



## Airport Codes

[Source: IE](#)

### Why in News?

The **upcoming Noida International Airport in Jewar** was recently awarded its **own unique international three-letter code, 'DXN'**, by the [International Air Transport Association \(IATA\)](#).

- **'D'** signifies **Delhi**, **'N'** represents **Noida**, and **'X'** symbolizes connectivity to the globe.

### What are Airport Codes?

- **About:**
  - Airport codes serve as **distinctive identifiers for airports worldwide**. These codes are essential for a **seamless travel experience** and are used in various contexts, from **tickets and boarding passes to airport signage**.
- **Types:**
  - Each airport actually has two unique codes: **one assigned by IATA and another by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)**, a branch of the **United Nations**. These codes have distinct purposes:
    - **IATA Codes (Three-Digit Codes):**
      - Created in the 1960s to standardize airport identification.
      - Used for **passenger-facing operations**.
      - Appear on **tickets, boarding passes, signage**, and other consumer-related materials.
      - Examples include **DEL for Indira Gandhi International Airport (Delhi)** and **BOM for Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (Mumbai)**.
    - **ICAO Codes (Four-Digit Codes):**
      - Utilized by **industry professionals such as pilots, air traffic controllers, and airport planners**.
      - Facilitate **precise communication in aviation**.
      - Examples include **VIDP for Indira Gandhi International Airport (Delhi)**.

### International Air Transport Association

- IATA is the trade association for the world's airlines, representing some 300 airlines or **83% of total air traffic**.
  - It was founded in **Havana, Cuba, in April 1945**.
- **Head Office:** Montreal, Canada.

### International Civil Aviation Organization

- In 1944, **54 nations** came together to draft the Convention on International Civil Aviation, also known as the **'Chicago Convention.'**
- ICAO came into being on **4<sup>th</sup> April 1947**. In **October 1947**, ICAO became a specialized agency of the **United Nations linked to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)**.
  - India is one of the **ICAO's founder members**, having attended the Chicago Conference in

1944

- ICAO is dedicated to **developing safe and efficient international air transport for peaceful purposes** and ensuring a reasonable opportunity for every state to operate international airlines.
- **Headquarter:** Montreal, Canada

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## Global Innovation Index 2023

**For Prelims:** Global Innovation Index 2023, [World Intellectual Property Organization \(WIPO\)](#), [United Nations](#), South East Asia, East Asia and Oceania (SEAO) region, Science and Technology Cluster.

**For Mains:** Global Innovation Index 2023, Growth and development of India in Innovation.

[Source: PIB](#)

### Why in News?

India retains **40<sup>th</sup> rank out of 132 economies** in the **Global Innovation Index 2023** rankings published by the [World Intellectual Property Organization \(WIPO\)](#).

- The 2023 edition reveals the ranking of **this year's most innovative economies** in the world amongst 132 economies and localizes the top 100 science and technology innovation clusters.

### Note

GII is a **leading reference for measuring an economy's innovation** ecosystem performance. Published annually, it is also a valuable benchmarking tool used by policymakers, business leaders, and other stakeholders to assess progress in innovation over time.

### What is WIPO?

- WIPO is the global forum for [Intellectual Property \(IP\) services](#), policy, information and cooperation.
- It is a self-funding agency of the [United Nations](#), with 193 member states.
- Its aim is to lead the development of a balanced and effective international IP system that enables innovation and creativity for the benefit of all.
- Its mandate, governing bodies and procedures are set out in the WIPO Convention, which established WIPO in 1967.

### What are the Key Highlights of the Index?

- **Most Innovative Economies in 2023:**
  - Switzerland is the most innovative economy in 2023 **followed by Sweden**, the United States, the United Kingdom and Singapore.
    - Singapore has **entered the top five**, and has taken the leading position among **South East Asia, East Asia and Oceania (SEAO) region economies**.
- **Top Science and Technology (S&T) Clusters in the World:**

- The top Science and Technology innovation clusters in the world in 2023 are **Tokyo-Yokohama, followed by Shenzhen-Hong Kong-Guangzhou**, Seoul, Beijing and Shanghai-Suzhou.
  - S&T clusters are the areas in the world where the highest density of inventors and scientific authors are located.
- China now has the **largest number of clusters in the world**, overtaking the United States.

## What are the Key Highlights Related to India?

- **Overall Ranking and Growth:**
  - India secured the 40<sup>th</sup> position in the latest GII 2023, showcasing a **remarkable climb from the 81<sup>th</sup> spot in 2015**.
    - This ascent underscores **India's consistent and substantial growth in innovation** over the past eight years.
  - India secured the **top position among the 37 lower-middle-income countries** and leading among the 10 economies in Central and South America.
    - Key indicators affirmed India's robust innovation landscape, including significant rankings in ICT services exports, venture capital received, graduates in science and engineering, and global corporate R&D investors.
- **S&T Clusters:**
  - Compared to **China's 24 and US's 21**, India has only 4 S&T clusters among the world's top 100. These are **Chennai, Bengaluru, Mumbai and Delhi**.
- **India's Progress:**
  - India's progress is attributed to its **abundant knowledge capital** and a thriving **Startup Ecosystem**, along with commendable efforts from public and private research organizations.
  - The **Covid-19** pandemic emphasized the **vital role of innovation in addressing challenges**, aligning with the nation's vision of Atma Nirbhar Bharat (Self-reliant India).
- **Need for Improvement:**
  - Certain areas necessitate improvement, particularly **infrastructure, business sophistication, and institutions**.
    - To bridge these gaps, **NITI Aayog** is actively working to promote policy-led innovation in crucial sectors such as electric vehicles, biotechnology, nanotechnology, space, and alternative energy sources.

## What are the Initiatives Related to Innovation in India?

- [Digital India](#)
- [Unified Payments Interface \(UPI\)](#).
- [National Education Policy](#)
- [Atal Tinkering Labs](#)

## SC Concerned About Delayed Judicial Appointments

For Prelims: [Supreme Court of India](#), [Collegium System](#), [Judicial Appointments](#)

For Mains: Collegium System and its Criticism

Source: TH

## Why in News?

Recently, the [Supreme Court \(SC\) of India](#) said the judiciary is losing fresh talent like never before as prospective candidates shortlisted for judgeships in [High Courts](#) give up their applications due to the government's prolonged inaction in processing High Court [Collegium](#) recommendations.

- The [Attorney General of India](#) was directed to provide updates on pending judicial appointments and transfers until 9th October, 2023.

## What are the SC's Concerns Regarding Judicial Appointments?

### ▪ Prolonged Delays and Talent Drain:

- The Supreme Court has raised concerns about the significant backlog of **70 High Court Collegium recommendations pending with the government for over 10 months.**
- This extended delay in processing recommendations has led to a talent drain within the Judiciary, as prospective candidates **withdraw their candidature due to government inaction.**
  - Bright legal minds, eager to join the Bench, are withdrawing due to the uncertainty created by these delays.

### ▪ Controversial Segregation of Names:

- The **government's practice of segregating names** from Collegium-recommended lists is a matter of grave concern.
- Despite explicit forbidding by the Collegium, the government continued to segregate names, causing embarrassment and opposition to the Collegium's directions.
  - This controversial practice has resulted in candidates withdrawing their candidature.

### ▪ Backlog of Appointments and Vacant Positions:

- The extensive backlog of High Court Collegium recommendations has **left numerous judicial positions vacant across the country.**
- The Memorandum of Procedure mandates prompt appointment of names reiterated by the Collegium, but this process is not being followed, causing further delays.

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## Fewer judges, rising cases

Year after year, as vacancies of judges go unfilled, the pendency of cases continues to mount



Courtesy: Department of Justice & National Judicial Data Grid

### ▪ Specific Pending Cases:

- The appointment of a Chief Justice to the Manipur High Court remains pending, causing uncertainty.
- Additionally, there has been no response from the government on 26 transfers

recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium.





# Collegium System



- System of appointment and transfer of judges
- Evolved through judgments of the Supreme Court, and not by an Act of Parliament

## Constitutional Provisions Related to Appointment of Judges

- Articles **124 (2)** and **217**- Appointment of judges to the Supreme Court and High Courts
  - President makes appointments after consulting with "such judges of the Supreme Court and of the High Courts" as s/he may deem necessary.
- But the Constitution does not lay down any process for making these appointments.

## Evolution of the System

### First Judges Case (1981)

- SC held that in the appointment of a judge of the SC or the HC, the word "consultation" in Article **124 (2)** and in Article **217** of the Constitution does not mean "concurrence"
- Gave the **executive primacy** over the judiciary in judicial appointments

### Second Judges Case (1993)


- SC overruled the First Judges Case
- Gave birth to the **Collegium System (Primacy to the Judiciary)**
- Collegium included the Chief Justice of India and the **2** most senior judges of the SC

### Third Judges Case (1998)

- SC expanded the Collegium to include the CJI and the **4** most-senior judges of the court after the CJI

## Current Structure

 **Supreme Court Collegium:** CJI and the **4** senior-most judges of the SC

 **High Court Collegium:** CJI and **2** senior most judges of the SC

## Criticism

- Opaqueness
- Scope for Nepotism
- Exclusion of Executive
- No Predetermined Procedure of Appointment

## National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC)

- It was an attempt to replace the Collegium System. It prescribed the procedure to be followed by the Commission to appoint judges
- NJAC was established by the **99<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act, 2014**
- But the NJAC Act was termed unconstitutional and was struck down, citing it as having affected the independence of the judiciary



## How are Judges Appointments Carried Out in India?

- **Chief Justice of India (CJI):**
  - The [President of India](#) appoints the CJI and the other SC judges.
    - As far as the CJI is concerned, the outgoing CJI recommends his successor.
    - In practice, it has been strictly by seniority ever since the supersession controversy of the 1970s.
- **Supreme Court Judges:**
  - SC Judges are appointed by the President after consultation with the CJI and such other judges of the Supreme Court and the High courts as he deems necessary.
    - The CJI and a panel of four senior-most judges of the Supreme Court, known as the **Collegium**, recommend the names of the candidates to be appointed as SC judges to the President.
- **Chief Justice of High Courts (HC) and Judges of HC:**
  - The Chief Justice of the HC is **appointed by the President** after consultation with the CJI and the **governor of the state concerned**.
  - The judges of a HC are **appointed by the President**. High Court judges are recommended by a **Collegium comprising the CJI and two senior-most judges**. For appointment of judges, the chief justice of the concerned high court is also consulted.
    - The Chief Justice of the High Court is also required to consult his two senior-most puisne Judges before recommending a name for appointment to the High Court.

## Way Forward

- The government **must expedite the processing of pending High Court Collegium recommendations** to eliminate the backlog of appointments and fill vacant judicial positions promptly.
- The government should **cease the practice of segregating names** from the Collegium's recommendations and adhere to the Collegium's directions in appointing judges.
- Establish a **transparent system to track** and report on the progress of judicial appointments and transfers. Hold accountable those responsible for undue delays or non-compliance.

## Mains

**Q.** Critically examine the Supreme Court's judgement on 'National Judicial Appointments Commission Act, 2014' with reference to the appointment of judges of higher judiciary in India. **(2017)**