

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

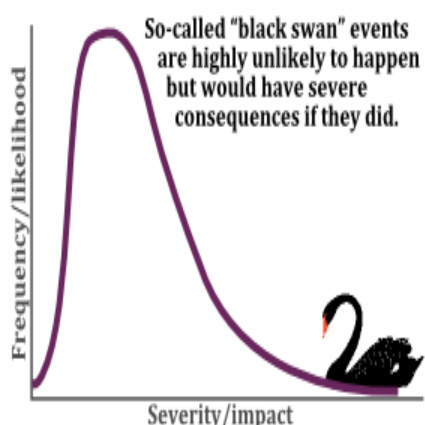
❖ Context

- 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

❖ 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 8th 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"> The structure 'Jalbhushan' stands on this place. The new 'Jalbhushan' architecture preserves the salient heritage features of the old architecture.
<p>Edakoodam</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Context <ul style="list-style-type: none"> K.P. Hariprasad is on a mission to popularize the wooden puzzle by teaching the art of making and solving Edakoodam popular among children and adults Key Highlights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edakoodam, a wooden puzzle toy, was very popular among children and used to be part of every household in Kerala. A complicated puzzle like Rubik's cube, Edakoodam is made of wooden blocks, which once dismantled can be assembled only by applying some mathematical and analytical skills. With the advent of computer games and 3D combination puzzle-like Rubik's cube, Edakoodam lost its sheen.
<p>Dragonfly</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Context <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dragonfly enthusiasts have recorded the presence of a rare dragonfly that was hitherto unseen in Kerala. The discovery was recorded from Kottiyoor. Key Highlights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The species that is known to be endemic to the Western Ghats was discovered in Maharashtra earlier this year. Prior to their finding, the dragonfly genus Burmagomphus was represented by three species – B. cauvericus, B. pyramidalis and B. laidlawi. While B. laidlawi is found throughout the Western Ghats, B. cauvericus is more restricted in its distribution. B. pyramidalis is found in the Western Ghats as well as in Peninsular India. All other species of the genus are found in the Western and Eastern Himalayas. The new species can be separated from its congeners by the markings on the lateral thorax and peculiar shape of anal appendages. According to a paper published, 181 odonata species have been recorded in Kerala. The addition of B. chaukulensis will take the count to 182.
<p>Khuvsgul Lake National Park</p>  <p>Daily Current Affairs</p>	<p>Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recently, the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves has included Mongolia's Khuvsgul Lake National Park, according to the Ministry of Environment and Tourism. <p>Key Highlights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The decision was made during the 34th session of the International Coordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere Programme, in Paris, France.  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. The lake is 1,645 meters above sea level, 136 km long and 262 meters deep. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A total of nine sites from Mongolia have so far been registered in the network. The Man and the Biosphere Programme is an intergovernmental scientific program 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. <p>Daily Pre PARE Daily MCQ Quiz</p>