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1. The Procedure for Appointment and Removal of Judges

Prelims Perspective: What needs to be learned

- How are judges appointed to the High Court(HC) and Supreme Court(SC).
- The grounds and procedure for the removal of judges.

What needs to be known?

• Judges Appointment

- **How is it done?** The appointment of judges is by the collegium system. The Collegium consists of the Chief Justice of India and four senior-most judges in the SC, and the Chief Justice of HC and two senior-most judges in the HC.
- **Who appoints:** The president of India appoints the judges (**Article 124 for SC and Article 217 for HC**) who are approved by the government based on collegium recommendation.
- **Is the collegium recommendation compulsory?** The government can ask for clarification from the collegium once, but if the collegium sticks with its decision, the government has to abide by it and complete the appointment.
- **Is the collegium mechanism constitutional?** The collegium system has evolved through 'Judges cases' and no specific provisions available in the constitution.

Judges removal

- ★ **On what grounds:** The judges can be removed in both SC and HC for **proven misbehaviour or incapacity**.
- ★ **Who can initiate:** The removal process can be initiated based on the recommendation of 100 Lok Sabha members or 50 Rajya Sabha after which the speaker/chairperson decides whether to accept.
- ★ **The procedure:** The president of India gives assent after the motion for removal is passed by a special majority in both houses of parliament.

Trivia: No judge has been removed either from HC or SC, even though the process has been initiated.



2. Vulture Safe Zones

Prelims Perspective: What needs to be learned?

- What are Vulture Safe Zones
- What are the threats faced by Vultures- IUCN Status
- Ecological Significance of Vultures

What needs to be known?

- **Vulture Safe Zone**
 - **What is it?:** They are designated geographical areas where conservation efforts are made to eliminate threats to vultures, most notably toxic veterinary drugs and poisoning like lead poisoning.
 - **Launch:** India has established them across multiple states as part of the **SAVE programme** led by BNHS.
 - **Vulture Safe Zones in India**
 - ★ Assam: Around Majuli Island and Rani.
 - ★ Uttar Pradesh: Terai region, Dudhwa, Katarniaghat reserves, and areas near the Indo-Nepal border.
 - ★ Madhya Pradesh: Bundelkhand region.
 - ★ Haryana: Pinjore in the Shivalik foothills.
- **Critically Endangered Vultures in India:** White-rumped vulture, Slender-billed vulture, Long-billed vulture, and Red-headed vulture.
- **Ecological Significance of Vultures:** They help in waste management by consuming dead bodies, which will help in preventing disease spread like rabies and anthrax, as well as avoiding water pollution.



3. Inflation - How is it measured

Prelims Perspective: What needs to be learned?

- What is inflation?
- How is inflation measured, and who measures it
- The challenges of inflation upon economy

What needs to be known?

- What is inflation
 - Inflation occurs when there is a broad increase in the prices of goods and services. It reduces the purchasing power of money as seen in Iran.
- How is it measured
 - The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) and the Consumer Price Index (CPI) are used to measure inflation in India.
 - But **CPI is the primary source** for measuring inflation since 2013, based on recommendations of the Urjit Patel Committee
- Who measures inflation in India?
 - The **Ministry of Statistics** measures CPI, while the WPI is measured by the **Ministry of Commerce**.
- Challenges of inflation
 - Reduced Purchasing Power
 - Erosion of Savings
 - Higher Borrowing Costs
 - Reduced Competitiveness