

## POLITY

PRE-CONTEXT

### JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS, TRANSFERS, REMOVAL.

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 14.

**News:** "Patna High Court CJ appointed to SC."

#### Qualifications for Judge of the Supreme Court:

##### • According to Constitution of India:

- A person must be a **citizen of India**.
- Have been a **High Court judge** for at least five years.
- Have been a **High Court advocate** for at least 10 years.
- Be considered a **distinguished jurist** by the President.

#### Collegium System:

- For **appointment and transfer of judges** in the higher judiciary in India.
- For **Supreme Court (SC) appointments**: collegium consists of **CJI plus 4 senior-most Supreme Court judges**.
- For **High Court appointments**: collegium consists of CJI plus 2 senior-most Supreme Court judges.
- CJI after consultation with collegium **recommends to President** for an appointment.
- Supreme Court Judges retire upon attaining the **age of 65 years**.

#### Evolution of Collegium:

##### • The Constitution provides that:

- **Judges to the Supreme Court** are to be appointed by the **President of India in consultation with the CJI** and such other judges that he or she deems fit.
- **Judges to the High Courts** are to be appointed by the **President in consultation with the CJI, the Governor of the State and the Chief Justice of that court**.
- **In the case of transfers**, the President may move a judge from one High Court to another, but **only after consulting the CJI**.
- **1st judges case (1982)**: the word '**consultation**' only implies exchange of views.
- **2nd judges case (1993)**:
  - Word '**consultation**' = **concurrence**, advice by CJI (plus 2 judges) is binding on President.
  - If collegium reiterates, judicial appointments must be cleared (a healthy convention).
- **3rd Judges case: Collegium** (4 Judges + CJI).
- **99th CAA 2015: NJAC** (3 judicial members & 2 executive appointees): Declared Unconstitutional by SC.

#### Removal of Judges:

##### • According to Judges Inquiry Act, 1968:

- A **removal motion** signed by 100 members (in case of Lok Sabha) or 50 members (in case of Rajya Sabha) is to be given to the Speaker/Chairman.
  - If the motion is admitted, then a **three-member committee** to investigate into the charges is constituted.
  - If the committee **finds the judge to be guilty of the charges (misbehaviour or incapacity)**, the House in which the motion was introduced, can take up the consideration of the motion.
- **Special majority**: Majority of total membership of the House & majority of not less than two thirds members present and voting.

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- Once, the House in which **removal motion was introduced passes it with special majority, it goes to the second House which also has to pass it with a special majority**.
- After the motion is passed, an address is presented to the President for removal of the judge.
- The **President** then passes an order removing the judge.

#### Note:

- Till now, **only two judges so far have been found guilty** for their "misbehaviour" by the three-member committee.
- **No judge has been impeached** in India till date.

#### Other country Practices:

- **Canada**: power resides with the Federal Govt.
- **Germany**: Elected by Executive and Legislature.
- **USA**: Nominated by President & confirmed by Senate.
- **UK**: Selection Commission of 15 members of different backgrounds.

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## POLITY

PRE-CONTEXT

### ELECTIONS

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 9.

**News:** "Resisting transparency, eroding public trust."

**Context:** Under new rules, the ECI told it not to share CCTV footage of the booth, citing privacy and security reasons.

#### About New Rules:

- Ministry of Law and Justice issued a notification:
  - **Before Amendment of Rule 93(2)(a) of the 1961 Conduct of Election Rules**:
    - It stated, "all other papers relating to the election shall be open to public inspection"
  - **After Amendment**:
    - It reads, "all other papers **as specified** in these rules relating to the election shall be open to public inspection."

**Note:** Conduct of Election Rules, 1961, is a set of rules which provide for provisions on how to conduct the elections **as per the Representation of People Act**.

#### Criticism by critics:

- Amendment appears to be aimed at **restricting citizen-voters' right** to access a large number of documents.
- Systematic conspiracy to **destroy the institutional integrity of the Election Commission**.
- Accused the EC for "**undermining multi-party democracy**" by taking "unilateral" decisions without consulting all political parties.
- **Transparency is key to ensure public trust** and participation in the electoral process.
  - In 2024, the **Supreme Court struck down the electoral bonds** scheme as being **violative of a voter's fundamental right to information**.

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## ECONOMY

PRE-CONTEXT

### INFLATION

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 1.

**News:** "Inflation falls to a 4-month low in Dec."

**Context:** Centre on announced the formation of an expert panel to revise the constituents of the country's Wholesale Price Index (WPI) in light of the structural changes in the economy that have occurred between 2011-12, the current base year for the critical price gauge, and **2022-23 that would be the new base year.**

#### Inflation:

- **A rise in general level of prices.**
  - **Note:** If the price of one good has gone up, it is not inflation.
- **Inflation** =  $\frac{\text{current period price index} - \text{last period price index}}{\text{last period price index}} \times 100$

#### Measuring Inflation:

- **Wholesale Price Index (WPI):**
  - Measures inflation at wholesale level, used for **macro level policy making.**
  - **Current base year** for WPI calculation is **2011-12.**
  - **Weights (High to Low):** Manufactured goods, WPI food, Primary Articles, Fuel and Power.
  - WPI serves as an important determinant in policy formulation of trade, economical and fiscal policies of Govt.
  - **WPI index data is published by Office of Economic Advisor** under **Ministry of Commerce and Industry.**
- **Consumer Price Index (CPI):**
  - Also called **Retail Inflation.**
  - **CPI measures the average change in prices of fixed basket of goods and services** that households purchase for purpose of consumption.
  - Used for **inflation targeting and micro-level policy making.**
  - **Current base year** for CPI calculation is **2011-12.**
  - **Weights (High to Low):** Food and Beverages, Services, Fuel and Light etc.
  - **CPI is released by CSO** under Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation.

#### Core inflation:

- Some goods & services are either included or excluded during calculation of core inflation.
- It **excludes food, fuel & light, transport & communication.**

#### Base Effect:

- Nothing to do with base year.
- **Shows the impact of the rise in price level in the previous year over the current year.**
- **Formula:**  $\text{Current inflation rate} = \frac{\text{Current Price Index} - \text{Last year price index}}{\text{last year price index}} \times 100.$

#### GDP Deflator:

- Measures GDP at **current prices** to that of the constant prices.
- Provides **comprehensive view** compared to inflation indicators.
- **Phillips Curve:** shows relationship between Inflation & unemployment.

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## SCHEMES

PRE-CONTEXT

### PM KISAN

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 9.

**News:** "The way forward for PM-KISAN."

#### PM Kisan Samman Nidhi:

- **Central Sector Scheme**, implemented by the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.**
- Provides yearly income support of **Rs.6000** to eligible farmers families in three instalments **for all land Holding Farmers via DBT mode.**
- **Tenant farmers are not included** under the scheme.
- **Beneficiaries are identifies** by the **State govts.**
- **Facility of Kisan Credit Cards (KCC):** KCC is to be given to All PM-KISAN beneficiaries to provide them with short-term loans.

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## TECHNOLOGY

PRE-CONTEXT

### CYBERCRIMES

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 12.

**News:** "Retired teacher saved from a digital arrest scam, thanks to bank staff."

#### Cybercrime methods (most common):

- **Digital arrest scam:** fraudsters target individuals or businesses, posing as law enforcement or government officials, victims are **threatened with a digital arrest warrant.**
- **Cyber Slavery:** Offenders target innocent individuals and lure them by giving **fake promises to offer them employment or alike** and force them into executing cyber fraud.
- **Social Engineering Attacks: Manipulating** people into revealing confidential information.
- **Ransomware Attacks: Malicious software** that locks data until a ransom is paid. 53% increase in the ransomware incidents in 2022—**CERT-In report.**
- **Phishing:** Tricking individuals into revealing sensitive information **via fake emails or messages.** 150 million phishing emails sent globally every day.
- **Identity Theft: stealing personal information** to impersonate someone for financial gain.
- **Cyberstalking and Harassment: Using the internet to stalk, harass, or bully individuals.**
- **Denial of Service: Blocking access to websites.**
- **Cyber Espionage:** using **stealthy IT malware to spy** on both corporate & military data.

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**Thank you!**