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News: Will electoral bonds reveal the source of funds, SC asks Centre

➤ The Supreme Court on Friday asked the government whether the electoral bonds system reveals the source of money pumped in to fund political parties even as the Centre maintained that the scheme is "absolutely transparent".

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 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: INS Arihant carries out key missile test

➢ The country's first ballistic missile nuclear submarine INS Arihant carried out a successful launch of a Submarine Launched Ballistic Missile (SLBM) recently, validating India's second strike nuclear capability.

INS Arihant (SSBN – 80)

➢ INS Arihant (SSBN 80) is the designated S2 Strategic Strike Nuclear Submarine, is the lead ship of India's Arihant class of nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines.

➢ INS Arihant is propelled by an 83 MW pressurised light-water reactor at its core with enriched uranium fuel.

➢ The 6,000 tonne vessel was built under the Advanced Technology Vessel (ATV) project at the Ship Building Centre in the port city of Visakhapatnam.

- It was launched in 2009 and was commissioned in August 2016.

- The Arihant class (of 4 vessels) is equipped with K-15 Sagarika Missiles (750 km range).

- Later, it will also be armed with K-4 missiles (successfully test fired in January 2020), being developed by the DRDO, which are capable of striking targets at a distance of up to 3,500 km.

- These 'K' series of missiles are named after former President APJ Abdul Kalam.

INS Arighat

- INS Arighat is an upgraded variant of the Arihant-class submarine.

- It is the second nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine being built by India under the Advanced Technology Vessel (ATV) project to build nuclear submarines at the Ship Building Centre in Visakhapatnam.

- It has the code name S3.

- The submarine was quietly launched in 2017 and little has been publicly announced about its capabilities and current status.

- The sea trials of the vessel have been completed.

- As per reports, she is ready to be commissioned alongside INS Vikrant (Indigenous Aircraft Carrier-1).

News: Global Hunger Index is out, India in 'serious' category at rank 107

Global Hunger Report

➢ Global Hunger Report and Index is an annual report jointly published by Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe.

➢ It was first produced in 2006. It is published every October. The 2022 edition marks the 17th edition of the GHI.

➢ Though the GHI is an annual report, the rankings are not comparable across different years. The GHI score for 2022 can only be compared with scores for 2000, 2007 and 2014.

➢ Aim of the index is to comprehensively measure and track hunger at the global, regional and country levels.

➢ The GHI scores are calculated each year to assess progress and setbacks in combating hunger.

It is calculated on the basis of four indicators:

➢ **Undernourishment**: Share of the population with insufficient caloric intake.

➢ **Child Wasting**: Share of children under age five who have low weight for their height, reflecting acute undernutrition.

➢ **Child Stunting**: Share of children under age five who have low height for their age, reflecting chronic undernutrition.

➢ **Child Mortality**: The mortality rate of children under the age of five.

Scoring

➢ Based on the values of the four indicators, the GHI determines hunger on a 100-point scale where 0 is the best possible score (no hunger) and 100 is the worst.

➢ Countries are divided into five categories of hunger on the basis of their score, which are 'low', 'moderate', 'serious', 'alarming' and 'extremely alarming'.

Key Points

➢ Based on current GHI projections, the world as whole - and 47 countries in particular - will fail to achieve a low level of hunger by 2030.

➢ After decades of decline, the global prevalence of undernourishment - a component of the Global Hunger Index - is increasing.

➢ Africa, South of the Sahara and South Asia are the world regions where hunger levels are highest. Hunger in both regions is considered serious.

➢ India has been ranked at 107 out of 121 countries in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2022.

➢ India's score of 29.1 places it in the 'serious' category.

➢ India features behind Sri Lanka (64), Nepal (81), Bangladesh (84) and Pakistan (99) among others.

➢ Afghanistan (109) is the only country in South Asia that performs worse than India on the index.

➢ China is among the countries collectively ranked between 1 and 17 having a score of less than five.

➢ India's child wasting rate at 19.3%, is worse than the levels recorded in 2014 (15.1%) and even 2000 (17.15), and is the highest for any country in the world and drives up the region's average owing to India's large population.

➢ Prevalence of undernourishment has also risen in the country from 14.6% in 2018–2020 to 16.3% in 2019–2021. This translates into 224.3 million people in India considered undernourished.

➢ But India has shown improvement in child stunting, which has declined from 38.7% to 35.5% between 2014 and 2022, as well as child mortality which has also dropped from 4.6% to 3.3% in the same comparative period.