8th June, 2024

1. <u>Formation of Government in India</u> <u>Recent event of importance</u>

 Why in News: President DroupadiMurmu has invited Prime Minister-designate Narendra Modi to form a new government at the Centre.

Key Highlights of the Process

- Election Results and Certificates: After counting the votes, the Election Commission distributes certificates to each winning candidate. These certificates, known as Form 22, verify the identity of the newly elected Lok Sabha members.
- Formation of New Lok Sabha: The Election Commission submits a complete list of elected MPs to the President, initiating the formation of the new Lok Sabha.
- Post-Result Procedures: Following the election results, the President invites the leading party or coalition to form the government.

Reason behind the Process

- **Democratic Principle**: The process of forming a government is based on the democratic principle of majority rule. The party or coalition that secures the majority of seats in the Lok Sabha is invited by the President to form the government.
- Constitutional Framework: The Constitution of India does not contain any specific procedure for the selection and appointment of the Prime Minister. Article 75 says only that the Prime Minister shall be appointed by the president

President invites Modi to form new government

Swearing-in tomorrow; NDA Parliamentary Party elects Modi as its leader, allies hand over letters of support to President: Modi says he will strive to ensure consensus in all decisions of the govt.

Nistula Hebbar

mesident Droupadi Murmu on Friday formally invited Narendra Modi to form the next government, and begin his third successive term as Prime Minister, after the National Democratiic Alliance's (NDA) Parliamentary Party elected him as its leader. The new government will be sworn in on Sunday.

Earlier in the day, leaders of NDA parties, including N. Chandrababu Naidu of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), Nitish Kumar of the Janata Dal (United), and Maharashtra's Shiv Sena Chief Minister Eknath Shinde met the President and handed over their letters of support to the new government.

A thin meeting of the NDA Parliamentary Party held at the Central Hall of the old Parliament House Mr. Modi evoked the spiri of a coalition government stressing that he would strive to ensure sarvemat or consensus, in all the decisions of his next government. "Governments may be made on the basis of numbers, but the country of the control of the parliament of the parliament."



Above all: Prime Minister Narendra Modi pays respect to the

di said, asserting that Spe (SNDA was an organic alncie committed to the mutus nciple of "nation first". core or sar the NDA parliament ple of the partiage of the partiage

He was seconded by other senior leaders, including the BJP's Nitin Gadkari and Amit Shah, Mr. Naidu, Mr. Kumar, Mr. Shinde, Chirag Paswan of the Lok Janshakti Party, and Pawan Kalyan Speaking on the occ sion, Mr. Modi said th mutual trust was at the core of this alliance, which is committed to the princ ple of 'sarv pantha sambh wa (all sects are equal)'. Claiming that NE

for good governance, I noted that the alliance we forming a government the Centre at a time who its members were also power in 22 States. Mr. Modi took potsho at the Congress, pointir out that even after 10 yea that the Opposition had made every attempt to paint the NDA's election victory as a loss, but insisted that impression could not be created

not be created.
"There were efforts to
not acknowledge this very
victory, to cast a shadow of
defeat. But all such efforts
remained fruitless," he

aid.

Defending the demoratic process in the counymade a pointed jab, asking whether "EVMs were fill alive" when the Lok abha results came in, reerring to the Opposition's oubts regarding Electrontivation Mechica.

an with a vision' s NDA allies were

His NDA allies were fulsome in their praise for the Prime Minister, with Mr. Naidu calling him "a man with a vision and a zeal", whose execution of plans was "perfect".

was perfect.

Terming Mr. Modi the
s "right man at the right
time", the TDP chief said
that India's enhanced pres
tige on the global stage was
due to the Prime Minister's
decade-long tenure.

» PAGE 11
MORE REPORTS
» PAGES 2, 11

Impact of the Process

- **Stable Governance**: The process ensures stable governance by requiring a majority in the Lok Sabha to form a government. This majority ensures the government has enough support to enact laws and govern effectively.
- **Democratic Representation**: The process ensures democratic representation by allowing the party or coalition with the most seats in the Lok Sabha to form the government.
- Legal Interpretations and Court Rulings in appointment of the Prime Minister:
 - In 1980, the Delhi High Court held that the Constitution does not require that a person must prove his majority in the Lok Sabha before he is appointed as the Prime Minister.
 - The President may first appoint him the Prime Minister and then ask him to prove his majority in the Lok Sabha within a reasonable period.
 - For example, Charan Singh (1979), V.P. Singh (1989), Chandrasekhar (1990), P.V. NarasimhaRao (1991), A.B. Vajyapee (1996), DeveGowda (1996), I.K. Gujral (1997) and again A.B. Vajpayee (1998) were appointed as Prime Ministers in this way.

2. <u>Percentage of NOTA votes dips nationally, rises in Northeast GS 2 (Elections)</u>

- Why in News: The percentage of votes recorded under NOTA (None of the Above) dipped nationally in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections compared to 2019, while Northeastern India exhibited a different trend.
- Key-highlights
 - The overall percentage of NOTA votes in India in 2024 was 0.99%, down from 1.06% in 2019.
 - In the Northeast, the NOTA votes increased from an average of 0.71% in 2019 to 0.81% in 2024.
 - Assam, a state in the Northeast, recorded the highest number of NOTA votes in three constituencies won by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidates: Dibrugarh (32,255), Kaziranga (24,431), and Darrang-Udalguri (23,204).
- Reason behind the Situation
 - **Discontent with Candidates:** The increase in NOTA votes in the Northeast indicates voter dissatisfaction with the available candidates. Frequent party-switching by MLAs in the region has led to a lack of trust.

■ Perceived Inefficacy: Voters may perceive their elected leaders as ineffective in fulfilling development promises, prompting a preference for NOTA as a form of protest

Impact of NOTA

- **Expression of Discontent:**
 - Signal to Political Parties: A higher NOTA count serves as a signal to political parties about the electorate's dissatisfaction, compelling them to field better candidates.
 - Political Accountability: It promotes accountability as parties are forced to introspect and address the reasons behind voter discontent.

Required Measures

- Scrutiny and Transparency: Political parties need to adopt a more rigorous and transparent candidate selection process to ensure that they field candidates with integrity and capability.
- Voter Engagement: Increased engagement with voters to understand their grievances and expectations can help in selecting candidates who align more closely with public sentiment.

Electoral Reforms:

- Strengthening NOTA: To make NOTA more impactful, electoral reforms could include provisions that mandate re-elections or other actions if a significant percentage of votes are cast for NOTA.
- Awareness Campaigns: Conducting awareness campaigns about the purpose and power of NOTA can encourage more informed voting and participation in the democratic process.
- Global examples: There are more than 12 countries where the voters have the option for NOTA. Besides India, it exists in countries like France, Sweden, Belgium Greece, Belarus, Spain, Bangladesh, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, and Ukraine. A few states in America also allow NOTA votes. The state of Texas in the US has had the provision since 1975. However, the provision has faced opposition there.

What is NOTA?

- NOTA, or "None of the Above", is the option that enables the voter to officially register a vote of rejection for all candidates who are contesting.
- If a voter chooses to press NOTA it indicates that the voter has not chosen to vote for any of the party.
- The main objective of the 'NOTA' option is to enable electors who do not wish to vote for any of the candidates to exercise their right to reject without violation of the secrecy of their decision.
- The voter must be eligible to register a vote of rejection if they feel that the contesting candidates do not deserve to be voted for.
- The Right to vote granted to all citizens must allow the vote of disapproval.

3. Remoulding the Global Plastics Treaty GS 3 (Environment)

Why in News: The ongoing discussions for an international legally binding treaty on plastic pollution emphasize the importance of ensuring a fair transition for informal waste collectors and recyclers. This treaty aims to address the burgeoning issue of plastic waste and integrate informal workers into the formal waste management systems.

Role and Challenges of Informal Recycling Workers:

■ Plastic Waste Statistics: The OECD Global Plastic Outlook reports that global plastic waste production was 353 million tonnes in 2019, with projections to triple by 2060. Only 9% of this waste was recycled, with informal workers responsible for 85% of the recycling.

Percentage of NOTA votes dips nationally, rises in Northeast

The Hindu Bureau

The percentage of votes recorded under NOTA or 'none of the above' dipped nationally in the 2024 Lok Sabha election from the 2019 edition. Northeastern India, however, showed a different trend.

Comprising eight States, the Northeast has 25 seats, of which 14 are in Assam, followed by two each in Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, and Tripura, and one each in Mizo-Nagaland, Sikkim

According to the Election Commission of India, the percentage of NOTA votes polled across India this time was 0.99%. This was 0.07% less than the 1.06% recorded in 2019.

In the Northeast, ho-

wever, the NOTA votes increased from an avera 0.71% in 2019 to 0.81% in 2024.

"The jump in the NOTA votes in the Northeast indicates the voters were not happy with the choice of candidates in a region known for MLAs switching parties. It could also be an indication that the voters saw the futility in electing leaders who fatten their purses instead of pushing the promised develop-ment," Pranay Bordoloi, the consulting editor of NKTV said.

Three constituencies in Assam from where the Bharatiya Janata Party's candidates won, recorded the highest number of NO-TA votes. These are Dibrugarh (32,255), Kaziranga (24,431), and Udalguri (23,204). Darrang

Remoulding the Global Plastics Treaty

- **Debate Over Recognition and Vulnerability:** The informal waste collectors face challenges due to increasing privatization, waste-to-energy projects, and exclusion from Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) norms. These factors contribute to their livelihood vulnerabilities.
- Consideration of IWRS: Informal waste workers alleviate financial burdens on municipal budgets and contribute significantly to reducing plastic pollution by promoting circular waste management solutions.
- Global Treaty and Need for a Just Transition:
 - Global Plastics Treaty: The Global Plastics Treaty aims to establish a legally binding agreement to reduce and eliminate plastic pollution. The International Alliance of Waste Pickers (IAWP), a participant in the UNEA Plastic Treaty process, emphasises the importance of integrating informal waste pickers into discussions on addressing plastics
 - Enforcement Challenges: Clarifying definitions and establishing a universally agreed-upon terminology for the informal waste sector and a just transition is essential for effective policy and law implementation
 - India's Role: As a key representative from the Global South, India promotes an approach that enhances repair, reuse, refill, and recycling without necessarily eliminating the use of plastics altogether. India's informal waste pickers, who are indispensable, remain central to the discussion

4. Mongla Port

GS 3 (Infrastructure)

- Why in News: India is looking to operate the Mongla Port in Bangladesh and build a new terminal, aiming to counterbalance China's strategic presence in the region.
- About Mongla Port
 - The Port of Mongla is located in **the Bagerhat District of Bangladesh**. It lies 62 km north of the Bay of Bengal coastline.
 - It is situated at the confluence of the Pasur River and the Mongla River.
 - The Port is surrounded and protected by the Sundarban mangrove forest.
 - Mongla is the **second largest seaport in Bangladesh** after Chittagong.
- Significance for India:
 - Provides strategic access to India's northeastern states (e.g., Assam, Tripura, Meghalaya).
 - Reduces distance and transportation costs for goods to and from these regions.
 - India Ports Global Limited (IPGL) has expressed interest in operating Mongla Port, which would be its third international port operation after Chabahar in Iran and Sittwe in Myanmar.
 - **Expansion project:** India and Bangladesh signed a MoU on the use of Chattogram and Mongla ports in 2015.
 - The MoU envisages the transit of goods from Mongla port to the **northeastern states** of India through waterways, roads and railways.

5. Sticky inflation

GS 3 (Economy)

- Why in News: Sticky inflation has dashed the hopes of early rate cuts with experts now pencilling in reporate cuts by the RBI from December this year. Economists expect a shallow rate cut cycle with RBI likely to lower the reporate by 75 – 100 basis points.
- About Sticky Inflation
 - It refers to a **phenomenon where prices do not adjust quickly** to changes in supply and demand, leading to persistent inflation.
- Features of sticky inflation:
 - Prices for goods or services that don't appear to be coming down anytime soon are considered sticky.
 - Causes: Rising wages and prices for consumer goods and services are typically the main factors behind inflation stickiness.
 - Prices for medical services, education, and housing are some of the most important factors that can contribute to sticky inflation.
 - It erodes the purchasing power of consumers and puts pressure on housing affordability.
 - It presents challenges for central banks in controlling inflation without causing a recession.
 - To address sticky inflation, central banks usually raise interest rates.

■ However, raising rates too fast can cause the economy to fall into a recession, while not raising them enough will allow prices to continue increasing.

6. <u>Pump and Dump Scheme in the Stock Market</u> GS 3 (Economy)

- Why in News: The Securities Exchange Board of India's (SEBI) recently slapped a fine of Rs 7.75 crore on 11 individuals for allegedly operating a 'pump and dump' scheme.
- About Pump and Dump Scheme:
 - In the stock market, a pump and dump scheme is a type of manipulation activity that involves **artificially inflating the price of a stock** through false and misleading information, only to sell the stock at the inflated price and leave investors with significant losses.
 - It is particularly **prevalent in the micro-cap and small-cap sectors**, where companies often have limited public information and trading volumes are lower.
 - How does pump and dump work?
 - This process involves several steps:
 - First, a significant amount of stock in a relatively small or thinly traded company is acquired. These stocks are often referred to as 'penny stocks' because they trade at low prices and are more susceptible to price manipulation due to low trading volumes.
 - Then the stock is **aggressively promoted to create a buzz** and attract investors. This promotion can take various forms, including sending out mass emails or newsletters with exaggerated claims about the company's prospects, as well as misleading social media posts. Promoters aim to create buzz and drive interest in the stock.
 - As the promotion gains traction, more investors buy into the stock, driving up its price due to increased demand. Sometimes, fraudsters may also engage in coordinated buying to further boost the price. During this phase, the stock often experiences rapid and significant price increases, creating the illusion of a hot, high-potential investment.
 - Once the stock price has been pumped up sufficiently, the **sell-off begins** at the inflated prices. This selling pressure **causes the stock price to plummet**, often leaving unsuspecting investors with significant losses as the stock returns to its actual value or even lower.

Impact:

- Those who bought into the hype and purchased the stock at inflated prices typically face substantial losses when the stock price crashes.
- ◆ These schemes undermine confidence in the financial markets, making legitimate investors wary of potential fraud
- Under the SEBI guidelines, pump and dump schemes are completely banned.

7. Arun-III Hydro Power Project GS 3 (Infrastructure)

- Why in News: The 900 MW Arun III Hydropower Project in eastern Nepal, constructed with Indian assistance, recently achieved a significant milestone with a tunnel breakthrough.
- About Arun-III Hydro Power Project:
 - It is a **900 MW run-of-the-river** hydropower project being constructed on the **Arun River** in Sankhuwasabha District of Eastern **NEPAL**.
 - ◆ Arun is a **tributary of the Koshi River** in Nepal.
 - The project comprises a 70-meter-tall and 466-meter-long concrete **gravity dam** and a Head Race Tunnel (HRT) of 11.74 km with underground an power house containing four generating units of 225 MW each on left bank.
 - It is being **developed with Indian assistance** at a cost of Rs. 144 billion.
 - Once completed, it will be the biggest hydroelectric facility in Nepal.
 - It is being **developed on a build-own-operate-and-transfer (BOOT)** basis by Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) Arun-III Power Development Company (SAPDC), a joint venture of the Government of India and the Government of Himachal Pradesh.
 - **SAPDC will operate** the facility for a period of 25 years, excluding the construction period of five years, before transferring ownership to the Nepal government.

- Nepal will receive 21.9% of the electricity generated at the power plant as free power during these initial 25 years of commercial operations.
- The output from the power plant will be **transferred to Muzaffarpur in India** through a 317 km-long 400 kV double circuit transmission line.

8. Zombie Company

GS 3 (Economy)

- Why in News: An Associated Press analysis found the number of publicly-traded "zombie" companies has soared to nearly 7,000 around the world, including 2,000 in the United States.
- About Zombie Company:
 - It is a **corporate entity with very limited cash flows**, only sufficient to pay the interest on the debt borrowed but not the principal amount of the loan.
 - The revenue generated by the business operations **only covers the fixed routine and operating costs** (wages, rent, interest payments on debt, for example).
 - These companies, often referred to as the "living dead" or "zombie stocks," have **no excess capital to invest** in growth, innovation, or significant improvements.
 - They are highly dependent on banks for financing.
 - They are typically **subject to higher borrowing costs** and may be one just event—market disruption or a poor quarter performance—away from insolvency or a bailout.
 - They are "uncompetitive survivors" and contribute to lower productivity in the global economy.
 - These companies can pose a risk to the broader economy by tying up resources that could be more effectively used by healthier, more innovative firms.

9. World Environment Day

GS 3 (Environment)

- Why in News: The 51st edition of World Environment Day was a record-breaking success, with an unprecedented 3,854 official events and tens of millions of online engagements across the globe.
- About World Environment Day:
 - It is celebrated annually on **June 5** to promote more sustainable practices while advocating for the protection of our planet.
 - Led by the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**, it is the largest global platform for public outreach to raise awareness and take action on urgent environmental issues the planet's most-pressing environmental problems.
 - Theme of World Environment Day 2024: Land restoration, desertification, and drought resilience.
 - History:
 - ◆ The United Nations General Assembly declared June 5 as World Environment Day during the **Stockholm** Conference on the Human Environment, held in Stockholm, Sweden, in 1972 (June 5-16).
 - It was the first world conference to make environmental protection a major issue.
 - The UNEP was established in the same year.
 - ♦ World Environment Day was **celebrated for the first time in 1973** under the theme 'Only One Earth'.
 - Since then, it has grown into a global platform involving over 150 countries.
- Key Facts about United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP):
 - It is the leading environmental authority in the United Nations system.
 - UNEP uses its expertise to **strengthen environmental standards** and practices while helping implement environmental obligations at the country, regional, and global levels.
 - UNEP is driving transformational change by drilling down on the root causes of the triple planetary crisis of climate change, nature and biodiversity loss and pollution.
 - UNEP's work is focused on helping countries transition to low-carbon and resource-efficient economies, strengthening environmental governance and law, safeguarding ecosystems and providing evidence-based data to inform policy decisions.
 - Headquarters: Nairobi, Kenya.
 - Reports published by UNEP: Emission Gap Report, Global Environment Outlook, Frontiers, Invest into Healthy Planet.

■ It **provides secretariat functions** for numerous multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and other entities as follows:

- ◆ Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- ◆ Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
- ◆ Minamata Convention on Mercury
- ◆ Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions
- ♦ Vienna Convention for the Protection of Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol





MCQ Current Affairs 8th June, 2024

1. Which one of the following is the theme of World Environment Day 2024?

- a) Beat Plastic Pollution
- b) Clean Seas: Turning the Tide on Plastic
- c) Land restoration, desertification, and drought resilience
- d) Connecting People to Nature

2. Which one of the following best describes the term 'Zombie Company'?

- a) A company that operates entirely online without any physical presence.
- b) A company with strong financial health and minimal dependence on bank financing.
- c) A company that has no active business operations, assets, or significant operations.
- d) A company whose revenue only covers fixed routine and operating costs.

3. With reference to Pump and Dump Scheme in Stock Market, consider the following statements:

A. It involves artificially inflating the price of a stock through misleading information, only to sell the stock at the inflated price.

- B. It is particularly prevalent in large-cap stocks.
- C. Under the SEBI guidelines, pump and dump schemes are completely banned in India.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) One only
- b) Two only
- c) All three
- d) None

4. Which one of the following best describes the term Sticky Inflation?

- a) It refers to the situation where corporate greed drives inflation
- b) It refers to a phenomenon which leads to persistent inflation.
- c) It refers to the rapid decrease in the overall price level of goods and services
- d) It is a temporary inflation spike caused by a sudden increase in consumer demand.

5. Mongla Port is located in which one of the following countries?

- a) Bangladesh
- b) Nepal
- c) Myanmar
- d) Bhutan

Answers Current Affairs 8th June, 2024

