

09– 04 – 2022

News: Electoral Bond

- The Supreme Court will take up for hearing a pending plea challenging the Electoral Bond Scheme, 2018.
- Two NGOs — Common Cause and Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) — have challenged the scheme, alleging that it is “distorting democracy”.

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 voters polled in last Lok Sabha General Election** or elections to the State Legislative Assembly are eligible to receive the Electoral bonds.
- **Donors who contribute less than Rs. 20,000 to political parties through purchase of electoral bonds need not provide their identity details** such as PAN, etc.

News: National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK)

- Recently, the Union Cabinet approved the **extension of the tenure of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK) for three years beyond 31st March, 2022.**

National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK)

- National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK) was **constituted as a statutory body as per National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK) Act, 1993.**
- The **commission enjoyed the powers of statutory body till the NSCK Act expired in 2004.**

- Since then, tenure of the commission is extended from time-to-time, as a non-statutory body.
- They act towards the well-being of manual scavengers.
- NSCK is mandated with the monitoring of the implementation of “The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013”.
- They can take suo-moto notice of matter relating to non-implementation of the above said Act.