

18– 11 – 2022

News: Electoral bonds worth more than ₹10,000 crore sold since 2018

- The electoral bonds have been sold at around 10,246 crore since 2018 by State Bank of India in 21 tranches.

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.
- The Electoral Bond deposited by an eligible political party in its account shall be credited the same day.

News: Moscow Format calls for minority rights, ‘political reconciliation’ in Afghanistan

- The Moscow Format of Consultations on Afghanistan held in the Russian capital on Wednesday called for respect for all Afghan ethnic groups and minorities in a bid to create national reconciliation in the war torn country.

Moscow format consultations on Afghanistan

- The Moscow format is one of the several dialogue platforms on Afghanistan which began before the Taliban takeover of Kabul.
- It consists of Russia, China, Pakistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and India.
- The key objective of the Moscow format of consultations is to facilitate the national reconciliation process in Afghanistan to establish peace.

- During the meeting, the participants discussed issues related to Afghanistan, including the current humanitarian situation and the ongoing efforts of various stakeholders to provide assistance, intra-Afghan talks, and formation of an inclusive and representative government.

Doha Accord

- Doha Accord is the **agreement signed between US and Taliban insurgents** that could pave way – for the end of 18 year war in Afghanistan.
- The deal was **signed in Doha, Qatar and thus termed as Doha Agreement. India have attended the meeting and welcomed the decision of signing Doha Accord.**
- The agreement **set out a course of next 14 months.**
- Comprehensive **ceasefire between the Afghan government and Taliban.**
- **Prevention of use of Afghanistan by any group or individual against the security of US and its allies.**
- **Withdrawal of all foreign forces** from Afghanistan.