





## **Electoral Bond Scheme**

- Recently, a five-judge constitutional bench of the Supreme Court has remarked that the electoral bond scheme suffers from "selective anonymity". Some people's information may come out, while in the case of some, it may not.
- Due to this, the scheme has become a "complete information blackhole", that is, information is not able to come out.
- Instead of investing a large amount to purchase electoral bonds, the donor may collect smaller amounts of bonds from individual buyers.
- It is easy for the ruling party to get information about election donations received by opposition parties.
- The Electoral Bond Scheme was announced in the Union Budget 2017. It is an interest-free bearer instrument.
- State Bank of India is the only bank authorized to sell them.





National Level Monitors (NLMs)'















## National Level Monitors (NLMs)'

- NLMs will be government-appointed third parties such as "independent observers".
- The government can appoint NLMs to individuals as well as institutions.
- Why NLMs are needed: The government appoints NLMs to overcome the technical hurdles
  faced by the implementing agencies while implementing the schemes.
- NLMs will determine whether incentives have been distributed to technicians/farmers under the scheme and whether the data generated has been uploaded.
- National Livestock Mission (NLMs): This mission focuses on entrepreneurship development and breed improvement in poultry, sheep, goat and pig farming sectors.
- Besides, emphasis has also been laid on increasing the quality of animal feed and fodder.
- Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM): This mission has been started for the development and conservation of indigenous bovine breeds.
- National Dairy Development Programme: It has been launched to enhance the quality of milk & milk products and to encourage procurement of milk from organized milk distributors.
- Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme (LH&DCP): To improve the health of animals through vaccination programs to prevent diseases, capacity building of veterinarians etc.

Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary (MWS) >>>>>













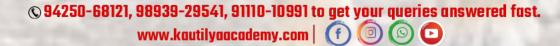


## Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary (MWS)

- Recently the Bombay High Court had directed the Goa government to notify the Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary (MWS) as a tiger reserve.
- The Goa government has not followed this direction of the court.
- For this reason, a contempt petition has been filed against the Goa government.
- The MWS has been granted the status of an International Bird Area.
- It is part of the Mhadei River basin.
- The catchment area of the Mhadei River extends to Goa, Karnataka and Maharashtra.
- The vegetation found includes moist deciduous forests, semi-evergreen forests & scrub.
- The sacred grove Nirankarchi is situated here.
- This garden has an abundance of a special species of plant, Myristica Malabarica.
   It is an endangered and endemic species to this site.
- Fauna: Ruby-throated Yellow Bulbul (State Bird of Goa), Atlas moth, Tiger etc.

State Food Safety Index >>>>











## State Food Safety Index

- Recently, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) published the State Food Safety Index after four years.
- The index is an annual assessment released by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).
- It was launched in 2018-19 to bring competitive and positive change in the food security ecosystem in the country.
- For evaluation, States/UTs have been classified into 3 categories, namely, Large States, Small States and Union Territories.
- After adjusting for a new parameter included in the 2023 index, 15 out of 20 states recorded lower 2023 scores than 2019.
- The steepest decline in scores in five years was seen in Maharashtra, Bihar, and Gujarat.
- The worst decline has been recorded in the food testing infrastructure parameter.
   All states including Maharashtra, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh recorded low scores for this parameter.
- Meanwhile, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand recorded low scores for the 'Compliance' parameter. In the 2023 index, a new parameter called 'Improvement in SFSI Rank' was added.

