

Current Affairs : 17 July 2022

VICE-PRESIDENT: THE POST, THE PROVISIONS, AND THE PAST

In News:

- Elections for Vice-President are scheduled for August 6, with the last date for filing nominations July 19.

Vice-President on India

- The office of the Vice-president is a unique feature of India, which follows a parliamentary system, and has no exact parallel in other democratic countries, including the Commonwealth.
- The second-highest constitutional authority after the President, the Vice-President draws his or her powers from Article 63 of the Constitution.
 - Article 63 states that there shall be a Vice-President of India.

Role & responsibilities

- Article 64 confers upon the post the power to be ex-officio Chairman of the Council of States (the Rajya Sabha).
 - In effect, the Vice-President discharges duties of both the Vice-President and Rajya Sabha chairperson.
- Under Article 64 (2), the Vice-President(VP) also discharges presidential functions when the President is unable to do so owing to absence, illness or any other cause.
- As per Article 65, the VP can act as the President, in the event of the occurrence of any vacancy in the office of the President by reason of his death, resignation or removal or “until the date on which a new President enters upon his office.

The Election Procedure

- **Eligibility**
 - Any citizen of India who is at least 35 years of age and a registered voter in a state or Union Territory can be a candidate for the post.
 - At least 20 MPs need to propose the nomination and 20 other MPs need to second it.

- As per Article 66 (2), the Vice-President cannot be a member of either House of Parliament or of the Legislature of any state.
- **Electoral college**
- Article 66 lays down the process of the election of the Vice-President.
- It says the Vice-President shall be elected by the members of an electoral college consisting of the members of both Houses of Parliament.
- The election will in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote.
 - In the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, the elector has to mark preferences against the names of the candidates.
- The voting is through a secret ballot.

Tenure

- Article 67 says that the Vice-President will hold office for a term of five years from the date on which he enters upon his office.
- However, according to the same provision, the Vice-President can continue to hold power notwithstanding the expiration of his term until his successor enters upon his office.

Removal from the office

- The Vice-President may leave mid-term by submitting a resignation letter to the President.
- He can also be removed from office by a resolution in the Rajya Sabha, passed by a majority of its members at that time and agreed by the House of the People (Lok Sabha).

Provision if the post falls vacant

- There is no direct provision in the Constitution on who performs the duties of the Vice-President if the office falls vacant before the expiry of his/her term or when the Vice-President is discharging the duties of the President.
- However, the Constitution does have a provision on what happens if the chairperson of the Council of States falls vacant.
 - The Deputy Chairman or any other member of the Rajya Sabha authorised by the President can perform the chairperson's duties.

OPPOSITION SPACE SHRINKING, HOSTILITY NOT HEALTHY DEMOCRACY, SAYS CJI RAMANA

In News:

- Recently, the Chief Justice of India (CJI) stated at the 18th All-India Legal Services meet organised by the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) that political opposition translating into hostility is not a sign of a healthy democracy.
- The CJI noted that there used to be mutual respect between the government and the Opposition, but the Opposition space is now shrinking.

National Legal Services Authority (NALSA):

- NALSA has been constituted under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.
 - It was established under Article 39 A of Indian constitution.
 - It aims to provide free Legal Services to the weaker sections of the society and to organise Lok Adalats for amicable settlement of disputes.
 - Currently, Justice N. V. Ramana, the Chief Justice of India is the Patron-in-Chief of NALSA.
 - In every State,
 - The State Legal Services Authority has been constituted to give effect to the policies and directions of the NALSA.
 - This is to give free legal services to the people and conduct Lok Adalats in the State.
 - It is headed by the Chief Justice of the respective High Court, called as the Patron-in-Chief of the State Legal Services Authority.
 - In every District,
 - The District Legal Services Authority has been constituted to implement Legal Services Programmes in the District.
 - It is situated in the District Courts Complex in every District and chaired by the District Judge of the respective district.

News Summary - Highlights of the meet:

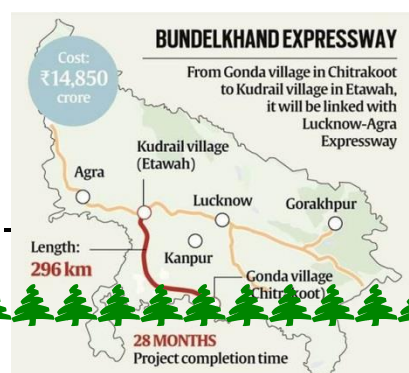
Key points of the speeches delivered by the CJI:

- On parliamentary democracy:

- India was intended to be a parliamentary democracy not a parliamentary government, because representation is central to democracy.
- B R Ambedkar warned that parliamentary democracy does not imply rule by majority. According to him, the majority rule is unsustainable in theory and unjustifiable in practice.
- Effective representation is essential in a representative democracy. It is a situation in which the minority is not overwhelmed by the majority.
- Diversity of opinion enriches both politics and society. However, laws were now being passed without careful consideration or scrutiny.
- **On role of Opposition**
 - Political opposition should not be translated into hostility, as we are experiencing.
 - People expect the court to act as a check on legislative and executive excess in a modern democracy. This becomes more important when the opposition is not present.
 - A strong parliamentary democracy necessitates the strengthening of the opposition. A strong, vibrant, and active opposition helps to improve governance and correct the government's functioning.
 - In an ideal world, the cooperation of the government and the opposition will result in progressive democracy.
- **On the issue of pendency of cases**
 - CJI highlighted two problems that the judiciary is experiencing while dealing with the issue of pendency are - judicial vacancies and judicial infrastructure.
 - He proposed the establishment of independent authorities to develop judicial infrastructure at both the national and state levels.

BUNDELKHAND EXPRESSWAY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Bundelkhand Expressway at Kaitheri village in Orai tehsil of Jalaun district in Uttar Pradesh.



About:

agar, Behind Huda City Park, Rohtak 9215649666

- The 296-kilometre long, four-lane Bundelkhand Expressway passes through seven districts, Chitrakoot, Banda, Mahoba, Hamirpur, Jalaun, Auraiya and Etawah.
- The 296-Km, four-lane expressway has been constructed at a cost of around 14,850 crore rupees. It can later be expanded upto six lanes as well.
- It extends from NH-35 at Gonda village near Bharatkoop in Chitrakoot district to near Kudrail village in Etawah district, where it merges with the Agra-Lucknow expressway.
- Work on the creation of industrial corridor in Banda and Jalaun districts, next to the Expressway, has already been started.
- Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that this expressway will help in establishing Jhansi and Chitrakoot node of Defence corridor. He said that Jalaun district is also on number one in completing Ghaarauni of the villages in Bundelkhand region.

REVRI CULTURE (CULTURE OF FREEBIES)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi cautioned against the culture of distributing freebies for votes.



About:

- Speaking at the inauguration of Bundelkhand Expressway in Jalaun in Uttar Pradesh, Mr. Modi said the “revri culture” would take the new India towards darkness.
- “There are some governments which are indulging in revri culture to secure votes, while the double engine government is working towards creating new expressways and rail routes,” Mr. Modi said.
- Responding to the revri culture jibe, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said that providing a free education and healthcare system doesn’t amount to distributing freebies.
- Kejriwal took on Mr. Modi following his comments equating State-sponsored free schemes to citizens as part of ‘revri culture’ which, the PM said, was “very dangerous” for the country.

MISSION SHAKTI SCHEME

Women and Child Development Ministry has issued guidelines for Mission Shakti Scheme.



About:

- This scheme has been launched for the safety, security and empowerment of women.
- It seeks to realize the government's commitment to women-led development by making them equal partners in nation-building.
- The key objectives of the mission are to provide care, support and assistance to women and to put in place quality mechanisms for the rescue, protection and rehabilitation of women who are victims of crime and violence.
- The scheme is also aimed at improving accessibility to various government services available for women at various levels.

Components

- Mission Shakti has two sub-schemes - Sambal and Samarthyaa. While the Sambal stresses on safety and security of women, the Samarthyaa focuses on the empowerment of women.
- The components of the Sambal sub-scheme consist of schemes including One Stop Centre, Women Helpline, Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao and Nari Adalats.
- The components of the Samarthyaa sub-scheme consist of schemes of Ujjwala, Swadhar Greh and Working Women Hostel.
- In addition, the existing schemes of the National Creche Scheme for children of working mothers and Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana have now been included in Samarthyaa.

JAGRITI MASCOT

The Department of Consumer Affairs has launched "Jagruti", a mascot for empowering consumers and generating awareness towards their rights.



About:

Vikas Nagar, Behind Huda City Park, Rohtak 9215649666



CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK



- Jagriti will be projected as an empowered consumer who is spreading awareness about consumer rights and addressing solutions to the problems faced by the consumers.
 - The “Jagriti” mascot will be used to generate consumer awareness about various themes of the Department.
 - The Themes include provisions of Consumer Protection Act 2019, Hallmarking, National Consumer Helpline toll-free number 1915, provisions of weights and measures Act, decisions of the Central Consumer Protection Authority and testimonials by consumers on grievance redressal.
 - Jagriti mascot shall be shown along with tagline “Jago Grahak Jago” in all its media campaigns.
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