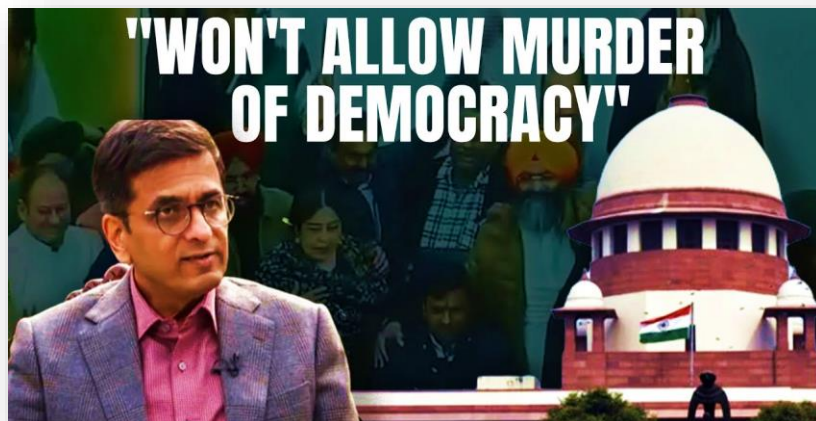


'Won't Allow Democracy To Be Murdered' CJI Chandrachud On Chandigarh Mayoral Election

Why In The News?

- A Supreme Court Bench Under The Chief Justice Of India On February 4, Heavily Lambasted The Presiding Officer Of The Chandigarh Mayoral Election, Observing That His Conduct Was A **“Mockery Of Democracy”**.
- **“Is This The Behaviour Of A Presiding Officer? The Man Defaces The Ballots And Then Looks At The Camera To See Who Is Looking At Him,”** CJI D.Y. Chandrachud Remarked After Seeing The Video Of The Controversial Election In Which The Presiding Officer Was Allegedly Seen **Tampering With The Votes**.
- **“Please Tell Your Presiding Officer That The Supreme Court Is Watching Over Him. We Will Not Allow Democracy To Be Murdered Like This. The Only Thing That Creates Stabilizing Force In The Country Is The Purity Of The Election Process,”** CJI Further Said.



What Do We Know?

- A Member Of BJP, Presiding Officer Anil Masih During The Course Of The Election Held Last Week On January 30, Declared As Many As **Eight Votes Invalid**, Thereby Tilting The Election In Favour BJP Candidate, Who Otherwise Lacked Winning Strength Against The Joint Candidate Of AAP And Congress.

- While Taking In Custody The Entire Election Record, SC In Its Interim Order Directed The **Presiding Officer To Remain Present In Next Hearing** On February 19 To Explain His Conduct.



- The Apex Court Also **Deferred The First Meeting Of BJP's Newly Elected Mayor** On February 7, Raising Hopes For The Opposition Parties To Get Justice In This Matter.
- Before Moving SC, AAP Knocked On The Doors Of **Punjab And Haryana High Court** But Failed To Get Relief. After This, It Sought An Urgent Hearing In SC, Which Heard The Matter Yesterday.
- In Its Order, SC Observed That Prima Facie, At This Stage, They Are Of The Considered View That An Appropriate Interim Order Was Warranted, Which The High Court Failed To Pass, **To Protect The Purity And Sanctity Of The Electoral Process.**