

### WHAT ARE ELECTORAL BONDS (EBs)?

The Supreme Court recently directed the State Bank of India to stop issuing electoral bonds immediately.



#### About Electoral Bonds (EBs):

- Electoral bonds are **interest-free bearer bonds** or money instruments that can be **purchased by companies and individuals in India** from authorised branches of the **State Bank of India (SBI)**.
- The bonds are similar to bank notes that are payable to the bearer on demand and are free of interest.
- These bonds are **sold in multiples of Rs 1,000, Rs 10,000, Rs 1 lakh, Rs 10 lakh, and Rs 1 crore**.
- They can be purchased through a KYC-compliant account **to make donations to a political party**.
- EBs have a **life of only 15 days** during which it can be used for making donations to **political parties**.
- The name and other **information** of the donor are not entered on the instrument and thus electoral bonds are said to be **anonymous**.
- There is **no cap on the number of electoral bonds that a person or company can purchase**.
- Under the Income Tax act, one's electoral bond donations are **considered tax-exempt** under Section 80 GG and Section 80 GGB.

#### Who can receive funding via electoral bonds?

- **Only political parties registered under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 and which secured not less than 1% of votes polled in the last general election to the House of the People or the Legislative Assembly of the State, are eligible to receive electoral bonds.**

- The political parties **have to encash them within a stipulated time.**
  - The bond can be encashed by an eligible political party **only through a designated bank account** with the authorized bank.
  - The political parties **have to disclose the amount to the Election Commission.**
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## KAJI NEMU



Recently, the Assam government declared the GI-tagged 'Kaji Nemu' (Citrus Limon) as the State Fruit.

- It is **elongated and oblong** compared to other lemon varieties.
  - It is popular for its unique aroma and health benefits. It has been traditionally associated with the Assamese cuisines.
  - The fruit had been exported to several countries, including to the Middle East.
  - With its unique aroma and **antioxidant properties**, the Assam lemon enriched the local cuisines.
  - The oval-shaped Kaji Nemu is a lot juicier than other lemon varieties. Kaji Nemu is majorly used in culinary and commercial purposes, and it is extensively used for its **medicinal properties**.
  - **Cultivation:** It is grown in almost all the districts of the state, is **available throughout the year**.
  - The fruit is a powerhouse of nutrients, boosting health
  - Assam has as many as 16 species and 52 varieties hybrids of citrus.
  - Kaji Nemu' (Citrus Limon) bears **GI Geography Indication tag in 2019**, is linked to Assamese food.
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## WHAT IS MICELLAR WATER?

Micellar water, a product found in supermarkets, chemists and bathroom cabinets around the world, is a very effective cleanser and many people swear by it as part of their skincare routine.

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## About Micellar water:

- Micellar water products contain something **called micelles** – clusters of molecules that are very effective at removing oily substances.
- The micelles in micellar water are formed by special molecules **known as surfactants**.
- These micelles have a **hydrophilic exterior**, meaning that they are very happy to remain mixed throughout water.
- It is a commonly used skin care product that helps remove impurities and makeup from your skin.
- It's a very gentle solution that contains a very mild detergent.

## Working

- When you apply some micellar water to a cotton pad, another convenient interaction occurs.
- The **wet cotton is hydrophilic** (loves water). Consequently, some of the micelles will unravel, with the hydrophilic heads being attracted to the wet cotton pad.
- Now, sticking out from the surface will be a layer of **hydrophobic tail groups**.
- These hydrophobic tails cannot wait to attract themselves to makeup, sunscreen, oils, dirt, grease and other contaminants on your face.
- As you sweep the cotton pad across your skin, these contaminants bind to the hydrophobic tails and are removed from the skin.
- Some contaminants will also find themselves encapsulated in the hydrophobic centres of the micelle.
- Either way, a cleaner surface is left behind.



## WHAT IS CASSINI SPACECRAFT?

Recent findings from data collected by NASA's Cassini spacecraft reveal the presence of a vast ocean beneath the icy surface of Saturn's moon Mimas.

## About Cassini Spacecraft:

- Cassini-Huygens was a **joint NASA/European Space Agency (ESA)/Italian Space Agency (ASI) space mission to Saturn.**
- It was launched on **October 15, 1997.**
- The mission consisted of **NASA's Cassini orbiter, which was the first space probe to orbit Saturn, and the ESA's Huygens probe, which landed on Titan, Saturn's largest moon.**
- **Spacecraft:**
  - It was **one of the largest interplanetary spacecraft.**
  - The Cassini orbiter weighed 2,125 kg (4,685 pounds) and was 6.7 metres (22 feet) long and 4 metres (13 feet) wide.
  - The instruments on board Cassini included **radar to map the cloud-covered surface of Titan** and a **magnetometer to study Saturn's magnetic field.**
  - The disk-shaped **Huygens probe was mounted on the side of Cassini.** It weighed 349 kg (769 pounds), was 2.7 metres (8.9 feet) across, and carried six instruments designed **to study the atmosphere and surface of Titan.**
- **Highlights:**
  - It **orbited Saturn from 2004 to 2017**, circling the planet 294 times and teaching us almost everything we know about Saturn.
  - It **measured the structure of Saturn's atmosphere and rings**, as well as how they interact with the planet's moons.
  - It also **discovered six named moons** and revealed Enceladus and Titan as promising locations to search for extraterrestrial life.

## Key Facts about Mimas:

- It is the **smallest and innermost of the major regular moons of Saturn.**
- The **surface is icy and heavily cratered.**

- The **most striking feature** of this small moon is a **gigantic crater known as Herschel**. This crater measures 80 miles (130 km) across.
    - A **central peak in the center of the crater** rises to a height of 4 miles, almost as **high as Mount Everest** on Earth.
    - Herschel is **one of the largest impact structures**, relative to the size of the body, **known in the solar system**.
  - The low density of Mimas indicates that it is **composed almost entirely of water ice**.
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## WHAT IS SECTION 125 OF THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE CODE (CRPC)?

The Supreme Court recently decided to examine a plea on whether a divorced Muslim woman can seek maintenance under Section 125 of the Criminal Procedure Code.



### About Section 125 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC):

- It deals with the **maintenance of wives, children, and parents**.
- It is a legal provision that **allows certain categories of individuals to claim financial support from their spouses or children**, as the case may be, in the event they are unable to maintain themselves.
- **Who Can Claim Maintenance?**
  - **Wife:** A wife **who is unable to maintain herself** can claim maintenance from her husband. The wife is entitled to maintenance if she is unable to support herself. The word "wife" **refers to a woman who has been divorced or sought divorce** from her spouse **and has not remarried**.
  - **Children:** Children, whether **legitimate or illegitimate**, who are unable to maintain themselves and are **below a certain age or mentally/physically disabled** can claim maintenance from their parents.
  - **Parents:** Under this, both father and mother are **entitled to be maintained equally by son and daughter**, but the court must be satisfied that the daughter has the means to support herself. Parents also **include "Adoptive father" and "Adoptive mother."**

- To successfully claim maintenance under Section 125 CrPC, **certain conditions must be met:**
  - **Neglect or Refusal:** The person seeking maintenance must demonstrate that the **respondent** (the person from whom maintenance is sought) **has neglected or refused to provide financial support.**
  - **Dependency:** The **claimant must establish** their inability to maintain themselves and **their dependency on the respondent for financial assistance.**
  - **Sufficient Means:** The person from whom maintenance is claimed **must have sufficient means to maintain the person claiming.**

**Quantum of Maintenance:** The court will determine the amount of maintenance based on various **factors like the income and financial capacity** of the person liable to pay, the **needs of the claimant**, and other relevant circumstances. The objective is to ensure that the claimant gets a reasonable and fair amount for their maintenance.

- **Duration:** Maintenance can be awarded on a **monthly basis**, and the court can specify a duration for which it should be paid. It can be a **temporary or permanent arrangement**, depending on the circumstances.
- **Enforcement:** If the person ordered to pay maintenance **does not comply with the court's order**, the person seeking maintenance can **file an application for the enforcement** of the order. The defaulter may **face legal consequences** for non-compliance.
- The wife is not entitled to receive an allowance from her husband in three cases,
  - if she is **living in adultery**
  - if she **refuses to live with her husband** and without any sufficient cause
  - if they are **living separately by mutual consent**

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[LINE OF ACTUAL CONTROL \(LAC\): CHINA MOVES ITS NATIONALS INTO ITS VACANT 'DEFENCE VILLAGES' ALONG LAC](#)



## Why in News?

- Chinese nationals have started occupying several of their model “Xiaokang” border defence villages across India’s north-eastern borders which the country has been building along the LAC since 2019.

## What is the Line of Actual Control (LAC)?



- The LAC is the **demarcation** that separates Indian-controlled territory from Chinese-controlled territory.
- The LAC is only a concept** not agreed upon by the two countries, neither delineated on a map or demarcated on the ground.
- India** considers the LAC to be 3,488 km long, while the **Chinese** consider it to be only around 2,000 km.
- It is divided into three sectors:** the eastern sector which spans Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim, the middle sector in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, and the western sector in Ladakh.
- India’s claim line** is the line seen in the official boundary marked on the maps as released by the Survey of India, including both Aksai Chin and Gilgit-Baltistan.
  - This means LAC is not the claim line for India.**
- In China’s case, LAC is the claim line except in the eastern sector,** where it claims the entire Arunachal Pradesh as South Tibet.



## Disagreement over the LAC and Why these Claim Lines Controversial in Ladakh:

India rejects the concept of LAC, as it is the line China has created.

- The Chinese line was a **disconnected series of points on a map that could be joined up in many ways.**
- The line should omit gains from aggression in 1962** and therefore should be based on the actual position on September 8, 1962 before the Chinese attack.

## Recent Developments at the LAC:

- In the last few months, the Chinese nationals have started occupying a couple of **vacant defence villages** built on its side of the LAC **across from Lohit Valley and the Tawang sector** of Arunachal Pradesh.
- **China has been constructing 628 such “well-off villages”** along India’s borders with the Tibet Autonomous Region, including along Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh for over five years now.
- While the exact nature of these villages is unclear, the dwellings are understood to be **“dual-use infrastructure”** - for both civil and military purposes, and seen as a **Chinese assertion of its territorial claims along the LAC.**

## Infrastructure Development at the LAC:

- In the last three to four years, **India has also stepped-up work on its border infrastructure** - this includes improving forward connectivity, constructing alternate routes to the LAC as well as connecting them.
- Under the **Vibrant Villages programmes**, India plans to develop **663 border villages** into modern villages with all amenities in the first phase.
  - Of them, at least 17 along the borders with China in **Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh**, have been selected for development as a pilot project under the programme.
- Also, **three major highways** are at different stages of construction in Arunachal Pradesh: the Trans-Arunachal Highway; the Frontier Highway; and the East-West Industrial Corridor Highway.

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## WORLD GOVERNMENTS SUMMIT 2024

### Why in news?

- Prime Minister Modi participated in the World Governments Summit in Dubai as Guest of Honour.



- He also delivered the special keynote address on the theme of the Summit - "Shaping the Future Governments".

## World Governments Summit

- **About**
  - The World Government Summit is a global platform dedicated to shaping the future of government worldwide.
  - It is an **annual event held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates**.
  - Each year, the Summit sets the agenda for the next generation of governments with a focus on how they can harness innovation and technology to solve universal challenges facing humanity.
  - Since its inception in 2013, the Summit has championed the mission of shaping future governments and creating a better future for humanity.
- **World Governments Summit Organization**
  - The World Governments Summit Organization is a global, neutral, non-profit organization dedicated to shaping the future of governments.
- **Headquarter:** Dubai, United Arab Emirates
- **2024 Summit:** Theme - 'Shaping Future Governments'
- **Leadership role played by India**
  - Prime Minister elaborated on the leadership role played by India as the chair of G-20 last year, on a wide range of issues and challenges facing the world.
  - In this context, he highlighted the efforts made by India to bring development concerns facing the Global South to the centre-stage of global discourse.
  - Calling for reform of multilateral institutions, he pushed for greater voice for the Global South in its decision making.
  - India, he stressed, will continue to contribute to global progress based on its role as a "**Vishwa Bandhu**".