

FINDER

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Seeking a new paradigm for Dravidian exceptionalism

Prelims: General Studies Paper - 1
Current events of national and international importance

Mains: General Studies - 2
Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the States, issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure, devolution of powers and finances up to local levels and challenges therein.

1. Historic Victory of TVK

- **C. Joseph Vijay led Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) to a major electoral breakthrough** in Tamil Nadu.
- TVK won 108 out of 234 Assembly seats, ending decades of dominance by DMK and AIADMK.
- The **result reflects public dissatisfaction with traditional Dravidian parties.**
- Voters **sought a new leadership model suited to modern socio-economic challenges.**

2. Weaknesses of DMK and AIADMK

- Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) and All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) ruled Tamil Nadu alternately for nearly 60 years.
- Both parties **successfully promoted welfare schemes, social justice, and state autonomy.**
- However, **corruption became deeply institutionalized.**
- Dynastic politics weakened the DMK, especially around Udhayanidhi Stalin's rise.
- **AIADMK suffered from factionalism and leadership struggles** under Edappadi K. Palaniswami.
- Voters increasingly felt the Dravidian model had become stagnant and complacent.

3. Vijay's Campaign Strategy

- C. Joseph Vijay **relied heavily on social media platforms like Instagram** instead of traditional campaigning.
- His campaign mainly **targeted youth and women through Gen-Z-oriented digital communication.**
- Vijay projected himself as an outsider challenging the established political elite, differentiating TVK from older parties.

4. Sympathy Wave and Anti-Establishment Sentiment

- A **deadly stampede at a TVK rally in Karur killed at least 41 people** in 2025.
- Vijay **delayed responding publicly, but later hinted at political conspiracy by rivals.**
- Supporters believed the ruling establishment unfairly targeted him.
- **Delays in his film Jana Nayagan** were also linked to alleged sabotage.
- These events created public sympathy and anger.

5. Changing Voter Priorities and Future Challenges

- **Younger voters are less attached** to traditional Dravidian ideology.
- Many **belong to the gig economy, service sector, and contract workforce.**
- They **respond more to digital communication than party manifestos.**
- Concerns also grew about the rise of the Bharatiya Janata Party and Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh in Tamil Nadu.
- **TVK's rise reflects demand for a fresh political alternative** and stronger governance.
- The major challenge ahead is whether Vijay can successfully govern and fulfill his promises.

Openness, not isolation, is the bedrock of the West

Prelims: General Studies Paper - 1
Current events of national and international importance

Mains: General Studies - 2
India and its neighborhood- relations.

1. Rise of Civilisational Framing

- Recent **U.S. leaders like Marco Rubio and Donald Trump increasingly describe global politics in civilisational terms.**
- The **U.S. and Europe are portrayed as part of a shared “Western civilisation.”**
- Countries such as **India, China, and Iran are discussed as separate civilisational blocs.**
- This **approach claims culture and identity are becoming central to international relations.**
- Civilisational framing may **simplify complex global realities and create misleading interpretations.**

2. Samuel Huntington and the “Clash of Civilisations”

- Samuel Huntington argued **that future conflicts would occur between civilisations.**
- He **believed cultural and religious identities would replace ideology as the main source of conflict.**
- His theory became famous after the Cold War.
- Present political debates reflect many of his ideas.
- But his theory ignores **the real foundations of national strength, especially the role of institutions and adaptability.**

3. Openness Made the West Strong

- Western countries **grew by accepting new people and ideas.**
- Innovation increased** because of openness and competition.
- AI companies like Microsoft and OpenAI depend on global talent.
- Scientists and workers from many countries contribute** to technology growth.

- Diversity helped create better research and innovation** systems.
- Openness and strong institutions are major strengths of the West, not cultural purity, are the West’s major advantages

4. Global Interdependence and Immigration

- The **COVID-19 pandemic showed the importance of global cooperation** in science and manufacturing.
- Vaccine development by Moderna and AstraZeneca depended on international networks.
- The **Serum Institute of India played a major role** in vaccine production.
- Ageing populations and labour shortages make immigration an economic and strategic necessity** for advanced economies.

5. Limits of Civilisational Politics

- Climate change and challenges of AI cannot be solved** by one civilization alone.
- Civilisational politics** may create more division.
- Focusing only on identity **can reduce innovation and trust.**
- Global challenges **require teamwork across countries.**

6. Way Forward for Democracies

- Democracies **need both stability and openness.**
- Shared laws and trust are important for society.
- Governments **should manage diversity properly.**
- Institutions should **become stronger and more inclusive.**
- Engagement with other countries is necessary in a connected world.

Scope of legal fiction in party mergers

Prelims: General Studies Paper - 1
Current events of national and international importance

Mains: General Studies - 2
Salient features of the Representation of People’s Act

1. Meaning of Legal Fiction

- A **legal fiction** is when the law treats something as true even if it is not literally true.
- Examples:
 - ➔ An **adopted child** is treated as the natural child of adoptive parents.
 - ➔ A **company** is treated as a legal person that can sue or be sued.
- **Sir Henry Maine** said **legal fiction is one of the major ways** by which **law adapts to social change**.
- Jurist **Lon Fuller** warned that **legal fiction is useful only when its artificial nature is openly recognised**. If people start treating fiction as complete reality, it becomes dangerous.

2. Legal Fiction in Indian Constitutional Law

- **Bengal Immunity Co. Ltd. vs State of Bihar (1955)** is an important case on **legal fiction** in Indian constitutional law.
 - ➔ The case was decided by a **seven-judge Constitution Bench** of the Supreme Court.
- A **Calcutta-based company** sold vaccines and sera to buyers in **Bihar**.
- Bihar tried to impose tax on these sales using a **deeming clause** in **Article 286(1)** of the Constitution.
 - ➔ The clause said that a **sale would be considered to have happened in the State where the goods were delivered and used**.
- The **Supreme Court ruled that:**
 - ➔ A legal fiction is created for a **specific purpose** and must remain limited only to that purpose.
 - ➔ It was meant only to decide the **place where a sale is considered to occur**.
 - ➔ It could not override the constitutional rule that **States cannot tax inter-State trade**.
- In **East End Dwellings Co. Ltd. vs Finsbury Borough Council (1952)**, Lord Asquith explained the limits of **legal fiction**.
 - ➔ He said courts may **imagine and accept the necessary consequences of a legal fiction**, but should **not extend it beyond its intended purpose**.

- The Indian Supreme Court adopted this principle in **J.K. Cotton Spinning and Weaving Mills Ltd. vs Union of India (1987)**.
 - ➔ The Court held that a **deeming fiction** in the Central Excise Rules must be restricted only to its stated purpose.

3. Recent Supreme Court Interpretation

- In **Registrar Cane Cooperative Societies vs Gurdeep Singh Narval (2026)**, the Supreme Court reaffirmed the principle governing **legal fictions**.
- The Court held that a **deeming clause** must remain limited to its specific purpose.
- It **cannot be expanded** beyond its **intended scope to create new legal consequences**.
- The **judgment reiterated that legal fictions should not be stretched beyond their legitimate field**.

4. Legal Fiction and Political Party Mergers

- Paragraph **4(2) of the Tenth Schedule** deals with protection from disqualification during political party mergers.
- It says a merger is “deemed” valid if **two-thirds of legislators** support it.
- The Supreme Court in **Rajendra Singh Rana vs Swami Prasad Maurya (2007)** clarified:
 - ➔ The **original political party** must actually decide to merge.
 - ➔ Support of two-thirds legislators only verifies the merger; it does not create the merger itself.
- In **Speaker, Haryana Vidhan Sabha vs Kuldeep Bishnoi (2011)**, the court again held that legislators alone cannot effect a merger.
- Recent decisions have allowed possible misuse of **deeming clauses** in political party mergers.
- The **Bombay High Court (Goa Bench)** upheld mergers based only on the support of **two-thirds legislators**.
 - ➔ The **Rajya Sabha Chairman** also accepted the merger of seven **AAP MPs** with the **BJP** on the same basis.
- A **deeming clause should only verify a merger**, not itself create one.

- ⊖ **Treating it as creating a merger gives legislators the power to merge parties** without approval from the original political party.
- This goes against the principle that **legal fictions must remain limited to their specific purpose**.

How does Kerala plan to tackle oil spill hazards?

Prelims: General Studies Paper - 1
Indian Polity and Governance-Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues, etc.

Mains: General Studies - 2
Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

1. Background of the Issue

- Kerala witnessed two major **shipwrecks**:
 - ⊖ **MSC Elsa 3** on May 25, 2025
 - ⊖ **MV Wan Hai 503** on June 9, 2025
- These incidents threatened Kerala's **marine ecosystem** and **coastal environment**.
- MSC Elsa 3 carried **640 containers**, including:
 - ⊖ **13 containers with hazardous cargo**
 - ⊖ **12 containers with calcium carbide**
- Large quantities of **plastic pellets (nurdles)** washed ashore along Kerala's southern coast.
- Following the incidents, Kerala accelerated efforts to prepare an **Oil Spill Contingency Plan (OSCP)**.

2. Need for the Oil Spill Contingency Plan (OSCP)

- Kerala has a **590 km coastline**, making it highly vulnerable to **oil spill disasters**.
- An international **oil transportation route** passes close to Kerala's coast.
- Oil tankers and ships visiting ports can cause **serious pollution during accidents**.
- The proposal for OSCP began in **2016**, but was delayed due to **technical and financial issues**.

- The Plan covers:
 - ⊖ Marine oil spills within **12 nautical miles (24 km)** of the coast
 - ⊖ River systems extending **40 km inland** or up to tidal influence.

3. Major Features of the OSCP

- The OSCP includes mapping of the **Environmental Sensitive Index** along Kerala's coast.
- It will prepare:
 - ⊖ **Oil spill response plans**
 - ⊖ **Wildlife response plans**
 - ⊖ **Marine emergency response plans**
 - ⊖ **Shipboard pollution emergency plans**
- The Plan will define:
 - ⊖ **Responsibilities of departments**
 - ⊖ **Chain of command**
 - ⊖ **Clean-up procedures**
 - ⊖ **Protection priorities**
- It will identify:
 - ⊖ Areas used by **fishing boats and ships**
 - ⊖ **Environmentally vulnerable coastal zones**
- It will also **maintain a database** of:
 - ⊖ Emergency contacts
 - ⊖ **Available machinery and equipment for clean-up operations.**

4. Preparation and Approval Process

- The draft OSCP includes:
 - ⊖ **Hydrodynamic studies**
 - ⊖ **Oil spill modelling**
 - ⊖ **Marine sensitivity mapping**
 - ⊖ **Net environmental benefit analysis**
- The draft will be examined by a **committee of experts**.
- It will then be **submitted to the Indian Coast Guard**, the central agency for combating marine oil pollution.
- The final OSCP will be **issued after receiving all necessary clearances**.

KEYWORDS

Operation Project Freedom

- “Operation Project Freedom” is a **US-led military operation launched on 4 May 2026** under the administration of Donald Trump.
- The **operation aimed to respond to Iran’s blockade of the Strait of Hormuz**, a strategic sea route carrying nearly 20% of global oil trade.
- Its main objective is to safely escort commercial ships of neutral countries and restore the flow of global trade and essential supplies.
- The **operation is conducted by the US Central Command (CENTCOM) using destroyers, aircraft carriers, fighter jets, and drones** to create a protective security zone.

Brain Stem Death

- Brain death or brain stem death is an **irreversible condition in which all brain functions, including breathing and consciousness, permanently stop**.
- **Even if the heart continues beating with ventilator support**, the person is legally and clinically considered dead.
- Brain-dead patients are **important for organ donation because vital organs such as the heart, lungs, liver, and kidneys can be transplanted**.
- India **has a low deceased organ donation rate of about 0.77 per million population despite performing a large number of transplant surgeries**.
- According to guidelines of the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation, **brain death must be certified twice by a four-member medical board with a 12-hour interval after confirming the absence of brain reflexes and spontaneous breathing**.

Primary Amoebic Meningoencephalitis (PAM)

- **Primary Amoebic Meningoencephalitis (PAM) is a rare but usually fatal infection** of the brain and spinal cord caused by the **free-living amoeba Naegleria fowleri**.

- The amoeba is **commonly found in warm fresh water bodies**, especially in tropical and warm climates.
- **Infection occurs when contaminated water enters through the nose** during swimming or diving, allowing the amoeba to reach and damage the brain
- Early symptoms include **fever, headache, vomiting, and sensitivity to light**, while later stages may cause seizures, hallucinations, coma, and rapid death.
- There is **no standard cure for PAM, but combination drug therapy against parasites** is considered the most promising treatment approach.
- **PAM differs from Granulomatous Amoebic Encephalitis (GAE)**, which is caused by other amoebae such as **Acanthamoeba** and **Balamuthia mandrillaris**, and usually develops more slowly than PAM.

RMNCAH+N

- Following the Government of India’s **“Call to Action (CAT) Summit”** in February 2013, the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare launched the **RMNCAH+N strategy**.
- **RMNCAH+N** stands for **Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, Adolescent Health and Nutrition**.
- The initiative aims to reduce **maternal and child morbidity and mortality**.
- The strategy is based on the **continuum of care approach** and follows a **holistic lifecycle framework**.
- The strategy **brings multiple health interventions under a single broad framework**
- **RMNCAH+N promotes coordination between different thematic interventions**.
- Its objective is to **improve healthcare coverage across all stages of life and strengthen child survival in India**.