



ACHIEVERS IAS ACADEMY

SUMMARY OF THE HINDU FOR BPSK EXAMINATION ENGLISH

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THE HINDU National

➔ SC rules electoral bonds scheme unconstitutional

- In a landmark and unanimous judgment of five judge bench of SC ruled the Electoral bond scheme unconstitutional .

What is an electoral bond scheme ?

- In 2017 the government passed the Electoral bond Scheme in Parliament .

The salient features of this bill was

- Political parties were allowed to issue bonds for their funding .
- Any citizen of India could buy the bonds which were issued in denominations of One thousand, ten thousand , one lakh , ten lakh and one crore .
- SBI was given authority to issue bonds by political parties .
- The electoral bond bears anonymity as parties were allowed not to make public buyers name and amount of the bond issued to a buyer .
- Legally registered political parties which got at least 1% of its votes in the last elections could issue the bond .
- The BJP government of that time had reasoned that the Electoral Bond Scheme will help curbing black money in financing political parties .

➔ SC Judgement

- 5 Judge SC bench struck down the scheme , terming the mode of funding “ “ unconstitutional and manifestly arbitrary“
- Violation of Right to Information – SC said the Act violated the right to information about political funding under 19 (1) (a) of the constitution .
- Electoral bond promotes corruption – SC further said that complete non disclosure to the source of political funding through electoral bonds promoted corruption , and quid pro quo to the with the ruling party to introduce a policy change or bagging for a license .
- SC ordered immediate stopping of electoral bond sales .
- ECI to publish information – SBI will have to submit full details of electoral bonds since April 12 , 2019 to the election commission of India by March 6 ,2024 . Election commission of India (ECI) will have to publish the entire information given by SBI on its website by March 13

➔ Opinion of Political Parties :

- The Congress lauded SC decision telling that it it was used as ‘ Black Scheme conversion scheme by Modi govt ‘
- BJP said that it ‘ respects ‘ SC Judgement but instead the Scheme had a ‘ laudable objective of bringing transparency to poll funding “ .

➔ Modi visits Qatar days after release of eight naval officers

- PM Modi visited Qatar after completing his engagements in UAE . PM met Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Muhammad bin Abdulrahman bin Jasim Al Thani .
- PM Narendra Modi has invited the ruler of Qatar ,the Sheikh Tamim Al Thani to visit India ., Briefing Media Personals Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra said Prime Minister Modi “ expressed his deep gratitude to his highness , the Amir , for the release of eight Indian nationals of Al Dahra company “ .
- Qatar is an important energy supplier to India , Recently the two countries seized a deal of 78 billion dollars to supply Liquified Natural Gas to India . Qatar has around 8 lakh Indian Nationals .
- Eight Navy Personnel who were in jail on espionage charges were released days before PM Modi’s journey started for Qatar

➔ **India rejected FTA demand for data exclusivity , says officials**

- India has rejected the demand for “ data exclusivity “ as part of ongoing discussion with the European Free Trade Agreement (EFTA) , the Commerce secretary said .
- Data Exclusivity pertains to a clause in the agreement that puts a minimum six year embargo on clinical trial data generated during the testing and development of drugs .Thus , manufacturers interested in making a copycat product would have to generate the data on their own , which is an expensive proposition .
- This could also apply to drugs that are not patented in India .
- India's generic drug industry has over the years made affordable versions of expensive drugs and has become a large global supplier

➔ **Global meet urges India to augment pulses production to meet nutritional needs**

- The Global Pulses Conference has been organized in New Delhi from 15 to 16 th February .
- The two day conference is Jointly organized by National Agricultural Cooperation for Marketing Federation (NAFED) and Global Pulse Confederation. (GPC) .
- Pulse Producers , Processors and traders has urged India to augment production of pulses to meet Nutritional requirements .
- Pulse Production currently is 270 lakh tonnes . India still is not self sufficient in pulses .In 2023 India imported about 29 lakh tonnes of Pulses .India aims to be self sufficient in pulses by 2027 .
- Pulses are known as the ‘ Wonder Diet ‘ of India , and the aim is to make it the Wonder diet of world , said one of the participants .



➔ **Swamy seeks probe into ‘Axis Bank ‘ froud**

- BJP leader Subramaniam Swamy has moved Delhi High Court seeking investigation into alleged fraud committed by Axis Bank to make “ undue profits “ through sale and purchase of shares of MaxLife Insurance .
- The court has listed the case for PIL for March 13 .
- The petition alleged that the Axis Bank made undue profits totalling ₹4000 crore from sale and purchase of equity shares of Max Life

➔ **Ajit Pawar faction the real NCP , says Maharashtra speaker ; rejects all petitions for disqualification**

- Maharashtra speaker Rahul Narwekar on Thursday denied all demands of disqualification of MLAs from Ajit Pawar group over charges of defecation .
- Speaker ruled that the NCP group led by Ajit Pawar was the “ legitimate Political entity “
- Currently 53 of initial NCP has 41 members from Ajit Pawar faction and 12 from Sharad Pawar group. If more than two third members of a political party forms a new political party then they can not be disqualified under defection

➔ **Will contest Lok Sabha Polls independently , says Farooq**

- National Conference President Dr Farouq Abdullah , a member of INDIA bloc has told that his party will contest LoK Sabha Polls in Jammu and Kashmir on his own.
- TMC and AAP have already said that they will fight Lok Sabha Polls on their own from West Bengal and Punjab respectively

WORLD

➔ Israeli forces storm main hospital in southern Gaza

- Israeli forces stormed the main hospitals of Southern Gaza in Khan Younis .Several got wounded in this.

➔ Hamas vows to retaliate as Israeli air strike kills 10 Lebanese civilians in a day

- The civilian death toll from two Israeli airstrikes in Lebanon has reached 10 .
- Israel said that it killed a senior commander with Hezbollah and his deputy. Hezbollah has confirmed three of its fighters were killed .Hezbollah has vowed to retaliate on Wednesday's strike



➔ Ukraine reinforces critical ' frontline ' town in Avdiivka

- Ukraine has sent its soldiers to the embattled town of AVdiivka , which is currently surrounded from three sides by Russian forces.
- The Ukrainian military said the situation to be “ extremely critical “ .
- The announcement of reinforcement came as a Ukrainian strike on Russia city Belgorod killed 6 and wounded another 17 .
- Currently heavy fighting is going on in Avdiivka , the key city is on the verge of falling to Russian hands .



➔ UK economy slips in technical ' recession ' in 2023 ; Sunak faces flak

- UK's GDP growth in the fourth quarter declined by .3% . In the third quarter GDP had declined by .1% . In 2023 UK GDP grew by .1% over previous year . “ Growing the Economy “ was one of the five promises of Rishi Sunak . Sunak is being criticized by opposition parties over stagnant economic situation