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# Daily News Juice

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# Is Euthanasia allowed in India?

Relevance: Prelims & Mains Paper II; Governance

Why in News?	Assisted suicide and euthanasia	Arguments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>Jean-Luc Godard</b>, one of the legends of <b>French New Wave cinema</b>, died recently by <b>assisted suicide</b> at the age of 91.</li><li>- Godard had recourse to legal assistance in <b>Switzerland</b> for a voluntary departure as he was suffering with multiple invalidating illnesses.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>Assisted Suicide</b> - Helping someone in committing suicide in painless manner.</li><li>- <b>Euthanasia</b> - The <b>painless killing of a patient</b> suffering from an <b>incurable and painful disease or in an irreversible coma</b>.</li><li>- <b>Several European nations, some states in Australia and Colombia in South America allow assisted suicide and euthanasia</b> under certain circumstances.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Why it should be allowed?<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <b>Relieve the people suffering from tremendous pain</b></li><li>2. It gives the people the right to <b>die with dignity</b>.</li></ol></li><li>- Why it should not be allowed?<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. There are chances of misuse. <b>Murders</b> would be made to look like Assisted suicide or euthanasia.</li><li>2. <b>Religious bodies</b> argue that God has given us life. Only God has right to take it.</li></ol></li></ul>

# Is Euthanasia allowed in India?

**Relevance: Prelims & Mains Paper II; Governance**

## Forms of Euthanasia

- Euthanasia can further be divided into **active and passive**.
- **Passive Euthanasia** - The practice of passive euthanasia involves simply **stopping lifesaving treatment or medical intervention** with the **consent of the patient or a family member or a close friend representing the patient**.
- **Active Euthanasia** - Active euthanasia, which is **legal in only a few countries**, entails the **use of substances to end the life** of the patient.

## Position in India

- The **Supreme Court of India legalised passive euthanasia in 2018**.
- According to the judgment, an **adult in his conscious mind is permitted to refuse medical treatment or voluntarily decide not to take medical treatment to embrace death in a natural way**.

## Aruna Shanbaug

- **Aruna Shanbaug** was working as nurse in **KEM Hospital in Mumbai**.
- She was **brutally raped**, on account of which she remained in **permanent vegetative state for 42 years**. She spent the years in a room at KEM Hospital.
- Some people were seeking euthanasia for her. The final judgement was given by Supreme Court after her death in 2015 due to pneumonia.

Q1. Consider the following statements about legal status of Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide in India:

1. Assisted Suicide is illegal in India.
2. Both active and passive euthanasia are permitted by Supreme Court in India.
3. Active euthanasia is permitted only with the consent of the patient itself.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 3 only
- (b) 1 only
- (c) 1 and 2
- (d) 2 and 3

# Tourism and Cultural Capital- Varanasi

Relevance: Prelims & Mains Paper II; Int. Orgs.

## SCO Tourism and Cultural Capital

- The city of Varanasi has been nominated as the **first-ever SCO Tourism and Cultural Capital**.
- It has been nominated for the period **2022-2023**.
- It has been nominated at the **22nd Meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)** in **Samarkand, Uzbekistan**.

## Purpose

- The nomination of Varanasi as the first ever SCO Tourism and Cultural Capital will **promote tourism, cultural and humanitarian exchanges** between India and the SCO member Countries.

# PMAY-G scheme & Penalty

Relevance: Prelims & Mains Paper II; Governance

## Re-Structured Rural Housing Scheme: Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G)

<b>Eligibility</b>	All Houseless and people living in dilapidated and kutcha houses as per SECC 2011 data
<b>Unit Size</b>	Minimum size of the unit is 25 sq. mt. which includes a dedicated area for hygienic cooking
<b>Unit Assistance</b>	Rs. 1.20 lakh in plains and Rs.1.30 lakh in hilly states, difficult areas and IAP districts
<b>Sharing Pattern</b>	<b>60:40</b> between Centre and State in plain areas <b>90:10</b> for North Eastern States, <b>2 Himalayan states</b> , <b>1 U.T. of Jammu &amp; Kashmir</b> (subject to change), and <b>100 %</b> Central Share for Union Territories including the UT of Ladakh
<b>Target</b>	<b>Phase 1:</b> 1.00 crore houses to be constructed in 3 years from 2016-17 to 2018-19 <b>Phase 2:</b> 1.95 crore houses to be constructed in 3 years from 2019-20 to 2021-22

## PMAY-G scheme

- Government's flagship rural household scheme — **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin)**
- PMAY-G is replacement of **Indira Awas Yojna**.
- **Central sponsored scheme**
- **Union Ministry of Rural Development** is the nodal Union Ministry
- This is the first time, since the scheme started in **April 2016** with a target of constructing **2.95 crore** houses
- The initial target year for the scheme was **March, 2022**. The target year on account of Covid has been shifted to **March, 2024**.

## Status and penalties

- As per the statistics available with the Union Ministry of Rural Development, till August 2022, **2.02 crore** houses have been constructed.
- The **Rural development ministry** has sent circular to States, notifying the **penalties** for delay:
  1. **Delay in sanction of funds** - If the sanction of the house is **delayed for more than one month** from the date of issue of the target, the State government will be penalised ₹10 per house for the first month of delay and ₹20 per house for each subsequent month of delay.
  2. **Delay in release of funds** - If the first instalment due to the beneficiary is delayed for more than **seven days** from the date of sanction, then the State governments will have to pay ₹10 per house per week of delay.

# Defection in Goa Congress

**Relevance: Prelims & Mains Paper II; Governance**

## What has happened?

- BJP Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has succeeded in splitting the Goa Congress twice in three years.
- 1. Eight of the Congress's 11 MLAs have merged with the ruling BJP. The Assembly elections held in February this year.
- 2. In the previous Assembly, 15 of the 17 Congress MLAs left the party, a majority of them for the BJP.

## Implications

- The BLP party emerged again in power in Goa in recent assembly elections. In the 40-member Assembly, it had 20 MLAs of its own and support from three independents and two MLAs of the Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party (MGP).
- It did not need any more MLAs to be in power. With the merger of eight Congress MLAs, the government now has the support of 33.
- The Congress has lost the role of effective opposition in Goa.
- MLAs changing political parties is the betrayal of public mandate.

# HC sentenced youtuber for criminal contempt

Relevance: Prelims & Mains Paper II; Governance

## What happened?

- The Madras High Court found activist and YouTuber A **Shankar**, popularly known as '**Savukku**' Shankar, guilty of **criminal contempt** and sentenced him to **six months' imprisonment** for his remarks about the higher judiciary.
- The HC had taken suo moto cognizance of Shankar's statement during an **interview with Youtube channel Red Pix** on July 22, where he claimed that the "**entire higher judiciary is plagued by corruption**".

## Rationale by Court

- The judges said that Shankar's statements were "**scandalous**" and that they "**denigrate and deride the institution of judiciary.**"
- Claiming that **he did not express regret or offer any apology**, the court refused to entertain his request for a suspended sentence until he files an appeal with the apex court.

## Contempt of Court

- According to the **Contempt of Courts Act, 1971**, contempt of court can either be civil contempt or criminal contempt.
- **Civil Contempt** – It means **wilful disobedience** of any judgment, decree, direction, order, writ or other process of a court, or **wilful breach of an undertaking** given to a court.
- **Criminal contempt** - It means the **publication** (whether by **words, spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representations**, or otherwise) of any matter or the doing of any other act whatsoever which
  - (i) **scandalises** or tends to scandalise, or lowers or tends to **lower the authority** of, any court; or
  - (ii) **prejudices, or interferes** or tends to interfere with, the due course of any **judicial proceeding**; or
  - (iii) interferes or tends to interfere with, or **obstructs** or tends to obstruct, the **administration of justice** in any other manner.

## Punishment

- Contempt of court may be punished with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to **six months**, or with a fine of maximum **Rs 2,000**, or with **both**.
- The accused may be **discharged or the punishment awarded may be remitted** on **apology** being made **to the satisfaction of the court**.

Q2. Consider the following statements about Contempt of Court:

1. The Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 deals with both civil contempt and criminal contempt.
2. Willful disobedience of any judgment of court amounts to Civil contempt.
3. Under this act, sentence can be given for both civil and criminal contempt.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 3 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 2 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

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