

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-JUNE 10, 2022

TAMIL NADU

➤ On June 9, Chief Minister M K Stalin - inaugurated laying of the optical fibre cables to provide high speed internet connectivity to all the 12,525 village panchayats in Tamil Nadu.



- ✓ The Rs.1,627.8 crore project will be implemented by Tamil Nadu Fibrenet Corporation (TANFINET).
- ✓ The CM inaugurated the commencement of work in Muththalakurichi village through video conferencing from the secretariat.
- ✓ Muththalakurichi village is located in information technology minister Mano Thangaraj's Padmanabhapuram assembly constituency in Kanyakumari district.
- ✓ The project is aimed at providing 1 Gbps bandwidth connectivity to all the village panchayats in the State
- ✓ The project seeks to provide quality digital services like e-education, telemedicine, and triple play service (phone, television and internet connectivity) at affordable prices.

- ✓ It would extend high speed internet services to government offices, educational institutions and business enterprises and support the government machinery to discharge its service to the public faster, besides generating employment in rural pockets and boost the economy
- ✓ It would be implemented in four packages –A, B, C and D.
 - ✓ Chennai, Kancheepuram, Tiruvallur, Vellore, Krishnagiri, Chengalpet, Ranipet, Tirupattur, and Tiruvannamalai will be covered in package A
 - ✓ Cuddalore, Ariyalur, Perambalur, Dharmapuri, Kallakurichi, Salem, Erode, the Nilgiris and Villupuram will be covered in package B.
 - ✓ Package C will cover Nagapattinam, Thanjavur, Thiruvarur, Pudukkottai, Namakkal, Karur, Coimbatore, Tirupur, Trichy and Mayiladuthurai districts.
 - ✓ Package D will be implemented in Kanyakumari, Madurai, Ramanathapuram, Theni, Tuticorin, Tirunelveli, Virudhunagar, Tenkasi, Dindigul and Sivaganga districts.
- On June 9, Tamil Nadu school education minister Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi

 announced that LKG and UKG in these schools would continue with

 special teachers
- ✓ The move follows the opposition against the government's decision to close kindergarten sections in 2,381 government schools
- ✓ In 2019-20, the state government started LKG and UKG classes in anganwadi centres functioning inside government middle schools on a pilot basis for three years.
- ✓ When three years were over, the school education department decided not to extend the LKG and UKG sections and 43,000 children studying in KG sections were brought under the control of the social welfare department.
- ✓ Political parties and educationists had urged the state to continue the KG sections in government schools.
- ➤ The Tamil Nadu government has constituted a nine-member high level committee to ensure the implementation of 4% reservation for the differently-abled in government departments.
- ✓ Secretary for the department of differently-abled welfare would head the panel
- ✓ Secretaries of labour, human resource management, TN public service commission, cooperative societies' registrar, director for the department of employment and training, teacher recruitment board and medical service recruitment board would be the members of committee.
- ✓ The government passed an order in this regard on June 7.
- ✓ The committee has been constituted following the recent plea of the representative of the differently-abled community to chief minister M K Stalin.
- ✓ The committee would monitor the implementation of 4% reservation for the differently-abled as per section 34 (1) of the Right of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016.

- ✓ It would also keep track of the vacancies reserved for the differently-abled candidates and ensure it being carried forward.
- ✓ Apart from monitoring the implementation of the reservation, the panel would also act to clear 1,095 backlog vacancies reserved for differently-abled persons in the government sector.
- ➢ On June 9, Tamil Nadu Fireworks and Amorces Manufacturers Association (Tanfama) and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research – National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (CSIR-NEERI) - signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for establishing an emission testing laboratory for testing green fireworks at Sivakasi.
- ✓ The facility is to be established with funds from the central government and
 fireworks manufacturers.
- ✓ Five acres of land has been purchased on Sivakasi-Vembakottai road for establishing the laboratory.
- ✓ At present, fireworks manufacturers registered with NEERI send their cracker varieties to its laboratory in Nagpur for emission testing and certification.
- ✓ Since the Nagpur laboratory has only two chambers for testing fireworks products, there is a delay in testing and obtaining certification.
- ✓ The laboratory proposed to be established at Sivakasi will have 10 chambers to test as many as 20 products a day.
- ✓ Accordingly, the laboratory would reduce the delay in testing and certification
- ✓ Following a Supreme Court direction, CSIR-NEERI has developed a formula to produce green crackers which reduce emissions by 20%-30%.
- ✓ As many as 1,000 fireworks units in Virudhunagar district had registered with NEERI for producing green crackers.
- ✓ It was in this context that a special camp was organised at Tanfama office campus in Sivakasi to enable other fireworks units to register with NEERI for production of green crackers.
- ✓ The MoU for establishing the laboratory was signed during the camp.

NATIONAL

- > On June 9, the Election Commission announced July 18 as the date of the 16th Presidential Election for electing the next President of India.
- ✓ The notification for the election will be issued on June 15, the last date for nomination is scheduled for June 29 and the counting of the votes, if needed, shall be done on July 21
- ✓ The tenure of President Ram Nath Kovind will come to an end on July 24, 2022 and the new president has to be sworn in by July 25.
- ✓ As per Article 62 of the Constitution, an election to fill the vacancy caused by the expiration of the term of office is required to be completed before the term ends.

✓ The superintendence, direction, and control of the conduct of election to the office
of the President of India is vested with the Election Commission of India as per
Article 324 of the Constitution, the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections
Act, 1952, and the rules made thereunder



- ✓ The President is elected by the members of the Electoral College consisting of elected members of both Houses of Parliament (776 members) and elected members of the Legislative Assemblies of all States including National Capital Territory of Delhi and the Union Territory of Puducherry. (4,033 members)
- ✓ However, the nominated members of either Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha or Legislative Assemblies of the states are not eligible to be included in the Electoral College and therefore, are not entitled to participate in the election process.
- ✓ Similarly, members of the Legislative Councils are also not electors for the Presidential election.
- ✓ According to Article 55 (3) of the Constitution the indirect election is held in accordance with the System of Proportional Representation by means of single transferable vote and the voting at such election shall be by secret ballot
- ✓ In this system, the elector has to mark preferences against the names of the candidates.
- ✓ The Members of Parliament are expected to cast their votes at the Place of Poll in the Parliament House, New Delhi, and members of State Legislative Assemblies are expected to vote at the respective State Capital.
- ✓ PC Mody, the Secretary General, Rajya Sabha will be the Returning Officer for the elections
- ✓ The total value of the votes for all MPs combined is 5,43,200 and States is 5,43,231
 - ✓ The value of the vote of a Member of Parliament has gone down to 700 from 708 in the presidential polls this time due to the absence of a legislative assembly in Jammu and Kashmir.
 - ✓ The Election commission's report shows that the value of each MP's vote was the highest, at 723, in the 1974 election since the population count as

- per the 1971 census was taken as the benchmark while calculating this value.
- ✓ The value of MPs' votes had come down to 702 in the 1977 presidential poll and had again increased to 708 in the 1997 election, which continued till the last presidential poll.
- ✓ The value of the vote of each MLA varies in different states standing at 208 in Uttar Pradesh, followed by 176 in Jharkhand and Tamil Nadu, while it is 175 in Maharashtra.
 - ✓ In Sikkim, the value of vote per MLA is seven, while it is nine in Nagaland and eight in Mizoram.
 - ✓ To find the value of each vote in any particular state, divide the population of the state by the number of MLAs in its assembly, then divide the quotient by 1000.
- ✓ The total electorals for the current election would be 4809, according to the EC and no political party can issue a whip to its members
- ✓ In 2017, the presidential polls were held on July 17 and the counting took place on July 20.
- ✓ The then Governor of Bihar Ram Nath Kovind (7,020,44) defeated former Lok Sabha speaker and opposition candidate, former speaker of Lok sabha, Meira Kumar (3,67,314) by 3,34,730 value votes.
- ✓ Rajendra Prasad was the only President to have got two full terms and Zakir Hussain and Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed could not complete their full terms.
- ✓ Incidentally, there has only been one presidential election in 1977 where Neelam Sanjiva Reddy was elected unopposed, after the candidatures of 36 of the 37 candidates who filed their nominations were rejected.
- On June 9, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the first-of-its-kind Biotech Startup Expo 2022 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi



✓ Union Ministers Piyush Goyal, Dharmendra Pradhan and Dr Jitendra Singh also attended the event

- ✓ During his address, the PM mentioned that India's bio-economy has grown eight times in the past eight years from \$10 billion to \$80 billion
- ✓ The PM hailed the contributions of the Biotechnology Industry Research
 Assistance Council (BIRAC) in the development of the sector
- ✓ The two-day exhibition was organised by the department of biotechnology to
 celebrate 10 years of BIRAC and showcase 75 successful startups supported by
 the agency.
- ✓ The PM said the number of investors in the sector has risen by nine times and funding for them have increased by seven times.
- ✓ The number of biotech incubators has increased from six in 2014 to 75 now, while
 biotech products have increased from 10 products to more than 700 today, said
 the PM
- ✓ Biotech Start-up Expo 2022 is being held under the theme "Biotech Start-up Innovations: Towards Aatma Nirbhar Bharat".
- ➤ On June 9, Coal India Ltd (CIL) invited bids for importing coal to ensure its availability amidst shortages reported across the country
- ✓ The state-run Coal India announced that it has floated an international e-tender to import 2.416 million tonnes (MTs) of coal for 26 power plants
- ✓ The coal being imported is 5000 GAR (gross as received) thermal grade coal.
- ✓ This is the first time that India's largest coal producer has issued a tender to import coal.
- ✓ The import would be carried out in the September quarter that is aimed at building inventories at seven state gencos and 19 independent power plants
- ✓ The board of Coal India has already approved the issuance of two international tenders for sourcing coal from overseas, a short term and a medium-term tender.
- ✓ The current short term tender for coal import for the July-September quarter is open to sourcing from any country or source.
- ✓ The coal imported shall be routed through nine ports located in east and west coasts of the country.
- ✓ The states that have asked CIL for imports are Punjab, Gujarat, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh

INTERNATIONAL

- Thailand has become the first country in Asia to decriminalise marijuana for medical and industrial use
- ✓ Thailand's food and drug administration has decided to remove all of the cannabis plant from the category of narcotic drugs.
- ✓ But it is not following the examples of Uruguay and Canada, the only two countries so far that have legalised recreational marijuana on a national basis.
- ✓ The government, banking on the plant as a cash crop, plans to give away a million plants to encourage farmers to take up its cultivation.



- ✓ Cannabis growers have to register on a government app called PlookGanja, or grow ganja.
- ✓ The health ministry has approved 1,181 products including cosmetics and food, containing cannabis extracts and it expects that the industry will earn as much as 15 billion baht (\$435 million) by 2026.
- ✓ However, the possession and sale of cannabis extracts containing more than 0. 2% of its psychoactive ingredient, tetrahydrocannabinol, is not allowed
- ✓ It means smokers of the drug known as "pot" or "weed" can still face jail and fines.

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

➤ On June 9, India - formally handed over to Vietnam 12 high-speed guard boats built under a \$100 million line of credit as part of the expanding defence ties between the two countries.

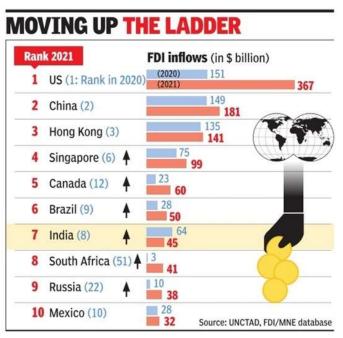


- ✓ Presiding over the ceremony in Vietnam, defence minister Rajnath Singh said he was confident the boat construction project will be a precursor to many more cooperative defence projects between the two countries.
- ✓ Under the project, the first five boats were built by L&T in India and the next seven at the Hong Ha shipyard,

- ✓ With an eye firmly on China, India has assured Vietnam of all possible help in modernising its armed forces, including weapon supplies, training of its fighter pilots and submariners, and enhancing its maritime capabilities.
- ✓ Towards this end, India has also offered the BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles as well as the Akash surface-to-air missile defence systems to the country.
- ✓ A day earlier, the two countries signed a "joint vision" document to "significantly enhance the scope and scale" of their bilateral defence ties by 2030
- ✓ They have also finalised a reciprocal logistics support pact to allow their militaries to use each other's bases for repair and replenishment of supplies

ECONOMY

➢ India - has moved up one place to be ranked seventh in the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development's (Unctad) annual World Investment Report despite a 30% decline in foreign direct investment (FDI) into the country.



- ✓ During 2021, FDI inflows into India were estimated at \$45 billion as large mergers and acquisitions, especially in the digital technology space, were not repeated in 2021.
- ✓ During the previous year, companies such as Reliance Jio received large investments from Facebook and Alphabet.
- ✓ But India remains the preferred destination for digital MNCs looking to invest outside the developed world with the country securing 7% of deals due to the "thriving tech startup scene".
- ✓ According to Unctad, several new international project finance deals were announced in the country - 108 projects, compared with 20 projects on average for the last 10 years.

- ✓ The largest number of projects (23) was in renewables.
- ✓ Among other large projects in construction, a steel and cement plant for \$13. 5 billion by Arcelormittal Nippon Steel (Japan) and the construction of a new car manufacturing facility by Suzuki Motor (Japan) for \$2. 4 billion are included
- ✓ While India's FDI inflows in 2021 were the lowest since 2018, outflows were up 43% at around \$16 billion, the report said.

APPOINTMENTS

On June 9, the government - gave additional charge as Prasar Bharati chief executive to Mayank Kumar Agrawal, currently serving as director general News at the Doordarshan.



- ✓ The 1989-batch Indian Information Service officer will hold interim charge as Prasar Bharati CEO till further orders or until the government makes a regular appointment to the post.
- ✓ Agarwal's appointment comes after Shashi Shekhar Vempati demitting office as Prasar Bharati CEO after completing his five-year tenure on June 8.
- ✓ As per the Prasar Bharati Act, a three-member search committee comprising the Vice President of India, chairman of Press Council of India, and the I&B secretary will identify the executive member of the Prasar Bharati board.
- ✓ The Prasar Bharati Act does not have a provision for the extension of services of the CEO of the board.
- ✓ The government has not filled up the vacancy for the Prasar Bharati chairman since its last incumbent, Surya Prakash, stepped down.

SPORTS

- On June 9, Mumbai registered the biggest-ever win in the history of First-Class cricket for highest margin of victory in terms of runs
- ✓ In a Ranji Trophy last-eight clash, Mumbai defeated Uttarakhand by 725-runs on Day four of their Ranji Trophy quarterfinal at the Alur Cricket Ground-2.
- ✓ With their crushing victory, Mumbai broke almost a 90-year-old record

✓ The previous biggest margin of win (in terms of runs) in First-Class cricket was recorded in the 1929-30 season, when New South Wales beat Queensland in Sydney by 685 runs.

Four biggest wins in FC cricket by margin of runs

Margin For		Орр	Venue	Series	
725 runs	MUM	Uttarakhand	Alur	2021-22	
685 runs	NSW	Queensland	Sydney	1929-30	
675 runs	ENG	Australia	Brisbane (Exh.ground)	1928-29	
638 runs	NSW	South Australia	Adelaide	1920-21	

- ✓ In the Ranji Trophy, the previous highest victory margin came way back in 1953-54, when Bengal thrashed Orissa by 540 runs.
- ✓ Mumbai's previous-biggest win (in terms of runs) was when they defeated Holkar by 531 runs at the Brabourne Stadium in 1951-52.
- ✓ The 41-time Ranji Trophy champions thus marched into the semifinals of the championship for the first time since the 2015-16 season when they last won their 41st trophy in grand style.
- Pakistan skipper Babar Azam became the first batter to knock three successive one-day international hundreds twice



- ✓ Ranked number one batter in both limited overs formats, Azam cracked a brilliant 107-ball 103 to anchor a five-wicket win over the West Indies in Multan on June 8
- ✓ Azam had knocked two hundreds in Pakistan's last two ODIs against Australia in March-April this year.
- ✓ He also smashed three hundreds in successive ODIs against the West Indies in United Arab Emirates in 2016.

RANKINGS

India - has been ranked lowest among 180 countries in the 2022 Environmental Performance Index (EPI) produced by researchers at Yale and Columbia Universities. ✓ The biennial ranking is based on 40 performance indicators, including climate change, environmental public health, and ecosystem vitality, across 11 categories



- ✓ India, with markedly poor air quality and quickly rising greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, comes in at the very bottom of the country rankings for the first time with a score of 18.9
- ✓ The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) rejected the country's EPI ranking, alleging that the Index is based on "extrapolations, surmises and unscientific methods".
- ✓ India was ranked at 168 in EPI 2020 with a score of 27.6
- ✓ The index shows that southern Asian countries, such as India, Nepal, and Pakistan, are particularly lagging in air quality
- ✓ Myanmar (179 rank), Vietnam (178 rank), Bangladesh (177), Pakistan (176), and India (180) have been ranked the lowest
- ✓ The neighbouring China, which also faces issues related to poor air quality and growing greenhouse gas emissions, is ranked at 160th place, while the US and Russia were placed at 112th and 43rd place respectively
- ✓ Denmark has earned the number one ranking, followed by the UK, Finland, Malta and Sweden.
- ✓ The index shows global progress to reduce greenhouse gas emissions remains
 insufficient to meet the net-zero GHGs by 2050, a target set in the 2021 Glasgow
 Climate Pact.
- ✓ Using the past 10-years' emissions trajectory as a basis for projecting 2050 emissions, the EPI researchers forecast that the vast majority of countries will not achieve the net-zero goal

- ✓ More than 50% of emissions in 2050 are slated to come from just 4 countries -- China, India, the United States, and Russia, shows the analysis.
- ✓ This year's index was published by the Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy and the Center for International Earth Science Information Network, Columbia University
- ✓ It was first started in 2002 as the ESI, or the Environment Sustainability Index, as a collaboration between the World Economic Forum, the Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy and the Columbia University Center for International Earth Science Information Network.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS - A REPORT

Party	MLA votes	MP votes	Total votes
NDA	2,17,020	3,09,400	5,26,420
BJP	1,85,014	2,74,400	4,59,414
JD(U)	7,785	14,700	22,485
AIADMK	11,616	4,200	15,816
UPA	1,47,192	1,12,700	2,59,892
Cong	88,208	57,400	1,45,608
DMK	23,232	23,800	47,032
Sena	9,800	15,400	25,200
RJD	13,148	3,500	16,648
NCP	9,450	6,300	15,750
Others	1,78,094	1,14,800	2,92,894
TMC	32,918	25,200	58,118
YSRCP	23,850	19,600	43,450
BJD	16,986	14,700	31,686
SP	23,088	5,600	28,688
Left	16,503	8,400	24,903
Total	5,42,306	5,36,900	10,79,206

NEEDS 13K VOTES OUT OF 10.8L

Total votes (MLAs+MPs) 10,79,206 5,26,420 2	,59,892	Others (Trinamool, YSRCP, BJD, SP & Left) 2,92,894		
As on date, there are 4,790 elected MLAs across states (not counting vacancies) and the value of their votes adds up to 5.4 lakh (5,42,306). There	is calculated on the basis of the state's population and no. of legislators. The MP's vote is derived from that total (How The President Is Elected, P 11) NDA's combined tally is about 13,000 votes short of the figure required for majority If YSRCP (43,500 votes) or BJD (31,700) decides to back the NDA candidate, he or she would be in			
are 767 elected MPs (again not counting vacancies), whose combined vote tally is also close to 5.4 lakh (5,36,900).				
Total vote tally for presidential polls is thus nearly 10.8 lakh				
> The value of an MLA's vote	a comfortable position to win			

How The President Is Elected

The President of India is not elected directly by the citizens of India but by a process involving Union and state lawmakers that is based on a specific formula, voting by proportional representation. Here's how it works

TOTAL 10,79,206 NDA 5,26,420 Others 2,92,894

Who Elects The President?

- ➤ It's a combined electorate of the elected members of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha and all the state legislatures, along with those in the NCT of Delhi and the UT of Puducherry.
- ➤ Nominated members of the Houses of Parliament or state legislatures and the members of legislative councils (MLCs) are not part of this electoral college.

Why, And How, Are Values Assigned To Each MP/MLA's Vote?

MLA

A value is assigned to each MP's and MLA's vote based on the population of a state and the number of its elected legislators.

- First, the population of the state is divided by the number of seats in its legislative assembly.
- The quotient is further divided by 1,000. If the remainder is more than 0.5 then the value of each member's vote is increased by one. The thing to remember is that the population for each state is per the 1971 Census.
- ➤ Let's take UP, which has 403 MLAs. Its population in the 1971 Census was 8,38,49,905. Applying the formula, we get,
- 8,38,49,905/403 x 1,000 = 208.064
- Since, the remainder is less than 0.5, the value of each UP MLA's vote is 208. And, the total value of UP's votes: 403x208 = 83.824.

MP

The value of each MP's vote is derived by adding the values of all the MLA votes and then dividing the total by the total number of elected Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha members.

- For the 2022 presidential polls, the total number of elected MPs is 776 (543 LS + 233 RS). The total value of all MLA votes is 5,43,231. So, the value of each MP's vote is, 5,43,231/776 = 700.03, or 700 (since remainder is less than 0.5)
- ➤ What is important to note is that the total value of MPs' votes (700 x 776 = 5,43,200 in 2022) is more or less equal to the total value of the votes of all MLAs (5,43,231; the numbers are slightly different due to rounding). It thus ensures that neither the Union nor the states has an upper hand in electing the President.

IL WOLKS		TOTAL VALUE OF VOTES			
State/UT	Value of each MP/MLA's vote	NDA	UPA	Others	Total
Lok Sabha	700	2,33,100	74,900	70,000	3,78,000
Rajya Sabha	700	76,300	37,800	44,800	1,58,900
Andhra	159	0	0	27,825	27,825
Arunachal	8	432	32	16	480
Assam	116	9,512	3,248	1,856	14,616
Bihar	173	21,798	19,203	1,038	42,039
Chhattisgarh	129	1,806	9,159	645	11,610
Goa	20	440	220	140	800
Gujarat	147	16,317	9,408	441	26,166
Haryana	112	6,496	3,472	112	10,080
Himachal	51	2,295	1,122	51	3,468
Jharkhand	176	4,752	8,096	1,408	14,256
Karnataka	131	15,982	9,170	4,192	29,344
Kerala	152	0	6,232	15,048	21,280
MP	131	16,637	12,576	917	30,130
Maharashtra	175	18,550	16,975	14,700	50,225
Manipur	18	666	108	306	1,080
Meghalaya	17	697	85	238	1,020
Mizoram	8	232	40	48	320
Nagaland	9	540	0	0	540
Odisha	149	3,278	1,490	17,135	21,903
Punjab	116	232	2,088	11,252	13,572
Rajasthan	129	9,546	13,932	2,322	25,800
Sikkim	7	217	0	7	224
Tamil Nadu	176	13,200	27,984	0	41,184
Telangana	132	396	792	14,520	15,708
Tripura	26	1,066	0	390	1,456
Uttarakhand	64	3,008	1,216	256	4,480
UP	208	56,784	416	26,624	83,824
West Bengal	151	11,325	0	33,069	44,394
Delhi	58	464	0	3,538	4,002
Puducherry	16	352	128	0	480

How Is The Voting Done?

- ➤ The presidential election adheres to the system of proportional representation.
- ➤ The secret paper ballot does not have any party symbol and since 2017, MPs vote on green-coloured ballots and MLAs on pink ballots.
- ➤ Each ballot has two columns first containing the name of the candidate and the second for electors to write their preference by ranking the candidates. So, the number '1' means first preference and so on.
- In the first round of counting, a



candidate has to get a majority of total first-preference votes polled to win.

➤ If no candidate reaches this mark, then the candidate with lowest firstpreference votes is excluded and their votes are distributed among the remaining candidates on the basis of second preference. The process continues until a candidate secures the majority.

Who Is Eligible To Contest The Presidential Election?

- ➤ Any Indian citizen who is at least 35 years old and is eligible to contest in Lok Sabha or state assembly elections can contest in a presidential election.
- Eligible candidates cannot hold any office of profit in the central or state government.
- ➤ Candidates are required to get their nomination papers endorsed by at least 50 electors as proposers and another 50 as seconders. An elector can endorse the nomination papers of only one candidate as either a proposer or a seconder.

Source: ECI