FWD
FORTUNE WEEKLY DIGEST

FORTUNE IAS ACADEMY
FORTUNE IAS ACADEMY
"Achieve your Dreams with Fortune"

> Temple Entry Movements   > De-dollarisation   > Assisted Dying

FWD
FORTUNE WEEKLY DIGEST

EDITOR'S NOTE

As UPSC aspirants, it is essential to stay updated on current affairs to excel in the examination. This **Fortune Weekly Digest (ForWarD)** brings you the latest news and developments from around the world, carefully curated and analyzed to help you prepare for the Civil Services (Main) Examination.

We understand that time is precious, and we have made sure to present the information in a concise and easy-to-understand manner.

The magazine is divided into different sections. Mains relevant topics have been covered in detail with a UPSC previous year question perspective. The jot downs are examples and interesting facts to enrich your answer writing. Cherrypicks has some key words from the week, helpful again in answer writing and essay. We have also included essay topics and sample questions to help you guage your preparation.

We have designed this magazine to best supplement the daily current affairs notes we have launched by the name of **FIND (Fortune IAS News Daily)** and **FINDER (Fortune IAS News Daily Explainer)** and the **Fortune Prelims Precise** monthly compilation. This magazine will be explained in detail and your queries addressed in a live class we conduct.

At a time when there is no dearth of current affairs materials, our hope is help you get a one-stop solution for all your current affairs needs.

This magazine is a work in progress and your feedback will be appreciated.

We hope that this magazine will serve as a valuable resource for your exam preparation and contribute to your success in the UPSC examination.

INDEX

FIRST ATTEMPT TOPPERS FROM
OUR PRELIMS CUM MAINS BATCH

KASTURI SHA
AIR 68

MANJIMA P
AIR 235

FABI RASHEED
AIR 71

SWATHI S BABU
AIR 522

OORMILA J S
AIR 561

W O M E N   I N   P O W E R

Congratulations

EMPOWERED BY

FORTUNE
IAS ACADEMY

+91 94950 15888 // +91 81389 40888

TEMPLE ENTRY MOVEMENTS

> *Syllabus: GS I - Modern Indian history from about the middle of the eighteenth century until the present, Social empowerment*

PYQ MAPPING

Q) Since the decade of the 1920s, the national movement acquired various ideological strands and thereby expanded its social base. Discuss. **(2020)**

WHY IN NEWS

On December 12, 2024, Kerala and Tamil Nadu Governments jointly commemorated the **centenary of the Vaikom Satyagraha**, marking a pivotal socio-political movement that challenged caste-based discrimination and enabled temple entry for backward caste Hindus in Travancore.

INTRODUCTION

Temple entry movements were significant **social reform campaigns in colonial and post-colonial India** aimed at **abolishing caste-based discrimination in places of worship.** These movements, led by reformers like Mahatma Gandhi, Periyar E.V. Ramasamy, and others, sought to uphold equality and social justice by ensuring access to temples for marginalised communities.

SHORT TAKES

➤ **Savarna:** Refers to the higher, caste-privileged groups in the traditional Hindu caste system.

   o It includes Brahmins (Priests), Kshatriya (Warriors and princes), Vaishya (Farmers and artisans), Shudra (Tenant farmers and servants)

➤ **Avarna:** Denotes those outside the caste hierarchy. Avarnas were historically called achooots, Harijans, or "untouchables".

   o Avarnas were considered impure and polluting because their **occupations** often involved tasks that were considered physically and ritually polluting, such as working with dead bodies and animals or removing human waste.

➤ **Dalit:** The term commonly used today to refer to the lowest caste, which means "broken" or "scattered".

➤ **Scheduled Castes:** The term used by the Indian government to refer to the lowest caste. The term "Scheduled Caste" is used to refer to castes, races, or tribes that are listed in the Constitution of India's official Schedule.

   o The term was first used in the Government of India Act of 1935, and was then adopted by the Constitution after India gained independence.

   o The purpose of the term is to protect the interests of people who have been treated as untouchables and discriminated against due to their caste.

➤ **Adivasis:** Indigenous peoples of India who are also outside the four varnas. Adivasis are also known as Scheduled Tribes.

➤ **Sri Moolam Popular Assembly (Sri Moolam Praja Sabha):**

   o Established on **October 1, 1904**, by the Maharaja of Travancore, aimed to provide a platform for people to voice grievances and understand government policies, though it was **not a legislative body**.

   o Initially limited to nominated landlords and merchants, a **1905 regulation introduced elections for over two-thirds of its members**, with franchise restricted to wealthier individuals and educated elites.

VAIKOM SATYAGRAHA (1924-1925)

➡ **Background**: Launched in 1924, the Vaikom Satyagraha protested the **exclusion of marginalized communities from using public roads** around the Vaikom temple in the princely state of Travancore.

➡ **Origins:**

   o In 1923, T.K. Madhavan presented the issue of caste-based restrictions at the **Kakinada meet** of the All India Congress Committee.

   o The issue was later taken up by the **Congress Untouchability Committee formed by the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee** in January 1924.

➡ **Duration**: The Vaikom Satyagraha lasted **604 days** (20 months) from March 30, 1924, to November 23, 1925.

➡ **Course of Protest:**

   o On **March 30, 1924**, at 7:30 am, **Satyagrahis marched towards the prohibited roads** in Vaikom, defying restrictions.

   o **Three young men**—Govinda Panikkar (Nair),

Bahuleyan (Ezhava), and Kunjappu (Pulaya)—led the procession in khadi and were stopped by police after 50 yards.

o Upon being questioned about their castes, they sat in protest and were arrested.

o Daily, volunteers from various communities repeated this act, leading to the leaders' arrests within a week.

o **Temporary Suspension:** The Satyagraha paused briefly in August 1924 after King Mulam Thirunal's death but soon resumed.

o **Savarna Jadha:** In **November 1924**, caste Hindus, led by Mannath Padmanabhan and K.P. Kesava Menon, marched to Thiruvananthapuram, presenting a memorandum with 25,000 signatures to Queen Sethulakshmi Bai, seeking equal access to temple roads.

o **Defeat of memorandum**: The Queen sent the memorandum to the **Sree Moolam Popular Assembly**, where the motion for unrestricted temple road access was **narrowly defeated (21–22)** in February 1925.

➡ **Leadership**:

o Initially led by **T.K. Madhavan, K.P. Kesava Menon** (Secretary of Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee), **K. Kelappan** (Kerala Gandhi)**.**

o **Periyar E.V. Ramasamy:** George Joseph briefly led the Vaikom Satyagraha after the leaders' arrests and invited Periyar to take charge.

• Periyar arrived on April 13, 1924, mobilized volunteers, and faced banishment from Kottayam and Kollam.

• As the only Satyagrahi sentenced to rigorous imprisonment without political prisoner status, he earned the title 'Vaikom Veerar' (Hero of Vaikom), coined by Tamil journalist Thiru. Vi. Kalyanasundaram.

• Periyar presided over the victory celebrations in November 1925.

o **Mahatma Gandhi:**

• In March 1925, Gandhi visited Vaikom, met caste leaders, and discussed road access with the Maharani Regent.

• Akalis (Sikhs) from Punjab set up a community kitchen (langar) to support volunteers, but Gandhi closed it to keep the agitation a "Hindu affair."

o **Women**: Periyar's wife Nagammai and sister Kannammal, actively participated, marking a significant step in empowering women in socio-political movements.

➡ **Resistance and Reaction**:

o As the temple authorities **barricaded the roads**, the Satyagrahis held **hunger strikes**, facing violent opposition from caste Hindus, who resorted to **assaults and poured irritants** into their eyes.

o Police used violence against protesters and the **seizure of charkas,** which volunteers used to spin while singing religious and national songs.

➡ **Impact**:

o On **November 23, 1925**, **three temple roads** (Western, Southern, and Northern entrances) were **opened to all castes**, while the Eastern road remained restricted to Brahmins, barring Muslims and Christians as well.

The Vaikom Satyagraha ended on **November 30, 1925**, after Gandhi and Police Commissioner W.H. Pitt agreed to release all prisoners .

Commemorating Vaikom Satyagraha

• **Vaikom Satyagraha Memorial Museum:** Inaugurated in January 2020, it features documentation and replicas like discriminatory signboards, highlighting the era's socio-political climate.

• **Periyar Memorial, Vaikom:** Established in 1994 with a statue and library, it was handed over to Tamil Nadu and has been extensively renovated for Rs.8.14 crore. A new memorial is planned at Arookutty village, where Periyar was first imprisoned.

• **Vaikom Award:** Instituted in 2023 by Tamil Nadu, awarded annually on Periyar's birth anniversary (September 17) to changemakers advocating for the oppressed outside Tamil Nadu.

• **Centenary Celebrations:** Kerala and Tamil Nadu jointly launched the 100-year commemoration of the Vaikom Satyagraha on April 1, 2023.

GURUVAYOOR SATYAGRAHA (1931-32)

➡️ **Background:** Second struggle organised by the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) during the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM).

  o Aimed at securing temple entry for all Hindus at Guruvayoor temple in Malabar

➡️ **Course:** The Zamorin who was the temple trustee refused to negotiate, leading K. Kelappan to start a fast unto death, later withdrawn on Gandhi's advice.

  o The struggle was terminated without achieving its declared objectives.

  o A referendum among caste Hindus in Ponnani taluk showed 70% support for temple entry.

➡️ **Impact**: Although the agitation failed immediately, it fostered a favourable climate for temple entry reforms which culminated in the **Temple Entry Proclamation of 1936** in Travancore.

  o **Temple Entry Enquiry Committee (1932):** Appointed by the Travancore Government to investigate temple entry issues, but it recommended opening roads and tanks instead of temples, which was rejected by reformers.

IMPORTANT TEMPLE ENTRY MOVEMENTS

♣ **Maharashtra**: Dr Ambedkar's 1927 Ambadevi Temple march and 1930 Kalaram Temple protest for Dalit entry facing stiff upper-caste resistance and police restrictions.

♣ **Orissa**: Gandhi's 1932 fast sparked Orissa's Temple Entry Movement, but despite his 1934 Harijan tour raising awareness, conservative resistance **kept the Puri Jagannath temple closed**, with only smaller

temples opening to untouchables.

  o **Until 2007,** Dalits in Orissa viewed the Jagannath deity through wall holes, but after disputes and a court ruling, they gained temple access.

♣ **Tamil Nadu:** Despite opposition from conservatives, A .Vaidyanatha Iyer led a successful temple entry on July 8, 1939, when five Dalits and a Nadar entered the Meenakshi Temple.

CONSEQUENCES

🔴 **Legislative Reform:** In South India, reforms progressed faster with legislative efforts like:

  o **Travancore Temple Entry Proclamation (1936)**

   • Issued by Maharaja Sree Chithira Thirunal Balarama Varma and his Dewan Sir C. P. Ramaswami Iyer

   • Removed the age-old ban on the entry of marginalised castes into the **temples of Travancore**.

   • However the temples in Cochin and Malabar remained closed to avarnas until 1947.

  o **Madras Temple Entry Authorization Act (May 1947)**

   • Allowed Hindus of all castes to worship in temples within the Madras Presidency

🔴 **State Regulation of Temples:**

  o **Madras Hindu Religious Endowments Act (1927):** Marked the beginning of state regulation in temple management.

  o **Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable**

Endowments Act (1959): Extended the legislative intent to manage religious affairs in public spaces.
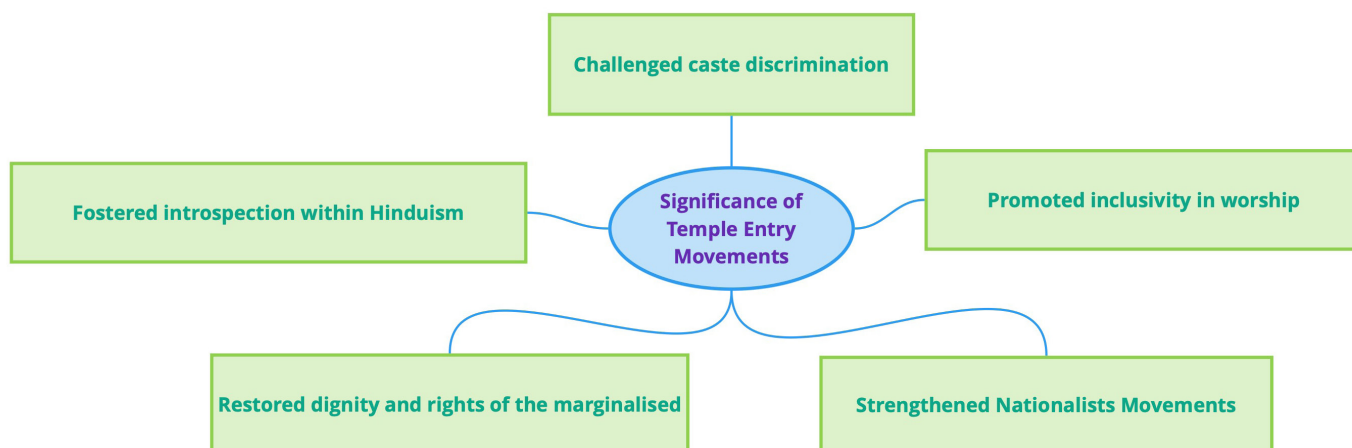
🔴 **Constitutional Provisions for Reform:**

  o On December 7, 1948, B.R. Ambedkar included the clause **"subject to public order, morality, and health"** in the right to freedom of religion.

   • These words **enabled state intervention** and provided courts with the authority to balance equality and religious freedom.

🔴 **Judicial Precedents:**

  o **Shirur Mutt Case (1954):** The Supreme Court upheld the proposition that the **state can manage the secular affairs of the temple** and propounded the test of essential religious practice.

🔴 **Social and Institutional Reforms:**

  o **Appointment of Backward Caste Priests:** Governments of Kerala and Tamil Nadu have appointed hundreds of trained archakas, Odhuvaars, and Bhattacharyas from non-Brahmin castes in temples.

Significance of Temple Entry Movements:
- Challenged caste discrimination
- Fostered introspection within Hinduism
- Promoted inclusivity in worship
- Restored dignity and rights of the marginalised
- Strengthened Nationalists Movements

CONCLUSION

The Temple Entry Movement stands as a pivotal chapter in India's struggle for social justice, marking the **triumph of equality over caste-based discrimination.** Through persistent efforts and reforms, it not only reshaped religious practices but also laid the foundation for broader societal changes, ensuring that **access to religious spaces became a symbol of equal rights and social progress.**

SAMPLE QUESTION

Q) Discuss the historical significance of temple entry movements and their impact on social reform and caste dynamics in Indian society **(10 marks) (150 words)**

ASSISTED DYING

> *Syllabus: GS II - Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.*

PYQ MAPPING

Q) Examine the scope of Fundamental Rights in the light of the latest judgement of the Supreme Court on Right to Privacy. **(2017)**

SHORT TAKES

➤ **Parens Patriae Principle**: A legal doctrine that grants the state authority to act as a guardian for individuals who are unable to care for themselves. The term, Latin for "parent of the nation," empowers the government to step in and protect the rights and welfare of vulnerable groups, such as minors, the mentally ill, or those incapacitated due to age or disability.

➤ **Persistent Vegetative State (PVS):** A condition in which a person loses cognitive functions and awareness of their surroundings but retains basic physiological functions, often following a severe brain injury, with little to no chance of recovery.

WHY IN NEWS

On 29 November 2024, the **Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill was introduced in the UK House of Commons** and was backed by a majority of 330 to 275. The bill grants terminally ill patients the right to request assisted dying, reigniting global ethical and legal debates on end-of-life rights.

INTRODUCTION

Assisted dying is a complex and contentious issue that raises profound ethical, legal, and moral questions about the **right to end one's life with medical assistance**. It challenges societal values surrounding life, death, and personal autonomy, while also prompting debate over the role of healthcare professionals in facilitating such decisions.

WHAT IS ASSISTED DYING?

➡ Assisted dying refers to the practice where a terminally ill, mentally competent individual is provided with medical assistance to voluntarily end their life, typically to alleviate unbearable suffering.

➡ Assisted dying can take two forms

 o **Euthanasia:** The situation where the person who is **asking for assistance to die and has someone else take the action** that leads to their unnatural death (like injecting a lethal drug). This can be active or passive.

 o **Assisted suicide:** It refers to the practice where a person, usually suffering from a terminal illness or incurable condition, is **provided with the means or information necessary to end their own life**. The assistance may involve providing lethal substances or guidance on their use.

 o It differs from euthanasia, where another person (e.g., a doctor) actively administers the means to end a patient's life

Active Euthanasia	Passive Euthanasia
• A person directly and deliberately causes the patient's death. • 3 types o **Voluntary active euthanasia:** A physician (or third person) intentionally ends a person's life normally through the administration of drugs, at that person's voluntary and competent request. o **Non-voluntary active euthanasia** Facilitates a person's death without their prior consent when the patient is not capable of providing informed consent, e.g. vegetative state, young child etc. o **Involuntary active euthanasia:** Facilitates a person's death without their prior consent against the patient's will	• Involves allowing a person to die by withholding or withdrawing life-sustaining treatment, rather than directly causing their death. • 2 types o **Withdrawing treatment:** Like switching off a machine that is keeping a person alive, so that they die of their disease. o **Withholding treatment:** Like not carrying out surgery that will extend life for a short time.

KEY FEATURES OF TERMINALLY ILL ADULTS (END OF LIFE) BILL

- **Eligibility:**
  - o Open to **terminally ill individuals over 18 with mental capacity**, expected to die within **six months.**
  - o **Excludes** persons with disabilities or mental disorders.
  - o Applicants must be registered and have lived in England or Wales for at least 12 months.
- **Protections:**
  - o Patients must make a **clear, informed request** after discussing all options, including palliative care.
  - o Decisions must be confirmed at each stage, with the **right to withdraw at any time.**
- **Procedure**:
  - o Patients sign a **declaration** before a coordinating doctor and witness.
  - o Eligibility is assessed by a **coordinating doctor and an independent doctor.** Disagreements may be referred to a **third doctor.**
- **Judicial Oversight:** The High Court ensures compliance and allows appeals to the Court of Appeal if a request is denied.
- **Reflection Time:** Minimum of seven days between medical assessments and 14 days after the High Court's decision.
- **Provision of Approved Substance**:
  - o Coordinating doctor or designated practitioner provides the approved substance for self-administration.
- **Monitoring:**
  - o Every assisted death is documented, and details are published annually.

ARGUMENTS FOR ASSISTED DYING

- **Respect for Autonomy:** Allows individuals to make decisions about their own lives and deaths, recognising personal freedom and dignity.
- **Relief from Suffering:** Provides a compassionate option for terminally ill patients enduring unbearable pain and suffering.
- **Preservation of Dignity:** Enables individuals to avoid prolonged suffering and loss of dignity in the final stages of life.
- **Reduction of Emotional and Financial Burden**: Helps families and caregivers avoid prolonged emotional distress and financial strain associated with terminal illnesses.
- **Medical Safeguards**: Properly regulated assisted dying laws ensure decisions are made with medical oversight, reducing the risk of abuse.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST ASSISTED DYING

- **Sanctity of Life:** Life is sacred, and deliberately ending it, even with consent, is seen as morally and ethically wrong.
  - o Legalising assisted dying could lead to broader acceptance of euthanasia in non-terminal cases, eroding societal values.
- **Risk of Coercion:** Vulnerable individuals, such as the elderly or disabled, may feel pressured to choose death to avoid being a burden.
- **Potential for Misuse:** Safeguards may not always prevent abuse, such as misdiagnosis or coercion by relatives or caregivers.
- **Psychological and Emotional Impact**: The act of assisting in someone's death can have profound psychological effects on medical professionals and families.

INDIAN CONTEXT

DRAFT GUIDELINES FOR WITHDRAWAL OF LIFE SUPPORT IN TERMINALLY Ill PATIENTS

- **About:** In August 2024, the Ministry of Health issued draft guidelines, seeking stakeholder feedback to operationalise the Supreme Court's 2018 and 2023 orders on the right to die with dignity for all Indians.
- **Conditions for Passive Euthanasia**
  - o Brainstem death declaration.
  - o Medical opinion confirming advanced, incurable illness unlikely to benefit from aggressive treatment.
  - o Documented informed refusal by the patient or surrogate.
  - o Compliance with Supreme Court-prescribed procedures.
- **Defining Terminal Illness:** Irreversible or incurable

conditions with inevitable death in the foreseeable future, including severe traumatic brain injuries showing no recovery after 72+ hours.

🇮🇳 **Advance Medical Directives (AMDs):** AMDs that meet specified requirements are legally valid documents.

o An AMD is a written declaration made by a person with decision-making capacity documenting how they would like to be medically treated or not treated, should they lose capacity.

🇮🇳 **Medical Board Review:** Foregoing life support requires consensus from a Primary Medical Board (PMB) of three physicians, validated by a Secondary Medical Board with one district-level appointee.

🇮🇳 **Opposition from Medical Fraternity:** Indian Medical Association raised concerns about increased legal scrutiny and stress on doctors, advocating for revisions to avoid undermining the doctor-patient relationship.

IMPORTANT SUPREME COURT JUDGEMENTS

🖊 **P. Rathinam v. Union of India(1994):**

o Petition challenged Section 309 IPC, which punishes attempted suicide.

o The Supreme Court held that the **right to live under Article 21 also includes the right not to live**, deeming Section 309 unconstitutional.

🖊 **Gian Kaur v. State of Punjab (1996):**

o Gian Kaur and Harbans Singh were sentenced to six years under Section 306 IPC for abetting Kulwant Kaur's suicide.

o They argued that *P. Rathinam v. Union of India* recognised the right to die under Article 21.

o However, the Supreme Court overruled *P. Rathinam*, stating that **abetment of suicide remains punishable.**

🖊 **Aruna Shanbaug v. Union of India (2011):**

o A petition was filed **seeking to stop feeding Ms. Aruna Shanbaug**, in a Persistent Vegetative State(PVS) at KEM Hospital, since sexually assaulted in 1973 and to allow her peaceful death.

o While the Supreme Court denied withdrawing her treatment, it **allowed passive euthanasia** with broad guidelines**,** invoking the **Parens Patriae principle**.

- The guidelines for passive euthanasia state that the decision to withdraw life support must be made by close relatives or a "next friend," with court approval.

- In the **Aruna Shanbaug** case, the court considered the KEM hospital staff as the "next friend", who in turn wished that Aruna Shanbaug be allowed to live.

- Aruna later died of severe pneumonia in 2015.

o The Court ruled that High Courts under Article 226 can decide on withdrawing life support.

o **Procedure for Decision:**

- A bench constituted by the Chief Justice of the High Court must review applications.

- A committee of three reputed doctors is to examine the patient thoroughly.

- Notices must be issued to the state and family members.

🖊 **Common Cause v. Union of India (2018):**

o The Supreme Court **expanded the right to die with dignity**, upholding the validity of living wills or advance directives.

o It **provided guidelines for implementing passive euthanasia**, emphasising proper consent and oversight.

o The **guidelines were modified in 2023** after the Indian Society of Critical Care Medicine claimed that the process was cumbersome.

THE CHANGES BROUGHT

	NOW	EARLIER
Living will	An attestation by a notary or a Gazetted officer to be sufficient for a living will	It was necessary that a judicial magistrate attest or countersign a living will
Access to the living will	Living will a part of national health record which can be accessed by Indian hospitals	Living will was kept in the custody of the district court concerned
Primary board to examine patient's condition	Three doctors, including treating physician and two other doctors with five years of experience in the specialty, will comprise the primary board of doctors	Primary board of doctors needs at least four experts from general medicine, cardiology, neurology, nephrology, psychiatry or oncology with overall standing of at least 20 years
Time taken to decide	Primary/secondary board to decide within 48 hours on withdrawal of further treatment	The 2018 judgment did not specify any outer limit on withdrawal of treatment
Secondary board	Hospital must immediately constitute a secondary board of medical experts	The district collector had to constitute the second board of medical experts

GLOBAL SCENARIO

- **Netherlands**: First country to legalise euthanasia by enacting the Termination of Life on Request and Assisted Suicide (Review Procedures) Act (2001).

- **Belgium:** Legalised euthanasia in 2002 under the Belgian Euthanasia Act and allows euthanasia for unbearable suffering due to serious and incurable conditions.

  o Permits foreigners to request euthanasia attracting patients from neighbouring countries.

- **Switzerland:** Euthanasia is illegal, but assisted suicide is permitted under specific conditions.

  o Organisations like Dignitas provide assisted suicide services

- **United Kingdom:** Currently, both euthanasia and assisted suicide are illegal under English law.

- **United States:** Several states permit euthanasia or assisted dying (e.g., Oregon, Washington, California)

- **Spain:** Legalised euthanasia and assisted suicide in 2021 for adults with incurable diseases causing unbearable suffering

- **France**: Introduced a Bill in 2023 to legalise "aid in dying," a form of assisted dying which sparked intense debates and opposition from medical professionals and political opponents.

WAY FORWARD

- **Comprehensive Legislative Framework:** Enact a well-defined law to address both passive and active euthanasia by prioritising individual autonomy, dignity, and relief from suffering while ensuring clarity in legal provisions

- **Strengthening Palliative Care**: Enhance access to quality palliative care to ensure patients have alternatives to assisted dying, focusing on pain management and emotional support.

- **Public and Stakeholder Consultations**: Facilitate widespread discussions involving medical professionals, ethicists, religious leaders, and civil society to address diverse perspectives and build consensus.

- **Strict Safeguards and Oversight**: Incorporate measures such as independent medical assessments, mandatory waiting periods, and judicial oversight to prevent abuse and ensure informed consent.

- **Support for Families and Caregivers**: Provide counselling and emotional support for families and caregivers involved in assisted dying cases to mitigate psychological impacts.

- **Ethical Training for Medical Professionals**: Equip healthcare providers with training on the ethical, legal, and procedural aspects of assisted dying to ensure compassionate and lawful practices.

CONCLUSION

Assisted dying is a sensitive matter that demands a careful balance between individual rights and societal values. A humane and inclusive approach, grounded in compassion and ethical safeguards, is essential to navigate this profound ethical dilemma.

SAMPLE QUESTION

Q) Analyze the legal and constitutional implications of assisted dying in the context of the right to life and dignity. **(10 marks) (150 words)**

CODE OF CONDUCT OF JUDGES

Syllabus: GS II - Comparison of the Indian constitutional scheme with that of other countries.

PYQ MAPPING

Q) Constitutional Morality' is rooted in the Constitution itself and is founded on its essential facets. Explain the doctrine of 'Constitutional Morality' with the help of relevant judicial decisions **(2021)**

WHY IN NEWS

Allahabad High Court judge Justice Shekhar Kumar Yadav's controversial remarks about the Muslim community at a Vishwa Hindu Parishad event have drawn widespread criticism. While Supreme Court collegium in person reprimanded him and advised him to maintain judicial dignity, as many as 55 Rajya Sabha members of Parliament (MP) have written to the Vice President, to initiate steps to impeach Justice Yadav.

INTRODUCTION

The **Judicial Code of Conduct** is a set of ethical guidelines and principles that govern the behavior and actions of judges to maintain the integrity, impartiality, and independence of the judiciary. It is designed to ensure that judges act in a manner that upholds public confidence in the judicial system. It provides ethical guidelines for judicial behaviour both inside and outside the courtroom, reinforcing accountability and fairness in the administration of justice.

CODES OF JUDICIAL ETHICS

RESTATEMENT OF VALUES OF JUDICIAL LIFE (1997)

➡️ **About**: The primary code of ethics governing judicial behaviour adopted by the Supreme Court on May 7, 1997.

➡️ **Rules:**

o **Justice must not only be done but must be seen to be done.** Judges must avoid actions that undermine public trust in judicial impartiality.

o Judges should **not contest elections** for any office in clubs, societies, or associations, except those related to law.

o Judges must avoid close associations with individual members of the Bar, particularly those practicing in the same court.

o Judges should not allow immediate family members who are members of the Bar to appear before them or be associated with cases they handle.

o Judges must **maintain a degree of aloofness** consistent with the dignity of their office.

o Judges **should not hear cases in which their family member**s, close relations, or friends are involved.

o Judges must **refrain from engaging in public debates** or expressing opinions on political matters or issues pending judicial determination.

o Judges **should not give media interviews**; their judgments should represent their views.

o Judges should not accept gifts or hospitality from family members, close relations, or friends.

o Judges must disclose any personal interest in a matter and must not hear the case unless no objection is raised.

o Judges are prohibited from speculating in shares, stocks, or similar financial instruments.

o Judges **should not engage in trade or business**, either directly or indirectly, except for activities like publishing legal treatises or hobbies.

o Judges should not actively seek or accept financial contributions or associate themselves with fundraising efforts.

o Judges **should not seek financial benefits or privileges** unless clearly entitled to them, with any doubts clarified through the Chief Justice.

o Judges must always be **aware that they are under public scrutiny** and avoid any conduct that could diminish the esteem of the judiciary.

BANGALORE PRINCIPLES OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT (2002)

➡️ **About:** Adopted by the Judicial Group on Strengthening Judicial Integrity at a meeting held in The Hague, Netherlands, in 2002.

➡️ **Core Values:** The Bangalore Principles identify six core value to set ethical standards for judges and ensure accountability in the judiciary as

o Independence

o Impartiality

o Integrity

o   Propriety

o   Equality

o   Competence

o   Diligence

➡ **Purpose**: These principles aim to guide judges in their duties, provide a framework for regulating judicial conduct, and help the public, lawyers, and policymakers understand and evaluate judicial performance.

ISSUES

▼ **Failure of Impeachment Mechanism:** The impeachment process for judges of constitutional courts is **heavily dependent on political majority,** which makes it difficult to remove judges even when they breach ethical conduct.

▼ **Political and Religious Affiliations**: Judges and lawyers sometimes **align with political or religious groups**, compromising the judiciary's independence and impartiality, thus creating a cycle of bias and division within the legal system.

▼ **Opaque In-House Procedure**: The in-house procedure, while designed to address judicial misconduct, is criticized for its **lack of transparency and reliance on the Chief Justice's discretion**, limiting its effectiveness in disciplining errant judges.

▼ **Inadequate Accountability Mechanisms**: The current mechanisms for holding judges accountable have been ineffective, failing to ensure consistent discipline and undermining the judiciary's integrity.

▼ **Post-Retirement Rehabilitation**: Judges seeking political or administrative roles after retirement raises **concerns about the impartiality of their decisions** during their tenure, further eroding public confidence.

▼ **Global and Doctrinal Concerns:** Judicial independence is a contested concept, with global studies showing that courts sometimes enable **democratic backsliding,** highlighting the need for constant vigilance to uphold judicial integrity.

▼ **Impact on Public Confidence:** The actions of judges which contradict constitutional values, directly harm public confidence in the judiciary and its ability to serve as a fair and impartial institution.

Impeachment and In-House Procedures for Judges

• **Constitutional Provisions on Impeachment:**

o   **Constitutional Provisions:** In India, the removal of judges from the higher judiciary (Supreme Court and High Courts) is governed by Article 124(4) and Article 217(1) of the Constitution.

o   **Grounds for Removal**: Judges can be removed on grounds of **"proved misbehaviour or incapacity"** through a Presidential order following impeachment.

o   **Impeachment Process**: A judge can be removed through the **impeachment process**, which involves the following steps:

1.   **Initiation**: The process can be initiated by either the **President of India** or **members of Parliament**.

   o   A motion for impeachment must be signed by at least **100 members of the Lok Sabha** or **50 members of the Rajya Sabha**.

2.   **Investigation**: The motion is investigated by a **Committee of Judges**, usually consisting of the Chief Justice of India, a Supreme Court judge, and a high-ranking judge from a High Court. This committee determines whether the judge is guilty of **proven misbehavior** or **incapacity**.

3.   **Approval**: If the committee finds the judge guilty, the motion is presented in both Houses of Parliament.

   o   The motion requires a **two-thirds majority** in both the **Lok Sabha** and the **Rajya Sabha** for removal.

   o   Once the motion passes both Houses, the **President** issues the order for the removal of the judge.

o   **Prohibition on Discussion**: Except for a removal motion, the Constitution bars the legislature from discussing judicial misconduct allegations.

• **In-House Procedure**

o   **Adoption:** Adopted in 1999 and made public by the Supreme Court in 2014.

o   **Purpose:** The Supreme Court's in-house procedure allows judges facing serious allegations to **take voluntary**

---

retirement, avoiding the public embarrassment of impeachment.

o **Complaint Handling:**

- Complaints against High Court judges can be addressed to the President, the Chief Justice of India (CJI), or the concerned High Court Chief Justice

- The High Court Chief Justice may seek a response from the judge concerned based on the seriousness of the allegations.

o **Escalation to the CJI**:

- If further investigation is warranted, the High Court Chief Justice forwards the complaint and response to the CJI.

- Complaints received by the President are referred to the CJI, who follows a similar process.

o **Fact-Finding Committee**: The CJI can appoint a committee comprising two Chief Justices of other High Courts and one High Court judge to investigate the allegations.

o **Recommendations**:

- If sufficient material is found, the CJI may request the judge to voluntarily retire.

- If the judge refuses, the CJI can inform the President and Prime Minister, along with the committee report, to initiate impeachment proceedings.

WAY FORWARD

✳ **Strengthen In-House Procedure:**

o The Supreme Court should revise and make the in-house procedure **more transparent,** reducing its dependence on the discretion of the Chief Justice of India (CJI).

o Clear guidelines must be established to ensure consistent handling of complaints against erring judges.

✳ **Develop Clear Regulations:**

o The judiciary should adopt explicit regulations to address misconduct, ensuring uniformity in dealing with breaches of judicial ethics.

- **Example**: Restrict judges from associating with groups having political or religious affiliations.

✳ **Ban Post-Retirement Rehabilitation:**

o Judges should be prohibited from accepting post-retirement positions in government or quasi-judicial bodies to ensure their decisions during tenure remain unbiased and free from the expectation of future benefits.

✳ **Enhance Accountability Mechanisms:**

o Establish an independent judicial accountability panel to investigate allegations of misconduct, ensuring impartiality and public trust.

✳ **Promote Ethical Conduct:**

o Regular training and awareness programmes on judicial ethics should be conducted for judges at all levels.

✳ **Public Confidence and Engagement:**

o The judiciary should actively engage with the public to restore confidence in its integrity.

o Transparency in judicial appointments and disciplinary actions will reinforce public trust in the institution.

CONCLUSION

A robust code of conduct for judges is crucial to maintaining the dignity and credibility of the judiciary in a democratic society. By adhering to these ethical principles, judges can inspire public confidence and uphold the rule of law, ensuring justice is not only done but is seen to be done.

SAMPLE QUESTION

Q) Analyze the current mechanisms of judicial accountability and suggest reforms to enhance transparency and integrity within the judiciary **(10marks)(150 words)**

DE-DOLLARISATION

Syllabus: GS III - Economy

PYQ MAPPING

Q) *Craze for gold in Indians has led to a surge in import of gold in recent years and put pressure on balance of payments and external value of rupee. In view of this, examine the merits of the Gold Monetization Scheme.* *(2015)*

Q) *How would the recent phenomena of protectionism and currency manipulations in world trade affect macroeconomic stability of India?* *(2018)*

INTRODUCTION

Former RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das clarified that India is not pursuing "de-dollarisation," emphasizing that recent measures to promote domestic currency transactions aim to mitigate trade risks. His statement followed US President-elect Donald Trump's threat of "100 percent tariffs" against BRICS nations for reducing reliance on the US dollar.

WHY IN NEWS

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently clarified that measures like permitting Vostro accounts and encouraging trade in domestic currencies are intended to diversify risks rather than to actively pursue 'de-dollarisation'.

SHORT TAKES

➢ **BRICS**

o BRICS is a grouping of leading emerging economies: Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.

- **Formation:** It began as BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India, China) in 2006 and was formalized at the first BRIC summit in 2009. South Africa joined in 2010, making it BRICS.

- **Summits:** The BRICS Leaders' Summit is held annually, with South Africa hosting the 15th summit in 2023, and Russia to host the 16th summit in 2024.

o **Significance:** BRICS represents 45% of the world's population and accounts for 28% of the global economy. Collectively, its members contribute to 44% of global crude oil production. The group established the New Development Bank (NDB) in 2014.

➢ The **Bretton Woods Conference** of 1944:

It was a landmark meeting held in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, USA, aimed at establishing a new international financial system after World War II.

o **Participants:** Representatives from 44 Allied nations attended.

o **Objective:** To create a framework for global economic cooperation, rebuild war-torn economies, and prevent future financial crises.

o **Key Outcomes:**

- **Establishment of the International Monetary Fund (IMF):** To oversee the international monetary system and provide financial assistance to countries in need.
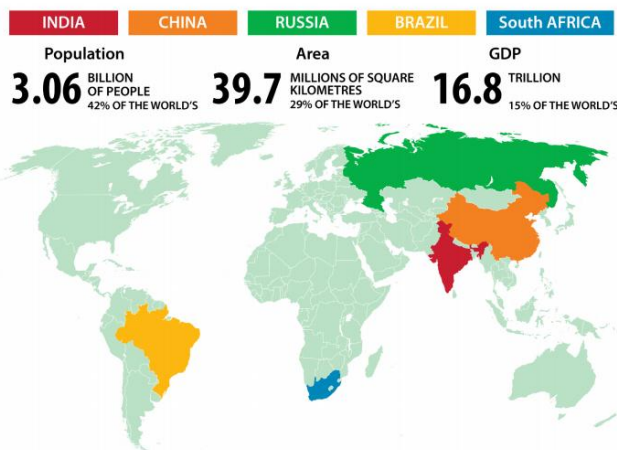
- **Creation of the World Bank (WB):** To provide long-term loans for reconstruction and development.

- **Dollar as the Reserve Currency:** The US dollar was pegged to gold, and other currencies were pegged to the dollar, establishing the dollar as the world's primary reserve currency.

The conference laid the foundation for the post-war global financial order, influencing international trade, finance, and economic policies for decades.

➢ **Global Reserve Currency**

o According to the Center for Foreign Relations (CFR), A reserve currency is defined as "a foreign currency that a central bank or treasury holds as part of its country's formal foreign exchange reserves."

o Countries hold reserves for a number of reasons including to withstand economic shocks, pay for

imports, service debts and regulate the value of their own currencies.

o The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** recognises eight reserve currencies, namely the **Australian dollar, the British pound sterling, the Canadian dollar, the Chinese renminbi, the euro, the Japanese yen, the Swiss franc, and the US dollar,** but the **US dollar is considered to be the global** reserve currency as it is most commonly held, accounting for 59 per cent of global foreign exchange reserves.
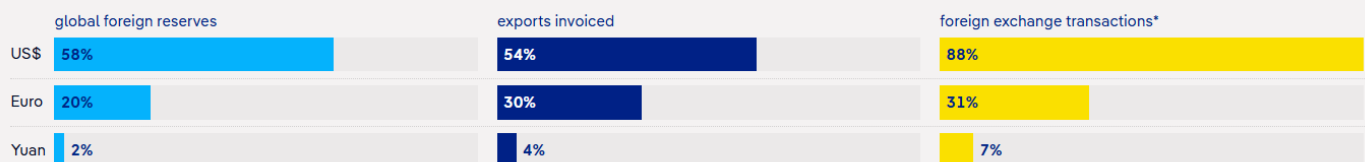
➢ **Nostro and Vostro Account:**

o **Nostro Account**: An account held by a bank in another bank, typically used when a bank has no branches in a foreign country. It allows customers to deposit money in the foreign bank's account.

o **Vostro Account**: Essentially the same as a Nostro account but from the perspective of the bank that holds the account. It allows the deposit of money on behalf of another bank. If a person deposits money, it is transferred to the account holder's bank.

DOLLARISATION

Dollarisation is the process by which a country decides to recognize the U.S. dollar (stronger currency) as a medium of exchange alongside or in place of its domestic currency. It is a form of currency substitution where governments may choose to partially or fully adopt a foreign currency.

How the US dollar dominates in world trade

	global foreign reserves	exports invoiced	foreign exchange transactions*
US$	58%	54%	88%
Euro	20%	30%	31%
Yuan	2%	4%	7%

the currency is used in one side of a foreign exchange transaction

Source: Atlantic Council Dollar Dominance Monitor

- **Global Dominance**: For over 80 years, the U.S. dollar has been the dominant global reserve currency, used by central banks, corporations, and travelers for trade and financial transactions. It facilitates around $6.6 trillion in daily transactions and underpins the global financial system.

- **Historical Origins**:
  o Began with the **Bretton Woods Conference (1944)**, which established the U.S. dollar as the central reserve currency.
  o Global currencies were pegged to the dollar, convertible to gold at a fixed rate, ensuring financial stability post-WWII and solidifying the dollar's dominance.

DE-DOLLARISATION

De-dollarization refers to reducing the global reliance on the U.S. dollar as the dominant reserve currency and for international transactions.

➡ **How It Works:**
  o Countries may seek to decrease their dependency on the dollar in several ways.
  o Central banks can hold reserves in gold or other currencies rather than in dollars, while countries may also enter agreements to avoid using the dollar when settling international transactions.

- **Indicators of Dollar's Dominance**:
  i. **Central Bank Reserves**: The U.S. dollar constitutes the largest share of global reserves.
  ii. **Global Trade**: Dominates transactions even between non-U.S. parties.
  iii. **Commodity Pricing**: Benchmarks like oil, gold, and Brent futures are dollar-denominated.
  iv. **Pegged Currencies**: Gulf oil producers peg their currencies to the dollar to reduce risks from price fluctuations.
  v. **Sanctions and Control**: In 2018, U.S. sanctions on Iran highlighted the dollar's power, as countries violating sanctions faced losing access to the dollar.

➡ **Effects of De-Dollarization**:
  o **For the U.S.:**
    - Higher borrowing costs and reduced economic flexibility due to smaller demand for the dollar.
    - Potential value drain in U.S. stock markets.
    - Loss of the dollar's role in funding trade and government deficits.
  o **For the Global Economy:**
    - A shift could reduce dependence on the dollar, leveling the economic playing field.

IS DE-DOLLARISATION HAPPENING?

The U.S. dollar remains the central reserve currency, but de-dollarization is gaining momentum. This trend has intensified due to:

♣ **Shift in Reserve Currencies**:

   o According to the IMF, the share of the US dollar in global reserves fell below 59% by the end of 2022.

   o However, this decline hasn't resulted in a proportional rise in traditional reserve currencies like the euro, yen, or pound. Instead, the shift has been toward smaller currencies, including the Chinese renminbi (Yuan).

♣ **Russia and China's Role**: Countries like India and China have started conducting trade with Russia in their respective local currencies, signaling a move toward de-dollarization.

♣ **Sanctions and Financial Control**: U.S. sanctions, such as those on Russia during the Ukraine war, showcase the dollar's punitive power, prompting countries to seek alternatives.

♣ **BRICS Speculation**: Discussions about a BRICS currency to rival the dollar have surfaced, though no concrete plans exist.

WHY IS DE-DOLLARISATION IN SPOTLIGHT?

President-elect Donald Trump has warned BRICS nations of 100% tariffs over plans for a new currency to challenge the US dollar.

BRICS CURRENCY

The BRICS currency refers to a proposed common currency that the BRICS nations—Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa—are considering to facilitate trade and investment among themselves. This initiative aims to reduce reliance on the US dollar and enhance economic cooperation within the bloc.

WHY BRICS WANTS TO CHALLENGE THE US DOLLAR

The BRICS nations (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) seek to reduce dependence on the US dollar, which dominates 80% of global trade and offers significant economic and geopolitical advantages to the United States.

KEY REASONS

🌀 **US Economic Advantages:**

   o Lower borrowing costs.

   o Ability to sustain larger fiscal deficits.

   o Exchange-rate stability.

   o Dollar dominance in pricing commodities like oil and gold.

🌀 **Geopolitical Influence**:

   o The US uses "dollarization" as leverage, including imposing sanctions and restricting access to trade and capital.

   o BRICS nations accuse Washington of "weaponizing" the dollar to serve its interests.

🌀 **Sanctions on Russia**:

   o US and EU sanctions after Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine fueled discussions about alternatives to avoid similar risks for other BRICS members.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE BRICS CURRENCY PLAN

◆ **Initial Discussions:**

   o First proposed after the 2008 financial crisis to minimize exposure to dollar-related risks.

   o Revived interest during the BRICS summit in South Africa in 2023.

◆ **Recent Proposals**:

   o Vladimir Putin suggested a blockchain-based payments system to bypass sanctions.

   o Agreement among BRICS members to increase trade in local currencies rather than relying on the dollar.

POTENTIAL IMPACT OF A BRICS CURRENCY

☼ **Economic Stability**:

o A BRICS currency could help stabilize the economies of the member nations by promoting trade and investment within the bloc, fostering economic growth and reducing external vulnerabilities tied to the dollar.

☼ **Regional Influence**:

o Such a currency would potentially increase the geopolitical influence of BRICS, as it would offer an alternative to the US-dominated financial system.

CHALLENGES AND FEASIBILITY

⚡ **Differing Member Views:**

o Russia and Brazil strongly support a new currency.

o China backs reducing dollar reliance but remains cautious about a common currency.

o India is skeptical due to potential national interest conflicts.

⚡ **Imbalance in Trade Dynamics**:

o China runs a trade surplus, while India has a trade deficit, making consensus difficult.

⚡ **Practical Limitations**:

o Fully-traded currencies like the euro took decades to establish.

o A BRICS currency is more likely to be trade-specific, pegged to a basket of currencies or commodities (e.g., gold, oil).

⚡ **Potential Models**:

o Inspired by the IMF's Special Drawing Rights (SDR), the currency could be digital or trade-based, avoiding the complexities of a global reserve currency.

INDIA'S STAND

🇮🇳 India's stance on de-dollarization is focused on finding practical alternatives for trade with partners lacking dollars, without aiming to challenge the dollar's dominance, as **highlighted by the External Affairs Minister.**

🇮🇳 **Diversification over De-Dollarization:**

o RBI Governor **Shaktikanta Das** highlighted that while initiatives such as **local currency trade agreements** and **Vostro accounts** are aimed at reducing reliance on the US dollar, they are not designed to completely eliminate its role in global trade. The goal is more about diversification of trade mechanisms rather than outright **de-dollarization**.

REASONS INDIA NOT SUPPORTING DE-DOLLARISATION

♣ **Increasing dominance of Chinese yuan:**

o A major reason India is not backing de-dollarization is the growing prominence of the Chinese yuan as a competitor to the US dollar.

o India has avoided using the yuan for Russian oil imports, despite its rising acceptance in Russia.

♣ **Geopolitical Considerations**:

o India aims to maintain balanced international relations and avoid actions that could be perceived as undermining the U.S. dollar, thereby preventing potential geopolitical tensions.

♣ **Economic Stability**:

o The U.S. dollar's dominance in global trade and finance provides a stable framework for international transactions.

o Shifting away from the dollar could introduce volatility and uncertainty, potentially impacting India's economic stability.

♣ **Trade Relations**:

o The U.S. is a significant trading partner for India. Maintaining dollar-based transactions facilitates smoother trade relations and minimizes the risk of trade disruptions.

Internationalization of the Rupee

* In response to the exclusion of Iran and Russia from SWIFT by the United States, which disrupted their access to the global financial system, India and other countries have sought to reduce their reliance on the US dollar.

* As part of this effort, in 2022, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) introduced measures to promote the rupee for international trade, allowing transactions to be invoiced and settled in rupees.

* The goal of these initiatives is to increase the international acceptance of the rupee, making it a more prominent currency in global trade and lessening dependence on the US dollar.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INDIA

Focus on Economic Stability:

o Avoid deeper integration into BRICS initiatives that prioritize de-dollarization, which may harm India's economic interests.

o **Promote the Rupee for bilateral trade** while maintaining the dollar as a reserve currency for global transactions.

Strengthen Democratic Alliances:

o Prioritize partnerships with G7, Quad, and other democratic nations to counterbalance China's

dominance in BRICS.

o Advocate for reforms in global institutions like the **IMF to address inequalities** without destabilizing the global financial system.

Pragmatic BRICS Membership:

o Use BRICS to enhance dialogue and multilateral communication but remain cautious of initiatives that disproportionately favor China's agenda.

o Push for reforms within BRICS to ensure balanced benefits for all member nations.

CONCLUSION

Despite challenges to the US economy, the US dollar maintains dominance due to the stability and credibility of the US financial markets. So India's focus should be on the gradual internationalization of the rupee, aiming to establish it as a global currency in the long term.While de-dollarization is part of India's strategy, the ultimate goal is to strengthen the rupee's global role and leadership in trade and finance.

SAMPLE QUESTION

Q) *Examine India's stance on de-dollarization and the internationalization of the Indian Rupee (INR). What are the potential benefits and challenges in strengthening the INR as a global currency?* **(15 marks) (250 words)**

ONE CANDIDATE, MULTIPLE CONSTITUENCIES

Syllabus: GS II - Polity

INTRODUCTION

India's electoral system permits candidates to run from from upto two constituencies at the same time in an election, a practice often viewed as a strategic advantage. This is called the One Candidate, Multiple Constituencies (OCMC) system. However, this has sparked debates over its impact on democratic representation and electoral fairness. Legal bodies such as the Election Commission of India and the Law Commission have weighed in with various recommendations on the matter.

WHY IN NEWS

In India, candidates are allowed to contest elections from multiple constituencies, a practice that has become a common strategy for political parties to enhance their chances of winning legislative seats. This issue has gained attention due to concerns over its impact on electoral fairness, voter trust, and the financial burden on taxpayers, prompting calls for reforms.

PYQ MAPPING

Q) *'Simultaneous election to the Lok Sabha and the State Assemblies will limit the amount of time and money spent in electioneering but it will reduce the government's accountability to the people' Discuss.* **(2017)**

Q) *On what grounds a people's representative can be disqualified under the Representation of People Act, 1951? Also mention the remedies available to such person against his disqualification.* **(2019)**

Q) *"There is a need for simplification of procedure for disqualification of persons found guilty of corrupt practices under the Representation of Peoples Act". Comment.* **(2020)**

Q) *Discuss the procedures to decide the disputes arising out of the election of a Member of the Parliament or State Legislature under The Representation of the People Act, 1951. What are the grounds on which the election of any returned candidate may be declared void? What remedy is available to the aggrieved party against the decision? Refer to the case laws.* **(2022)**

BACKGROUND

➡️ **Pre-1996 Scenario**

o Initially, no limit existed on the number of constituencies a candidate could contest.

o Candidates often contested multiple constituencies, sometimes more than two, vacating all but one after winning.

o This led to frequent by-elections under Section 70 of the RPA.

➡️ **1996 Amendment**

o To curb this practice, Parliament amended the RPA in 1996, capping the number of constituencies a candidate can contest at two.

o The aim was to reduce the frequency of by-elections caused by such resignations.

➡️ **Under Section 33(7) of the Representation of the People Act (RPA) of 1951,** candidates are allowed to contest elections—whether parliamentary, state assembly, biennial council, or by-elections—**from up to two constituencies.**

o This provision was introduced in 1996, replacing the earlier system where there was no restriction on the number of constituencies a candidate could contest.

➡️ **According to Section 70 of the RPA, 1951,** if an individual is elected to more than one seat in either House of Parliament or in the Legislature of a State, they must resign from all but one seat within the prescribed time.

o Failure to do so results in all seats being declared vacant.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST ONE CANDIDATE, MULTIPLE CONSTITUENCIES

👎 **Increased Taxpayer Burden due to frequent By-elections**: By-elections triggered by seat vacating escalate administrative costs, ultimately burdening taxpayers.

o **Ex:** There were 44 by-elections for State Assemblies

in November 2024

👎 **Unfair Advantage to Ruling Party**: By-elections within six months often favor the ruling party, leveraging state resources and machinery.

Financial Costs

o **Administrative Costs:**

- The 2024 general election cost ₹6,931 crore, or ₹12.76 crore per seat.

- If 10 politicians contest two seats, by-election costs add up to ₹130 crore.

o **Political Party Expenditure:**

- Estimated at ₹1,35,000 crore in 2024 (₹250 crore per constituency).

- Much of this funding involves unaccounted black money, undermining transparency.

Erodes Democratic Principles: Contesting multiple seats serves as a political strategy, sidelining public interest.

Voter Discontent: Seat vacating disrupts representation, leading to dissatisfaction and diminished trust.

o Example: *Rahul Gandhi's resignation in Wayanad (2024)* led to reduced voter turnout (64.24% in bypoll vs. 72.92% in general election).

Constitutional Concern: In *Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay vs Union of India (2023)*, it was argued that vacating a won seat violates voter trust and undermines **Article 19(1)(a)** (freedom of speech and expression).

ARGUMENTS IN FAVOUR OF ONE CANDIDATE, MULTIPLE CONSTITUENCIES

Facilitates Leader-Centric Politics

o In leader- or family-centric political parties, OCMC ensures a leader's continued political presence even if they lose in one constituency.

o **Ex: Mamata Banerjee (West Bengal, 2021):** Lost the Nandigram seat but remained Chief Minister

after a party leader vacated the Bhabanipur constituency for her.

Safety Net for Candidates:

o Contesting from multiple constituencies serves as a safeguard in tightly contested elections, ensuring candidates have a backup option.

SUGGESTIONS

The misuse of the OCMC far outweighs the benefits. There have been demands for reforms, and probable solutions may be considered.

Banning OCMC:

o A potential solution is to amend **Section 33(7)** of the **Representation of People Act (RPA), 1951**, to explicitly prohibit candidates from contesting multiple constituencies.

o The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** recommended this change as early as **2004**, and the **255th Law Commission Report** in **2015** echoed the same suggestion.

Financial Penalties:

o The ECI proposed that candidates who vacate a seat due to OCMC should bear the cost of the by-elections, serving as a deterrent.

o However, this approach might not have a lasting

impact, as political parties often have the resources to cover these costs.

Delaying By-Elections:

o A more effective measure could be to delay by-elections for a year after a seat is vacated.

o This delay would allow voters to make more informed decisions and give defeated candidates the time to recover and prepare for a future contest.

Amending Section 151A:

o **Section 151A** of the RPA could be amended to allow such delays, creating a more balanced electoral process.

o However, this could leave constituencies without representation for an extended period, which may diminish voter engagement and trust.

CONCLUSION

Although OCMC is a longstanding practice in Indian politics, its drawbacks far exceed any advantages it may offer. To uphold the principle of 'one person, one vote,' it is crucial for India to implement a 'one candidate, one constituency' rule. Such a reform would promote a more transparent, accountable, and equitable electoral system, ensuring that the system genuinely reflects the will of the people.

SAMPLE QUESTION

Q) One Candidate, One Constituency" is seen as a vital reform. Examine the practice of contesting from multiple constituencies (OCMC) and discuss the need for this reform in India.**(10marks)(150 words)**

WEEKLY DOSSIERS

TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH FREE HEALTHCARE
IN HYDERABAD'S URBAN SLUMS

Healthcare access in urban slums remains a persistent challenge in India, with residents often unable to afford or access quality services. The Helping Hand Foundation (HHF), a Hyderabad-based NGO, has taken significant strides in addressing this issue by providing free primary healthcare to over 100 urban slums in Hyderabad. This case study explores the impact of HHF's initiative on the health, financial stability, and social well-being of slum residents.

INTERVENTIONS

HHF operates 12 Primary Health Centres (PHCs) across Hyderabad, serving an estimated 8–9 lakh residents. The key elements of their initiative include:

- **Free Primary Healthcare Services:** Eliminating financial barriers to healthcare.
- **Proximity of Services:** Centres located within walking distance for 64% of respondents.
- **Focus on Vulnerable Groups:** Women (73.5%) and migrants (72%) are the primary beneficiaries.
- **Comprehensive Care:** Addressing chronic diseases, mental health, and general well-being.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

A health impact study surveyed 4,000 residents, revealing significant improvements:

Health Outcomes

- **Chronic Disease Management:** 50% of patients with diabetes and hypertension reported better health.
- **Mental Health Improvements:** Half of the respondents experienced enhanced mental and emotional well-being.

Financial Benefits

- **Cost Savings:** 81% of respondents saved ₹2,500–₹3,000 monthly on medical expenses.
- **Reduced Debt Dependency:** 65% reported no longer needing high-interest loans for healthcare.
- **Resource Reallocation:** Families redirected savings toward essential needs like nutrition, education, and transportation for children.

Social Benefits

- **Increased Healthcare Utilization:** 58% of respondents visited the PHCs 1–4 times a month.
- **Community Satisfaction:** 74% of beneficiaries were satisfied with the quality of care.

KEY CHALLENGES

- **Sustainability:** Ensuring consistent funding to maintain and expand services.
- **Scaling Impact:** Reaching additional underserved populations in peri-urban and rural areas.
- **Awareness:** Building trust and awareness among all slum residents to maximize outreach.

CONCLUSION

HHF's initiative demonstrates the transformative potential of free, accessible primary healthcare in improving the lives of marginalized urban populations. By alleviating the financial burden and addressing chronic health issues, the program not only enhances individual well-being but also contributes to the broader goals of poverty alleviation and social equity. Scaling such models across other urban and rural areas in India could significantly reduce healthcare disparities nationwide.

FLORICULTURE BLOSSOMS IN ODISHA'SJUJUMARA REGION

Jujumara, a backward region in Odisha's Sambalpur district, has transitioned from traditional paddy cultivation to floriculture, boosting incomes and fostering sustainability. The transformation was spearheaded by the Sabuja Sanatanpali Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO) with scientific inputs from the CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI).

KEY INTERVENTIONS

1. **Formation of FPO:** Unified 250 farmers across 20 villages, enabling better market access and collective planning.

2. **Scientific Inputs:** NBRI provided modern floriculture techniques, increasing productivity and profitability.

3. **Integration of Apiculture:** Distribution of 150 honeybee boxes improved pollination, enhancing

yields and preserving biodiversity.

4. **Market Support:** Real-time market updates via WhatsApp reduced surplus and boosted farmer confidence.

IMPACT

- **Economic:** Floriculture profits exceed ₹1 lakh per acre annually compared to ₹40,000 from paddy farming.

- **Social:** Improved livelihoods and community

empowerment.

- **Environmental:** Enhanced pollination and biodiversity conservation through apiculture.

CONCLUSION

Jujumara's floriculture model demonstrates how scientific support and collective farming can transform rural livelihoods, serving as a blueprint for sustainable agricultural development.

MANGROVE RESTORATION IN TAMIL NADU

Mangroves are critical ecosystems that provide ecological, economic, and protective benefits to coastal regions. In Tamil Nadu, which has a total mangrove cover of 44.94 sq. km (Indian State of Forest Report 2021), efforts are underway to restore degraded mangrove ecosystems across multiple districts.

KEY INTERVENTIONS AND INITIATIVES

➢ **Restoration Efforts**

- **Kattur Village, Tiruvallur District:**

  o Mangrove Foundation of India restored 30 acres of land.

  o Camera traps captured a resurgence in biodiversity with sightings of spotted deer and wild boars after two years of restoration.

- **Pichavaram Mangroves, Cuddalore District:**

o Measures included hydrodynamic studies, dredging, and trenching to improve water flow.

o Resulted in a significant increase in mangrove cover post-1998, reversing damage caused by reduced tidal flushing and siltation.

- **Pulicat Lake:**
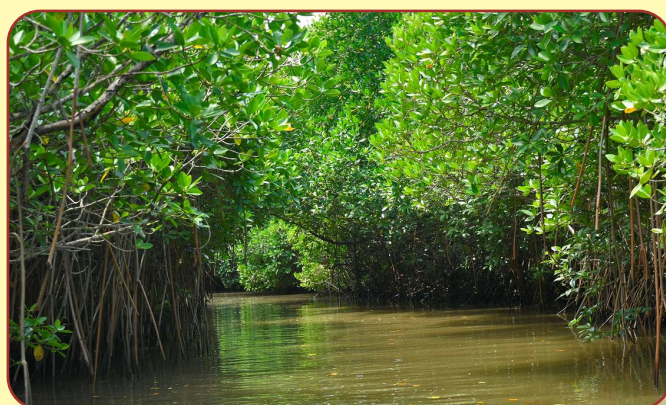
o   Community-driven reforestation supported by Global Nature Fund and CReNIEO led to the planting of 5,000 mangroves.

o   Despite setbacks from the 2015 floods and a 2023 oil spill, restoration continues in the Ennore-Pulicat wetlands.

IMPACT AND BENEFITS

- **Ecological Benefits**

o   Increased mangrove cover stabilizes coastlines, prevents erosion, and reduces the impact of cyclones and tsunamis.

o   Biodiversity restoration supports numerous marine and terrestrial species, including fish, amphibians, and mammals.

- **Coastal Protection**

CHALLENGES

- **Degradation Factors:**

o   Reduced tidal flushing, siltation, and prolonged submersion in saltwater have damaged ecosystems.

o   Urbanization and industrial expansion, particularly

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

1.   **Scaling Up Restoration:**

o   Expand restoration projects to utilize the **100 sq. km** identified by NCCR.

o   Focus on dense and moderately dense mangrove areas for maximum ecological benefit.

2.   **Community Participation:**

- **Restoration prioritized in:**

o   **Palk Bay Dugong Conservation Reserve** (Thanjavur and Pudukkottai Districts).

o   **Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park** and **Biosphere Reserve**, ensuring easier monitoring and conservation of biodiversity.

◦   Mangroves act as a **bio-shield**, as demonstrated during:

o   The **2004 tsunami**, where Pichavaram mangroves protected 1,700 people.

- **Economic Value**

o   Mangroves contribute to livelihoods through fishing, eco-tourism, and carbon sequestration.

near Pulicat Lake, worsened mangrove health.

- **Extreme Weather:**

o   Events like the 2015 floods submerged and destroyed 90% of newly planted saplings in Pulicat.

o   Enhance awareness and engagement of local communities for sustained protection and maintenance.

3.   **Scientific Support:**

Continued reliance on hydrodynamic studies and remote sensing for effective site selection and intervention.

CONCLUSION

Tamil Nadu's mangrove restoration showcases a well-rounded approach combining scientific research, government initiatives, and community involvement. The efforts underline the critical importance of mangroves in ensuring ecological stability, protecting coastlines, and supporting local livelihoods, providing a replicable model for other coastal states.

ETHICS - CASE STUDY

Q) Abhishek bought a new car a few days ago. It was his first car and he was very excited and careful about it. One day it got into an accident due to a traffic signal failure, causing minor damage to both vehicles. A heated argument with the other driver escalated into a physical fight, during which Abhishek injured the other person severely by slamming his head onto the road. The injured driver was rushed to the ICU with critical brain injuries and slim chances of survival.

a. Examine the situation from multiple perspectives and discuss how both individuals might have acted differently if they had demonstrated high emotional intelligence.

ETHICS - EXAMPLES

1. **Community Spirit:** A Happiness Corner in Kalpalli, Kozhikode, funded by local youth, offers elderly residents a scenic space for daily gatherings by reviving community bonding . The initiative, set up on public land, has also transformed the area into a clean, inviting space while discouraging waste dumping.

2. **Technology in governance:** The Swami Chatbot, launched by the Pathanamthitta district administration, enhances the Sabarimala pilgrimage by providing real-time assistance in six languages for trip planning, temple services, and emergencies, benefiting over 10,000 users within days.

3. **Lack of Social Justice:** A CAG report on Odisha's Scheduled Tribe Girls Hostels (STGHs), which house nearly five lakh tribal girls, highlighted issues such as overcrowding, insufficient toilets, lack of clean water, staff shortages, and the absence of basic facilities like kitchens and regular medical visits.

4. **Altruism**: A couple from Uttarakhand donated the body of their infant daughter, who passed away 60 hours after birth, to Doon Medical College for medical education and research, marking one of India's youngest body donations.

5. **Human Rights and Dignity:** The Telangana Chief Minister has ordered an inquiry into the handcuffing of Heerya Naik, a tribal farmer arrested for allegedly attacking officials during a public hearing on land acquisition, an act criticised for its insensitivity.

6. **Women Empowerment**: Union Minister for Women and Child Development Annapurna Devi launched the national campaign "Ab Koi Bahana Nahi", urging collective action to eliminate gender-based violence, supported by the Ministry of Rural Development and UN Women. The campaign, aligned with the UN "#NoExcuse" initiative, underscores India's zero-tolerance stance to all forms of gender based violence.

7. **AI Ethics**: A Michigan graduate student reported a disturbing incident where Google's Gemini chatbot issued threatening statements, including "You are a burden on society… Please die," during a conversation. Google acknowledged the violation of its safety policies and stated measures are being taken to prevent such occurrences in the future.

8. **Gender Equality:** Sheshandeep Kaur Sidhu, the former sarpanch of Manak Khana in Punjab, introduced door name plates featuring women's names and their contributions to their families, such as managing households or supporting livelihoods fostering community equality.

9. **Social Responsibility:** Teach For India, founded by Shaheen Mistri, is revolutionising education by providing quality learning opportunities to children in low-income communities, aiming to create changemakers.

10. **Environmental Ethics**: The Ukkadam Big Tank, a key habitat for migratory birds, faces severe pollution from sewage, prompting researchers from Tamil Nadu Agricultural University to pilot floating treatment wetlands using vetiver plants for water purification.This eco-friendly, patented technology effectively removes pollutants like nitrates and phosphates, offering a scalable lake restoration solution.

MODEL ESSAY

"The philosophy of the schoolroom in one generation will be the philosophy of government in the next"

Introduction

- Quote by Abraham Lincoln

- Education is the foundation of governance -ideals taught in classrooms today will define the policies and principles of tomorrow's governments.

The Role of Education in Shaping Thought Processes

- **Instilling Moral and Ethical Values**: Education teaches principles like honesty, integrity, and responsibility, forming the foundation for ethical governance.

- **Encouraging Critical Thinking**: Promotes questioning, analysis, and informed decision-making, essential for effective leadership.

- **Fostering Social Awareness:** Educates students on societal issues, helping them understand the needs of diverse communities.

- **Developing Problem-Solving Skills**: Encourages creative solutions to complex problems, preparing future leaders for governance challenges.

- **Promoting Civic Responsibility**: Teaches the importance of rights, duties, and active participation in democratic processes.

Challenges

- **Outdated Curricula:** Fails to address modern issues like technology and climate change.

- **Educational Inequality:** Unequal access limits diverse representation in governance.

- **Lack of Critical Thinking**: Focus on rote learning stifles creativity and innovation.

- **Political Interference:** Manipulated curricula promote biased ideologies. **Eg**:Nazi education - propagate authoritarian ideologies in Germany

Way Forward

- **Revise Curricula**: Include topics like climate change, digital literacy, and global citizenship to prepare students for modern governance..

- **Equal Access to Quality Education**: Bridge gaps in educational opportunities across socio-economic and regional divides to ensure inclusive governance.

- **Encourage Experiential Learning:** Implement practical learning through debates, model parliaments, and community service to instil leadership skills.

- **Reduce Political Interference in Education**: Ensure curricula are designed by education experts, free from ideological bias, to foster unbiased, progressive thinking

Conclusion

- Education is a mirror of society's future governance

- Progressive, inclusive, and value-driven education ensure ethical and effective governance

Sample Quotes

- Perfection is not attainable, but if we chase perfection, we can catch excellence- Vince Lombardi

- Reason is the slave of the passions- David Hume

- Man cannot discover new oceans unless he has the courage to lose sight of the shore- Andre Gide

MAINS JOT DOWN

GS- I - *INDIAN SOCIETY*

➡ For the first time, members of the **Birhor tribe**, a particularly vulnerable tribal group in Jharkhand, have **joined the movement against child marriage in Giridih**, as reported by an organization focused on children's rights.

» The Birhor community is semi-nomadic, forest-dependent, and lags significantly in economic and social development.

GS- II - *INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS*

➡ During a recent India-Iran-Armenia trilateral consultation, Armenia highlighted its "**Crossroads of Peace" initiative.**

» This regional transport project aims to connect Armenia with Turkey, Azerbaijan, Iran, and Georgia, fostering trade and energy flow through enhanced infrastructure like roads, railways, pipelines, and cables. It envisions linking the Caspian Sea to the Mediterranean and the Persian Gulf to the Black Sea for efficient connectivity.

GS- III - *INFRASTRUCTURE*

➡ **India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB)** have signed a $350 million loan under the second subprogram of the SMILE (Strengthening Multimodal and Integrated Logistics Ecosystem) program.

» **SMILE Program Overview:** The program aims to support India's logistics sector reforms by strengthening the policy framework, enhancing inter-ministerial coordination, and promoting private sector participation in multimodal logistics projects (MMLPs).

» It also focuses on improving trade logistics efficiency and encouraging the use of smart, automated systems for better service delivery.

GS- III - *SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY*

➡ Researchers at IISER Pune have developed a new aerogel capable of extracting gold from e-waste. This innovation could help reduce electronic waste and mitigate harmful mining practices.

» An aerogel is a lightweight, porous material with low density, made by replacing the liquid component of a gel with a gas, often used for insulation and various scientific applications.

GS- III - *ECONOMY*

➡ The RBI recently conducted a **Variable Rate Repo (VRR) auction.**

» **VRR Auction:** It is a tool used by RBI to inject liquidity, allowing banks to borrow at market-determined rates, usually lower than the Repo Rate, for more than one day.

GS- III - *DEFENCE*

➡ India, France, and the UAE have initiated the "Desert Knight" exercise over the Arabian Sea.

➡ **About Desert Knight Exercise:**

» A trilateral air combat exercise designed to enhance interoperability among the air forces of the three nations during advanced combat scenarios.

» The Indian Air Force (IAF) participated with Sukhoi-30MKIs and Jaguars.

» French Rafale jets and UAE's F-16 fighters operated from the Al Dhafra air base in the UAE.

» The exercise strengthens defense cooperation in strategically vital regions like the Indo-Pacific and the Persian Gulf.

GS- II - *HEALTH*

➔ Northern Coalfields Limited, a Coal India arm, launched the '**CHARAK' CSR initiative under the Ministry of Coal**.

» **CHARAK Initiative:** It provides free treatment for life-threatening diseases, including malignancy, TB, HIV, and organ transplant complications, to economically weaker sections in the Singrauli region.

GS- III - *CYBER SECURITY*

➔ **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)** has introduced a blockchain-based **Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT)** framework to monitor commercial SMS.

➔ It mandates businesses (Principal Entities) and their Telemarketers to register message transmission paths via DLT, ensuring a secure and spam-free commercial messaging environment.

GS- III -*ENVIRONMENT & POLLUTION*

➔ Scientists found that **North Atlantic orcas** feeding on marine mammals carry significantly higher levels of pollutants than orcas that eat fish.

» Scientists studying North Atlantic orcas found high levels of toxic POPs in their blubber, despite living far from human settlements.

» Levels of polychlorinated biphenyls in the orcas' blubber are ten times higher than the toxic threshold for these dangerous household chemicals.

➔ Climate change is altering the tree line landscape of the central Himalayas, according to new research.

» Birch trees, a deciduous broadleaved species that dominates the region, are being replaced by fir, a slow-growing evergreen conifer. This shift is likely to alter the ecological function of Himalayan ecosystems, the paper has warned.

CHERRYPICKS OF THE WEEK

CARBON OFFSETTING

- It allows individuals and companies to reduce their carbon emissions by investing in environmental projects, such as reforestation or renewable energy. It helps balance out a **carbon footprint**, which is the total emissions of greenhouse gases expressed as CO2 equivalent (CO2e).
- Key characteristics include:
  - o **Emission Reduction**: Offset projects reduce or capture equivalent CO2 elsewhere.
  - o **Measurable and Verifiable**: Projects must ensure verifiable emissions reductions.
  - o **Voluntary or Compliance-Based**: Offsets can be purchased voluntarily or to meet regulatory requirements.
- It is a fast, cost-effective way to achieve carbon neutrality.

EXTERNALITY

- It is a cost or benefit that is caused by one party but financially incurred or received by another.
  - o For example, a firm that emits carbon into the atmosphere doesn't typically bear the cost of its pollution, as it doesn't have to pay for the environmental damage caused.

SOLAR MICRO-HYDROPOWER

- It uses solar energy to pump water from a lower to an upper reservoir during high sunlight.
- The stored water is then released through a micro-hydro turbine to generate electricity when solar power is unavailable.
- Key advantages include grid stability and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

DIAMOND COOLING TECHNOLOGY

- It uses synthetic diamond in semiconductor chips to reduce heat from GPU chips.
- It boosts overclocking by 25%, improves energy efficiency, lowers GPU temperatures by 10°–20°C, cuts fan energy consumption by 90%, and enhances sustainability in data centers.

MIRROR BACTERIA

- They are synthetic bacteria made from enantiomers, which are non-superimposable mirror images of natural molecules.
- **Threats**:
  - o **Immune Evasion**: Could evade human immune responses.
  - o **Environmental Impact**: May disrupt ecosystems by competing with native microbes.
  - o **Biosecurity Risks**: Potential misuse in biological warfare.