



NC and PDP: A Political Overview | Jammu & Kashmir | 09 Oct 2024

Why in News?

The [Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly elections](#) of 2024 have seen the **National Conference (NC)** and Congress alliance leading, with the **People's Democratic Party (PDP)** trailing behind.

Key Points

▪ Jammu & Kashmir National Conference (NC):

- Founded in 1932 by [Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah](#).
- Emerged as a powerful political force advocating for Kashmiri rights and [land reforms](#).
- After Independence, [Maharaja Hari Singh](#) signed the [Instrument of Accession](#) in 1947 amidst a Pakistani invasion.
- Sheikh Abdullah was appointed Prime Minister of an [interim government in 1948](#).
- The NC won **73 of 75 seats** in the 1951 elections for the [Constituent Assembly of J&K](#).
- Sheikh Abdullah was dismissed and jailed in 1953, reportedly under Prime Minister [Nehru's](#) orders, due to concerns over Abdullah's links with Pakistan.
- Abdullah returned to power after an accord with [Indira Gandhi](#) in 1975.
- Sheikh Abdullah's son, Farooq, succeeded him in 1982.
- **Militancy and the 1990s:**
 - The 1990s saw the rise of [militancy in the region](#), with the NC's political dominance weakening.
- **Post-2000 Political Alliances:**
 - The NC briefly aligned with the **BJP-led NDA in 1999**.
 - Since then, NC has intermittently allied with Congress, including in the 2019 elections under the INDI Alliance.
 - Since the abrogation of [Article 370](#) in 2019, the NC has called for the restoration of [J&K's special status](#).

▪ Peoples Democratic Party (PDP):

- Founded in 1999 by **Mufti Mohammed Sayeed** after leaving the Congress.
- Sayeed's political career started in the **Democratic National Conference**, an NC splinter group.
- Sayeed briefly served as **India's first Kashmiri Muslim Home Minister (1989-91)** in the **V P Singh government**.
- The PDP came to power in 2002 in coalition with the Congress, with Sayeed serving as CM.
- **Alliance with BJP (2014):**
 - In 2014, the PDP entered into an alliance with the BJP, a controversial decision given their ideological differences.
 - Mufti Mohammed Sayeed passed away in 2016, and his daughter Mehbooba Mufti took over as party leader.
- The PDP, like the NC, has demanded the restoration of Article 370 since its abrogation.
- The PDP's political influence has waned in recent years, with only 3 seats won in the 2024 elections.

State Party

- A party is recognised as a state party in a state if any of the following conditions is fulfilled:
 - If it secures **6% of the valid votes polled in the state** at a general election to the

respective state [legislative assembly \(state LA\)](#) and also, it wins 2 seats in the same state LA.

- If it secures **6% of the total valid votes** in the state at a general election to the LS; and also, it wins 1 seat in the LS from the same state.
- If it wins **3% of seats in the LA** at a general election to the legislative assembly of the state concerned or 3 seats in the assembly (whichever is more).
- If it wins **1 seat in the LS for every 25 seats** or any fraction thereof allotted to the state at a general election to the LS from the state concerned.
- If it secures **8% of the total valid votes polled in the state at a General Election** to the LS from the state or to the State LA.

Losing Security Deposit in Elections | Haryana | 09 Oct 2024

Why in News?

Recently, despite a significant push in Haryana, a political party failed to win any seats in the local elections, resulting in the **forfeiture of candidates' security deposits** due to not meeting the required vote percentage.

Key Points

- **Security Deposit Mandate:**
 - As per the [Representation of People Act, 1951](#), candidates must deposit a security amount when contesting elections.
 - **For Parliamentary elections:** Rs. 25,000; for **Assembly elections:** Rs. 10,000.
 - This ensures that only genuinely committed candidates submit nominations.
- **Forfeiture of Security Deposit:**
 - A candidate must secure at least **one-sixth (16.67%)** of the total valid votes cast to retain the deposit, If not, the deposit is forfeited to the [Election Commission](#).
- **Example Calculation:**
 - In an Assembly seat with 200,000 votes, candidates must secure over 33,332 votes to avoid losing their deposit.

The Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1951

- It regulates the actual conduct of **elections and by-elections**.
 - RPA, 1951 provides **administrative machinery for conducting elections**.
 - It deals with the **registration of political parties**.
 - This specifies the qualifications and disqualifications for membership of the Houses.
 - It provides provisions **to curb corrupt practices** and other offences.
 - It lays down the **procedure for settling doubts** and disputes arising out of elections.
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Kumbh Summit 2024 | Uttar Pradesh | 09 Oct 2024

Why in News?

Recently, the UP government has launched a series of cultural events across the state for the preparation of [Maha Kumbh](#) 2025.

Key Points

- **Kumbh Summit Events:**
 - Launched across 18 tehsils of U.P. as a prelude to [Maha Kumbh](#) 2025.
 - Events include "**Kumbh Abhinandan**" road show, **Bal-Yuva Kumbh, Kala-Sanskriti Kumbh, Kavi Kumbh, and Bhakti Kumbh.**
 - Universities and educational institutions will take part in these cultural celebrations.
 - Various cultural academies, including [Lalit Kala Academy](#) and [Sangeet Natak Academy](#), are responsible for organizing competitions.
 - Focus on eco-friendly practices like '[zero plastic usage](#)' and [AI](#) tools for security.
 - Ensuring transport via 700 electric buses and enhancing accessibility for devotees during peak festival days.
 - Deadline of December 15, 2024 is set for all facilities to be ready for Maha Kumbh.

Maha Kumbh

- Kumbh Mela comes under [United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization \(UNESCO\)'s Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity](#).
- It is the largest peaceful congregation of pilgrims on earth, during which participants bathe or take a dip in a **sacred river**.
- It takes place on the banks of the [Godavari river in Nashik](#), the [Shipra river in Ujjain](#), the [Ganges in Haridwar](#), and the confluence of the Ganges, Yamuna, and the mythical [Saraswati river in Prayagraj](#). The confluence is referred to as the 'Sangam'.
- As it is held in four different cities in India, it involves different social and cultural activities, making this a culturally diverse festival.
- The over month-long fair is marked by the construction of a massive tented township, complete with cottages, huts, platforms, civic facilities, administrative and security measures.
- It is organized immaculately by the government, the local authorities and the police.
- The mela is especially **renowned for the presence of an extraordinary array of religious ascetics** enticed from remote hideaways in forests, mountains and caves

Uttarakhand UCC Implementation | Uttarakhand | 09 Oct 2024

Why in News?

The Uttarakhand government is finalizing its rules for implementing the [Uniform Civil Code \(UCC\)](#), with a focus on digital services.

Key Points

- **Committee and Report:**
 - The UCC addresses marriage, divorce, succession, and live-in relationships.
 - A 500-page report was prepared by a committee formed in February.

- Over 130 meetings were held involving legal experts and law interns.
 - Marriage and live-in relationship registrations can be done digitally via a website and mobile app.
 - Documentation and modifications of the Will (legal document) will also be facilitated digitally.
 - [Common Service Centres \(CSCs\)](#) will assist those with limited digital skills.
- **Implementation Timeline:**
- UCC implementation expected before 9th November 2024, [Uttarakhand's foundation day](#).

Uniform Civil Code

- The **Uniform Civil Code** refers to a single set of laws governing personal matters such as marriage, divorce, adoption, inheritance, and succession for all citizens of India.
- The concept of UCC is mentioned in [Article 44 of the Indian Constitution](#) as a [Directive Principle of State Policy](#), which states that the state shall endeavor to secure a uniform civil code for citizens throughout the territory of India.
 - However, it's important to note that this is not a legally enforceable right but a guiding principle for the state.

Silicosis Tragedy in Panna Mining Community | Madhya Pradesh | 09 Oct 2024

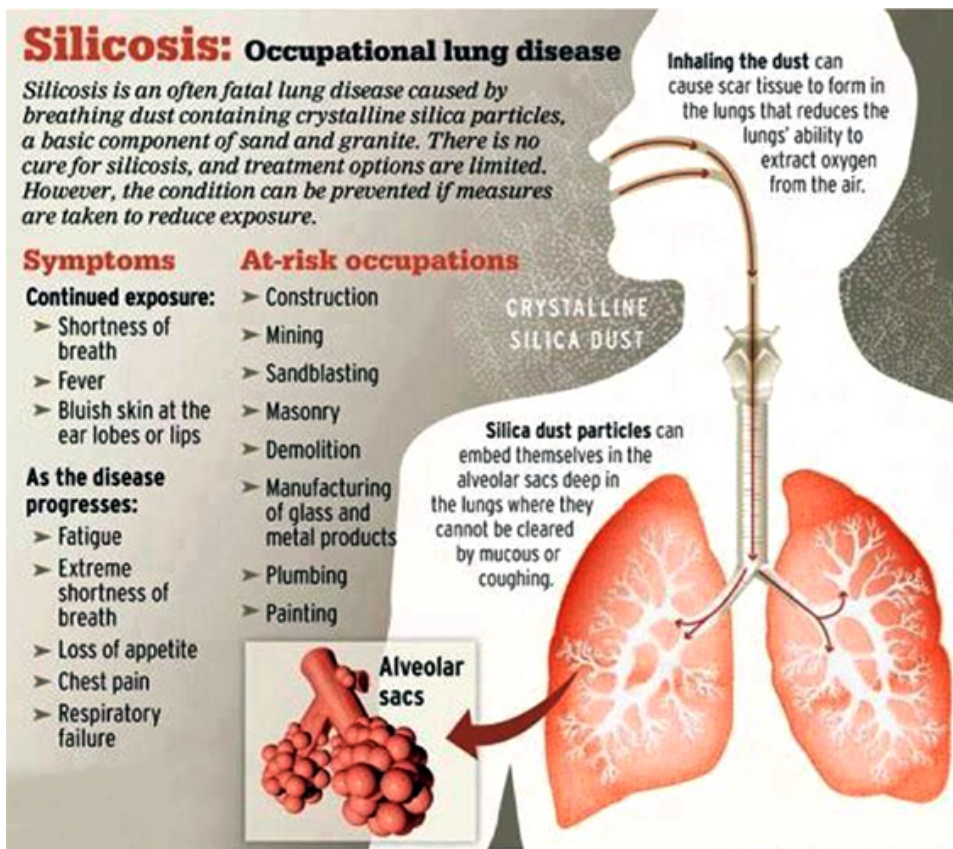
Why in News?

The devastating impact of mining continues to claim lives in Panna, with families grappling with silicosis misdiagnosed as [tuberculosis](#).

Key Points

- **Silicosis:**
 - A fatal lung disease caused by inhaling fine silica dust, common in mining industries.
 - Symptoms include chronic cough, shortness of breath, and fatigue, often mistaken as tuberculosis.
 - Since 2014, five family members have died, suspected from silicosis.
- **Tuberculosis (TB):**
 - TB is caused by a bacterium called [Mycobacterium tuberculosis](#), belonging to the Mycobacteriaceae family consisting of about 200 members.
 - Some of Mycobacteria cause diseases like TB and [Leprosy](#) in humans and others infect a wide range of animals.
 - In humans, TB most commonly affects the lungs (pulmonary TB), but it can also affect other **organs (extra-pulmonary TB)**.
 - TB is a very ancient disease and has been documented to have existed in **Egypt as early as 3000 BC**. It is a treatable and curable disease.

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Best Tourism Villages Award | Madhya Pradesh | 09 Oct 2024

Why in News?

Recently, three villages in Madhya Pradesh were recognized for their sustainable tourism efforts on [International Tourism Day \(27th September\)](#).

Key Points

▪ Awarded Villages:

◦ Pranpur:

- **Category:** Craft
- Notable for its weaving tradition with 243 households involved in handloom production.
- Artisans craft items from bamboo, wood, stone, jewelry, and clay.
- Infrastructure improvements include locally sourced stones for visitor access.
- Features a "**Handloom Cafe**" and an amphitheater for cultural performances.

◦ Sabarvani:

- Category: Responsible Tourism
- Transformed into a tourism hub since 2019, hosting over 300 international tourists.
- Offers cultural experiences like traditional cuisine and participation in local agricultural practices.
- Attractions include Anhoni Hot Spring, Ghoghra Waterfall, and proximity to [Satpura National Park](#).

- Activities for tourists include bullock cart rides, cow milking, and trekking on Monakhedi Hill.
- **Ladpura Khas:**
 - Category: Responsible Tourism.
 - Known for its community engagement and promotion of local traditions.
- **Best Tourism Villages Competition 2024:**
 - It was launched by the **Ministry of Tourism, Government of India**, to promote sustainable practices.
 - It aimed to identify villages preserving cultural and natural heritage.
 - A total of 36 villages recognized across eight categories.

International Tourism Day

- **History:** World Tourism Day was first celebrated in 1980 by the [United Nations World Tourism Organization \(UNWTO\)](#), and raises awareness about the social, cultural, and economic importance of tourism.
 - The day marks the adoption of UNWTO's statutes in 1975, signifying its official establishment five years later.
 - UNWTO advocates for tourism as a driver of economic growth, inclusive development, and environmental sustainability while supporting the sector in advancing knowledge and policies worldwide.
 - UNWTO comprises **160 Member States (including India)**, 6 Associate Members, 2 Observers, and over 500 Affiliate Members.
 - Headquartered in Madrid, Spain.

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