



Current Affairs : 15 February 2024

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 be **purchased** bv companies and individuals in that can 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 polledin 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.

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.



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.



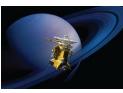


About Micellar water:

- 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.
- \circ $\,$ 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**.

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**
 - o if she **refuses to live with her husband** and without any sufficient cause
 - if they are living separately by mutual consent

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





Why in News?

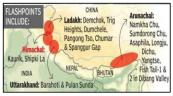
CROSS & CLIMB

• 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.

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".