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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.

- Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.
Growing movement in the West for legalizing cannabis → reflection in India

Cannabis → 500+ chemicals
   ↓
Principle active constituent: tetrahydrocannabinol

Mentioned in Ayurvedic texts and traditionally used in religious contexts
   * Category: ‘Upavisha Varga’ - subpoisonous

Misconceptions about Cannabis:
1) It is harmless - BUT-
   * impairments in memory, mental processes
   * development of addiction
   * persistent cognitive defects
   * Schizophrenia, anxiety and stress

2) Legalisation of Cannabis → ↓ harms,
   * legalisation → ↑ commercialisation
     not good
   * Tobacco - introduced as natural and harmless
     ↓ but now - leading cause of morbidity and mortality
↑ commercialisation - ↑ lobbying,
influence in govt,
Sophisticated advertisement → evade laws

⇒ Alternatives for India:
   a) Decriminalise cannabis, forbid its commercialization
   b) Adequate protection for children, the young, those with severe mental illness
   c) Offer treatments - deaddiction centres
Govt. launches programme to train teachers

More than 42 lakh teachers and principals of primary and elementary-age government schools across the country will undergo a five-day training programme over the next few months.

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.
• Economic and Social Development-Sustainable Development, Poverty, Inclusion, Demographics, Social Sector Initiatives, etc.

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.
• Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes; mechanisms, laws, institutions and bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.
• Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.

PAPER-V

General Studies- IV: Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude

• Ethics and Human Interface; Essence, determinants and consequences of Ethics in-human actions; dimensions of ethics; ethics - in private and public relationships. Human Values - lessons from the lives and teachings of great leaders, reformers and administrators; role of family society and educational institutions in inculcating values.
News:
Dept. of School Education & Literacy (CMHRD) launched a National Mission to improve learning outcomes at the elementary level. National Initiative for School Heads’ and Teachers’ Holistic Advancement (NISHTHA)

NISHTHA:
* Massive training programme
* Capacity building programme
* For improving quality of school education through Integrated Teacher Training
* Aim: to build competencies - teachers & school principals \(\rightarrow\) Elementary Stage

* Comes under Samagra Sikshha
* Objective
  To motivate & equip teachers to encourage and foster critical thinking in students
  World’s largest teacher training programme
* Training for
  - Teachers
  - School Principals
  - SMCs
  - State / district / block / cluster level functionaries

Civilspedia Team - Powered by Shankar IAS Academy
Q. Consider the following statement with reference to the “Samagra Shiksha”.

1. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
2. It subsumes the three Schemes namely Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan and Teacher Education.
3. A massive training programme ‘NISHTHA’ was launched under this in 2019-20.

Which among the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1 and 2
b) 2 only
c) 1 and 3
d) 1, 2 and 3
‘Children from shelter homes not finding work’

Almost 70% unaware of after-care entitlements under the law: study

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Nearly 40% of children who leave shelter homes after turning 18 are unable to complete schooling, 50% are unable to find paid work and almost 70% are unaware of their after-care entitlements under the law, finds a study conducted by an NGO across five States.

The study, released on Wednesday, is based on the testimonies of 435 “care leavers” and 100 other key stakeholders such as functionaries working on the ground for child protection. The age of the care leavers was between 17 years and they left their shelter home.

As many as 78% of them did not have health insurance, 67% were not aware of these services and other schemes designed for them, 44% of them had never been consulted over their care and rehabilitation planning during their stay at a home, as is required under JJ Act.

As far as education, vocational skills and the financial independence of these young adults were concerned, nearly 40% could not complete their schooling even after 18 years, and 34% dropped out during transitioning from a home to independent living.

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.
- Economic and Social Development—Sustainable Development, Poverty, Inclusion, Demographics, Social Sector Initiatives, etc.

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.
- Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes; mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.
- Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.
Aftercare?

Section 2(5) of Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015

financial or other support to those who have completed 18 years of age but not completed 21 years of age

AND

left any institutional care to join mainstream of the society

CHILDREN

Children in need of Care & Protection
  * Children Home
  * Open Shelter
  * Specialised Adoption Agency

Children in Conflict with law
  * Observation Home
  * Special Home
  * Place of Safety

Fit Facility
- **Children Home:**
  * For care, treatment, education, training, development and rehabilitation for children in need of care and protection

- **Open Shelters:**
  * Community-based facility for children in need of residential support on short-term basis to protect from abuse, keep them safe

- **Specialised Adoption Agency:**
  * for rehabilitation of orphan children, abandoned or surrendered children

- **Fit facility:**
  * Facility that is ‘fit’ to temporarily take responsibility of the child
• **Observation Home:**
  * For temporary reception, care and rehabilitation - child 'alleged' to be in conflict with law during pendency of inquiry

• **Special Homes:**
  - For children in conflict with law found to have committed the alleged offence(s) by Juvenile Justice Board (JJB)

• **Provision of rehabilitation and reformation**
  - Education
  - Skill Development
  - Counselling
  - Behaviour Modification Therapy
  - Psychiatric Support

• **Place of Safety:**
  - 16 to 18 yrs of age ‘AND’ accused/convicted of heinous offence(s)
  - also for persons above 18 yrs
    - Section 4(6)(1) of JJ Act, 2015
Aftercare

1. Children in institutional care, live away from family, away from mainstream society

2. Ways and means to assist ‘after the institutional Care’ - Section 46

3. to facilitate child’s re-integration into mainstream society
   - financial or otherwise

Eg: 1. Helping to continue school/ college education,
   2. Financial support to start a business

Reality

1. Children leaving childcare institutions

2. not getting promising means for survival and re-integration with Society
   - 40% - unable to complete schooling
   - 50% - unable to find paid work
   - 70% - not aware of aftercare entitlements

3. **Lacunae** - Section 46 of JJ Act, 2015

4. “a child leaving childcare institution MAY be provided aftercare Services”

5. Amendment required to change it from 'MAY' to 'SHALL'.
Q. Consider the following statements.

1. Article 16 of Indian constitution confers powers on the state to make any special provision for women, transgender persons and the children.

2. According to the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, ‘juvenile’ means a child below the age of eighteen years.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2
Dairy co-ops asked to halve plastic use

Use of 500 ml packs to be discouraged

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Centre has asked all milk cooperatives and private dairies to halve plastic usage by October 2, by subsidising one litre packs to discourage the use of 500 ml packs and by offering a rebate to customers who return the plastic pouches which can then be recycled. However, the country’s biggest milk coop — which generates about 2.8 crore plastic packets per day — says such buyback schemes are not viable.

In his Independence Day speech, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had called for an end to single use plastics. The milk industry is one of the largest users of single use plastics, with the growing use of disposable pouches replacing milk vendors and vending machines in many areas.

Under the Extended Producer Responsibility component of the Plastic Waste Management (PWM) Rules, revised in 2018, industries are already required to recover and recycle part of the plastic packaging they generate.

Plan of action
At a meeting with major dairy stakeholders on Wednesday, the Animal Husbandry and Dairying Secretary Atul Chaturvedi requested the cooperatives which own the Amul and Mother Dairy brands to create a protocol and action plan to recycle milk pouches. “Reduce consumption of plastics by subsidising price of 1 litre pack, rebate customers for bringing back plastics, [and] reuse pouches,” said an official statement.

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


• Food processing and related industries in India- scope’ and significance, location, upstream and downstream requirements, supply chain management.
• Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.
PM - Independence Day Speech

To make India free from Single Use Plastics - by October 2, 2019 - in rememberance of Mahatma Gandhi

Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016:

Superseded Plastic Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2011

Extended Producer Responsibility
- Responsibility of the Producer for the environmentally sound management of the product, till the end of its life

Producers - required to recover and recycle - part of the plastic packaging generated by them

High level Meeting - Chaired by Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying

AMUL and Mother Dairy to formulate an action plan or protocol to recycle milk pouches

Major Dairy Federations to encourage reuse of plastic milk pouches in a campaign mode
- 3R Strategy - Reduce, rebate, reuse
\[ \Rightarrow \text{All cooperative Milk Federations and Private Dairies} \]
- to halve the usage of plastics by Oct 2, 2019

\[ \Rightarrow \text{Media requested} \]
- to start a campaign to discourage plastics

\[ \Rightarrow \text{Major Milk Cooperative} \]
\[ \Rightarrow \text{Observes ‘buy back schemes’ not viable} \]

\[ \Rightarrow \text{Why Milk Industry?} \]
\[ \Rightarrow \text{One of the largest users of Single Use plastics} \]
\[ \Rightarrow \text{Single Use Plastics} \]
- disposable plastics
- Commonly used for plastic packaging
- intended to be used only once
- grocery bags, food packaging pouches, bottles, straws, containers, cups & cutlery

\[ \Rightarrow \text{Plastic Packaged Milk Distribution replacing Traditional Milk Vendors and vending machines} \]
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries.

1. It comes under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
2. The department is responsible for matters relating to dairy development and also the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB).

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1 only  
b) 2 only  
c) Both 1 and 2  
d) Neither 1 nor 2
PRACTICE QUESTIONS
DISCUSSION
Q. Consider the following statement with reference to the “Samagra Shiksha”.

1. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
2. It subsumes the three Schemes namely Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan and Teacher Education.
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d) Neither 1 nor 2
Practice Question – Prelims

Answer

1. Option (d) – 1, 2 and 3
2. Option (b) – 2 only
3. Option (b) – 2 only
LIKE, COMMENT & SHARE

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