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**1. Trump signs executive order to end US birthright citizenship. Can he do it?****Introduction**

US President Donald Trump signed a list of executive orders on his first day in office, many of which could have implications for non-Americans. The most prominent of these is the order to end birthright citizenship for children whose parents lack legal status.

Within hours of Trump signing the order, he was sued by immigrant and civil rights advocates, including the American Civil Liberties Union.

**US PRESIDENT TRUMP ENDS  
BIRTHRIGHT CITIZENSHIP****What is birthright citizenship in the US?**

Very simply, birthright citizenship is a legal principle under which citizenship is automatically granted to individuals upon birth.

Presently, in the US, there are two forms of birth-related citizenship: ancestry-based citizenship and birthplace-based citizenship. The latter, also called *jus soli*, a Latin term meaning "right of the soil", grants unrestricted citizenship based on place of birth. The second is restricted ancestry-based citizenship, also called *jus sanguinis*, which extends citizenship to children born abroad to US citizens.

**What the US Constitution says**

The US Constitution's Fourteenth Amendment guarantees birthright citizenship, stating that "all persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside."

The 14th Amendment was brought in after the Civil War in 1868, essentially meant to ensure that America-born children of formerly enslaved people got American citizenship.

Trump's executive order goes on to explain his interpretation of the Constitutional provision. "The privilege of United States citizenship is a priceless and profound gift. The Fourteenth Amendment states: "All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside.".....But the Fourteenth Amendment has never been interpreted to extend citizenship universally to everyone born within the United States."

This line is key: The executive order says the Fourteenth Amendment has always excluded from birthright citizenship persons who were born in the United States but not “subject to the jurisdiction thereof.”

### **Who are people not “subject to the jurisdiction” of the US**

According to Trump’s executive order, people not subject to the jurisdiction of its Constitution fall into two categories: first when a person’s mother was unlawfully present in the United States, and the father was not a United States citizen or lawful permanent resident at the time of the person’s birth. The second category is for when the mother’s presence in the United States at the time of the child’s birth was lawful, but temporary. For example, but not limited to, if the mother was visiting the United States under the Visa Waiver Program or visiting on a student, work, or tourist visa; and the father was not a United States citizen or lawful permanent resident at the time of the person’s birth.

Trump’s executive order also goes on to emphasise that the definitions of sex are traditional in this order. This means that when the term “mother” is used in the executive order, it would mean “immediate female biological progenitor”, while “father” would mean the “immediate male biological progenitor”.

### **Who is most likely to be impacted?**

According to 2024 data by the Pew Research Center, “The US foreign-born population reached a record 47.8 million in 2023, an increase of 1.6 million from the previous year. This is the largest annual increase in more than 20 years, since 2000.”

“In 2022, Mexico was the top country of birth for immigrants who arrived in the last year, with about 150,000 people. India (about 145,000) and China (about 90,000) were the next largest sources of immigrants. Venezuela, Cuba, Brazil and Canada each had about 50,000 to 60,000 new immigrant arrivals,” the Pew Research Center report said.

### **Can Trump do it?**

While the order can prompt US federal agencies to interpret citizenship using a more strict and narrow definition, it will run into legal hurdles, which have already been set into motion. Second, doing away with birthright citizenship would require a constitutional amendment, with a two-thirds vote in both the House of Representatives and the Senate and approval by three quarters of US states. Trump’s party, the Republicans, have a majority in both the House of Representatives, as well as the Senate.

### **An old promise**

Trump’s stand with regard to immigration has been well-documented. As President during his first term, in 2018, Trump had said he intended to remove, by means of an executive order, the right of citizenship from people born in the US to foreign nationals. However, back then, the constitutionality of that kind of an executive order in the absence of a new constitutional amendment had been widely debated. Till the end of his presidency in 2021, no such executive order was passed by Trump.

The issue was back on the table in 2024 during the presidential campaign, and Trump promised to make this his priority on his first day in office. After winning the 2024 elections, during the Presidential transition period, Trump reiterated his campaign promise to end birthright citizenship, without going into details about how he would do so.

Relevance: GS Prelims; International Relations

Source: Indian Express

## 2. Under Trump, US withdraws from WHO: Impact, what this means for India

### Introduction



United States President Donald Trump signed an executive order to withdraw from the World Health Organisation (WHO) on his very first day in office. The order said the reasons for withdrawing were WHO's "mishandling of the COVID-19 pandemic", "failure to adopt urgently needed reforms", "inability to demonstrate independence from the inappropriate political influence of WHO member states", and for continued

demand of "unfairly onerous payments from the United States."

The move does not come as a surprise considering Trump had threatened to withdraw in his last term too, and officially notified the UN General Secretary of the decision in 2020. Nonetheless, health experts are concerned about the cut in funding and expertise that the WHO may experience in the coming years.

The WHO is a UN body working on global health. It works with countries to strengthen their primary health care, its guidelines help prepare government policies, and it helps organise programmes to tackle specific diseases.

### What does the executive order say?

Trump's executive order highlights four key things that will happen as the US exits from the global health organisation:

One, any transfer of US funds and resources to the WHO will be paused.

Two, all US government personnel or contractors working in any capacity with the WHO will be recalled.

Three, the United States will "identify credible and transparent United States and international partners to assume necessary activities previously undertaken by the WHO."

Four, and importantly, the United States will cease negotiations towards the pandemic treaty the WHO is working on. The accord aims to better prepare countries to respond to pandemics, create a framework for global cooperation if a pandemic happens, and develop mechanisms

for equitably sharing medical countermeasures such as drugs and vaccines. "... actions taken to effectuate such agreement and amendments will have no binding force on the United States," the executive order says.

### **What will be the financial implication?**

Withdrawal of the United States is likely to have a huge financial impact on the WHO, with the agency receiving around a fifth of its funds from the country. This is one of the points of contention for President Trump, with the executive order stating: "China, with a population of 1.4 billion, has 300 percent of the population of the United States, yet contributes nearly 90 percent less to the WHO."

WHO's funding essentially comes in two ways — the mandatory assessed contributions from all its member countries, and the voluntary contributions raised from various countries and organisations. Over the years, the assessed contributions have remained stagnant and now cover less than 20% of the organisation's budget.

In assessed contributions, the United States is the biggest payer, accounting for 22.5% of the contributions, followed by China at 15%. In voluntary contributions, while the US is still the biggest donor, accounting for around 13% of the total contributions in 2023, China accounted for only about 0.14% of the total contributions. The second biggest voluntary contributor was the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

### **How did the WHO react to Trump's move?**

In a statement, it said: "The World Health Organization regrets the announcement...WHO plays a crucial role in protecting the health and security of the world's people, including Americans." On the matter of transparency, the WHO statement added: "With the participation of the United States and other Member States, WHO has over the past 7 years implemented the largest set of reforms in its history, to transform our accountability, cost-effectiveness, and impact in countries."

### **Will India be impacted?**

With WHO losing out on a significant proportion of its funding, its work across countries, including India, is likely to be affected.

The WHO participates in and supports several health programmes of the Indian government, such as its work on neglected tropical diseases, HIV-malaria-and tuberculosis, anti-microbial resistance, among others. Importantly, it plays a significant role in the country's immunisation programme, with WHO teams even monitoring vaccine coverage.

In addition, the loss of expertise from the United States would also impact WHO's role of providing guidance. "Whether it is a pandemic due to a novel virus or chronic diseases, WHO provides framework guidelines that are utilised and adapted by countries for their local programmes. These guidelines are usually developed by collecting all published evidence, grading them, and then discussing the evidence in expert committees. These committees are constituted keeping in mind where a disease is endemic, where there is ongoing research in the area, where countermeasures are produced. It is representative of different regions and

genders. US experts are likely to be a part of several such committees and their work will get affected if they are pulled out," the expert quoted above said.

Importantly, this will also sever the collaboration between the WHO and the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which is key to international surveillance and response to health threats.

### **How can member states withdraw from the WHO?**

There is no provision for withdrawing in WHO's constitution. The US Congress, however, at the time of joining the organisation in 1948, had laid down a condition that said the country could withdraw after giving a one-year notice and meeting the financial obligations of the current year.

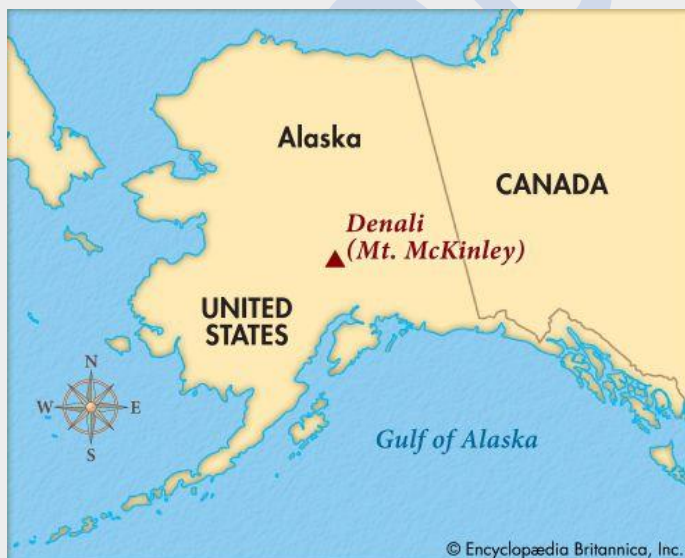
### **What is the role of India and the global south?**

The vacuum created by the United States is likely to be filled by China and countries from the global south, including India, said experts. A policy piece by ORF said that Europe could be another contender, but a considerable amount of its resources are diverted towards the Russia-Ukraine conflict, "indicating that the lacuna will be filled by philanthropies like the BMGF (Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation)."

Relevance: GS Prelims & Mains Paper II; International Relations

Source: Indian Express

## **3. From Denali to McKinley: Why Trump has ordered the renaming of North America's highest peak**



### **Introduction**

Among the slew of executive orders signed by President Donald Trump on his first day in office was one titled "Restoring Names that Honor American Greatness".

It said that the highest peak in North America would be again called Mount McKinley, the name that was in use before the administration of President Barack Obama renamed it Denali in 2015; and that the Gulf of Mexico would be renamed as the "Gulf of America".

Earlier in the day, in his inaugural speech delivered in the Capitol Rotunda, the President had announced the changes in both these names.

He also mentioned that "President [William] McKinley (1897-1901) made our country very rich through tariffs and through talent", two of the issues that Trump himself has repeatedly harped on.

### **Why the changes in the names?**

According to the "Purpose and Policy" of the executive order, "It is in the national interest to promote the extraordinary heritage of our Nation and ensure future generations of American citizens celebrate the legacy of our American heroes. The naming of our national treasures, including breathtaking natural wonders and historic works of art, should honor the contributions of visionary and patriotic Americans in our Nation's rich past."

Make America Great Again has been the heart of Trump's politics since the time of his first presidential campaign in 2016. He has described his return to the White House as the beginning of "America's golden age".

### **What is the story of the mountain McKinley/ Denali?**

The continent's highest peak is in the Alaska Range, in the US state of Alaska, and stands 20,310 feet (6,190 m) above sea level.

The indigenous Koyukon people, who lived in the valleys of the Koyukuk and Yukon rivers, called the peak Denali in their Athabascan language.

In 1897, a gold prospector in Alaska is said to have given the name McKinley to the peak in honour of the then newly-elected President. Two decades later, in 1917, the federal government formally adopted the name and President Woodrow Wilson signed a bill to create Mount McKinley National Park, which had the mountain at its heart.

In August 2015, the Obama administration renamed the mountain Denali, the name given to it by the original people of the land.

Relevance: GS Prelims; Geography

Source: Indian Express