

## Disqualification of MP/MLA

- Section 8 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (RP Act) specifies the various offenses, convictions which entail the disqualification of a member of the legislature. Clause (3) of this section says that a person convicted of any offense other than those mentioned in the other two clauses, and sentenced to not less than two years shall be disqualified from the date of conviction.
- However, clause (4) has exempted sitting members from instant disqualification for three months to enable them to appeal against the conviction.
- This clause was struck down as ultra vires the Constitution by a two-judge Bench of the Supreme Court on the ground that Parliament has no power to enact such an exemption for sitting members of the legislature (Lily Thomas vs Union of India, 2013).
- The effect of this judgment is that there is an instant disqualification of a sitting legislator as soon as he is convicted.
- Section 8(3) of the RP Act which provides for disqualification on conviction has been subjected to

judicial interpretation in a number of cases.

- A surface view of this provision is that the moment conviction and sentence are announced by the trial court, the member of the legislature will stand disqualified.
- Upon such disqualification, his seat in the legislature shall fall vacant under Article.
- Article 103 shows that the President of India is the authority that decides that a sitting member has become subject to disqualification in all cases which come under Article 102(1).
- Sub Clause (e) of this Article relates to all cases of disqualification under the RP Act 1951 which include disqualification on conviction and sentence under Section 8(3) of the Act.

### **THE HINDU**

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## IMF BAILOUT SRI Lanka

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) last week confirmed a \$3 billion bailout plan for Sri Lanka's struggling economy. IMF officials are also in negotiations with Pakistan for a \$1.1 billion bailout plan as the country faces a severe economic crisis marked by a falling currency and price rise.

### **How does the IMF help countries?**

- The IMF basically lends money, often in the form of special drawing rights (SDRs), to troubled economies that seek the lender's assistance.
- SDRs simply represent a basket of five currencies, namely the U.S. dollar, the euro, the Chinese yuan, the Japanese yen, and the British pound.
- The IMF carries out its lending to troubled economies through a number of lending programs such as the extended credit facility, the flexible credit line, the stand-by agreement, etc. Countries receiving the bailout can use the SDRs for various purposes depending on their individual circumstances.
- Currently, both Sri Lanka and Pakistan are in urgent need of U.S. dollars to import essential items and also to pay their foreign debt.
- So any money that they receive from the IMF is likely to go towards addressing these urgent issues.
- The IMF was set up in 1945 out of the Bretton Woods conference.
- The primary goal of the IMF back then was to bring about international economic coordination to prevent competing currency devaluation by countries trying to promote their own exports. Eventually, the IMF evolved to be a

lender of last resort to governments of countries that had to deal with severe currency crises

### **Soil Sodicity can lead to:**

- Reduced flow of water through the soil limits leaching and can cause salt to accumulate over time and the development of saline subsoils
- Dispersion in the soil surface causes crusting and sealing, which then impedes water infiltration.

### **Are there any strings attached to an IMF bailout?**

- The IMF usually imposes conditions on countries before it lends any money to them. For example, a country may have to agree to implement certain structural reforms as a condition to receive IMF loans.
- Some have also accused the IMF's lending decisions, which are taken by officials appointed by the governments of various countries, to be influenced by international politics.
- For one, countries that seek an IMF bailout are usually in a crisis due to certain policies adopted by their governments that turned out to be inimical to economic growth and stability. It may thus not make sense for the IMF to throw money at a

country when the policies that caused its crisis remain untouched.

## **THE HINDU**

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### **Tamil Nadu school merger**

- In Tamil Nadu's budget for 2023--24, it was announced that the schools run by different departments for so long to cater to specific needs will be merged with the School Education (SE) department.
- The budget mentioned that the schools will be merged to "achieve the goal of social justice," "improve the quality of schools" and ensure "quality education for all".
- ? Many have highlighted that the schools are in poor shape due to prolonged negligence and widespread irregularities. Merging the schools without addressing these issues would result in them being denied the special focus they deserve.

## **THE HINDU**

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### **Biotransformation technology**

- What is biotransformation technology? Biotransformation technology is a novel approach to ensure plastics that escape refuse streams are processed efficiently and broken down.

- The tech was developed by the Imperial College in London, U.K., and a Britain-based startup, Polymateria. Plastics made using this technology are given a pre-programmed time during which the manufactured material looks and feels like conventional plastics without compromising on quality.
- Once the product expires and is exposed to the external environment, it self-- destructs and bio-transforms into bioavailable wax. This wax is then consumed by microorganisms, converting waste into water, CO2, and biomass.
- "This biotransformation technology is the world's first that ensures polyolefins fully biodegrade in an open environment causing no microplastics,

### **Where can this technology be used?**

- Food packaging and health care industries are the two prime sectors that could use this technology to reduce waste. "The increase in cost is relatively small compared to conventional plastic that does not contain this technology.

## **THE HINDU**

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## AUKUS

- AUKUS is a new trilateral partnership featuring Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
- Though it aims to deepen diplomatic, security, and defense cooperation between the three states, AUKUS will focus specifically on deepening integration in defense-related science, technology, industrial bases, and supply chains, with particular emphasis on cyber capabilities, artificial intelligence, quantum technologies, and new undersea capabilities.
- The first initiative of AUKUS will be to support Australia in acquiring nuclear-powered submarines and the necessary infrastructure to upkeep them while keeping with partners' international obligations to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards regimes.
- Nuclear-powered submarines will strengthen Canberra's ability to deter major power aggression and threats to Australian interests in the Indo-Pacific, as called for in the 2020 Defence Strategic Update.
- Compared to the diesel-electric submarines Australia was co-developing with France, nuclear submarines are quieter, faster, more

survivable, and have long if not limitless endurance.

- This will allow Australia to deploy its future submarine fleet to distant Indo-Pacific locations for much longer periods of time, including to geopolitical hotspots like the South China Sea and parts of the Japanese archipelago.
- The primary focus of the AUKUS arrangement between Australia, the U.K., and the U.S. is submarine technology development, and within that, there is no room for a fourth country, diplomatic sources said on any potential collaboration between the alliance and India.



THE HINDU

## ISRO launch-36 satellites

- ISRO's LVM3 launch vehicle, in its sixth consecutive successful flight, placed 36 satellites belonging to One Web Group Company into their intended 450 km circular orbit with an inclination of 87.4 degrees.
- With this, NSIL has successfully executed its contract to launch 72

satellites of One Web to Low Earth Orbit.

- Network Access Associates Ltd, United Kingdom (One Web Group Company) has signed an agreement with ISRO's commercial arm Newspace India Ltd to launch 72 satellites into Low-Earth orbits (LEO). On 23 October 2022, ISRO launched 36 satellites of One Web.
- It was the first satellite deployment collaboration between the two organizations.

### About LVM3

- The Launch Vehicle Mark 3 (LVM3) is ISRO's newest medium-heavy lift launch vehicle, the heaviest rocket currently in use by the space agency. Formerly called the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark III (GSLV Mk III), the rocket is designed to mainly launch satellites into geostationary orbit at 35,000km.
- The maiden suborbital test flight of the GSLV Mk III was on 18 December 2014 as a test flight with a dummy upper stage.
- It carried the Crew Module Atmospheric Re-entry Experiment (CARE), a part of the Gaganyaan mission.
- The first orbital test flight occurred on 5 June 2017, carrying the GSAT-19 and placing it successfully in a 170km

orbit. The second orbital test flight on 14 November 2018 placed the GSAT-29 into a geostationary orbit.

- The first operational flight of the launch vehicle was on 22 July 2019, with Chandrayaan 2.

### THE HINDU

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### Moray eel



- Researchers have discovered a new species of Moray eel at the Mudasalodai fish landing center off the Cuddalore coast.
- The species has been named after Tamil Nadu as *Gymnothorax tamilnaduensis*.
- The common name is Tamil Nadu brown moray. The discovery has been published in the latest issue of the international peer-reviewed journal *Zoosystematics and Evolution*.

### THE HINDU

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