

## **SHORTNEWS:**

### **1.LOKPAL OF INDIA ADOPTS A NEW MOTTO**

**NEWS:** The Full Bench of Lokpal of India has adopted a new motto “**Empower Citizens, Expose Corruption**”.

#### **About the Lokpal**

- The Lokpal is a **statutory anti-corruption body** established under the **Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013**.
- **Composition:** Consists of a **Chairperson and up to 8 members**, with at least **50% being judicial** members.
  - 50% of members must belong to **SC/ST/OBC, minorities, or women**.
- **Appointment Process:** Appointed by the **President** based on recommendations from a **Selection Committee**.
- **Term and Removal:** Members serve **5 years or until age 70** (whichever is earlier).
  - Can be removed by the **President only after a Supreme Court inquiry** recommends it for misconduct.
- **Jurisdiction:** Covers the **Prime Minister** (except on matters related to national security, atomic energy, and international relations).
  - **Includes Ministers, MPs, Group A/B/C/D government employees.**
- **Superintendence Powers:** Lokpal has the power of superintendence & direction over any **central investigation agency including CBI** for cases referred to them by Lokpal.
- **Foundation Day:** The Lokpal of India celebrated its **first Foundation Day on 16 January 2025**.
- **Chairperson:** The current **Chairperson** of the Lokpal of India is **Justice Ajay Manikrao Khanwilkar**.

### **2.PASSEX**

**NEWS:** Recently, The Indian Navy and the United Kingdom’s Royal Navy carried out a **high-intensity PASSEX (joint naval exercise) in the North Arabian Sea**.

#### **About India-U.K. Naval Exercise**

- The Indian Navy was represented by the **stealth frigate INS Tabar, a submarine, and a P-8I maritime patrol aircraft**.
- The United Kingdom’s Carrier Strike Group included the aircraft carrier **HMS Prince of Wales** and the **frigate HMS Richmond**.
- **Significance**
  - This naval exercise is significant as the *North Arabian Sea* is a critical **maritime corridor for global trade**.
  - Conducting such joint drills **promote shared commitments by both the nations**.

- It also increases **maritime stability, safeguard sea lines of communications, and ensure presence of credible naval at the Indo-pacific region.**