



## **DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 08-07-2024**

### **GS-2**

1. Trust Vote
2. On Expunction Powers of Parliament
3. Polio Vaccines

### **GS-3**

4. Robot suicide
5. A law around low-carbon climate resilient development

## **Trust Vote**

**Syllabus: GS-2: Indian Polity – State Legislative Assembly.**

**Context:**

- *Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren won the trust vote in the state Assembly after he secured the support of 45 legislators.*

### **Introduction**

- *A trust vote, also known as a vote of confidence, is a crucial aspect of parliamentary democracy.*
- *It determines whether the ruling government enjoys the confidence of the majority of the legislative assembly.*

### **Constitutional Provisions**

1. **Article 164(2):** *The Council of Ministers shall be collectively responsible to the Legislative Assembly of the state.*
2. **Article 174:** *Provides the Governor with the power to summon, prorogue, and dissolve the legislative assembly.*
3. **Article 175(2):** *The Governor may address the legislative assembly and for that purpose require the attendance of members.*
4. **Article 188:** *Deals with the oath or affirmation by members of the Legislative Assembly.*

### **Types of Trust Votes**

1. **Motion of Confidence:** *Initiated by the government to prove its majority.*
2. **Motion of No Confidence:** *Initiated by the opposition to challenge the government's majority.*

### **Procedure**

1. **Introduction:** *A member of the assembly moves a motion for a trust vote. This motion can be introduced by the Chief Minister or any other member.*
2. **Debate:** *The motion is debated in the assembly, where members discuss the performance and policies of the government.*
3. **Voting:** *After the debate, a vote is conducted. Members can vote in favor or against the motion.*

#### 4. Outcome:

- **Majority Support:** *If the government secures a majority of votes, it continues to hold office.*
- **Majority Opposition:** *If the government fails to secure a majority, it is required to resign.*



#### Role of the Speaker

*The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly plays a critical role in the trust vote process:*

- *Decides the schedule for the debate and voting.*
- *Ensures the orderly conduct of proceedings.*
- *Can exercise a casting vote in case of a tie.*

#### Role of the Governor

*The Governor's role is significant in the context of a trust vote:*

- *May ask the Chief Minister to prove his majority on the floor of the assembly.*
- *Can summon a special session of the assembly for conducting the trust vote.*

#### Recent Examples and Case Studies

1. **Karnataka (2019):** *The Karnataka government led by H.D. Kumaraswamy faced a trust vote after a series of resignations from MLAs. The trust vote resulted in the fall of the government.*
2. **Madhya Pradesh (2020):** *The Kamal Nath government lost the trust vote following the resignation of several MLAs, leading to the formation of a new government.*

### Importance of Trust Votes

1. **Maintaining Democratic Accountability:** Ensures that the government remains accountable to the elected representatives.
2. **Preventing Political Instability:** Helps in resolving political crises and maintaining stability in the state.
3. **Public Confidence:** Reinforces public confidence in the democratic process by demonstrating the government's majority in the legislature.

### Challenges

1. **Horse Trading:** The practice of buying or influencing legislators to change their allegiance, which undermines the democratic process.
2. **Defection:** MLAs switching parties, leading to political instability.
3. **Judicial Intervention:** Instances where courts have had to intervene to ensure the proper conduct of trust votes.

### Judicial Pronouncements

1. **S.R. Bommai vs. Union of India (1994):** The Supreme Court held that the floor of the assembly is the only forum where the majority of a government should be tested.
2. **Arunachal Pradesh (2016):** The Supreme Court reinstated the dismissed government, emphasizing the importance of floor tests.

### Conclusion

The trust vote is a fundamental mechanism in the parliamentary system to ensure that the government in power enjoys the support of the majority of the legislature. It is a crucial tool for upholding democratic principles and maintaining the legitimacy of the government.

## **On Expunction Powers of Parliament**

**Syllabus: GS-2: Indian Parliament – rules and procedures.**

### Context:

- The **first special session of the 18th Lok Sabha** witnessed heated discussions, with the Opposition clashing with the government over a range of issues **while debating the Motion of Thanks to the President's joint address**, ultimately concluding with

*a war of words over the expunction of the remarks of the leaders of Opposition in both Houses.*

### **Key Incidents**

- **Rajya Sabha:** *Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar expunged parts of LoP Mallikarjun Kharge's speech critical of PM Narendra Modi and the RSS.*
- **Lok Sabha:** *Speaker Om Birla expunged parts of Rahul Gandhi's remarks about the PM and BJP, causing allegations of biased treatment.*
- *The practice of expunging remarks, although standard, has led to disputes over 'selective expunction'.*

### **Rules for Expunction**

- **Article 105 of the Constitution:** *Confers certain privileges and freedom of speech in Parliament, subject to other constitutional provisions and House rules.*
- **Presiding Officer's Authority:**
  - **Chairman (Rajya Sabha) and Speaker (Lok Sabha)** *can order the expunction of remarks deemed "defamatory, indecent, unparliamentary or undignified".*
  - *Lok Sabha Secretariat maintains a comprehensive list of 'unparliamentary' words and expressions.*

### **Parliamentary Etiquette and Expunction**

- *Rules require avoidance of insinuations, offensive, and unparliamentary expressions.*
- *Expunctions **should be adhered to without debate** once ordered by the Chair.*
- *Instances where expunction has been broadened to include remarks prejudicial to **national interest, derogatory to dignitaries, or offensive to national sentiments.***

### **Historical Precedent**

- **Example:** *PM Jawaharlal Nehru objected to a member's reference to the President of Pakistan in an inappropriate manner. The Deputy Chairman expunged the objectionable words.*

## Procedure for Expunction

### ➤ Rules:

- **Rule 261 (Rajya Sabha):** *Chairman can expunge defamatory or unparliamentary words.*
- **Rules 380 and 381 (Lok Sabha):** *Speaker has similar authority.*

- ### ➤ Implementation:
- Expunged remarks are marked with asterisks and explanatory footnotes.*

## Expunction Related to Allegations Against Ministers

- ### ➤ Rule 353 (Lok Sabha):
- Requires advance notice if an MP makes an allegation against another MP or an outsider.*
- ### ➤ Ministerial Accountability:
- MPs can question and make allegations against Ministers as part of ensuring government accountability.*

## Contemporary Relevance

- ### ➤
- The effectiveness of expunction is questioned in the digital age where expunged content remains **accessible via live telecasts and social media.***

# **Polio Vaccines**

**Syllabus: GS-2; Health, GS-3: Science and Technology –Vaccines**

## **Context:**

- ### ➤
- The article with the two vaccines that brought us to the brink of eradicating polio*

## **Introduction to Polio**

- ### ➤ Poliomyelitis (Polio):
- A highly infectious viral disease caused by the poliovirus.*
- ### ➤ Transmission:
- Primarily spreads through the fecal-oral route. The virus multiplies in the intestine and can invade the nervous system, causing paralysis.*
- ### ➤
- It primarily affects young children and can lead to **permanent paralysis.***

### Symptoms:

- *Initial symptoms include fever, fatigue, headache, vomiting, stiffness in the neck, and pain in the limbs.*
- *In a small percentage of cases, the virus can cause paralysis, which can be permanent.*

### Impact:

- *Polio can result in lifelong disability, and in some cases, it can be fatal.*
- *The disease has been eradicated in most parts of the world due to extensive vaccination efforts, but it still exists in some countries.*

### Historical Context:

- *Poliomyelitis has been around for thousands of years, with evidence suggesting its presence in ancient civilizations.*
- *An Egyptian stele (stone slab) dating back to around 1400 BCE depicts a priest with a withered leg, characteristic of polio-induced paralysis.*

### Recognition in Modern Medicine:

- *The disease was formally identified in the late 18th century.*
- *The first clinical description of poliomyelitis was published by British physician Michael Underwood in 1789, who referred to it as "debility of the lower extremities."*

### Polio Epidemics:

- *The first recognized epidemic of polio occurred in the United States in 1894 in Vermont, where 132 cases were reported.*
- *This marked the beginning of polio epidemics in the modern era, leading to widespread fear and increased medical research.*

### Notable Historical Outbreaks:

- **1916:** *A major outbreak in New York City resulted in over 9,000 cases and 2,343 deaths, highlighting the severity and rapid spread of the disease.*
- **1952:** *The United States experienced its worst polio epidemic, with nearly 58,000 cases, resulting in 3,145 deaths and 21,269 cases of paralysis.*

### Types of Polio Vaccines

1. **Inactivated Poliovirus Vaccine (IPV)**
2. **Oral Poliovirus Vaccine (OPV)**





### Inactivated Poliovirus Vaccine (IPV)

- **Development:** *Developed by Dr. Jonas Salk in the early 1950s.*
- **Composition:** *Contains inactivated (killed) poliovirus strains of all three poliovirus types.*
- **Administration:** *Injected intramuscularly or subcutaneously.*
- **Schedule:** *Typically given in multiple doses (2, 4, 6-18 months, and a booster at 4-6 years).*
- **Advantages:**
  - *Safe for immunocompromised individuals.*
  - *No risk of vaccine-derived poliovirus (VDPV).*
- **Disadvantages:**
  - *Requires sterile injection equipment and trained healthcare workers.*
  - *More expensive than OPV.*

### Oral Poliovirus Vaccine (OPV)

- **Development:** *Developed by Dr. Albert Sabin in the 1960s.*
- **Composition:** *Contains live, attenuated (weakened) poliovirus strains.*
- **Administration:** *Administered orally.*
- **Schedule:** *Administered in multiple doses (at birth, 6, 10, and 14 weeks, and booster doses at 1.5 years, 5 years, and 10 years).*
- **Types of OPV:**
  - **Trivalent OPV (tOPV):** *Protects against all three types of poliovirus.*



- **Bivalent OPV (bOPV):** *Protects against types 1 and 3 poliovirus.*
- **Monovalent OPV (mOPV):** *Targets only one type of poliovirus.*
- **Advantages:**
  - *Easy to administer (oral drops).*
  - *Induces gut immunity, crucial for interrupting transmission.*
  - *Inexpensive.*
- **Disadvantages:**
  - *Risk of vaccine-associated paralytic poliomyelitis (VAPP).*
  - *Risk of circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus (cVDPV).*

### **Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI)**

- **Launched:** *1988 by the World Health Organization (WHO), Rotary International, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and UNICEF.*
- **Goals:** *Eradicate polio worldwide through immunization and surveillance.*
- **Strategies:**
  - *Mass immunization campaigns with OPV.*
  - *Routine immunization with IPV.*
  - *Surveillance of acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) cases.*
  - *Rapid response to outbreaks.*
- **Successes:**
  - *Polio cases reduced by over 99% since the initiative's launch.*
  - *Wild poliovirus type 2 eradicated in 2015.*
  - *Africa declared free of wild poliovirus in 2020.*

### **India's Polio Eradication Efforts**

- **Pulse Polio Immunization Program:** *Launched in 1995, aimed at eliminating polio in India through mass immunization drives.*
- **Achievements:**
  - *India declared polio-free in 2014.*
  - *Intensive monitoring and high immunization coverage.*

➤ **Challenges:**

- *Maintaining high immunization coverage to prevent re-emergence.*
- *Surveillance and rapid response to potential outbreaks.*

**Vaccine-Derived Poliovirus (VDPV)**

➤ **Definition:** *Mutated strains of poliovirus originally contained in OPV, which can cause outbreaks in under-immunized populations.*

➤ **Types:**

- **Circulating VDPV (cVDPV):** *Spreads in communities with low immunization coverage.*
- **Immunodeficiency-related VDPV (iVDPV):** *Occurs in individuals with immune deficiencies.*
- **Ambiguous VDPV (aVDPV):** *Isolated cases with no known source of infection.*

**Recent Developments**

- **Novel Oral Poliovirus Vaccine (nOPV):** *Developed to reduce the risk of VDPV. Currently used in emergency response scenarios.*
- **Integration with Routine Immunization:** *Ensuring polio vaccines are part of routine immunization schedules to maintain high immunity levels.*
- **Surveillance and Outbreak Response:** *Strengthened surveillance systems and rapid response mechanisms to contain any polio outbreaks.*

**Conclusion**

- **Continued Vigilance:** *Despite significant progress, maintaining high vaccination coverage and surveillance is crucial to prevent the re-emergence of polio.*
- **Global Cooperation:** *International collaboration and commitment are essential for the final eradication of polio.*

**Robot suicide**

## Syllabus: GS-3: Science and Technology – Robotic science.

### Context:

- A robot working for the **Gumi City Council in South Korea** was found unresponsive at the bottom of a staircase in June 2024.
- The event has been dubbed the **world's first robot "suicide"** by some media outlets.

### More about incident:

- The robot, called "**Robot Supervisor**," was a civil servant model performing administrative tasks.
- Witnesses reported **unusual behavior** before the incident, with the robot circling in one spot.
- Authorities believe it **malfunctioned and fell**, not a case of intentional self-destruction.

### Ethical dimensions:

This incident raises ethical questions about AI development, particularly regarding:

- **Consciousness in Machines:** Can advanced AI achieve a level of sentience where self-harm becomes a possibility?
- **Robot Rights:** Should there be considerations for the well-being of sophisticated AI systems?
- **Workplace Automation:** How can we ensure AI is implemented ethically and protects human jobs?

## A law around low-carbon climate resilient development

### Syllabus: GS-3: Climate change laws.

### Context:

- In a landmark judgment, the Supreme Court of India recently recognised a right to be **"free from the adverse impacts of climate change"** in *M.K. Ranjitsinh and Others vs Union of India* — sourcing it from the right to life and the right to equality.

### Supreme Court Ruling and Climate Law Goals

- **Supreme Court Ruling:** *Recognized a right to be "free from the adverse impacts of climate change" in M.K. Ranjitsinh and Others vs Union of India.*
- **Rights Involved:** *Derived from the **right to life and right to equality.***
- **Importance:** *Significant step in establishing climate-related legal principles in India.*
- **Challenge:** *Determining how to protect this right effectively.*
- **Previous Argument:** *Judicial interventions alone are insufficient for addressing climate change.*
- **Need for Legislation:** *Climate laws tailored to the Indian context are necessary.*

### Objectives of the Climate Law

- **Climate Law Goals:** *Re-orient development towards low-carbon and climate-resilient futures.*
- **Decision-Making:** *Ensure climate objectives are included in all development decisions.*
- **Social Justice:** *Address climate change with a focus on protecting the vulnerable and ensuring a just energy transition.*

### Development Approach:

- *Not just about limiting emissions.*
- *Consider **long-term impacts and trade-offs** of development choices.*

### Legal Framework:

- *Realize the right to protection against climate change **through clear laws.***
- *Apply these laws at all government levels.*
- *Effective climate action needs **strong institutional support.***
- *Establishing Institutional Structures*

### Knowledge Body:

- *Create a government body for analyzing policy options.*
- *Recommend an independent 'low-carbon development commission' with experts.*
- *Help both national and State governments with low-carbon growth and resilience strategies.*

### Consultation:

- ***Include vulnerable communities** and those affected by technological changes in decision-making.*
- *Example: South Africa's Presidential Climate Commission.*

### Strategic Body:

- *Create a high-level ‘climate cabinet’ with core Ministers and State Chief Ministers.*
- *Tasked with driving climate strategy across government.*

### **Whole-of-Government Approach:**

- **Avoid siloed decision-making** by encouraging coordination among Ministries.
- *Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change plays a central role but needs higher-level coordination.*

### **Existing Template:**

- *Reinforce the Executive Committee on Climate Change with clear legal powers and duties.*

### **Engagement with the Federal Structure**

- **Federal Structure:** *The law must consider India’s federal system where State and local governments control areas crucial to climate action.*
- **Local Impact:** *Climate impacts are felt first and most strongly at the local level.*

### **Engagement with Local Governments:**

- *Establish channels for local governments to access national scientific resources.*
- *Use the low-carbon development commission to bridge this gap.*

### **Financing Local Action:**

- *Align centrally-sponsored schemes with climate goals.*
- *Require national departments to tag expenditure for local climate resilience.*

### **Coordination Mechanisms:**

- *Enable Centre and States to consult on major climate decisions.*
- *Require periodic medium-term climate plans with unified goals from both Centre and States.*

### **State-Specific Solutions:**

- *States should build **complementary institutions** for knowledge, strategy, and coordination.*

### **Way forward:**

#### **The Framework Law:**

- *Must enable action across national Ministries and the federal structure.*
- *Needs complementary sectoral laws and amendments.*

- *The Supreme Court's ruling in M.K. Ranjitsinh provides an opportunity for legal and governance changes.*
- *Aim for a climate law that suits the Indian context and promotes low-carbon, climate-resilient development and justice.*