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CURRENT AFFAIR

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1. India Mobile Congress 2023
2. Transparency of Electoral Bonds
3. Protection of Children from Sexual Offenses (POCSO) Act
4. Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Progress Report 2023
5. Solomon Islands (Capital: Honiara)

India Mobile Congress 2023

- Union Minister for Communications, Electronics & Information Technology and Railways **Ashwini Vaishnav** inaugurated the inaugural function of **IMC-2023** in New Delhi recently.
- The seventh edition of India Mobile Congress (IMC), Asia's premier digital technology expo, will be jointly organized by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) at Pragati Maidan **from October 27 to 29**.
- Delhi this year with the theme of '**Global Digital Innovation**'. The IMC 2023 event will see approximately more than 100,000 participants, more than 5,000 CEO-level delegates, more than 350 speakers and more than 400 exhibitors, the ministry said in a statement.
- **India Mobile Congress (2023)** is a premier annual event that showcases the latest advancements and innovations in the mobile and digital technology sector.

- ➔ It serves as a platform for industry actors, policymakers, technology enablers and stakeholders to come together and discuss the future of the digital landscape.
- ➔ India has seen remarkable progress in many aspects of the telecom sector, such as the **Atmanirbhar Bharat plan**, the replacement of 5G technology with 6G technology, and the development of the 6G roadmap.
- ➔ **IMC 2023** focuses on nurturing an innovative ecosystem by facilitating collaboration between industry actors, startups and academia.
- ➔ The event emphasizes the development of indigenous technologies, including telecommunications and semiconductor manufacturing, to support the vision of a self-reliant India.
- ➔ **India Mobile Congress 2023** is a symbol of India's important role in the worldwide digital revolution. With an emphasis on global digital innovation, indigenous technology development and cross-industry collaboration, IMC acts as a catalyst for India's technological progress.



INDIA MOBILE CONGRESS



Transparency of Electoral Bonds

- The Congress has once again raised questions on the transparency of electoral bonds. The Congress has also indicated to raise the issue during the monsoon session of Parliament after the figures of donations received by political parties from electoral bonds in the last four financial years came to the fore. The party has demanded transparency and accountability in funding from electoral bonds.
- Between 2016-17 and 2021-22, **seven national** and **24 regional parties** received a total of Rs 9,188.35 crore as donations from electoral bonds, of which the BJP's share was Rs 5,271.9751 crore, while all other national parties together collected Rs 1,783.9331 crore.
- **According to the report of the Association of Democratic Reforms (ADR).**
 - The report analyzed donations received from anonymous electoral bonds, direct corporate donations, contributions from MPs/MLAs, meetings, fronts and collections by party units.

- ➔ The highest donations from electoral bonds, totalling Rs 3,438.8237 crore, were received in the general election year 2019-20. In the year 2021-22, in which 11 assembly elections were held, a donation of Rs 2,664.2725 crore was received through electoral bonds.
- ➔ Of the total donations of Rs 16,437.635 crore received by the **31 analyzed political parties**, 55.90% came from electoral bonds, 28.07% from the corporate sector and 16.03% from other sources.
- ➔ National parties saw a 743% increase in electoral bond donations **between FY 2017-18 and FY 2021-22**. In contrast, corporate donations to national parties increased by only 48% during the same period.
- ➔ The Electoral Bond system was introduced through a Finance Bill in the year 2017 and was implemented in the year 2018. They serve as a means for individuals and organizations to make donations to registered political parties while maintaining the anonymity of the donor.

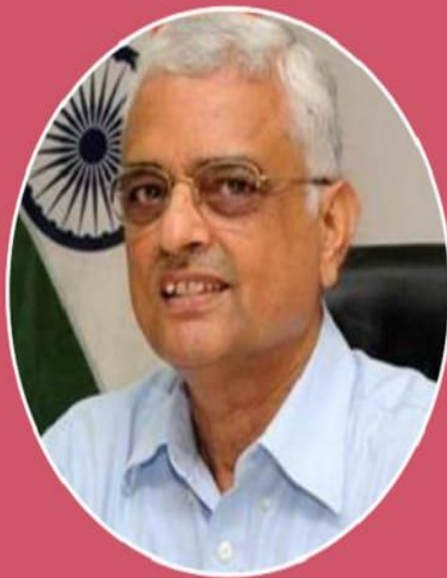
→ Features of Electoral Bonds-

- State Bank of India (SBI) issues bonds in denominations of Rs 1,000, Rs 10,000, Rs 1 lakh, Rs 10 lakh and Rs 1 crore.
- Payable on demand to the holder and interest-free.
- Purchasable by Indian citizens or entities established in India.
- Purchasable individually or jointly with other persons.
- Valid for 15 days from the date of issue.

→ Authorized Issuer:

- State Bank of India (SBI) is the authorized issuer.
- Electoral Bonds are issued through designated SBI branches.





चुनावी बाण्ड में कैसे आएगी पारदर्शिता?

Protection of Children from Sexual Offenses (POCSO) Act

- ➔ The Delhi High Court has observed that the objective behind the Protection of Children from Sexual Offenses (POCSO) Act is to protect minors from sexual exploitation and not criminalize consensual romantic relationships between young adults.
- ➔ Some of the important additions to the new rules include the provision for mandatory police verification of staff in schools and care homes, the procedure for reporting sexual exploitation material (pornography), and providing age-appropriate child rights education.
- ➔ To crack down on child pornography, the rules state that "any person who has received any pornographic material involving a child or stores, owns, distributes, broadcasts, transmits, facilitates Content posted, promoted or displayed, or likely to be distributed, facilitated or disseminated in any manner shall be reported to the **Special Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU)** or the police, or the cybercrime portal.

- ➔ A single bench of Justice **Bharti Dangre** gave this judgment on July 10 setting aside the **February 21, 2019 judgment** of a special court.
- ➔ A 25-year-old man was convicted and sentenced to 10 years in prison by a special court under the **POCSO Act** for raping and sexually assaulting a 17-year-old girl, even though the girl said they were in a consensual relationship.
- ➔ The girl had told the special court that she was considered a major under Muslim law and they were married.
- ➔ The high court said it could not agree with the trial court's judgment convicting the man merely on the ground that the girl was a minor despite having consensual sex.
- ➔ According to the High Court, it is high time that the Parliament of our country should take cognizance of the age of consent for adolescent sexual relations as per global standards.

- ➔ The court made the observation while expressing concern over the increasing number of criminal cases under the '**Protection of Children from Sexual Offenses (POCSO) Act**', in which the accused are punished even when the juvenile victims say they were in a consensual relationship.
- ➔ The Court noted that "the criminalization of romantic relationships has burdened the criminal justice system by wasting significant time of the judiciary, the police and the child protection system".
- ➔ The bench observed that though the **POCSO Act** cannot prevent natural feelings towards the opposite sex in an adolescent, punishing a boy who has a consensual relationship with a minor girl because of her biological changes, is in the 'best interest of the child'. ' would be against.
- ➔ The Court said, "Mere apprehension that juveniles will impulsively take bad decisions cannot be classified in the same category and their willingness cannot be ignored.

- ➔ The age of consent must be distinguished from the age of marriage as sexual acts are not within the purview of marriage and not only the society but also the judicial system should pay attention to this important aspect.
- ➔ The bench said that in India the consent of a girl below 18 years of age becomes immaterial, even if she is an active participant in the sexual activity, but it is treated as '**no consent**' in the eyes of the law.
- ➔ It added that in the case of teenagers who have consensual sex, "**only one has to bear the consequences**".
- ➔ Although the **POCSO Act** aims to prevent the sexual exploitation of children, it has created a '**grey area**' as a result of which consensual juvenile relationships have also been criminalised.
- ➔ The Court held that "sexual autonomy includes the right to engage in desired sexual activity and the right to be protected from unwanted sexual aggression".



क्या है पाँक्सो
कानून..?

Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Progress Report 2023

- ➔ This report has been released by the **United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)**. It monitors global progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- ➔ The **SDGs** are a set of **17 goals and 169 targets**. Their purpose is to help in streamlining development work for human welfare.
- ➔ Progress towards achieving more than 50 per cent of the SDG targets has been weak; While progress towards 30 per cent of the goals has stalled or has become the same as before.
- ➔ Progress on the SDGs is being severely impacted by the COVID-18 pandemic and the triple threat (climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution).
- ➔ By the year 2030, about 84 million children will be out of school ie deprived of education. Also.. 300 million school-going children or youth will drop out of school and will be unable to read and write.

- ➔ If progress continues at the current pace, 575 million people will still be living in extreme poverty in 2030.
- ➔ Heads of State and Government should reiterate their commitment to accelerate action and drive change to deliver on **SDG commitments**.

सतत विकास गोल्स



- ➔ The international community should act on the '**Addis Ababa Action Agenda**'. This Action Agenda provides a new global framework for financing sustainable development.
- ➔ Nations should target policies and actions to eradicate poverty and reduce inequality. In this, special attention should be paid towards giving women and girls their rights.
- ➔ The capacity of the multilateral system to deal with emerging challenges must be strengthened.
- ➔ It is based on the United Nations Charter. It is guided by the transformative 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It maintains the development pillar of the United Nations.
- ➔ It helps countries around the world meet their economic, social and environmental goals. To this end, it works closely with governments and stakeholders.
- ➔ **It also publishes other reports:** Population and Vital Statistics Report, World Youth Report, World Social Report, World Economic Situation and Prospects Report etc.

Solomon Islands (Capital: Honiara)

- **Prime Minister:** Manasseh Sogavare
- Recently China and the Solomon Islands have signed diplomatic agreements.
- The country's **Prime Minister Manasseh Sogvar** recently arrived in Beijing on his first visit after signing a controversial security deal with China.
- His country's rapprochement with Beijing has already caused serious unease among the United States and its allies.
- Solomon Islands is an island nation. It includes volcanic islands and coral atolls in Melanesia, located in the southwest Pacific Ocean.
- There is no neighbouring country bordering it.
- It is part of a volcanic arc stretching from Papua New Guinea to Vanuatu.
- **Climate:** Tropical Oceanic
- The **Solomon Islands** consist of a double chain of seven large and over thirty small islands, located just east of New Guinea.

→ The islands were named in 1568 by the Spanish navigator **Álvaro de Mendana**, who claimed to have found King Solomon's Property, or the Biblical Land of Gold (Ophir).

