

## Prelim Bits 30-04-2024 | UPSC Daily Current Affairs

### Declaration of the poll at a polling station to be void

The Election Commission of India (ECI) declared void the poll in certain polling stations of Manipur, and Arunachal Pradesh and conducted the repolls.

- **Reasons for declaring the poll void** - India's election laws provide a framework for handling situations where the normal polling process is disrupted for any reason, including
  - Damage to EVMs,
  - Booth-capturing,
  - Natural disasters,
  - A candidate's death.

#### Intentional destruction or taking away of EVMs

- It is declared by the Election Commission under **Section 58 of the Representation of People Act, 1951 (RPA)** if
  - An unauthorised person has unlawfully taken away any EVM;
  - Any EVM has been accidentally or intentionally destroyed, or lost, or damaged, or tampered with;
  - A mechanical failure develops in any EVM during the recording of votes.
- During the repoll, the voters' *left middle fingers* are inked to distinguish between the mark made during the original poll (on their left forefinger).

#### Booth capturing

- It is defined in **Section 135A of the RPA** and the ECI may declare the poll to be void in case of
  - Seizure of a polling station, affecting the conduct of elections;
  - Taking possession of a polling station, allowing only his or their supporters to vote;
  - Intimidating or threatening any elector and preventing him from going to the polling station;
  - Seizure of a counting place affecting the counting of votes;
  - Involvement of any person in government service in any of the above activities.
- Booth capturing is punishable for
  - **Lay people** - 1 year to 3 years
  - **Government servants** - 3 years to 5 years

#### Natural disasters and other disruptions

- The **Presiding Officer** of a polling station can *adjourn the poll* at a polling station under **Section 57(1) of the RPA, 1951** in case of
  - A natural calamity like a flood, a severe storm;
  - Non-receipt or loss or damage to essential polling materials like EVM, electoral roll etc;
  - Interruption or obstruction due to any riot or, open violence;
  - Non-arrival of the polling party due to obstruction or any other serious difficulty;
  - Non-commencement of the poll **within 2 hours** from the scheduled time due to malfunctioning of EVM, or any other reason.
- After seeking the EC's approval on the date and hours, the adjourned poll will *recommence from the stage at which it was left immediately before* the adjournment.
- **Only electors who have not already voted before** the poll was adjourned are permitted to vote.

#### Death of a candidate

• As per **Section 52 of RPA**, amended in 1996, the poll shall be **adjourned only** in case of the **death of a recognised political party's candidate**.

- A recognised political party refers to either a recognised national party, or party recognised as a state party in the state concerned, for which the EC reserves a symbol under the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order.

• The above provision applies if the candidate with a valid nomination dies at any time after 11.00 a.m. on the last date for making nominations, until the commencement of the poll.

• The EC calls upon the concerned political party to nominate another candidate in place of the deceased candidate **within 7 days**.

## Reference

[The Indian Express | What EC can do if normal polling process is disrupted](#)

## Hangor Class Submarines

China has launched the 1<sup>st</sup> of the eight Hangor-class submarines for its all-weather ally Pakistan to provide it with state-of-the-art warships.

- **Origin of the agreement** - The contract for building the submarines between Pakistan government and China Shipbuilding & Offshore International Company Ltd. was signed in 2015.
- **Built by** - 4 of the 8 submarines will be built by Wuchang Shipbuilding Industry Group's (WSIG) while others are being built at KS&EW (Karachi Shipyard & Engineering Works) under Transfer of Technology agreement.
- **Hangor-class Submarine** - It is an export variant of the Chinese Type 039A Yuan class and is named after PNS Hangor, which famously sank Indian frigate INS Khukri during the 1971 war.
- **Features** - The submarines come with diesel engines and an air independent propulsion (AIP) system thus its durability underwater.
- It can launch anti-ship missiles and Babur-3 subsonic cruise missile which has a 450 km range thus giving Pakistan the deep strike capabilities.
- Pakistan's Hangor class is the direct counterpart of **India's Kalavari class of submarines**, based on the French Scorpene-class.



## Quick facts

Project-75 (Kalvari class)	Meaning	Commissioned Year
<a href="#">INS Kalvari</a>	Tiger Shark	2017
<a href="#">INS Khanderi</a>	Island Fort built by Chhatrapati Shivaji	2019
<a href="#">INS Karanj</a>	Island located South of Mumbai	2021
<a href="#">INS Vela</a>		2021
<a href="#">INS Vagir</a>	Sand Fish	2023
INS Vagsheer	Sand Fish	Launched in 2022 (under trails)

## References

[The Indian Express | Pakistan's new Hangor class submarines.](#)

[FirstPost | China launches first Hangor-class submarine for Pakistan](#)

## Supreme Court stand on Streedhan Property

*The Supreme Court reiterated that stridhan is an "absolute property" of a woman, and while the husband has no control over the same.*

- **Streedhan properties** - Properties gifted to a woman *before marriage, at the time of marriage or at the time of bidding farewell or thereafter* are her streedhan properties.
- It is her absolute property with all rights to dispose at her own pleasure.



- **Supreme Court verdict** - Streedhan property ***does not become a joint property*** of the wife and the husband, and the husband has no title or independent dominion over the property as its owner.
- The husband may use it during the time of his distress but nonetheless he has a ***moral obligation to restore the same*** or its value to his wife.

## Reference

[Economic Times | Husband's control over wife's stridhan](#)

## Salmonella infection (Salmonellosis)

*In the last six months, a third of MDH Pvt Ltd's shipments of spice products were rejected by the US because of salmonella contamination.*

- **Cause** - Also known as ***salmonellosis***, it is a common ***bacterial disease*** that affects the intestinal tract.
- Salmonella bacteria typically live in animal and human intestines and are shed through stool (feces).
- **Transmission** - The infection is highly contagious and can be transmitted person-to-food-to-person, animal-to-person directly, animal-food-person, and even person-to-person.
- Humans may contract salmonella infections, usually by eating food with live bacteria on it (undercooked or contaminated food or drinking contaminated water).
- **Symptoms** - Diarrhoea, abdominal cramps, a fever, nausea, and vomiting in some cases.
- **Treatment** - It is a self-limited illness that will go away in a few days, but in some cases it requires medical intervention.
- Cooking foods to a safe internal temperature, usually 165 degrees, and proper food

safety are important for prevention of salmonellosis.

*India is the world's largest producer, consumer and exporter of spices.*

**Related links** - [Ethylene dioxide](#)

## Reference

[Firstpost | US rejects MDH over salmonella contamination](#)

## Kalesar Wildlife Sanctuary

*The Supreme Court has stayed the construction of 4 dams in the Kalesar Wildlife Sanctuary following the Wildlife Institute of India' report.*

- **Location** - Haryana
- **Notified in** - 1996
- Kalesar National Park (KNP) and Kalesar Wildlife Sanctuary (KWLS) is the westernmost tip of the ***Terai Arc Landscape*** with the Shivalik mountain range.

*Kalesar National Park is named after the Kaleshwar (shiva) temple located in protected area. The Yamuna River flows on the one side of the park.*

- **Coverage** - An area of 11,000 acres
- The sanctuary derives its name from the *Kalesar forest*, which is a part of the reserve.
- **Important flora** - Red junglefowl, grey partridge, Indian peafowl, and white-throated kingfisher.
- The Kalesar forest boasts a dense cover of ***Khair and Sal trees***.
- **Important fauna** - Leopards, sambar deer, barking deer, hyenas, jackals, Indian porcupines, Indian pangolins, and langurs.
- **Key features** - The topography varies from plains to hills up to an elevation of 700 m, interspersed with narrow valleys locally called '***khols***' between the hills.
- These valleys house seasonal rivulets locally called '***soats***' which remain dry for most of the year.
- This site qualifies as a ***key biodiversity area of international significance*** (including Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas, Alliance for Zero Extinction sites, and Key Biodiversity Areas).
- **Dams within Kalesar Wildlife Sanctuary** - Chikan, Kansli, Khillanwala and Ambawali.



## References

1. [Tribune India | SC stays 4 dams inside Kalesar Wildlife Sanctuary](#)

2. [WWI | Kalesar Wildlife Sanctuary](#)

