

# SosinClasses

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DAILY NEWS DIARY

Of

**23.07.2022**

**FOR PRELIMS AND MAINS**

Warm Greetings.

- DnD aims to provide every day news analysis in sync with the UPSC pattern.
- It is targeted at UPSC – Prelims & Mains.
- Daily articles are provided in the form of Question and Answers
- To have a bank of mains questions.
- And interesting to read.
- Providing precise information that can be carried straight to the exam, rather than over dumping.

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## INDEX

### GS 2

1. Grain export deal signed between Turkey and UN.....04
2. Issue of the simultaneous elections.....05
3. Difference between private and government Bills.....07

### GS 3

1. Relevance of the Transitional Tax Credit.....06

- ✚ Prelims Practice Questions.....08

## GS 2

### ❖ INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

#### **Q) Explain the significance of the grain export deal signed between Turkey and UN.**

##### **Context:**

Kyiv and Moscow penned a landmark agreement with Turkey and the UN to unblock Ukraine's Black Sea grain exports after a Russian blockade raised fears of a global food crisis.

##### **Deal:**

- The deal was agreed through UN and Turkish mediation.
- It establishes safe corridors along which Ukrainian ships can come in and out of three designated Black Sea ports in and around Odessa.
- Both sides also pledged not to attack ships on the way in or out.

##### **Why such move?**

- It will bring relief for developing countries on the edge of bankruptcy and the most vulnerable people on the edge of famine.
- The five-month war has already displaced millions and left thousands dead.
- It is being fought across one of Europe's most fertile regions by two of the world's biggest grain producers.
- Up to 25 million tonnes of wheat and other grain have been blocked in Ukrainian ports by Russian warships and landmines Kyiv has laid to avert a feared amphibious assault.

##### **Why was the grain export deal signed?**

1. Ukraine is one of the world's largest exporters of wheat, corn and sunflower oil, but Russia's invasion of the country and naval blockade of its ports have halted shipments.
2. Some grain is being transported through Europe by rail, road and river, but the prices of vital commodities like wheat and barley have soared during the nearly five-month war.
3. Ukrainian and Russian military delegations reached a tentative agreement last week on a UN plan that would also allow Russia to export its grain and fertilizers.
4. Ukraine is expected to export 22 million tons of grain and other agricultural products that have been stuck in Black Sea ports due to the war.

##### **Grain export deal:**

- ✓ The deal makes provisions for the safe passage of ships.
- ✓ It foresees the establishment of a control centre in Istanbul, to be staffed by UN, Turkish, Russian and Ukrainian officials, to run and coordinate the process.
- ✓ Ships would undergo inspections to ensure they are not carrying weapons.
- ✓ Ukraine has insisted that no Russian ship would escort vessels and that there would be no Russian representative present at Ukrainian ports.
- ✓ Ukraine also plans an immediate military response in case of provocations.

**Source: The Hindu**

## ❖ POLITY & GOVERNANCE

### Q) Assess the issue of the simultaneous Lok Sabha and Assembly elections.

#### Context:

The issue of holding simultaneous Lok Sabha and Assembly elections had been referred to the Law Commission for a practicable road map and a framework can be worked out, the Union Law Minister informed the Lok Sabha.

#### Simultaneous polls:

- Currently, elections to the state assemblies and the Lok Sabha are held separately — that is whenever the incumbent government's five-year term ends or whenever it is dissolved due to various reasons.
- This applies to both the state legislatures and the Lok Sabha. The terms of Legislative Assemblies and the Lok Sabha may not synchronize with one another.
- For instance, Rajasthan faced elections in late 2018, whereas Tamil Nadu will go to elections only in 2021.
- But the idea of "One Nation, One Election" envisages a system where elections to all states and the Lok Sabha will have to be held simultaneously.

#### Simultaneous polls in India:

- India had concurrent elections for the first two decades.
- Starting from the first general elections of free India in 1951 and the next three cycles of elections, the country witnessed concurrent Lok Sabha and Assembly elections.
- Exceptions to these were a few states like Kerala where a mid-term election was held in 1960 on the premature dissolution of the Assembly.
- In Nagaland and Pondicherry where the Legislative Assembly was created only after the 1962 general elections.

#### End of the era:

1. The fourth Lok Sabha constituted in 1967 was dissolved prematurely in 1971 ahead of its normal term resulting in a mid-term Lok Sabha election.
2. This was the beginning of the end of simultaneous elections in India.
3. Extension of the term of Lok Sabha during the National Emergency declared in 1975 and the dissolution of Assemblies of some States after the 1977 Lok Sabha election further disturbed this cycle.
4. Currently, there are at least two rounds of Assembly general elections every year.

#### Making simultaneous elections a reality:

- Sections 14 and 15 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, empower the Election Commission to notify elections any time during the last six months of the term of the House and not earlier than that.
- Therefore, if the terms of the Houses are expiring within a window of three to four months, it would be legally possible to hold elections simultaneously to constitute the new Houses.

- In other words, to contemplate simultaneous elections, we need, as a starting point, a situation where the Lok Sabha and the Legislative Assemblies of all States and UTs have their terms ending together.

### **Synchronizing the terms of the Houses:**

Both the Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies (ordinarily) have a term of five years.

- Article 83 of the Constitution provides for the tenure of Lok Sabha. Identical provisions are present in Article 172(1) regarding the term of the Legislative Assemblies.
- There is no duplication of work in preparing the electoral rolls for the two elections and hence no extra labor or expenditure is involved on this count.

**Source: The Hindu**

## **GS 3**

### **❖ ECONOMY**

#### **Q) What is the relevance of the Transitional Tax Credit?**

##### **Context:**

Taxpayers who had missed out on getting the benefit of transitional tax credits during India's switchover to the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime five years ago, will now get a fresh window to avail them.

##### **Transitional Tax Credit:**

- A tax credit is a component of a company's tax payment that can be applied to offset a subsequent tax obligation.
- When India moved to the GST regime in 2017, companies had to transition the credit sitting on their books.
- So, the closing balance in the old tax regime would become the opening credit balance under GST.
- When India moved from the old indirect tax regime to GST, a one-time transition of credit was allowed.
- That is, companies could set off part of the taxes paid during the old tax regime against future GST liabilities.
- Many companies claimed that they had simply forgotten to claim the transitional credit.

##### **Its relevance:**

- ✓ The Supreme Court has directed the revenue authorities to facilitate such credits.
- ✓ The move is likely to benefit hundreds of GST assesses who had hitherto not been able to avail such credits.
- ✓ They will be given two-month window to claim during September and October.

**Source: The Hindu**

## SNIPPETS

### GS 2

#### ❖ POLITY & GOVERNANCE

**Q) Explain the difference between private and government Bills.**

**Context:**

Opposition members protested against the introduction of a private member's Bill on the repeal of The Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991, in the Rajya Sabha.

**Private Member's Bill:**

A private member's Bill is different from a government Bill and is piloted by an MP who is not a minister. An MP who is not a minister is a private member.

Individual MPs may introduce private member's Bill to draw the government's attention to what they might see as issues requiring legislative intervention.

**Difference between private and government Bills:**

- While both private members and ministers take part in the law-making process, Bills introduced by private members are referred to as private member's Bills and those introduced by ministers are called government Bills.
- Government Bills are backed by the government and also reflect its legislative agenda.
- The admissibility of a Private Bill is decided by the Chairman in the case of the Rajya Sabha and the Speaker in the case of the Lok Sabha.
- Before the Bill can be listed for introduction, the Member must give at least a month's notice, for the House Secretariat to examine it for compliance with constitutional provisions and rules on legislation.
- While a government Bill can be introduced and discussed on any day, a private member's bill can only be introduced and discussed on Fridays.

**Has a private member's bill ever become a law?**

- ✓ No private member's Bill has been passed by Parliament since 1970.
- ✓ To date, Parliament has passed 14 such Bills, six of them in 1956.
- ✓ In the 14th Lok Sabha, of the over 300 private member's Bills introduced, roughly four per cent were discussed, the remaining 96 per cent lapsed without a single dialogue.
- ✓ The selection of Bills for discussion is done through a ballot.

**Source: The Hindu**

**Q) Which of the following statements with respect to Kalbelia is correct?**

1. The Kalbelia are a snake charming tribe in Rajasthan.
2. Kalbelia dance and songs are now on UNESCO's representative list of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

**Options:**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both
- d) None

 **Hey from Yesterday –**

**Q) Which of the following statements is/are correct with respect to XPoSat?**

1. It is a planned space observatory which would study the polarization of cosmic x-rays.
2. When launched, it would be India's first astronomical observatory in space.

**Options:**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- ✓ The X-ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat) is an ISRO planned space observatory to study the polarization of cosmic X-rays.
- ✓ AstroSat is India's first ever astronomical observatory in space and was launched in 2015.
- ✓ XPoSat will be India's second astronomical observatory in space.

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