

**20-06-2022**

## **One Candidate One Constituency**

### **Why in Newspapers?**

Recently, the Chief Election Commissioner has asked the Ministry of Law and Justice for a provision for a candidate to contest from the same seat.

### **Quick Issue?**

- It also recommended a ban on exit polls and opinion polls and said that there should be some restrictions on the conduct and dissemination of opinion polls results from the day of the first notification of the election till the completion of the election in all its phases.

### **Historical Background?**

- According to Section 33(7) of the Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1951, a candidate can contest elections from a maximum of two constituencies.
- More constituencies were allowed until 1996 when the RPA was amended to fix a ceiling on two constituencies.
- Since 1951, many political parties have used this factor to contest elections on more than one seat, sometimes to divide the opponent's vote, sometimes to stake claim to their party's power across the country. This was done to establish the influence of his party in the vicinity of the constituencies. The candidate's party and all parties have misused section 33(7).
- Since no candidate can represent two constituencies, the idea of this system appears illogical and ironic.
- The irony behind section 33(7) of the RPA is that it leads to a situation where it conflicts with another section of the same Act – specifically, section 70.
- Where 33(7) allows candidates to contest from two seats, Section 70 prohibits candidates from representing two constituencies in the Lok Sabha/State Legislative Assembly.
- After relinquishing a constituency, a by-election automatically starts immediately after the general election.
- For example, in the year 2014, after Prime Minister Narendra Modi won both Vadodara and Varanasi seats, he vacated his seat in Vadodara, forcing a by-election there.

### **Other Key Facts?**

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- Argument of Election Commission:**
  - Both types of elections can be controversial if the agency conducting them is considered biased.
  - Estimates for these surveys can be influenced by the choice of questions, wording, timing and the nature of the sample drawn.
  - Political parties often allege that many opinions and exit polls are motivated and sponsored by their rivals, and can distort the choices made by voters in an election, preventing them from reflecting only public sentiment or views.



## Sacred Relics of Lord Buddha

### Why in Newspapers?

Four sacred relics of Lord Buddha are being taken from India to Mongolia for an 11-day exhibition on the occasion of Mongolian Buddha Purnima celebrations.

### Quick Issue?

- These relics are to be displayed at the Batsagan Temple of the Gandan Monastery Complex in Ulaanbaatar.
- The four relics are among the 22 relics of Buddha, which are currently kept in the National Museum in Delhi.
- Also they are known as 'Kapilvastu relics' because they have been recovered from a place in Bihar which is believed to be the ancient city of Kapilvastu. This place was discovered in 1898.
- Those relics are sacred objects associated with holy persons.
- They can be body parts (teeth, hair, bones) or other objects that the holy person has used or touched.
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- In many traditions it is believed that relics have special powers to heal people, bestow grace or drive away demons.

### Other Key Facts?

#### Gautam Buddha :

- He was born as Siddhartha in about 563 BCE into a royal family at Lumbini, which is located near the Indo-Nepal border.
- His family belonged to the Shakya dynasty, which ruled in Kapilavastu, Lumbini.
- At the age of 29, Gautam renounced home and renounced worldly life and adopted a lifestyle of penance or extreme self-discipline.
- After 49 consecutive days of meditation, Gautam attained Bodhi (knowledge) under a peepal tree in Bodh Gaya, Bihar.
- Buddha gave his first sermon in Sarnath village near Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh. This event is known as turning of the wheel of Dharma.
- He died in 483 BC at the age of 80 in Kushinagar, Uttar Pradesh. This event is known as Mahaparinirvana.
- He is considered to be the eighth incarnation of Lord Vishnu (Dashavatar).

### Historical Background?

- According to Buddhist beliefs, at the age of 80, Buddha attained salvation in Kushinagar district of Uttar Pradesh.
- The Mallas of Kushinagar performed the last rites of his body with ceremonies as a universal king.
- Their remains were collected from the funeral pyre and divided into eight parts, namely Ajatashatru of Magadha, Lichchavi of Vaishali, Shakya of Kapilvastu, Mallas of Kushinagar, Bullies of Allakappa, Mallas of Pava, Koliyas of Ramagrama and Vethadipa. Distributed among a brahmin.
- Its purpose was to build a stupa over the sacred relics.



- After this, two more stupas are found, one of which has been built over the collected Asti Kalash and the other over the embers (wooden unburned coal).
- The stupas (Saririka Stupa) built over the remains of the Buddha's body are the earliest surviving Buddhist temples. Seven of these eight stupas were built by Ashoka (272–232 BC), and he collected the bulk of the remains within the 84,000 stupas he built in an effort to popularize the cult of stupas alongside Buddhism.
- The discovery of an excavated coffin at the stupa site at Piprahwa (near Siddharthnagar, UP) in the year 1898 helped identify ancient Kapilavastu.
- The inscription on the coffin lid refers to the relics of the Buddha and his community, the Shakyas.
- The excavation of another stupa by the Archaeological Survey of India during the year 1971-77 revealed two rock-cut coffins, containing a total of 22 sacred bone relics, which are now under the care of the National Museum.
- After this more than 40 terracotta printings were discovered from different levels and places in the Eastern Monastery of Piprahwa, which proved that Piprahwa was the ancient Kapilavastu.
- During the 11-day visit, the relics will be accorded the status of 'State Guest' in Mongolia and will again be taken to the National Museum of India.
- The Indian Air Force has provided a special aircraft, the C-17 Globemaster, for travel, which is one of the largest aircraft available in India.
- In the year 2015, the sacred relics were placed under the 'AA' category of antiquities and art treasures, which should not be taken out of the country for exhibition in view of their fragile nature.

### Likely Question Asked In Preliminary Exam

**Que. Some Buddhist rock-cut caves are called chaityas, while others are called viharas. What is the difference between the two?**

- (a) Vihara is a place of worship, while Chaitya is the abode of monks
- (b) Chaitya is a place of worship while Vihara is the abode of monks
- (c) Chaitya is the farthest Stupa cave, while Vihara is its axial hall
- (d) there is no physical difference between the two

**Answer: (b) Chaitya is a place of worship, while Vihara is the abode of monks**



## Competitiveness Index 2022

### Why in Newspapers?

Recently the Annual World Competitiveness Index 2022 was released by the Management Development Institute (IMD).

### Quick Issue?

- IMD is a Swiss foundation based in Switzerland, dedicated to the development of international business at each stage of its career.
- India has registered the fastest growth among Asian economies, with India moving up from 43rd to 37th, mainly due to increased economic performance.

### Historical Background?

- The IMD World Competitiveness Yearbook (WCY), first published in 1989, is a comprehensive annual report and worldwide reference point on countries' competition.
- It analyzes and ranks countries on how they manage their competencies to achieve sustainable values.
- Factors:** It measures the prosperity and competitiveness of countries by examining four factors (334 Competitiveness Criteria):~
  - Economic performance
  - Government efficiency
  - Business efficiency
  - Infrastructure
- Europe:** Denmark has jumped to the top of the 63-country list from last year's third place, while Switzerland has slipped from the top ranking to second and Singapore has moved up from fifth to third.
- Asia:** The top performing Asian economies are Singapore (3rd), Hong Kong (5th), Taiwan (7th), China (17th) and Australia (19th).
- Other:** Both Russia and Ukraine were not evaluated in this year's edition due to the limited reliability of the data collected.
- Performance on four parameters:~**
  - Economic performance: It has improved from 37th in 2021 to 28th in the year 2022.
  - Government Efficiency: It rose from 46th in the year 2021 to 45th in the year 2022.
  - Vocational Efficiency: It saw a huge improvement from 32nd position in the year 2021 to 23rd position in the year 2022.

### Other Key Facts?

#### Reasons for India's good performance:

- Major reforms in terms of retrospective taxes in the year 2021.
- Re-regulation of several areas, including drones, space and geospatial mapping.
- Significant improvement in the competitiveness of the Indian economy.
- India as a driving force in the global movement to fight climate change and India's commitment to Net-Zero by 2070 at the COP26 summit is also in line with its strength in environmental technologies in the rankings.



4. Infrastructure: On the other hand there was no change in infrastructure from the 49th position of the previous year.

### Likely Question Asked In Preliminary Exam

**Que. Which of the following releases the 'Global Gender Gap Index' ranking of the countries of the world?**

- (a) World Economic Forum  
(b) United Nations Human Rights Council  
(c) UN Women  
(d) World Health Organization

**Answer: (a) World Economic Forum**

