



Chhattisgarh Self-Help Groups Boost Voter Turnout

Why in News?

An initiative in **Balrampur district of Chhattisgarh to increase voter turnout** in the third phase of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections is attracting attention.

Key Points

- Women's **Self-help groups** are utilizing **traditional methods by going door-to-door** to meet with voters, distributing **tamarind leaves and yellow rice**, in order to encourage greater public engagement.
- The effort has not only sparked **enthusiasm among villagers** but has also demonstrated the **power of community involvement** in promoting **democratic values**.
 - This initiative is also fully **supported by the district administration**.

Self-Help Groups (SHGs)

- Self-Help Groups (SHGs) are **informal associations of people who choose to come together to find ways** to improve their living conditions.
- It can be defined as a **self-governed, peer-controlled information group of people with similar socio-economic backgrounds** and having a desire to collectively perform a common purpose.
- SHG relies on the **notion of “Self Help” to encourage self-employment** and poverty alleviation.
- **Objectives:**
 - To build the **functional capacity of the poor and the marginalized** in the field of employment and income generating activities.
 - To **resolve conflicts through collective leadership** and mutual discussion.
 - To provide **collateral free loans with terms decided by the group** at the market driven rates.
 - To work as a **collective guarantee system for members** who propose to borrow from organised sources.
 - The poor collect their savings and save it in banks. In return they receive easy access to loans with a small rate of interest to start their micro unit enterprise.