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10 NOVEMBER 2025

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Daily News Analysis

MONDAY, 10th NOVEMBER 2025

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1. Right to Vote vs. Freedom of Voting

- **Prelims -** Right to Vote vs. Freedom of Voting
- **Mains -** GS 2 - Polity

Why in the news?

- The Union government has argued before the Supreme Court that the "right to vote" in elections is not a fundamental entitlement but merely a statutory right granted by legislation.

Right to Vote

- **Definition:** The statutory right conferred upon citizens to participate in the electoral process by choosing their representatives.
- **Source:** Derived from Article 326 of the Constitution and Representation of the People Act, 1951 (RPA, 1951).
- **Nature:**
  → Not a **fundamental right** or **constitutional right** in a strict sense.
  → It is a **statutory right**, created and regulated by Parliament through the RPA.
- **Scope:**
  → Includes eligibility to vote (citizenship, age ≥18 years, registration).
  → Can be restricted on grounds like unsoundness of mind, crime, or corrupt practices.
- **Case Law:**
  → **Jyoti Basu v. Debi Ghosal (1982):** Right to vote is purely statutory.
  → **People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL) v. Union of India (2003):** Clarified distinction between right to vote and freedom of voting.

Freedom of Voting

- **Definition:** The constitutional expression of the citizen's freedom of choice in voting- the right to vote freely and confidentially.
- **Source: Article 19(1)(a)-** Freedom of Speech and Expression.
- **Nature:**
  → A **constitutional and fundamental right**, though it operates *within* the framework of the statutory right to vote.
  → Encompasses the right **not to vote** (NOTA – None of the Above).
- **Case Laws:**
  → **PUCL v. Union of India (2003):** The Supreme Court held that the **freedom of voting** is a facet of **freedom of expression** under Article 19(1)(a).

2. Aditya-L1 Mission and Coronal Mass Ejection (CME)

- **Prelims -** Aditya-L1 Mission and Coronal Mass Ejection (CME)
- **Mains -** GS 3 - Science and Technology

Why in the news?

- Using the Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC) payload in Aditya-L1, scientists at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), along with NASA, have collaborated to estimate the crucial parameters of a coronal mass ejection (CME), very close to its lift-off from the sun.

Aditya-L1 Mission

- **Launching Agency**: Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- **Objectives**
  ➔ Coronal Heating and Solar Wind Acceleration;
  ➔ Initiation of Coronal Mass Ejection (CME), flares and near-earth space weather;
  ➔ Solar wind distribution and temperature anisotropy etc.
- **Launch Vehicle:** Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) XL.
- **Placing:** It would be placed into a point in space known as the L1 Lagrange point.
- **Achievements**
  ➔ Captured images of Sun through payloads SUIT and VELC.
  ➔ Completion of First Halo Orbit in July - Aditya-L1 in the Halo orbit takes 178 days to complete a revolution around the L1 point.

Coronal Mass Ejection (CME)

- **Definition**: A Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) is a massive burst of plasma and magnetic field released from the Sun's outer atmosphere (the corona) into space.
- **Origin**
  ➔ CMEs occur during solar flares or from active magnetic regions on the Sun.
  ➔ They are caused by the sudden release of magnetic energy when twisted magnetic field lines reconnect and eject solar material.
- **Effects**
  ➔ **Geomagnetic Storms**: Disturb the Earth's magnetic field, cause auroras, and may disrupt satellites, GPS, radio networks, and power grids.

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➔ **Radiation Hazards**: Increase radiation levels harmful to astronauts and high-altitude flights.

➔ **Space Weather Impact**: Influence communication systems, navigation, and even pipeline currents on Earth.

- <u>**Monitoring and Prediction**</u>
    ➔ NASA missions: SOHO, STEREO, Parker Solar Probe.
    ➔ ISRO mission: Aditya-L1 monitors solar corona and CME activity.
    ➔ NOAA's SWPC: Issues global space weather alerts.

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3. BIMSTEC and India

- **Prelims -** BIMSTEC and India
- **Mains** - GS 3 - Environment

Why in the news?

- Kochi hosted the first BIMSTEC-India Marine Research Network (BIMReN) Conference to boost blue economy cooperation.

Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)

- **What is it?**: It is a regional organisation that connects South Asia and Southeast Asia, focusing on the Bay of Bengal littoral and adjacent states.
- **Formation**: Established in 1997 through the Bangkok Declaration.
- **Secretariat**: Established in Dhaka (2014).
- **Member Countries**: India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, and Thailand.
- **Objectives**
  - ➔ Creating an enabling environment for the rapid economic development of the sub-region.
  - ➔ Encouraging the spirit of equality and partnership.
  - ➔ Promoting active collaboration and mutual assistance in the areas of common interests of the member countries
  - ➔ Accelerating support for each other in the fields of education, science, and technology etc.
- **Significance of BIMSTEC in the Region**
  - ➔ The BIMSTEC region is home to around 1.5 billion people
  - ➔ Constitute around 22% of the global population
  - ➔ Combined Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of 2.7 trillion economy.
  - ➔ Act as bridge between South Asia and Southeast Asia.
- **Major Projects**
  - ➔ **Kaladan Multimodal Project**: Links India and Myanmar.
  - ➔ **Asian Trilateral Highway**: Connecting India and Thailand through Myanmar.
  - ➔ Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal (BBIN) Motor Vehicles Agreement.

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India in BIMSTEC

- **Role**
  - ➔ Founding member and major driving force.
  - ➔ Leads areas like counter-terrorism, environment, and climate change.
  - ➔ Integrates Neighbourhood First, Act East, and SAGAR policies.

- **Significance of BIMSTEC for India**
  - ➔ **Geostrategic**
    - ★ Connects South Asia with ASEAN and the Indo-Pacific region.
    - ★ Strengthens India's presence in the Bay of Bengal, key for maritime security.
    - ★ An alternative to the stalled SAARC.
    - ★ It counters China's influence through regional partnerships.
  - ➔ **Economic**
    - ★ Promotes the BIMSTEC Free Trade Agreement (FTA).
    - ★ Supports connectivity projects like the Kaladan Multimodal Project and the India-Myanmar-Thailand Highway.
    - ★ Enhances the Blue Economy and trade routes.
  - ➔ **Security**
    - ★ Cooperation in counter-terrorism, cyber security, and disaster management.
    - ★ Enhances maritime domain awareness and regional security cooperation.
  - ➔ **Socio-Cultural**
    - ★ Boosts tourism, people-to-people ties, and Buddhist circuit development.
    - ★ Promotes sustainable development and poverty alleviation.

- **Challenges**
  - ➔ **Delays in Connectivity Projects**: Slow progress in Kaladan Multimodal and India–Myanmar–Thailand Highway weakens India's regional linkages.
  - ➔ **Institutional Weakness**: BIMSTEC Secretariat lacks resources and enforcement power, limiting effective implementation.
  - ➔ **Myanmar's Political Instability**: Post-2021 coup crisis hampers India's land connectivity and security cooperation.

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➔ **Low Intra-Regional Trade**: Trade integration remains minimal; FTA negotiations are stalled.

➔ **Funding and Resource Constraints**: Absence of a dedicated development fund; India bears the main financial load.

➔ **Competing Regional Frameworks**: Overlaps with SAARC, ASEAN, and IORA divert attention and dilute outcomes.

➔ **Perception of India's Dominance**: Smaller members sometimes view India as over-influential, affecting trust and cooperation.

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4. Reforming the Nomination Process

- **Prelims** - Reforming the Nomination Process
- **Mains** - GS 2 - Polity

Why in the news?

- The current nomination process in Indian electoral politics faces challenges which need to be addressed to improve the efficiency of Elections.

Reforming the Nomination Process

- **Key Problems in Current Process:**
  - ➔ **Excessive Procedural Formality:**
    - ★ Minor clerical or procedural errors like missing signatures, blank columns or delayed certificates lead to rejection of nominations, even where substantive eligibility is fine.
    - ★ The process tilts towards **filtration** rather than facilitation.
  - ➔ **Lack of safeguard against the Wider discretion of Returning Officers:**
    - ★ The Returning Officer (RO) has very broad powers- The term "defect of a substantial character" is **undefined**, giving unchecked discretion.
    - ★ Under Article 329(b) of the Constitution, judicial review of nomination rejections during the election is barred, meaning a wrong rejection cannot be corrected in real time.
  - ➔ **Legal Uncertainty:**
    - ★ Judicial interventions show confusion: e.g., the Resurgence India v. Election Commission judgment held incomplete affidavits may invalidate a nomination, yet practice remains variable.
    - ★ Rejection standards vary across states/ROs, leading to uncertainty and perceived unfairness.
  - ➔ **Impact on Democratic Principles:**
    - ★ When a valid candidate is wrongly prevented from contesting, both the candidate's right and the electorate's right to choose get compromised.

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★ The process may disproportionately harm under-resourced aspirants (due to lack of legal help, technical understanding) thus weakening inclusivity.

- **Key Areas for Reforms:**
  - ➔ **Define and Limit 'Defects of Substantial Character':** Categorise defects into Clerical defects and Eligibility defects.
  - ➔ **Correction Windows for Minor Errors:** Allow a 24-48 hour window post-filing for candidates to rectify minor defects (signature missing, form blanks, payment issues) before final rejection.
  - ➔ **Transparency in Rejection:** ROs should issue **written reasons** when rejecting a nomination, citing specific provisions and giving the candidate opportunity to respond.
  - ➔ **Digitalisation of Process:** Introduce online submission of nomination papers, affidavits, deposits (UPI/RTGS) and automated checks for credentials (voter ID, age, constituency) to reduce manual error/bias.
  - ➔ **Uniform Guidelines and Training for ROs:** The Election Commission of India (ECI) should issue a Model Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for scrutiny across all states; training for ROs emphasising fairness, transparency.
  - ➔ **Appeal Mechanism before Polls:** Consider a *fast-track review/appeal* mechanism for rejected nominations before campaigns begin rather than only post-poll election petitions.

- **Expected Outcomes:**
  - ➔ **Enhances inclusivity** by reducing exclusion through technicalities means more genuine aspirants can contest.
  - ➔ **Strengthens the right to contest** and by extension the voter's right to choose.
  - ➔ **Upholds integrity of elections** by focusing scrutiny on substantive eligibility rather than paperwork minutiae.
  - ➔ **Improves trust and legitimacy** in the electoral process.
  - ➔ Aligns India's practices closer to global best practices (e.g., UK, Canada) wherein correction windows and facilitative nomination scrutiny are allowed.

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- **Challenges and Concerns:**
  - → Simplification must not dilute **serious checks** (on authenticity, eligibility, criminal disqualifications).
  - → Digital implementation may face **digital divide**, particularly in rural/remote areas that need facilitation support.
  - → Uniform SOPs may clash with state-level variations and political realities (federal set-up).
  - → Ensuring the timeline for correction and appeal does not delay the overall election schedule.
  - → Balancing between speed/efficiency and fairness/transparency.

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5. Denmark

- **Prelims -** Location of Denmark
- **Mains -** GS 2 - International Relations

Denmark

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Why in the news?
- Denmark's government announced a political agreement to ban access to social media for anyone aged under 15.

Denmark
- **Location**: Nordic country in Northern Europe.
- **Capital**: Copenhagen
- **Borders**
  - **Land Borders**: Germany
  - **Maritime Borders**: Sweden, Norway, Poland, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Iceland, Canada (In Greenland Region).
- **Climate**: Temperate climate
- **Vegetation**: Boreal Forest

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6. Quantum Gravity

- **Prelims** - Quantum Gravity
- **Mains** - GS 3 - Science and Technology

Why in the news?

- Gamma-ray bursts emitted from tiny remnants of black holes could provide crucial insights into the nature of quantum gravity.

Quantum Gravity

- **What is it?:**
    → Quantum Gravity is the theoretical framework that seeks to unify General Relativity (gravity) with Quantum Mechanics.
    → It attempts to describe gravity according to the principles of quantum physics, where space-time itself becomes quantized at the smallest scales.

- **Core Idea:**
    → At the Planck scale, spacetime is not smooth but has a "quantum foam" structure- fluctuating and probabilistic.
    → The gravitational field, like other forces, should have quantum excitations called gravitons (hypothetical, massless, spin-2 particles).
    → These gravitons would mediate gravity in a quantum-mechanical way, similar to photons in electromagnetism.

- **Significance:**
    → Advances here contribute to **fundamental physics, cosmology, and space research**, with indirect implications for India's astrophysics & ISRO's cosmological missions.
    → Explain **Big Bang singularity and early universe evolution**.
    → Describe **black hole information paradox**.
    → Develop a **unified theory of nature**.
    → Inspire **quantum computing and cosmology models**.

- **Challenges:**
    → **No experimental proof** yet- effects appear at energies far beyond current technology.

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➔ Difficult to **quantize spacetime** because gravity acts on the very fabric that defines quantum fields.

➔ Competing theories make differing predictions that lack consensus.

➔ Bridging between **macroscopic smoothness** and **microscopic discreteness** remains unresolved.

- **Indian Contributions:**

  ➔ IUCAA (Pune), TIFR, IISc, and Institute of Mathematical Sciences (Chennai) conduct research in quantum cosmology, loop quantum gravity, and black hole thermodynamics.

  ➔ India participates in global collaborations like LIGO-India to study gravitational waves, a potential testing ground for quantum gravity theories.