

Daily Editorial Analysis

24 Aug 2021



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Poll position: On SC order on local body elections

The article at hand talks about a recent Supreme Court ruling that will help in bolstering the independence of the State Election Commissioner (SEC), thereby boosting the confidence of people in these elections.

While a long time has passed since urban and rural local bodies have been considered as the third-tier of government, they often lack the power to do what they are supposed to do.

Besides, how the local body representatives are elected is an entirely different matter to discuss. Often, the local polls are tarnished by controversies and incidents of violence, which hamper people's trust in the whole process.

A lot of this depends on the independence of the SEC, but unfortunately, state governments appoint senior people from their ranks to run this office. While this is not something that can be generalized for all the states, it is clear that SEC does not hold the trust of the ruling parties.

In this regard, the Supreme court's decision to advocate the independence of the SEC is worthy of appreciation. While the impact of this ruling is yet to be seen, it is clear that this will help SECs to acquire independence while also forcing the states governments to abandon their control over the local polls.

Words to look out for

Countermand:

- **Synonyms:** cancel, revoke, stop
- **Antonyms:** uphold, support, sustain
- **Word usage:** The circular is going to countermand all the illegal activities in the state.

Infraction:

- **Synonyms:** breach, violation, infringement
- **Antonyms:** noninfringement, compliance, obedience
- **Word usage:** Cyber security team take virtual infractions very seriously.

Autonomous:

- **Synonyms:** independent, sovereign, free
- **Antonyms:** dependent, reliant, support
- **Word usage:** He envisaged a great life after graduation, even though he never really studied.

Article Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/poll-position-on-sc-order-on-local-body-elections/article34077727.ece>

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Double vision: Islamabad's U-turn on trade with India is telling

The article at hand talks about Pakistan's reversal from its proposal to import certain commodities from India as the author discusses various aspects of the issue.

The proposal, which was supposed to improve bilateral ties with India, is now a testament to Pakistan's stance regarding India is still marred with indecision and contradiction.

The other side of the equation contains an aggressive China, which has ignited certain extremist sections in Pakistan that the deal with Afghanistan could be beneficial to Pakistan and the Taliban.

However, America looks set to deny Pakistan this luxury, and even the smarter people in Pakistan are not in favour of supporting China unconditionally.

As things stand, Pakistan looks to remain neutral in the wake of a cold war. Its economy has been in bad shape owing to its investment in jihad, and it would have been wise not to reverse the import decision. Hence, India also needs to respond carefully to this situation.

Words to look out for

Piquant:

- **Synonyms:** spicy, tasty, exciting
- **Antonyms:** flavourless, flat, insipid
- **Word usage:** The piquant news brought huge TRP to the channel.

Posture:

- **Synonyms:** pose, seat, bearing
- **Word usage:** One posture must be perfect for getting a perfect picture.

Impulse:

- **Synonyms:** boost, encouragement, incitement
- **Antonyms:** discouragement, dissuasion, caution
- **Word usage:** Impulses play a significant role in driving our decisions when in doubt.

Article Link: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/blogs/toi-editorials/double-vision-islamabads-u-turn-on-trade-with-india-is-telling/>

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