

# CURRENT AFFAIRS

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# Election

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## Only govt. can take call on plea on disqualified lawmakers, EC tells SC

Poll body maintains distance on the question whether a disqualified lawmaker should be banned from contesting elections for five years

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

**T**he Election Commission in the Supreme Court has chosen to maintain a distance on the question whether a disqualified lawmaker should be banned from contesting elections for five years.

The commission said it would be "appropriate" to have the Union government deal with the issue. The commission filed a five-page affidavit in the top court in response to a plea by Congress leader Jaya Thakur.

The petitioner contended that an MP or an MLA who has either been disqualified from the House under the Tenth Schedule (anti-defection law) or under Article 191(1)(e) of the Constitution should be barred from contesting elections for five years.

Article 191(1)(e) gives the various grounds of disqualification "for being chosen as, and for being a member of the Legislative Assembly or Legislative Council of a State".

They include holding an



The final ground of disqualification is if an MLA or an MLC is "disqualified by or under any law made by Parliament".

office of profit, being of unsound mind or undischarged solvent or being a non-citizen or voluntarily acquiring the citizenship of a foreign state or being under any acknowledgement of allegiance or adherence to a foreign state.

The final ground of disqualification, and the one highlighted by Ms. Thakur in her petition, is if an MLA or an MLC is "disqualified by or under any law made by Parliament".

"The issue involved in this matter pertains to the interpretation of Article 191(1)(e) of the Constitution. It relates to matters that do not have a nexus with the conduct of elections in terms of the remit of the

Commission under Article 324. Therefore, respondent no. 1 (Union government) is the appropriate party for the adjudication of the prayers made in the petition," the commission said in the affidavit.

The EC is vested with the authority of superintendence, direction, and control of elections for the conduct of elections to Parliament, State legislatures and the offices of the President and the Vice-President.

Ms. Thakur has highlighted instances in the past when lawmakers resign from legislature parties which brought them to the House, leading to a fall of the government.

# Election commission of India

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- ▶ ● The Election Commission is a permanent and an independent body established by the Constitution of India directly to ensure free and fair elections in the country.
- ▶ ● Article 324 of the Constitution provides that the power of superintendence, direction and control of elections to parliament, state legislatures, the office of president of India and the office of vice-president of India shall be vested in the election commission.
- ▶ The constitution provides for the following provisions in relation to the composition of the election commission:
- ▶ ● The election commission shall consist of the Chief Election Commissioner and a such number of other election commissioners, if any, as the president may from time to time fix.
- ▶ ● The appointment of the chief election commissioner and other election commissioners shall be made by the president.
- ▶ ● When any other election commissioner is so appointed the chief election commissioner shall act as the chairman of the election commission.
- ▶ ● The president may also appoint after consultation with the election commission such regional commissioners as he may consider necessary to assist the election commission.
- ▶ ● The conditions of service and tenure of office of the election commissioners and the regional commissioners shall be such as the President may by rule

# Welfare Schemes

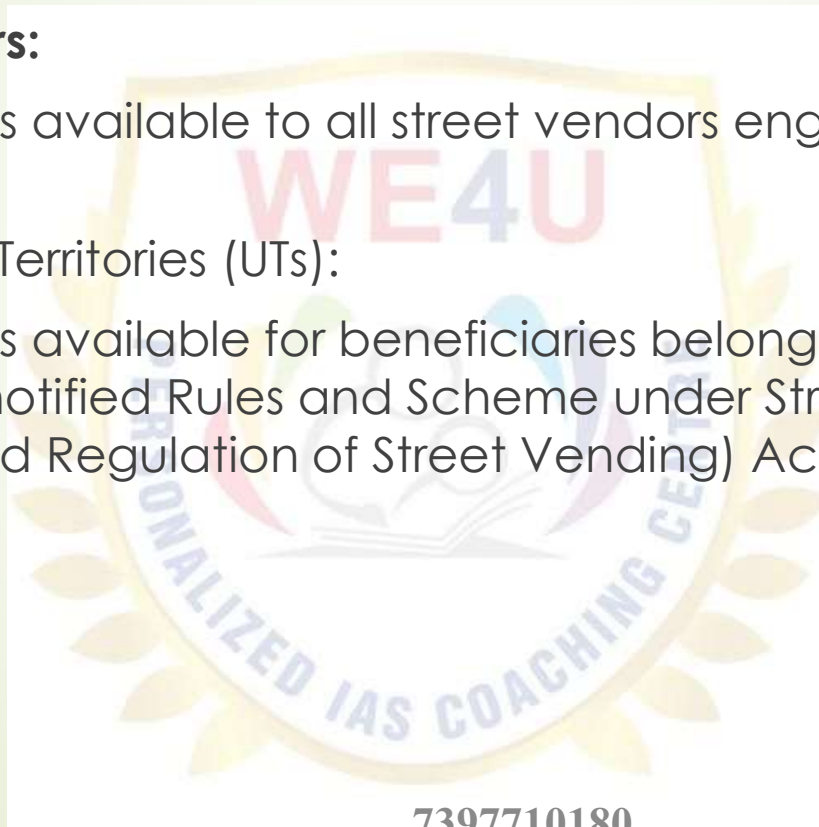
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**Just 9.3% of loans under PM SVANidhi given to vendors from minority communities'**

- The scheme was announced as a part of the Economic Stimulus-II under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.
- It has been implemented since 1st June 2020, for providing affordable working capital loans to street vendors to resume their livelihoods that have been adversely affected due to Covid-19 lockdowns.
- **Funding:**
- It is a Central Sector Scheme i.e., fully funded by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs with the following objectives:
  - To facilitate working capital loan;
  - To incentivize regular repayment; and
  - To reward digital transactions

➤ **Street Vendors:**

- The Scheme is available to all street vendors engaged in vending in urban areas
- States/Union Territories (UTs):
- The Scheme is available for beneficiaries belonging to only those States/UTs which have notified Rules and Scheme under Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014.



# Industry

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## 'Manufacturing PMI rose to three-month high in March'

**S&P Global survey shows manufacturing firms' new orders and output advanced even as input cost inflation slid to second-lowest in two-and-a-half years; PMI reading rose to 56.4, from 55.3 in Feb.**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

**N**ew orders and output rose to a three-month high in March even as input cost inflation for manufacturing firms slipped to the second-lowest mark in two-and-a-half years, the S&P Global India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) indicated.

The PMI reading rose to **56.4**, from 55.3 in February, signalling the strongest improvement in operating conditions in 2023 so far.

### Core comfort

S&P Global's survey of manufacturing firms indicates resilient demand helped boost output to the highest level in 2023



- New export orders picked up pace sequentially, but remained 'slight and historically subdued'
- Outstanding business volumes, however, grew at the weakest in a year, compelling firms to halt fresh hiring after 12 months
- Overall positive sentiment slid to an eight-month low on concerns about general inflation

The PMI average for the January-March period was 55.7, lower than 56.3 in the previous quarter. New ex-

port orders grew at a faster pace in March than the previous month, but remained "slight and histori-

cally subdued," S&P Global noted, based on its survey.

Despite the broader rise in orders and output, manufacturing firms' outstanding business volumes grew only marginally at a pace that was the weakest in a year, compelling firms to desist from fresh hiring in March after 12 successive months of recording employment increases.

Moreover, the overall level of positive sentiment slipped to an eight-month low due to concerns surrounding competitiveness and general inflation.

# Taxation

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## Net direct tax kitty up 17.6%

**Vikas Dhoot**  
NEW DELHI

India's net direct tax collections have risen 17.6% in 2022-23 to touch ₹16.61 lakh crore, exceeding the Revised Estimates target for the year by 0.7%, as per provisional data released by the Finance Ministry on Monday.

The contribution of corporate tax collections in the gross direct tax kitty was ₹10.04 lakh crore, just a tad higher than the ₹9.61 lakh crore paid by taxpayers as

personal income tax and Securities Transaction Tax (STT).

At a gross level, the share of personal income tax and STT to the tax kitty has touched 48.9% in 2022-23 compared to around 47.4% in 2021-22, while corporate tax accounted for just 51.1% in the year gone by as opposed to 52.6% in 2021-22.

Moreover, the growth in corporate tax collections was also lower than revenues collected from personal income taxpayers, combined with STT inflows.

The gross corporate tax kitty had risen 16.9% in the year, while personal income tax and STT yielded a growth of 24.2%.

The Ministry said gross tax collections grew 20.33% to ₹19.68 lakh crore in 2022-23, compared to ₹16.36 lakh crore in the previous financial year. Tax refunds jumped at a sharper 37.4% year-on-year to a little over ₹3.07 lakh crore from ₹2,23,658 crore in 2021-22.

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**THANK YOU**

