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MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



MK Yadav Sir

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CHILD MALNUTRITION

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – Health)

Irani launches protocol to manage malnutrition in children

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 10

UNION MINISTER of Women and Child Development (WCD) Smriti Irani on Tuesday launched the first ever "Protocol for Identification and Management of Malnutrition in Children" by the government, which has been put into place by the WCD Ministry in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Ministry of Ayush. The protocols define in detail the identification of children suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM), the processes that needed to for a healthy weight, and even comprehensive norms on dietary requirements for various levels of malnutrition among children.

There are 7.7 per cent SAM children in the country, officials revealed. After the identification of children through growth monitoring data, appetite tests will be done on all SAM children for medical complications. Screening of children at OPDs and in-patient wards in health facilities, using weight for height, and weight for age measurements will be done.

Smriti said the Centre was now "strengthening the foundation" of the nutrition ecosystem with the development of protocols. SAM children who fail the appetite test will be referred to Nutritional Rehabilitation Centres, which will also be linked to medical centres.

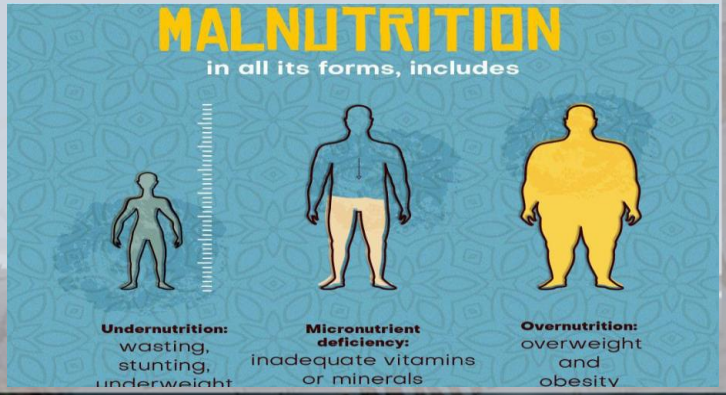
WCD Secretary Indevar Pandey said, "One of the most important areas to look at is limiting malnutrition among adolescent girls." Every SAM child will be visited on a weekly basis by AWW or ANMs. Protocols have also put in place a system of "Buddy mothers". "We have tried this in Assam where it has been successful," he said.

Context: The Union Minister of **Women and Child Development (WCD) recently launched** the first-ever "**Protocol for Identification and Management of Malnutrition in Children**," highlighting the government's commitment to addressing child malnutrition.

- The protocols define in detail the identification of children suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM), the processes that needed to for a healthy weight.

Malnutrition

- **About:** Malnutrition encompasses various forms, including undernutrition (characterized by wasting, stunting, and underweight), as well as obesity and the resulting diet-related noncommunicable diseases.
- **Three Main Groups of Malnutrition**
  - **Undernutrition**: Comprises wasting (low weight-for-height), stunting (low height-for-age), and underweight (low weight-for-age).
  - **Micronutrient-related malnutrition**, encompassing micronutrient deficiencies or excess.
  - **Overweight**, obesity, and diet-related noncommunicable diseases, such as heart disease, stroke, diabetes, and certain cancers.
- Malnutrition represents a persistent and enduring challenge for the public administration in India.



Government Initiatives

- POSHAN Abhiyaan
- Mid-day Meal (MDM) scheme
- The National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013
- Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)
- Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme

THE HINDU

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ITALY-INDIA AGREEMENT

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – IR)

India, Italy sign defence agreement

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India and Italy on Tuesday signed a defence cooperation agreement to promote cooperation in varied defence domains such as "security and defence policy, R&D, education in military field, maritime domain awareness, sharing of defence information and industrial cooperation, including co-development, co-production and setting up of joint ventures". This came after talks between Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his counterpart Guido Crosetto in Rome.

Mr. Singh is on a visit to Italy and France from October 9 to 12.

Context: India and Italy recently **signed a defence cooperation** agreement to promote cooperation in varied defense domains, including security and defense policy, R&D, and military education.

Defence Corperation

- **Joint Defence Committee**: To promote a "structured dialogue" between defense companies in India and Italy.
- **IORA**: Italy has also a dialogue partner of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Dialogue Partner since 2019.
- **Italy extended its support to India's** increased involvement in international export control regimes, including the **Wassenaar Arrangemen**t, the **Australia Group, and the Nuclear Suppliers' Group (NSG)**, in areas such as nuclear, missile, and dual-use technology and substances, thereby reinforcing global non-proliferation initiatives.



Italy

- **Location:** Italy, a country in **southeastern Europe located** for the most part on the Apennine Peninsula.
- **Boundaries:** northwest by France
  - Northeast by Slovenia
  - The Italian Peninsula is bounded by the Adriatic Sea in the east,
  - the Sea of Sicily in the south
  - the Ionian Sea in the southeast
- **Lakes:** Lake Garda near Verona is Italy's largest lake.
- **Mountains:** Alps, the world-famous mountain range in the north is partly situated in Italy.

PIB Oct 10

NCDC

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – Governance)

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah addressed 89th General Council meeting of the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) in New Delhi today

Context: The Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation addressed the **89th General Council meeting** of the **National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)** in New Delhi recently.

National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)

- **About:** The National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) was established by an Act of Parliament in 1963 as a statutory Corporation.
- **Establishment**: 1963.
- **Nodal Ministry**: Ministry of Cooperation.
- **Headquarters**: New Delhi.
- **Functions**
  - The organization is responsible for **planning, promoting, and providing financial support** for programs related to the production, processing, marketing, storage, export, and import of agricultural produce.
  - In addition to agricultural endeavors, the **organization is involved in the supply of consumer goods** and the collection, processing, marketing, storage, and export of minor forest produce through cooperatives.
  - The organization plays a vital role in **assisting various types of cooperatives** and aims to expand their financial base.
  - **Financial support is extended to projects** in the rural industrial cooperative sectors and certain notified services in rural areas.

LIVEMINT

Page 8

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Economy)

IMF raises India growth forecast for FY24 to 6.3%

FROM PAGE 1

this period. The gross goods and service tax (GST) revenue, an indicator of consumption, collected during June rose 12% annually to ₹1.6 trillion.

Other multilateral agencies, such as the Asian Development Bank (ADB), expect India to grow 6.4% during 2023-24.

In its latest World Economic Outlook (WEO), IMF raised its US growth projection for 2023 by 0.3 percentage points, compared with its July update, to 2.1%, while cutting China's 2023 growth forecast to 5% from the earlier forecast of 5.2%.

According to the IMF forecast, the Euro Area will grow 0.7% in 2023 and 1.2% in 2024.

On the global economy, IMF's chief economist Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas said the latest IMF forecast has increased the likelihood of a "soft landing". The current global growth forecast is the "slowest in a decade." "The global economy is limping along, not sprinting," he said.

Gourinchas said economic activity has slowed but not stalled despite the war disrupting energy and food markets and unprecedented monetary tightening to combat decades-high inflation. "Even so, growth remains slow and uneven, with widening divergences."

From the Indian perspective, RBI has kept the repo rate unchanged at 6.5% since April after raising it by 250 basis points (2.5%) since May 2022. RBI's decision has come against the backdrop of rising inflation. India's retail inflation fell to 6.83% in August from a 15-month high of 7.44% in July due to the easing of food prices.

On Tuesday, IMF said 81% of global economies, including the world's 10 largest, have seen a decline in their medium-term growth prospects.

The five emerging market economies—Brazil, China, India, Indonesia and Russia—have contributed about 0.9% percentage points to the decline in medium-term global growth prospects between 2008 and 2023, the IMF report added.

The WEO said the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022 caused "major fragmentations" in commodity markets, leading to a surge in measures restricting commodity trade, which has further resulted in a widening of price differentials across markets for select commodities and declining FDI (foreign direct investment) flows in commodity sectors.

"Critical minerals for the energy transition and some highly traded agricultural goods are highly vulnerable in the event of fragmentation," the report said, warning that commodity price volatility could intensify the incentives for producers to switch geopolitical allegiances, which could result in volatile inflation dynamics, making monetary policy more complex.

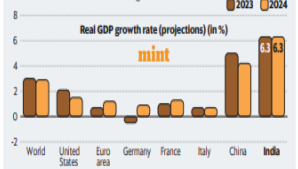
In its global financial stability report, also released on Tuesday, IMF said central banks in advanced economies may need to keep the monetary policy tighter in the longer term to keep inflation in control.

On emerging market economies, IMF cautioned that despite rate hikes proving beneficial, discrepancies across the region could lead to widening "divergence of inflation" and mark the beginning of the "desynchronization of the global monetary policy".

"Emerging markets such as Chile, Hungary, India, Mexico and Poland has also seen notable equity price increases, consistent with the appreciation of most major emerging market currencies in the first half of the year," IMF's global financial

Soft landing

IMF's chief economist Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas said the global growth forecast of 3% for 2023 and 2.9% for 2024 has increased the likelihood of a "soft landing".



Note: For India, the figures are on a fiscal year basis, with 2023 denoting the year ending March 2024, and so on.

Source: IMF World Economic Outlook, October 2023

Fast Facts About the IMF

1944	Year the IMF was established	$1 trillion	Total amount the IMF is able to lend to its member countries
190	Member countries	29	Current lending arrangements
150	Nationalities represented by staff	80	Countries that received emergency financing as of January 29
24	Executive Directors representing 190 member countries	0%	Interest rate on loans to low-income countries

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Context: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) lifted its 2023-24 growth projection for India to 6.3% from its July estimate of 6.1%, citing "stronger-than-expected consumption" during the June quarter.

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

- **About:** The IMF works to achieve sustainable growth and prosperity for all of its member countries.
- **Establishment**: In 1944 in the aftermath of the Great Depression of the 1930s.
- **Member countries**: 190 countries.
- **Headquarters**: Washington, D.C
- **Representation**: Each member country has a representation on the IMF's executive board.
- **Voting Power**: The allocation of voting power on the executive board is based on the financial importance of each member country.

Objective of IMF

- To **improve and promote global monetary** cooperation of the world.
- To **secure financial stability** by eliminating or minimizing the exchange rate stability.
- To **facilitate a balanced** international trade.
- To promote high employment through economic assistance and sustainable economic growth.
- To reduce poverty around the world.

BRICS
(Syllabus: GS Paper 2– IR)

BRICS: The mortar of competition in a globalised world

Context: The **Competition Commission of India (CCI) will be hosting the** 8th BRICS International Competition Conference (BRICS ICC) 2023, themed 'New Issues in Competition Law and Policy – Dimensions, Perspectives, Challenges'.

BRICS

- It is an acronym for the grouping of the world's leading emerging economies, namely Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (included in 2010)
- **Founded By:** 2009.
- **Headquarter:** Shanghai.
- **Membership:** The heads of the BRIC nations **(Brazil, Russia, India, and China)** gathered for the first occasion in St. Petersburg, Russia, during the G8 Outreach Summit in July 2006.
  - In December 2010, **South Africa** received an invitation **to become a part of BRIC**, leading to the adoption of the acronym BRICS for the group.
  - In August 2023, at the 15th BRICS Summit, BRICS was expanded to add Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates in the bloc. Full membership is scheduled to take effect on 1 January 2024.
- **Significance:** BRICS is a significant alliance that gathers the major growing economies.

Competition Commission of India (CCI)

- **About**: The commission is a quasi-judicial body which gives opinions to statutory authorities and also deals with other cases.
- **Establishment:** Competition law under the Competition Act, 2002.
- **Nodal Ministry**: Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
- **Composition**: One Chairperson and six Members who shall be appointed by the Central Government.

BUSINESS STANDARD | Oct 8

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INDIA

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Economy)

Jobless rate at 6-yr low; wage employment share shrinks

Both rural, urban areas show a fall in unemployment rates in July-June 2022-23 period

SHIVA RAJORA
October 10, New Delhi

India's unemployment rate fell to a six-year low of 3.2 per cent in the July-June 2022-23 period, down from 4.1 per cent in the same period the previous year, according to the latest annual Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) report.

The report, released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on Monday, showed a decline in unemployment rates in both rural and urban areas during the 2022-23 period to 2.4 per cent and 5.4 per cent, respectively, from 3.2 per cent and 6.3 per cent in the 2021-22 period. The unemployment rate for rural women (1.8 per cent) was lower than that for rural men (2.7 per cent) in 2022-23; in urban areas, the rate was higher for females (7.5 per cent) compared to males (4.7 per cent).

The unemployment rate for a one-year period under the so-called "usual status" for persons aged 15 years and above declined for the fifth consecutive year since the survey was launched in April 2017. Before the PLFS, the National Sample Survey Organisation (now known as NSO) used to release data related to employment and unemployment based on household socioeconomic surveys once every five years. In the 2017-18 period, the unemployment rate at the all-India level stood at 6 per cent.

In usual status, employment is determined based on a reference period of 365 days preceding the date of the survey, as distinct from "employment status", which is determined based on a reference period of seven days, known as the current weekly status (CWS) of the person.

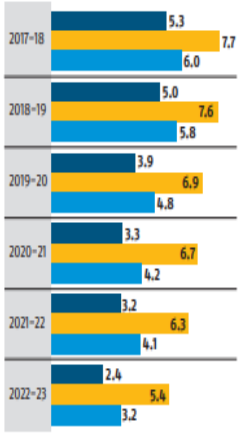
The latest survey also showed a significant increase in the labour force participation rate (LFPR), which represents the share of people either working or seeking work in the population, to 57.9 per cent in the 2022-23 period from 55.2 per cent in the 2021-22 period at the national level.

The rural LFPR stood at 60.8 per cent, up significantly from 57.5 per cent in 2021-22, while its urban equivalent increased to 50.4 per cent from 49.7 per cent over the same period. But, there has been a strain on the quality of employment as the share of people having regular or wage employment declined to 20.9 per cent in the 2022-23 period from 21.5 per cent in the previous year's period. On the other hand, the share of people engaged in self-employment, including unpaid household work or running a small business, increased to 57.3 per cent in the period under review from 55.8 per cent a year ago.

Santosh Mehrotra, visiting professor at the University of Bath, pointed out that contrary to popular belief, labour markets are yet to recover as the share of wage employment is significantly and consistently lower than in the pre-pandemic period, leading to an increase in self-employed individuals. In 2018-19, wage employment accounted for 23.8 per cent of total employment.

EMPLOYMENT REPORT
(ALL-INDIA TREND IN %)

Annual unemployment rate (15 years and above)



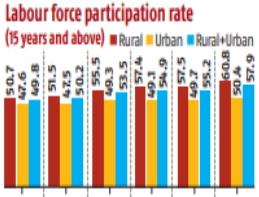
***2022-23 refers to the period July 2022 – June 2023 and likewise for 2021-22, 2020-21, 2019-20, 2018-19, and 2017-18 Source: NSO



Worker by employment status (rural+urban)

Period	Self-employed	Regular wage worker	Casual labourers
2017-18	52.2	22.8	24.9
2018-19	52.1	23.8	24.1
2019-20	53.5	22.9	23.6
2020-21	55.6	21.1	23.3
2021-22	55.8	21.5	22.8
2022-23	57.3	20.9	21.8

Labour force participation rate (15 years and above)



Context: India's **unemployment rate recently reached** a six-year low of 3.2 percent in the **July-June 2022-23 period**, indicating a significant improvement as reported in the latest **annual Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)** report.

- The report, was unveiled by the **National Statistical Office (NSO).**

Key Points

- **Labor Market Indicator**: Wage employment is often considered an indicator of a healthy and improving labor market. It reflects the ability of an economy to provide jobs with regular wages, benefits, and job security.
- **Decline in Wage Employment**: In the past year, there has been a noticeable decline in wage employment opportunities. This decline signifies challenges in the labor market, where there may be fewer job opportunities with consistent wages and benefits.
- **Increase in Labor Force Participation Rate**: Concurrently, there has been an increase in the labor force participation rate.
- **Lack of Decent Job Opportunities**: The rise in the labor force participation rate suggests that a growing number of people are entering the labor market.
- **Shift Towards Self-Employment:** As wage employment opportunities diminish, individuals are increasingly turning to self-employment as an alternative.

Unemployment: NSSO defines unemployment as a situation in which all those who owing to lack of work, are not working but seek work through employment exchanges, intermediaries, friends or relatives. National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) launched Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) in April 2017.

The objective of PLFS is primarily twofold:

- To estimate the key employment and **unemployment indicators** (viz. Worker Population Ratio, Labour Force Participation Rate, Unemployment Rate) in the short time interval of three months for the urban areas only in **the 'Current Weekly Status' (CWS).**
- To estimate employment and unemployment indicators in both **'Usual Status' (ps+ss) and CWS i**n both rural and urban areas annually.

DTE

Oct 10

ZEALANDIA

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 – Geography)

Zealandia: Earth's Forgotten eighth continent



Context: An international team of geologists and seismologists have now **created a new map of Zealandia**, the Earth's forgotten 8th continent.

Zealandia

- **About:** Zealandia is a long, narrow microcontinent **located in the South Pacific Ocean**, primarily to the east of Australia and to the south of New Caledonia.
- **Location**: This submerged microcontinent encompasses the region that includes New Zealand and New Caledonia, situated in the southwestern Pacific Ocean.
- **Ancient Connection**: Zealandia, also known as **Te Riu-a-Māui in the Māori** language, was once a constituent continent of the ancient supercontinent Gondwana, which existed over 500 million years ago.
- It shared its existence with Western Antarctica and Eastern Australia.
- **Separation from Gondwana**: Approximately 105 million years ago, Zealandia began to separate or "pull away" from Gondwana, marking the start of its independent geological history.
- **Submergence Over Millennia**: As Zealandia separated, it gradually sank beneath the ocean's surface, with over 9**4 percent of its landmass remaining** underwater for millennia.
- **Size**: Zealandia covers an area of approximately 1.89 million square miles (4.9 million square km), making it roughly half the size of Australia.
- **Tectonic Plate Boundaries**: Zealandia is located along the boundaries of several tectonic plates, including the **Australian Plate, Pacific Plate, and Indo-Australian** Plate, contributing to its dynamic geological activity.

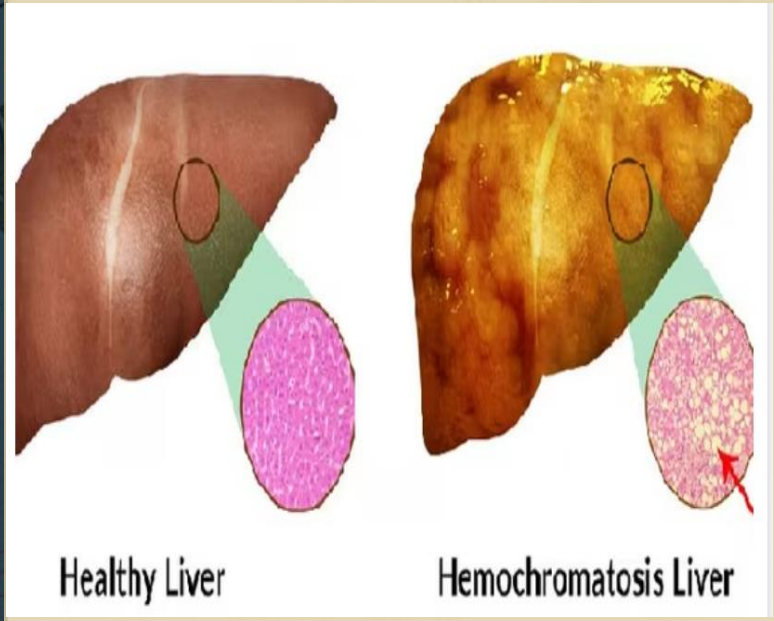
HINDUSTAN TIMES

Oct 10

HEMOCHROMATOSIS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Sci & Tech -Diseases)

What is Hemochromatosis, the rare genetic disorder that causes organ dysfunction?



Context: Recently, health experts revealed all about **Hemochromatosis or 'bronze diabetes'.**

Hemochromatosis

- **About**: Hemochromatosis is an inherited condition characterised by the gradual accumulation of iron over many years.
- **Types of Hemochromatosis:** Hereditary: This type is driven by a mutation in the HFE gene, leading to individuals being homozygous for the C282Y variant.
  - This genetic anomaly results in a lifelong struggle with excessive iron absorption in the intestines.
- **Secondary Hemochromatosis**: They are typically caused by external factors such as frequent blood transfusions, excessive iron supplementation, or certain medical conditions.
- **Iron buildup** in secondary hemochromatosis is often faster and can impact organ function similarly to the hereditary form.
- **Symptoms**: Common symptoms include persistent fatigue, unexplained weight loss, weakness, and joint pain.
  - Usually emerge between the **ages of 30 and 60.**
- **Treatment**: Phlebotomy serves as the standard treatment for primary hemochromatosis.
  - This procedure involves the removal of red blood cells, which are the body's primary source of iron.

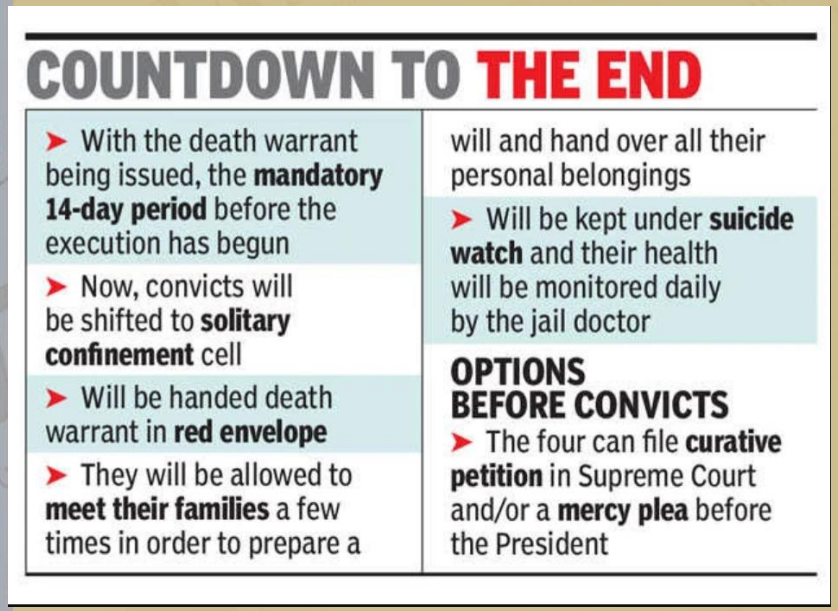
FINANCIAL EXPRESS

Oct 10

CURATIVE PETITION

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2– Polity)

SC agrees to hear telcos curative plea on AGR dues in open court



COUNTDOWN TO THE END

- With the death warrant being issued, the **mandatory 14-day period** before the execution has begun
- Now, convicts will be shifted to **solitary confinement** cell
- Will be handed death warrant in **red envelope**
- They will be allowed to **meet their families** a few times in order to prepare a will and hand over all their personal belongings
- Will be kept under **suicide watch** and their health will be monitored daily by the jail doctor

OPTIONS BEFORE CONVICTS

- The four can file **curative petition** in Supreme Court and/or a **mercy plea** before the President

Context: Recently, the **Supreme Court agreed to hear curative petitions** filed by Vodafone Idea and Bharti Airtel, highlighting arithmetical errors in the calculation of adjusted gross revenue (AGR) dues by the **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)**, in an open court.

Curative Petition

- **About**: A curative petition represents the final and ultimate recourse available to individuals seeking justice, as guaranteed by the Constitution of India.
  - It becomes applicable once a review plea against a final conviction has been rejected.
- **Background**: The concept of the curative petition originated from a legal case in **2002, known as Rupa Ashok Hurra Vs. Ashok Hurra,** which raised the question of whether an aggrieved person has any recourse after the dismissal of a review petition in the Supreme Court.
- **Objective:** The primary aim of a curative petition is to ensure that there is no miscarriage of justice and to prevent any potential abuse of the legal process.
- **Article 137 of the Indian Constitution**: It provides significant support for the concept of a curative petition.
  - Article 137 empowers the Supreme Court of India with the authority to review any judgment it has pronounced or order it has made.
- **SC's Review Power**: This review power applies specifically when the matter pertains to the laws and rules established under Article 145 of the Indian Constitution.

TIMES OF INDIA Page 1

ELECTORAL BONDS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – Polity)



Electoral bonds valid? SC to decide before 2024 polls

TNN | New Delhi: The Supreme Court said Tuesday it will give its verdict before the commencement of the 2024 general elections on a bunch of pleas challenging the validity of electoral bonds — a banking instrument through which corporates, firms and individuals can donate anonymously to political parties — on the ground that these have been catalysts of corruption.

A bench of CJI DY Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra agreed to list the petitions for hearing on October 31 as parties undertook to complete arguments within two days.

The decision sets the stage for an interesting legal duel. A foretaste became immediately available, with attorney general R Venkataramani saying the government was ready to show that these instruments facilitated complete transparency in funding. He said while the donor was kept secret from the public, the source of funds had to be disclosed to the designated bank — State Bank of India.

shan and Shadan Farasat alleged that despite reservations from the RBI and Election Commission, the NDA government floated electoral bonds, facilitating huge donations from large corporates to parties, which smacked of quid pro quo. The public must know who gave funds to which party to make an informed choice, Bhushan said.

IN THE COURTS

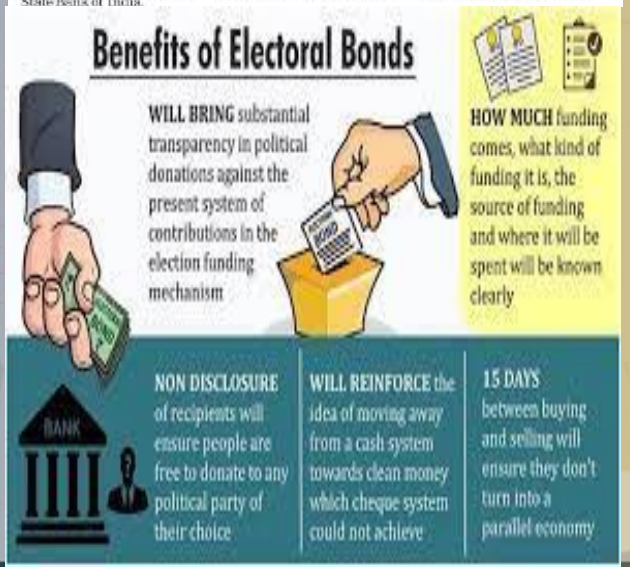
- SC asks Gujarat to **specify time period within which remission plea of a prisoner is decided.** Asks how many cases pending in HC and SC in which prisoners challenged denial of remission | P 9
- SC seeks report from CAQM on **steps taken to control pollution** in NCR ahead of winter | P 3
- **Give 750 hectares for an alternative forest,** Delhi HC tells forest dept; calls 0.23 acres offered 'a joke' | P 6
- CJI to dust out **250 matters** referred to 7-judge or 9-judge benches and **pending for decades** for hearing | P 9

Fetus normal, kill or deliver pre-term: Docs

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has seldom witnessed such drama as seen on Tuesday, a day after the court gave the go-ahead to terminate a 26-week-old pregnancy despite the medical board saying the fetus had a viable chance, prompting the doctors at AIIMS to call for a rethink, **reports Dhananjay Mahapatra.**

The dilemma cited by the doctors: do they stop the heart of a viable life or deliver it pre-term and bestow it with a tormented life?

The SC deferred medical termination of the fetus Tuesday after additional solicitor general Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Centre, sought recall of the order passed by a bench of Justices Hima Kohli and BV Nagarathna on Monday. It had put premium on the woman's decisional autonomy to allow termination of the pregnancy.



Context: Recently, the **Supreme Court announced** that it will deliver its verdict on the validity of **electoral bonds before the 2024** general elections commence, addressing concerns about their potential role as catalysts of corruption.

Electoral Bonds

- **About**: Electoral bonds are bearer instruments, akin to promissory notes, available for purchase by any Indian citizen or an Indian-incorporated company.
- **Introduced**: In 2018 by the Union government.
- **Donation Option**: Citizens or corporations can buy these bonds and subsequently donate them to any eligible political party of their choice.
- **Resemblance to Bank Notes**: Electoral bonds are akin to banknotes and are payable to the bearer on demand, devoid of any interest.
- **Digital or Cheque Purchase**: Individuals and parties can acquire these bonds either digitally or through a cheque.
- **Eligibility**: Only political parties registered **under Section 29A** of the **Representation of the People Act, 1951**, and those securing at least 1% of votes in the last general election to the House of the People or the Legislative Assembly of the State can receive electoral bonds.
- **Encashment Procedure**: Political parties can encash these bonds solely through a designated bank account with the authorized bank.
- **Mandatory Disclosure**: Political parties must disclose the amount received via electoral bonds to the Election Commission.
- **Donor Anonymity**: Importantly, electoral bonds do not bear the name of the donor, ensuring the anonymity of the contributor.

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