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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, Katarniaghata 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