

## Election Commission

### ❖ Context

- Recently, the **Election Commission** has made a fresh push for amending law to **bar people from contesting from more than one seat.**

### ❖ Key Highlights

- This reform was first **proposed in 2004.**
- **The Representation of People Act, 1951 Act** currently allows a person to contest a general election or a group of by-elections or biennial elections from up to two constituencies.
- If a person is **elected from more than one seat**, then the person **can only hold on to one of the seats** that he or she won.
- In **1996, the Representation of the People Act was amended** to restrict a person from contesting polls from more than two seats.
- Before the amendment, there was no bar on the number of constituencies from which a candidate could contest.

### ❖ Recommendations of the EC

- EC proposed amendment to certain sections in the **RP Act in 2004** to provide that **a person cannot contest from more than one constituency at a time.**
- A candidate contesting from two seats **should bear the cost of the by-election** to the seat that the contestant decides to vacate in the event of him or her winning both seats.
  - **The amount of fine** - ₹5 lakh for State Assembly and legislative council election.
  - ₹10 lakh for Lok Sabha election.

### ❖ Election Commission

#### • About:

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) is an **autonomous and permanent constitutional body.**
- It is responsible for **organizing free and fair elections** in the Union and States of India.
- The Constitution grants the ECI with the power of **direction, superintendence, and control of elections to Parliament, state legislatures, the office of president of India and the office of vice-president of India.**

#### • Powers and Responsibilities:

- Determining the **Electoral Constituencies' territorial areas** throughout the country.
- Preparing and periodically **revising electoral rolls and registering all eligible voters.**
- **Notifying the schedules and dates** of elections and **scrutinizing nomination papers.**
- **Granting recognition** to the various political parties and **allocating them election symbols.**
- The Commission also has **advisory jurisdiction** in the matter of post-election disqualification of sitting members of Parliament and State Legislatures.
- It **issues the Model Code of Conduct** in elections for political parties and candidates.

#### • Composition:

- A chief election commissioner and Other election commissioners (the number is to be decided by the President from time to time) Art 324.
- Tenure **six years or up to the age of 65 years** whichever is earlier.

## Black Swan Event

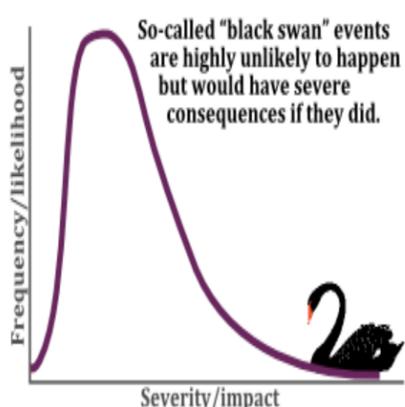
### ❖ Context

- Recently, **A study by the RBI** has spoken about the possibility of capital outflows to the tune of \$100 billion from India in case of a major global risk scenario or a **"black swan" event.**

### ❖ About 'Black Swan' Event

- A black swan is a **rare, unpredictable event** that comes as a surprise and has a significant impact on society or the world.

#### The Black Swan



- **These events are said to have** three distinguishing characteristics:

- They are **extremely rare** and outside the realm of regular expectations.
- They have a **severe impact** after they hit.
- They seem **probable in hindsight** when plausible explanations appear.

#### • Origin of the Term:

- The black swan theory was **put forward by author and investor Nassim Nicholas Taleb in 2001.**
- It was later popularized in his 2007 book - **The Black Swan: The Impact of the Highly Improbable.**

#### • Previous Black Swan Events:

- Taleb's book predated the **2008 global financial crisis** - a black swan event triggered by a sudden crash in the booming housing market in the US.
- The **fall of the Soviet Union, the terrorist attack in the US** on September 11, 2001, also fall in the same category.

## Face to Face Centres



Solidarity-2023 Border Operation

## Solidarity-2023

### ❖ Context

- Recently, **India supported an initiative by China to conduct a “joint border operation” in 2023** of all member countries of SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organization).

### ❖ Key Highlights

- The border operation will be called “Solidarity-2023”.
- A statement to this effect was made by **Border Security Force (BSF) Director General Pankaj Kumar Singh** at the conclusion of the 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the heads of border authorities of the competent bodies of the SCO member states.
- ❖ **About Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)**
  - It is an Eurasian **political, economic and military organization**.
  - It was preceded by the **Shanghai Five mechanism (1996)** formed by the leaders of China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan.
  - It was rechristened as the SCO in 2001.
  - The SCO entered into force on **19 September 2003**.

- **SCO covers 40 percent of the global population.**
- **Aims:**
  - Security-related concerns.
  - Resolving border issues.
  - Military cooperation.
  - Intelligence sharing.
  - Countering terrorism.
  - Countering American influence in Central Asia.
- **Members:** China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.
- **Summits:**
  - Members of the SCO meet once a year and adopt decisions and guidelines on all important matters of the organization.
- **Official Language:**
  - Russian and Chinese.

## West Seti Power Project

### ❖ Context

- India will be taking over an ambitious **hydropower project in Nepal - West Seti** - nearly four years after China withdrew from it.
- India's **National Hydro Power Corporation** has already begun preliminary engagement of the site in far-western Nepal following Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Lumbini.

### ❖ West Seti Power Project

- West Seti is a **750MW hydro power project**.
- It is planned on the West Seti river/basin in Seti, Nepal.
- It is a **reservoir based project**.



- The project is envisaged to **provide Nepal 31.9% electricity free**.
- Besides, locals affected by the project are being given a share of Nepali Rs 10 million plus 30 units of electricity per month free.

- Although Nepal is currently selling 364MW power to India, it has over the years imported from India.

### ❖ India -Nepal Power Relations

- **Nepal is rich in power sources** with around 6,000 rivers and an estimated potential for 83,000 MW.
- India is viewed as a **feasible market for Nepal**.
- India has undertaken to harness or expressed intent to harness major rivers in the north.
- **Mahakali Treaty:**
  - It was signed back in 1996.
  - Its aim was to produce 6,480 MW.
  - India has still not been able to come out with the Detailed project Report.
- **The Upper Karnali project:**
  - A multinational GMR signed the contract.
- **Arun Three Project:**
  - Located in eastern Nepal's Sankhuwa Sabha.
  - Capacity 900 MW.
  - It is being executed by India's Sutlej Vidhyut Nigam under a BOOT scheme.
- West Seti, has the potential to be a defining model for Nepal India's power relations in future.

## News in Between the Lines

### Renewable Energy Installations

### ❖ Context

- According to a recently released global status report **India ranked third in renewable energy installations in 2021**, after China and Russia.

### Face to Face Centres





### ❖ Key Highlights

- India installed **15.4 gigawatts (GW)** of renewable energy projects in 2021.
- It ranked **fourth in total solar installations (60.4 GW)** for the year - overtaking Germany (59.2 GW) for the first time.
- India ranked **third in total installed capacity of wind power at 40.1 GW.**
- India also ranked **third** for developing **hydropower projects** – followed by China and Canada.
- As a means of achieving its climate goals, India has announced a **target of 500 GW of renewable energy by 2030** through sources such as solar photovoltaic (PV) energy, wind and hydropower.
- The world, overall, added around **3,146 GW of total installed renewable power capacity in 2021** – a spike of 11% from the previous year.

## Pradhan Mantri Aadi Adarsh Gram Yojana



### ❖ Context

- Recently, the Union Minister of Tribal Affairs has said that the **government has started a scheme, " Pradhan Mantri Aadi Adarsh Gram Yojana"** for faster development of tribal villages.

### ❖ Key Highlights

- **Nodal Ministry** - The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- The selected States are to select villages, or 2-3 contiguous districts (preference will be given to backward districts).
- **Objective:**
  - To ensure that the **programmes and schemes introduced by all the 41 ministries** of the central government should be **coordinated and implemented properly at the bottom level.**
  - To ensure integrated development of the selected villages into “model villages” - tagging of and market linkages through TRIFED.

## Kranti Gatha



### ❖ Context

- Recently, the **PM of India inaugurated 'Kranti Gatha'.**

### ❖ Key Highlights

- It is a **newly created Gallery of Indian Revolutionaries** inside the underground British–era bunker **at Raj Bhavan in Mumbai.**
- He also **inaugurated the newly reconstructed 'Jal Bhushan',** the residence and office of the Governor of Maharashtra.

### ❖ About Kranti Gatha

- The Gallery of Indian Revolutionaries has been **created in the bunker that was discovered below Raj Bhavan in 2016.**
- It is a **tribute to the known and unknown revolutionaries** of the Indian freedom movement.
- The bunker at Raj Bhavan was **discovered in 2016 by the then Governor of Maharashtra N Vidyasagar Rao.**
- Built before the First World War, it was **used by the British to store arms and ammunition,**
- The Gallery of Revolutionaries has been created under the **guidance of historian and writer Dr Vikram Sampath** with assistance from the South Central Zonal Cultural Centre, Nagpur.
- The gallery also commemorates many revolutionaries from Maharashtra from the First War of Independence in 1857 to the Naval uprising in Mumbai in 1946.

### ❖ About Jal Bhushan

- **Mountstuart Elphinstone,** the Governor of Mumbai, built a small bungalow called '**Pretty Cottage**' on Malabar Hill between 1820 and 1825.
- It has **housed the residence of the British Governor** of the erstwhile Bombay State, the Governor of Bombay after independence and the Governor of Maharashtra after the formation of the State in 1960.

## Face to Face Centres



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The structure 'Jalbhushan' stands on this place.</li> <li>The new 'Jalbhushan' architecture <b>preserves the salient heritage features of the old architecture.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Edakoodam</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Context</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>K.P. Hariprasad is on a mission to <b>popularize the wooden puzzle</b> by teaching the art of making and solving Edakoodam popular among children and adults</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Key Highlights</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Edakoodam, a <b>wooden puzzle toy</b>, was very popular among children and <b>used to be part of every household in Kerala.</b></li> <li>A complicated puzzle like Rubik's cube, <b>Edakoodam is made of wooden blocks, which once dismantled can be assembled only by applying some mathematical and analytical skills.</b></li> <li>With the advent of computer games and 3D combination puzzle-like Rubik's cube, Edakoodam lost its sheen.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Dragonfly</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Context</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Dragonfly enthusiasts</b> have recorded the presence of a rare dragonfly that was hitherto unseen in <b>Kerala.</b> The discovery was recorded from <b>Kottiyoor.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Key Highlights</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The species that is known to be endemic to the <b>Western Ghats</b> was discovered in Maharashtra earlier this year.</li> <li>Prior to their finding, the <b>dragonfly genus Burmagomphus</b> was represented by <b>three species – B. cauvericus, B. pyramidalis and B. laidlawi.</b></li> <li>While <b>B. laidlawi</b> is found throughout the <b>Western Ghats</b>, <b>B. cauvericus</b> is more restricted in its distribution. <b>B. pyramidalis</b> is found in the <b>Western Ghats</b> as well as in <b>Peninsular India.</b></li> <li>All other species of the genus are found in the <b>Western and Eastern Himalayas.</b></li> <li>The new species can be separated from its congeners by the markings on the <b>lateral thorax and peculiar shape of anal appendages.</b></li> <li>According to a paper published, <b>181 odonata species</b> have been recorded in Kerala. The addition of <b>B. chaukulensis</b> will take the <b>count to 182.</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Khuvsgul Lake National Park</b></p>  <p><a href="#">Daily Current Affairs</a></p>	<p><b>Context</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recently, the <b>UNESCO</b> World Network of Biosphere Reserves has included <b>Mongolia's Khuvsgul Lake National Park</b>, according to the <b>Ministry of Environment and Tourism.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Key Highlights</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The decision was made during the <b>34<sup>th</sup> session</b> of the <b>International Coordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere Programme</b>, in <b>Paris, France.</b></li> <li>Khuvsgul Lake is located in the northern Mongolian province of Khuvsgul near the Russian border, holding nearly 70 percent of Mongolia's fresh water, or 0.4 percent of the world's total.</li> <li>The lake is 1,645 meters above sea level, 136 km long and 262 meters deep.</li> <li>A total of nine sites from Mongolia have so far been registered in the network.</li> <li><b>The Man and the Biosphere Programme</b> is an <b>intergovernmental scientific program</b> set up by UNESCO in the early 1970s with the aim of establishing a scientific basis for enhancing the relationship between people and their environments.</li> </ul>  <p><a href="#">Daily Pre PARE</a>      <a href="#">Daily MCQ Quiz</a></p>