



Current Affairs of the Day

GS Paper - II

- SC stays EC order revoking 'star campaigner' status of Nath
- 'Strategic Partnership will aid smooth work in the event of regional crisis'

GS Paper - III

- Gilgit-Baltistan to be a full province: Pak. PM
- New Commission to fight Pollution



SC stays EC order revoking 'star campaigner' status of Nath

GS II: Salient Features of the Representation of People's Act.

The Supreme Court on Monday stayed the October 30 order of the Election Commission (EC) revoking the 'star campaigner' status of former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath.

Highlights:

1. Chief Justice of India Sharad A. Bobde, heading a three-judge Bench, said the Commission had no power to determine who should be the 'star campaigner' of a political party.
2. Section 77(1) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 read with Guidelines for Star Campaigners issued by the Election Commission, from time to time, makes selection/revocation of 'star campaigners' the sole prerogative of the political party.

Prelims:

1. Conditions for Designation of any party as a National Party and benefits associated (star Campaigners etc)
2. Conditions for Designation of any party as a State Party and benefits associated
3. Number of National Parties today

Poll conduct | A timeline of the case



Seeking votes: A file photo of Congress leader Kamal Nath campaigning in Karera, Madhya Pradesh. ■ PTI

Sept. 29: Model Code of Conduct comes into force for bypolls to 28 seats in Madhya Pradesh

Oct. 18: BJP complains to Election Commission about Kamal Nath violating the poll code at the Dabra campaign rally

Oct. 21: EC issues notice to Nath

Oct. 22: Nath replies that his remarks have been "completely misunderstood without context and highlighted that there was no malice or intent to disrespect on his part" He says that he had issued a clarification a day after making the purported remarks

Oct. 26: EC holds that Mr. Nath had violated its code of conduct advisory and advises him to not use such words or statements during the period of Model Code of Conduct

Oct. 30: EC revokes his 'star campaigner' status



'Strategic Partnership will aid smooth work in the event of regional crisis'

GS II: Bilateral, Regional and Global Groupings and Agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.

Areas of Cooperation between India: Artificial Intelligence, 5G, rare earth products, and ground station tracking facilities to support Gaganyaan.



Significance of Malabar

1. Malabar exercise is important because, were there to be a regional crisis, like a natural or humanitarian disaster, the ability to work smoothly with partners is critical.
2. Ensuring free and open pacific ocean.

Challenges: cyber and cyber-enabled critical technologies

As part of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP), there were agreements in relation to critical technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, quantum computing, and 5G because we recognise the opportunities they present to people, to businesses, to the broader economy, and the fact that they should be guarded by international standards to ensure they do not present risks, to security or prosperity. The Australia-India framework Arrangements on Cyber and Cyber-Enabled Critical Technology cooperation will support research by institutions in both Australia and between institutions in Australia and India.

The Rare Earth Minerals: Lithium

Indian heavily depends on China, however, imports from China are reducing. Australia potentially sees an opportunity for us to provide elements into India's efforts to improve its manufacturing, defence and electric vehicle and energy mission projects.



The national quantum mission of India

1. Australia is already contributing to India's national quantum mission by facilitating partnerships with universities, research institutions and businesses.
2. That includes one of the best relationships we have with India, which is the Australian India Strategic Research Fund, which has been going for over 20 years.

Space technologies

Two countries are exploring how they can place temporary ground station tracking facilities in Australia to support that Gaganyaan Mission.

Gilgit-Baltistan to be a full province: Pak. PM

GS III: Role of External State and Non-state Actors in creating challenges to Internal Security.

Prime Minister Imran Khan has angered India after declaring that part of the contested Kashmir region will provisionally become a full province of Pakistan.

Highlights:

1. Pakistan has administered the area now known as Gilgit-Baltistan since shortly after the country's birth in 1947, but New Delhi asserts the mountainous territory bordering China and Afghanistan is an integral part of Kashmir.
2. China has spent years building infrastructure projects in Gilgit-Baltistan, home to an estimated 1.3 million people, including a long stretch of the Karakoram Highway, a key component to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).
3. India reiterated: Such attempts by Pakistan, intended to camouflage its illegal occupation, cannot hide the grave human rights violations, exploitation and





denial of freedom for over seven decades to the people residing in these Pakistan-occupied territories.

4. In a move that outraged Pakistan, India last year revoked articles in the Constitution that guaranteed Kashmir's partial autonomy and other rights, including its own flag and Constitution. The two parts of Kashmir are divided by a Line of Control that is subject to frequent cross-border shellings.

New Commission to fight Pollution

GS III: Environmental Pollution and Degradation

President promulgated the Commission for Air Quality Management in the National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Ordinance, 2020 for better coordination, research, identification and resolution of problems surrounding the air quality index and matter connected.



Highlights:

1. Under the Ordinance, a Commission for Air Quality Management In the National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas will be constituted .
2. The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) will have the power to formulate rules, set emission standards and impose fines up to ₹1 crore or send violators to prison for up to five years.
3. CAQM will have members from the Centre, Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, and non-governmental organisations.



Issues:

1. Many have raised questions whether a top-down implementation approach (without third-party monitoring and citizen-driven enforcement) will work, and the lack of a time-bound commitment to clean the air.
2. While CAQM is welcome, it alone cannot clean the air. Its success will depend on how it tackles different interest groups; outlines a time-bound commitment to achieving the set standards; ensures adequate personnel and funds for pollution control bodies, and stricter monitoring systems.