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20 April 2024

West Bengal News

<p>New Leadership at CII West Bengal for 2024-25</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sandeep Kumar, the Managing Director of Tata Steel Downstream Products Limited, has been chosen as the chairman of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), West Bengal State Council for the year 2024-25. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kumar, who brings over thirty years of experience within the Tata group, is expected to drive the council towards significant growth and development.• His expertise in commercial and general management, along with his deep understanding of the steel industry, positions him as a catalyst for progress.• The CII West Bengal State Council aims to build an ecosystem that encourages innovation, inclusivity, and resilience, positioning Bengal as a globally competitive hub by 2030.
<p>1st phase polls in Bengal General Elections 2024</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The first phase of polling in Bengal was largely peaceful, with only a few incidents of sporadic violence reported.• Cooch Behar, Alipurduar, and Jalpaiguri went to polls on 18 April, with a CRPF personnel reportedly losing his life due to illness. By 5 pm, the polling percentage stood at 79.33% in Jalpaiguri, 77.73% in Cooch Behar, and 75.54% in Alipurduar. <p>Election Commission of India:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Election Commission of India (ECI) is an independent constitutional body responsible for overseeing elections at both the Union and State levels in India.• Established on January 25, 1950, in line with the Constitution, the ECI's headquarters are located in New Delhi.• It conducts elections for the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies, as well as for the President and Vice President, but not for panchayats and municipalities, which fall under the purview of separate State Election Commissions.



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ADDAPEDIA

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Constitutional Provisions:

- Part XV (Article 324-329) of the Constitution deals with elections and establishes the Election Commission.
- **Article 324 vests the superintendence, direction, and control of elections in the Election Commission.**
- **Article 325** prohibits discrimination based on religion, race, caste, or sex in electoral rolls.
- **Article 326** mandates elections to be based on adult suffrage.
- **Article 327** empowers Parliament to make laws regarding elections.
- **Article 328** grants State Legislatures the power to make laws on elections.
- **Article 329** prohibits judicial interference in electoral matters.

Structure of ECI:

- Originally a single-member body, the Election Commission became a multi-member body following the Election Commissioner Amendment Act 1989.
- The ECI consists of the **Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and two Election Commissioners (ECs), appointed by the President.**
- At the state level, the Chief Electoral Officer assists the Election Commission.

Appointment & Tenure of Commissioners:

- The President appoints the CEC and ECs under the CEC and Other ECs (Appointment, Conditions of Service, and Term of Office) Act, 2023.
- **They serve for a fixed term of six years or until the age of 65, whichever is earlier.**
- The salary and conditions of service are equivalent to those of the Cabinet Secretary.

Removal:

- **Commissioners can resign or be removed before their term ends.**
- The CEC can only be removed through a process similar to that of a Supreme Court judge by Parliament, while ECs can only be removed on the CEC's recommendation.

Limitations:

- The Constitution does not specify the qualifications or terms of members of the Election Commission.
- **Retiring election commissioners are not barred from further government appointments.**



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Heat Wave

Context:

- The state government is preparing to address the increased demand for electricity caused by a heatwave in Kolkata.
- The demand for power in the city has surged, with recording a demand of 2,294 MW, surpassing last year's maximum demand of 2,180 MW by over 100 MW.

What is a Heatwave?

- A heat wave, sometimes described as extreme heat, is a period of abnormally hot weather.
- It is usually measured relative to the usual climate in the area and normal temperatures for the season.
- High humidity often accompanies heat waves, especially in oceanic climate countries.
- In India, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has specific criteria for declaring a heat Wave.
- It is considered if the maximum temperature of a station reaches at least 40°C or more for Plains, and at least 30°C or more for Hilly regions.
- If the above criteria are met at least in 2 stations in a Meteorological sub-division for at least two consecutive days, it is declared a heatwave on the second day.

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