

22 – 01 – 2022

News: Electoral bonds

- The 19th tranche of electoral bonds, which have been pitched as an alternative to cash donations, were on sale, ahead of the upcoming Assembly elections in five States.

Electoral Bonds

- Electoral Bonds are financial **instruments that allow donors to pay political parties** using banks as an intermediary.
- The instrument **will not carry any interest**. The bonds **will not carry the name of the donor** and can be brought for any value, **in multiples of 1000**.
- Electoral bonds will be **valid for 15 days from the date of purchase**.
- The bonds will be available for purchase for a period of 10 days each in the beginning of every quarter. Additional 30 days would be given for Lok Sabha Elections.
- Bonds can be **purchased in January, April, July and October of every year**.
- **One cannot get loan, cannot pledge against purchases and it is not listed in any exchanges**.

- An **Indian Citizen** (individual or entity) is only eligible to purchase the bonds whereas **only registered parties which have secured at least 1% of votes polled in last Lok Sabha General Election** or elections to the State Legislative Assembly are eligible to receive the Electoral bonds.

News: Himachal Pradesh on The Road to Become 'Har Ghar Jal' This Year

- Himachal Pradesh is all set to accomplish the objectives of Jal Jeevan Mission by this year itself.

Jal Jeevan Mission

- Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) envisages **supply of 55 litres of water per person per day to every rural household** through Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC) by 2024.
- JJM is launched by **Ministry of Jal Shakti**.
- JJM focuses on **integrated demand and supply-side management of water** at the local level.
- **Creation of local infrastructure** for source sustainability measures as mandatory elements, like rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge and management of household wastewater for reuse, would be undertaken in convergence with other government programmes/schemes.

- The Mission is based on a **community approach to water and includes extensive Information, Education and Communication as a key component of the mission.**
- JJM looks to create a jan andolan for water, thereby making it everyone's priority.
- Funding Pattern: The **fund sharing pattern between the Centre and states is 90:10 for Himalayan and North-Eastern States, 50:50 for other states, and 100% for Union Territories.**
- The Central government has recently released the operational guidelines for JJM.

For the implementation of JJM, following institutional arrangement has been proposed:

- National Jal Jeevan Mission (NJJM) at the Central level
- State Water and Sanitation Mission (SWSM) at the State level
- District Water and Sanitation Mission (DWSM) at the District level
- Village Water Sanitation Committee (VWSC) at Village level

Every village will prepare a Village Action Plan (VAP) which will have three components:

- Water source & its maintenance
- Water supply and Greywater (domestic wastewater) management.

- So far, 100% target has been achieved in Goa, Telangana, Andaman Nicobar and Puducherry.
- Haryana is supposed to achieve 100% target in 2021 itself.
- Recently, the Prime Minister launched the **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) mobile application**.
- The Jal Shakti ministry has been **maintaining a JJM dashboard** to show the coverage of tap water connections across states.

News: All set for tiger count at Bandipur, Nagarhole

- Tiger census will commence at Bandipur on Saturday and at Nagarhole on Sunday as part of the all India Tiger and Mega Herbivore Estimation.
- This is part of the nationwide enumeration that is held once in four years and is the fifth such exercise being taken up the earlier ones being held in 2006, 2010, 2014 and 2018.

Nagarhole National Park

- Nagarhole National Park is located in **Karnataka**.
- It is the **37th Project Tiger, Tiger Reserve in India**.
- **Bengal Tiger, Leopard, Dhole, sloth bear and striped hyena** are the important predators found here.

- It lies in the Western Ghats and is a part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.
- The Nagarahole River flows through the Park, which joins the Kabini River, which also is a boundary between the Nagarahole National Park and the Bandipur National Park.
- The Kabini Reservoir separates the Bandipur and Nagarahole Tiger Reserve.

Royal Bengal Tiger

- Royal Bengal Tiger is also known as Bengal Tiger and Indian Tiger.
- Tigers are solitary animals. They have characteristic black stripes on their orange colour coat. However, there are white tigers with bright white colour fur and black stripes.
- They are excellent hunters and have the ability to run, climb trees, jump and swim.
- Tiger is the biggest of all big cats living in the world. An average adult tiger usually weighs around 300 kg.
- CITES protection: Appendix I.
- Wildlife protection act: Schedule I.
- IUCN Red list: Endangered.
- It is distributed over India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan.

- Threats faced by the Tiger include poaching, Habitat destruction, Prey loss and Human conflict.
- Conservation programs include Project Tiger, Tiger census, MsTripes, TX2 Goal, Conservation Assured | Tiger Standards (CA|TS) awards and Integrated Tiger Habitat Conservation Programme (ITHCP by IUCN).
- The Tiger Census is **conducted every 4 years (Quadrennial)** by **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)**.
- More than **80% of the world's wild tigers are in India**, and it's crucial to keep track of their numbers.
- **Madhya Pradesh has the highest number of tigers (526)** followed by **Karnataka (524)** and **Uttarakhand (442)**.
- Government recently proposed to **merge the Elephant Census and Tiger Census**.
- Tiger was included in the **"Not all animals migrate by choice"** campaign by **Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB)**.