

What is the mechanism?

- A three-stage mechanism can increase the potential of ODR for dispute avoidance, containment and resolution.
- The mechanism should start with online '**evaluation**', where there is dispute diagnosis and exploration of options for litigants.
- Next, online '**facilitation**' is resorted to, where facilitators and automated negotiation tools aid in non-adversarial resolution.
- Finally, if the first two stages don't result in a resolution, an online **hearing** is conducted, which is synonymous with online courts.

What is the ODR's potential in India?

- ODR has the potential to raise equity, fairness, access in the dispute resolution ecosystem in India.
- The convenience brought by ODR has been exhibited by e-Lok Adalats conducted in several states, where disputes were resolved simply over WhatsApp audio/video calls.
- Supply-side capabilities could also be enhanced through a relatively large and competent services pool for adjudication and representation.
- ODR has the potential to be an effective alternative that utilises technology to bridge barriers and access in resolution.
- Through facilitating low cost, technology-augmented, linguistically- friendly and incentivised dispute avoidance, containment and resolution, ODR could enhance justice delivery to all.

1.2 Election Commission's Powers

Why in news?

The Supreme Court stayed the Election Commission's order to revoke the status of former Madhya Pradesh CM as a 'star campaigner' for a party.

What was the ECI order?

- The former CM made a distasteful personal remark about another party's woman candidate while campaigning for the Assembly by-election.
- This is why the Election Commission of India's (ECI's) revoked his status as a leader of a political party (star campaigner).

What did the Supreme Court say?

- The Supreme Court stayed the ECI's order saying that it has no such revoking power.
- The apex court's takedown of the poll regulator strikes a blow against the ECI's authority and its role in ensuring a clean campaign.

How are star campaigners selected?

- Section 77 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 is related to a candidate's election expenditure.
- This Section lets the political party itself to decide who its leaders are.
- It also allows every party to submit a list of such 'star campaigners' to the election authorities.

What does having a star status mean?

- The expenditure incurred on the campaign done by those from the star campaigners' list is not included in the expenditure of the candidate.
- The star status ensures that some leaders can travel extensively to cover more territory and constituencies without breaching any individual candidate's spending limit.

What does revoking the star status mean?

- An order revoking the star status means that the withdrawal of the right to campaign without incurring electoral expenditure on the candidates' account.