

### CHILD WELFARE POLICE OFFICERS (CWPO)

The Ministry of Home Affairs has recently asked the States/Union Territories to appoint a Child Welfare Police Officer (CWPO) in every police station to exclusively deal with children, either as victims or perpetrators.



#### About:

- According to the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, there should be at least one officer, not below the rank of an Assistant Sub-Inspector, as CWPO in every station.
- National Commission for Protection of Child Rights had requested that a Special Juvenile Police Unit in each district and city, which is headed by an officer not below the rank of a Deputy Superintendent of Police, be established.
- The unit would comprise CWPOs and two social workers having experience of working in the field of child welfare, of whom one shall be a woman, to co-ordinate all functions of police in relation to children.
- The contact particulars of the CWPOs should be displayed in all police stations for the public to contact.

### MAUNA LOA

The recent incidents of ground shaking and swelling at Mauna Loa indicating that the largest active volcano in the world could erupt.



#### About:

- Mauna Loa is one of five volcanoes that together make up the Big Island of Hawaii, which is the southernmost island in the Hawaiian archipelago.

- It's not the tallest (that title goes to Mauna Kea) but it's the largest and makes up about half of the island's land mass.
- It sits immediately north of Kilauea volcano, which is currently erupting from its summit crater.
- Kilauea is well-known for a 2018 eruption that destroyed 700 homes and sent rivers of lava spreading across farms and into the ocean.
- Mauna Loa last erupted 38 years ago.
- In written history, dating to 1843, it's erupted 33 times.

## UNIFIED DISTRICT INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR EDUCATION PLUS (UDISE)

2021-22

Ministry of Education recently released a detailed report on Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) 2021-22 on school education of India.



### About:

- According to the report, Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) has improved at primary, upper primary, and higher secondary levels of school education in 2021-22 as compared to 2020-21.
- GER in higher secondary has made a significant improvement from 53.8 percent in 2021-21 to 57.6 percent in 2021-22.
- In 2021-22, the Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) stood at 26 for primary, 19 for upper primary, 18 for secondary, and 27 for higher secondary showing an improvement since 2018-19.
- In 2021-22, over 12.29 crore girls are enrolled in primary to higher secondary showing an increase of 8.19 lakh as compared to the enrolment of girls in 2020-21.
- More than 20,000 schools were closed across the country during 2020-21 while the number of teachers also declined by 1.95% in comparison to the previous year.
- It pointed out that only 44.85% schools had computer facilities while nearly 34% had internet connection.
- While only 27% schools have special toilets for children with special needs (CSWN), more than 49% of them have ramps with handrails

## NETANYAHU, ALLIES SECURE VICTORY IN ISRAEL ELECTION

### In News:

- As per the Israel's electoral commission, former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his right-wing allies secured a clear victory and a majority in the Parliament.
- According to final results released, Mr Netanyahu's Likud party and its far-right and religious allies won 64 of the 120 seats in parliament.
- On the other hand, caretaker Prime Minister Yair Lapid's centrist bloc won 51 seats.

### Electoral Process of Israel

- Israel is a **parliamentary democracy**, where people vote for the party they support.
  - Every Israeli citizen who is at least 18 years old has the right to vote; every Israel citizen who is at least 21 years old has the right to be elected.
- Under Israel's Basic Law, national Knesset (Parliament) elections are scheduled to take place every four years in the Jewish month of Cheshvan.
  - But early elections are a frequent occurrence.
- Israel follows a "closed-list" method of party-list proportional representation.
  - In this system, citizens have the chance to vote for a party or group of parties but not for individual candidates to the Knesset.
- The 120 seats in the Knesset are then assigned proportionally to each party that received votes, provided that the party gained votes which met or exceeded the electoral threshold, which is currently 3.25%.
- Parties have various ways of choosing the order of candidates on their list.
  - Party leaders may appoint candidates directly, the party may vote amongst themselves, or they can hold primaries with voters.
- When seat distributions are over, the President steps in to select a Knesset member who is most likely to be able to form a stable government.
  - This is usually the leader of the party who received the most seats. If a party ever wins more than 50% it could form a government without coalition.

## News Summary

- Netanyahu-led right-wing bloc has taken a comfortable lead with 64 seats in the 120-member Knesset, paving way for his triumphant return.
- For many years, Netanyahu appeared to be politically invincible. He holds the record of being the longest-serving Prime Minister in the country's history.
- But he met with a rude jolt after being ousted in 2021 by an unprecedented coalition of parties whose only common goal was to see his ouster.

## Background:

- Earlier this year in April, lawmaker Idit Silman resigned from PM Naftali Bennett's religious-nationalist Yamina party, essentially leaving the party without a majority.
- As a result, on November 1, Israel went to the polls again, for the fifth time in a span of three years to elect a new Knesset or the country's parliament.

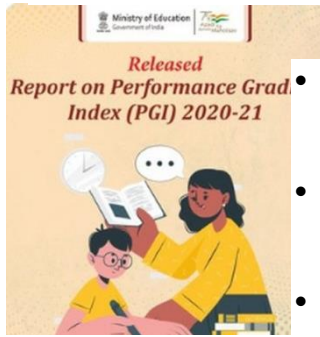
## Why does Israel have elections so often?

- Israel has a parliamentary system made up of several parties – none of which have ever received enough votes to secure a majority on their own.
- That means parties must team up to form coalitions and reach the 61 seats needed to form a ruling government.
- The other factor is Benjamin Netanyahu. He is in the midst of a corruption trial.
  - Some top politicians on the center-right, who agree with him ideologically, refuse to work with him for personal or political reasons.
  - That made it difficult for him to build lasting governing majorities following the previous four elections.
  - Last year, his opponents managed to cobble together a coalition of parties from across the political spectrum to keep him out of power.
  - But that coalition only held together for about a year and a quarter before its leaders, Yair Lapid and Naftali Bennett, pulled the plug and called for new elections.

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## PERFORMANCE GRADING INDEX (PGI) FOR 2020-21

The Ministry of Education has recently released the Performance Grading Index (PGI) for States and Union Territories for 2020-21.



### About:

- It is a unique index for evidence-based comprehensive analysis of school education systems across States and UTs.
- The prime objective of PGI is to promote evidence-based policy-making and highlight course correction to ensure quality education for all.
- As per the index, a total of seven States and Union Territories namely

Kerala, Punjab, Chandigarh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Andhra Pradesh have attained Level -2 grading in 2020-21.

- Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Andhra Pradesh are the new entrants with the highest achieved level.
- Union Territory Ladakh has made significant improvements in PGI from Level 8 to Level 4 in 2020-21.
- No state, however, has been able to attain the highest level of L1 so far.

### Grading:

- PGI 2020-21 classified the States and UTs into ten grades of which the highest achievable Grade is Level 1 for the states scoring more than 950 points out of a total of 1000 points.
- The lowest grade is Level 10 which is for a score below 551.
- The PGI structure comprises 1000 points across 70 indicators grouped into 2 categories viz.,
  - Outcomes,
  - Governance Management (GM).
- These categories are further divided into 5 domains, viz.,
  - Learning Outcomes (LO),
  - Access (A),
  - Infrastructure and Facilities (IF),
  - Equity (E) and
  - Governance Process (GP).



## DISQUALIFICATION OF CONVICTED LEGISLATORS FROM ASSEMBLY

Two Uttar Pradesh legislators were convicted on criminal charges in recent days, but only one of them has been disqualified and his seat declared vacant by the State's Legislative Assembly secretariat.



### About:

- **Section 8 of the Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1951,** contains provisions aimed at decriminalising electoral politics.
- There are **two categories of criminal cases that attract disqualification upon conviction.**
- In the **first category** are offences that entail disqualification for a period of six years upon any conviction.
  - If the punishment is a fine, the six-year period will run from the date of conviction, but if there is a prison sentence, the disqualification will begin on the date of conviction, and will continue up to the completion of six years after the date of release from jail.
  - **Major IPC offences are included under this head:**
    - making speeches that cause enmity between groups (Sec.153A) and doing so in a place of worship (Sec.505), bribery and personation during elections and other electoral offences, offences relating to rape and cruelty to women by husband and latter's relatives.
    - Besides, serious provisions of special laws such as the Protection of Civil Rights Act, Customs Act, Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act etc are among the category of offences that entail disqualification regardless of the quantum of punishment.
    - Laws for prevention of Sati, corruption, terrorism and insult to national flag and national anthem etc are also part of this group.
  - **All other criminal provisions form a separate category** under which mere conviction will not entail disqualification. A sentence of at least two years in prison is needed to incur such disqualification.

### Legal protection:

- Under Section 8(4) of the RPA, legislators could avoid immediate disqualification until 2013.

- The provision said that with respect to a Member of Parliament or a State legislator the disqualification will not take effect for three months.
- If within that period, the convicted legislator files an appeal or revision application, it will not take effect until the disposal of the appeal or application.
- In **Lily Thomas vs. Union of India**, the Supreme Court **struck down clause (4) as unconstitutional**, thus removing the protection enjoyed by lawmakers.

### **Can the disqualification be removed?**

- **The Supreme Court has the power to stay not only the sentence, but also the conviction of a person.**
- In some rare cases, conviction has been stayed to enable the appellant to contest an election. However, the SC has made it clear that such a stay should be very rare and for special reasons.
- The RPA itself provides a remedy through the Election Commission.
- Under **11 of the Act**, the EC may record reasons and either remove, or reduce the period of, a person's disqualification.
- The EC exercised this power for Sikkim Chief Minister P.S. Tamang, who served a one-year sentence for corruption, and reduced his disqualification so as to contest a byelection and remain in office.

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### **THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOSPHERE RESERVES**

**November 3 will be the first 'The International Day for Biosphere Reserves', to be celebrated beginning 2022.**



#### **About:**

#### **Biosphere Reserves:**

- Biosphere Reserve (BR) is an international designation by UNESCO for representative parts of natural and cultural landscapes extending over large area of terrestrial or coastal/marine ecosystems or a combination thereof.

- They are sites for testing interdisciplinary approaches to understanding and managing changes and interactions between social and ecological systems, including conflict prevention and management of biodiversity.
- Biosphere reserves are nominated by national governments and remain under the sovereign jurisdiction of the states where they are located.

### **World Network of Biosphere Reserves:**

- The World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) was formed in 1971, as a backbone for biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration, and living in harmony with nature.
- The World Network of Biosphere Reserves of the MAB Programme consists of a dynamic and interactive network of sites of excellence.
- The World Network of Biosphere Reserves promotes North-South and South-South collaboration and represents a unique tool for international co-operation through sharing knowledge, exchanging experiences, building capacity and promoting best practices.
- There are now 738 properties in 134 countries, including 12 in India, four in Sri Lanka, and three in the Maldives.

### **South Asia:**

- In South Asia, over 30 biosphere reserves have been established.
- The first one was the **Hurulu Biosphere Reserve**, in Sri Lanka, with 25,500 hectares of tropical dry evergreen forest.
- In India, the first biosphere reserve was designated by UNESCO in 2000, namely, the **blue mountains of the Nilgiris stretching over Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala.**