



24-04-2024 NEWS

Laureus Sports Awards 2024

- The 2023 Sports Awards were presented by the UK-based Laureus Organisation.
- The Sportsman of the year award went to tennis star Novak Djokovic of Serbia and the Sportswoman of the year award went to Spanish soccer player Aitana Bonmati.
- Awards were given in 8 categories. Contenders for the Laureus Award are nominated by top sports media internationally.
- The award winners are then selected based on voting by 71 members of the Haredius World Sports Academy.
- Men's Player of the Year Novak Djokovic (Tennis)
- Women's Player of the Year Aitana Bonmati (Soccer)
- Breakthrough of the Year Jude Bellingham (Soccer)
- Comeback of the Year Simon Biles (Gymnastics)
- Best Paralympic Diede de Groot (Wheelchair Tennis)
- Adventure Sports person of the year Arisa Trew (Skateboarding)

Electronic Voting Machine

Problems in Ballot Papers:

- As far as the Lok Sabha elections are concerned, the voting machine was used for the first time in the 2004 elections.
- Prior to that, ballot paper was used.
- There were some problems with the continuous use of the ballot system in elections.
- The first of which is the cost of printing the papers: the second, protection of ballot papers till counting.
- As far as counting of votes is concerned, counting each slip is a very complicated task. In some states, ballot papers were used to cast more fake votes.
- Incidents of party supporters entering the polling stations and vandalizing the ballot boxes also took place.
- In order to solve these problems, the voting machine was introduced as an alternative to the paper ballot.

History of EVM:

- Former Chief Election Commissioner SL Shaktar proposed the idea of using electronic voting machines.
- Following this, Bharat Electronics, along with the Electronics Corporation of India, embarked on the development of an electronic voting machine.
- Electronic Voting Machine was used for the first time in 1982 by-election in Paravur constituency of Kerala.

Problematic Rwanda Bill

- Britain's parliament has approved a controversial bill to deport undocumented refugees to Rwanda.
- A large number of people from countries affected by war and economic crisis continue to seek refuge in Britain in search of a better life.
- There are also frequent incidents of hostile gangs dangerously smuggling asylum-seekers to Britain for money.
- In this situation, in 2022, the then Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced a plan to send asylum seekers to Rwanda by air who enter without proper documents for their country.
- He said the refugees would be held in a detention center in the Rwandan capital, Kigali, until Britain decided whether to grant them asylum after verifying their asylum applications, and until then they would all be considered illegal refugees.
- In June last year, the European Court of Human Rights also banned flights to Rwanda carrying refugees. (Even though Britain left the European Union, it is still part of the European Human Rights Council)

- However, the use of electronic voting machines has faced legal challenges.
- In this case, electronic voting machines should not be used in elections.
- The Supreme Court said, there is no place in the constitution to use it.
- In 1984, the Supreme Court banned the use of electronic voting machines.

Amendment:

- In 1989, the Rajiv Gandhi government amended the Representation of the People Act 1951 to allow the use of electronic voting machines in elections.
- The Department of Industrial Design, IIT Mumbai developed an electronic voting machine which was used in the elections.
- In 1998, as an experimental effort, electronic voting machines were used in 25 legislative assembly constituencies including Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Delhi.

VVPAT:

- Political parties and social activists have been insisting that there is no trust in the voting machine and that the ballot system should be returned.
- Cases were filed in the Supreme Court to ban the voting machine.
- Against this backdrop, the Election Commission introduced the VVPAT on the order of the Supreme Court.
- VVPAT - Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail.
- It allows the voters to cross verify the votes.

Other Countries:

- Electronic Voting Machine was used for the 2014 presidential election in Namibia.
- Many countries including Germany, France, Netherlands, England, USA (not widely used but used in some elections) do not use electronic voting machines in elections.
- Many developed countries also say that EVM voting is undemocratic.
- Those countries believe that computers cannot be trusted and that there is scope for electronic hacking of voting machines.
- The EVM system is not in use in India's neighbor Pakistan. Bangladesh embarks on EVM trials, plans to revert to ballot system.

Top Defense Spending Countries in 2023: India at No. 4

- According to Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, India ranks 4th in the list of countries that have allocated the most funds to the defense sector in the year.
- India spent 8,360 crores on the defense sector last year.
- This is 4.2 and 44 percent more than the funds spent in 2022 and 2014, respectively, the organization said in its report.

India worst affected country due to disaster in 2023

- The World Meteorological Centre has warned that India is the worst affected country by natural disasters in 2023 and India is at risk of facing many more natural disasters.
- In 2023, Cyclone Mocha hit the Rakhine coastal region of Myanmar on May 14 as a severe depression formed over the northern Indian coast.

Excessive use of fuel:

- Due to excessive use of fossil fuels such as coal, petrol and diesel in India, a severe heat wave has started in the country.
- India's temperature could not be stopped from rising to dangerous levels until greenhouse gas emissions are stopped.
- As temperatures rise over the Indian subcontinent, the Himalayan glaciers are melting at record levels and causing sea levels to rise.
- Millions of people in India are at risk of disaster due to climate emergency.