

Important Issues of the Day

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- Kharg Island – Places in News**

Assembly polls begin on April 9; West Bengal to vote in two phases

Polling will be held in Assam, Puducherry, and Kerala on April 9 and in Tamil Nadu on April 23, while West Bengal will vote on April 23 and 29; poll panel announces byelections to eight Assembly seats in various States; counting of votes on May 4

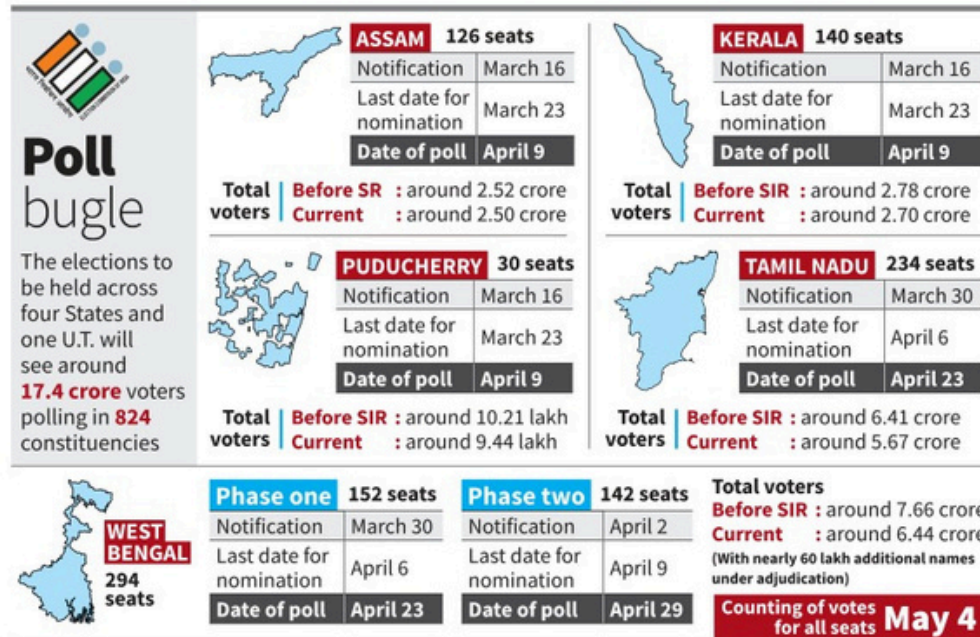
Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

The Assembly elections will be held in a single phase in Assam, Puducherry, and Kerala on April 9 and in Tamil Nadu on April 23, while West Bengal will vote in two phases on April 23 and 29, the Election Commission of India (EC) announced on Sunday.

Counting for all four States and the Union Territory will be held on May 4.

The Model Code of Conduct has come into effect with the announcement of the poll schedule.

At a press conference here, Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar said around 17.4 crore electors would vote in 824 Assembly constituencies across the four States and



one Union Territory.

In West Bengal, 152 constituencies will vote in the first phase and 142 in the second.

The commission an-

nounced byelections to eight Assembly constituencies in various States. Five of the eight Assembly seats will vote on April 9 and remaining three will vote on

April 23. Counting of votes for the bypolls will also be held on May 4.

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Parties welcome fewer poll phases in West Bengal

KOLKATA
With the 2021 Assembly election having been held in eight phases, major political parties in West Bengal have welcomed the two-phase polls announced for the State on Sunday. » PAGE 13

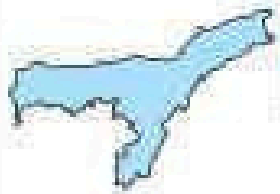
LDF swings into action in Kerala with list of names

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
The ruling Left Democratic Front in Kerala sought to steal a march on the Congress-led United Democratic Front, with its two major alliance partners announcing their candidates on Sunday. » PAGE 5



Poll bugle

The elections to be held across four States and one U.T. will see around **17.4 crore** voters polling in **824** constituencies.



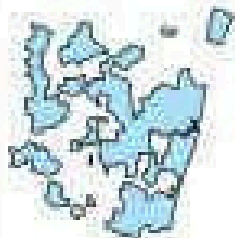
ASSAM 126 seats

Notification March 16

Last date for nomination March 23

Date of poll April 9

Total voters | **Before SR** : around 2.52 crore
Current : around 2.50 crore



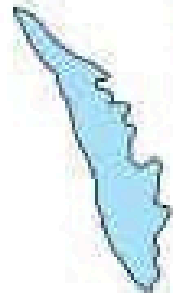
PUDUCHERRY 30 seats

Notification March 16

Last date for nomination March 23

Date of poll April 9

Total voters | **Before SIR** : around 10.21 lakh
Current : around 9.44 lakh



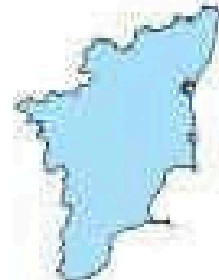
KERALA 140 seats

Notification March 16

Last date for nomination March 23

Date of poll April 9

Total voters | **Before SIR** : around 2.78 crore
Current : around 2.70 crore



TAMIL NADU 234 seats

Notification March 30

Last date for nomination April 6

Date of poll April 23

Total voters | **Before SIR** : around 6.41 crore
Current : around 5.67 crore



WEST BENGAL 294 seats

Phase one 152 seats

Notification March 30

Last date for nomination April 6

Date of poll April 23

Phase two 142 seats

Notification April 2

Last date for nomination April 9

Date of poll April 29

Total voters

Before SIR : around 7.66 crore
Current : around 6.44 crore

(With nearly 60 lakh additional names under adjudication)

Counting of votes for all seats **May 4**

- **The MCC is a consensus document. The political parties have themselves agreed to keep their conduct during elections in check and to work within the Code. It helps the EC in keeping with the mandate it has been given under Article 324 of the Constitution, which gives it the power to supervise and conduct free and fair elections to the Parliament and State Legislatures. The MCC is operational from the date on which the election schedule is announced until the date of the result announcement.**
- **The government cannot announce any financial grants, promise construction of roads or other facilities, and make any ad hoc appointments in government or public undertaking during the time the Code is in force.**
-

- Though the MCC does not have any statutory backing, it has come to acquire strength in the past
- decade because of its strict enforcement by the EC.
Certain provisions of the MCC may be enforced by invoking corresponding provisions in other statutes such as the Indian Penal Code (IPC) 1860, Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) 1973, and Representation of Peoples' Act (RPA) 1951.

Evolution of MCC:

- Kerala was the first state to adopt a code of conduct for elections. In 1960, before the Assembly elections in the state, the administration prepared a draft code covering important aspects of electioneering such as processions, political rallies, and speeches.
In 1974, the ECI released a formal MCC. It also set up bureaucratic bodies at the district level to
- oversee its implementation. Before 1977, MCC guided only political parties and candidates.
In 1979, the Election Commission learned of ruling parties misusing power like monopolising public spaces and using public money for advertisement. The Election Commission revised MCC to include
- ruling political parties.

Mains Question

The Model Code of Conduct plays a crucial role in ensuring free and fair elections in India, yet its non-statutory nature often raises questions about its enforceability.

Critically examine the significance, limitations, and possible reforms related to the Model Code of Conduct in India. (250 words)

मॉडल कोड ऑफ कंडक्ट (आचार संहिता) भारत में स्वतंत्र और निष्पक्ष चुनाव सुनिश्चित करने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाता है, फिर भी इसकी गैर-वैधानिक प्रकृति इसकी प्रभावशीलता पर प्रश्न उठाती है।

भारत में मॉडल आचार संहिता के महत्व, सीमाओं तथा संभावित सुधारों का समालोचनात्मक विश्लेषण कीजिए।(250 शब्द)

Oil prices reflect geopolitical risks, not only supply

In the aftermath of the war in West Asia, crude oil prices surged to as high as \$118 a barrel last week. Alongside rising tensions, this situation has been building for over two months. Since mid-December 2025, when Brent crude stood at \$57.56, prices have surged by more than 100%. They have, however, come down since then but remain in three digits, with no immediate sign of easing.

Historically, geopolitical shocks follow a predictable pattern. There is an immediate market overreaction that is followed by gradual stabilisation as trade routes adjust. However, the global oil market is once again operating under a profound geopolitical shadow.

What has changed in the development now

The developments in West Asia, intensifying strategic rivalries among major powers, and persistent conflict-driven uncertainty have brought geopolitics back to the centre of the energy discourse. Yet, the nature of this influence has shifted. Unlike previously, where regional conflicts rarely removed Gulf barrels from the global pool, the current disruptions have created tangible barriers to supply, fundamentally altering the costs, confidence, and conditions of the oil trade.

For major importing economies such as India, this shift has significant implications. Oil security is no longer just about physical access. It is also defined by exposure to the financial, logistical, and political uncertainties surrounding every shipment.

The vulnerability of global maritime arteries is stark. Around a fifth of global oil consumption is transported through the Strait of Hormuz, and roughly a tenth of seaborne crude passes through the Bab el-Mandeb and Suez corridor. The ongoing conflict involving Israel and Iran has effectively sidelined 20% of global supplies, even in the absence of planned production cuts. The market has reacted sharply to these signals. Over the past year, Brent crude has frequently fluctuated by 5%-10% within days of military or diplomatic developments, regardless of actual production volumes. Currently, however, the impact on physical supply is so drastic that prices continue to climb without a visible peak.

Tensions do more than just inflate the price of a barrel. They make maritime insecure. Chokepoints remain vital arteries of trade, but their significance today lies in making global machinery vulnerable. Even limited disruptions or attacks on commercial shipping can alter vessel routing and raise freight costs. These drive up freight rates; the world has seen daily rates for supertankers more than double), affect shipping



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As tensions rise and oil volatility grows, importing nations will need adaptable energy and trade strategies

insurance premiums, and tighten vessel availability. Major container carriers have implemented emergency conflict surcharges or war risk surcharges. These escalations ripple through the supply chain, directly influencing landed import prices.

It is about politics

Furthermore, oil has been transformed from a mere commodity into a political instrument. The redirection of Russian crude following the Ukraine conflict illustrates this dynamic. Although Russia maintained export volumes by pivoting to Asian markets, the shift introduced longer shipping routes, complex payment arrangements, and evolving compliance frameworks. What appeared stable in volume was highly volatile in operational and financial terms.

For importing countries, this creates a dual exposure. Price volatility is no longer driven solely by the supply-demand balance but by changes in geopolitical sentiment. Markets respond to diplomatic signals, military developments and regulatory announcements with a speed that often exceeds the pace of actual trade flows. This weakens the historical relationship between production levels and consumer prices.

The growing role of financial markets amplifies geopolitical sentiment, as oil is traded not only as a physical commodity but also as a financial asset through futures, options, and derivatives. During periods of stress, investors use oil as both an inflation hedge and a risk-sensitive instrument. This explains why speculative positions often expand even when physical inventories are comfortable – prices reflect expectations and portfolio behaviour rather than immediate scarcity.

Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPRs) have also evolved. Originally intended to address physical supply interruptions, they are now deployed to counter psychological volatility in the market. For instance, G-7 leaders have announced the release of 400 million barrels of oil in response to the war in West Asia (which is said to be about 20 days of the usual oil traffic through the Strait of Hormuz). The goal is to stabilise market sentiment as much as it is to provide physical barrels. The news of these discussions recently prompted a sell-off, easing Brent and West Texas Intermediate gains to some extent.

Major powers shape this environment in different ways. The United States, now one of the world's largest producers of various petroleum products, influences markets through its strategic stock policies and diplomatic engagement with producers.

Meanwhile, Asia has become the primary centre of demand growth, accounting for the majority of incremental oil consumption over the past decade. Producer coordination through organisations such as the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries continues to influence supply management, but its impact now interacts with geopolitical risk premia embedded in prices.

The continuing relevance of oil

The energy transition adds another layer of complexity. While renewable energy and electric mobility are expanding, oil remains central to the transport, aviation and petrochemicals sectors/industries. Global oil demand still exceeds 105 million barrels per day, and petrochemicals account for a rising share of incremental consumption. This produces a segmented market: one part linked to declining fuel use, another tied to industrial growth. Thus, geopolitics continues to exert influence over a commodity whose strategic relevance is changing but not disappearing.

For India, where oil demand is not expected to peak soon and is projected to drive much of global growth, this environment highlights the need for adaptability rather than alarm. The ability to process diverse crude grades, source from multiple geographies and maintain strategic reserves provides buffers against instability. Equally crucial is building commercial and financial expertise to navigate complex trading arrangements. Energy policy, in this sense, must integrate diplomacy, maritime awareness and market analytics.

This evolving structure complicates the notion of energy security. It now requires resilience not only against supply disruptions but also against financial and logistical shocks. Payment systems, shipping insurance, and contract enforcement have become integral to the energy security architecture.

The broader lesson is that oil has entered a phase where risk is as significant as the resource itself. Geopolitics will continue to influence oil prices by shaping perceptions of safety, reliability, and continuity, as well as affecting the physical flow of oil. Understanding this transformation is essential for managing a vulnerable world. Stability now depends on preserving predictable trade mechanisms and avoiding diplomatic ruptures that amplify uncertainty. In the years ahead, the resilience of importing nations will depend both on the origin of their crude and on how effectively they manage the political and financial currents surrounding every barrel of oil.

- **In the aftermath of the war in West Asia, crude oil prices surged to as high as \$118 a barrel last week. Alongside rising tensions, this situation has been building for over two months.**
- **Since mid-December 2025, when Brent crude stood at \$57.56, prices have surged by more than 100%. They have, however, come down since then but remain in three digits, with no immediate sign of easing.**
- **For major importing economies such as India, this shift has significant implications. Oil security is no longer just about physical access. It is also defined by exposure to the financial, logistical, and political uncertainties surrounding every shipment.**
- **Around a fifth of global oil consumption is transported through the Strait of Hormuz, and roughly a tenth of seaborne crude passes through the Bab el-Mandeb and Suez corridor.**

- Tensions do more than just inflate the price of a barrel. They make maritime unsecure. Chokepoints remain vital arteries of trade, but their significance today lies in making global machinery vulnerable. Even limited disruptions or attacks on commercial shipping can alter vessel routing and raise freight costs. Furthermore, oil has been transformed from a mere commodity into a political instrument. Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPRs) have also evolved. Originally intended to address physical supply interruptions, they are now deployed to counter psychological volatility in
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- **Brent crude oil originates from oil fields in the North Sea between the Shetland Islands and Norway.**
- **West Texas Intermediate (WTI) is sourced from US oil fields, primarily in Texas, Louisiana, and North Dakota.**
- **Brent Crude is the benchmark used for the light oil market in Europe, Africa, and the Middle East, originating from oil fields in the North Sea between the Shetland Islands and Norway.**
- **West Texas Intermediate is the benchmark for the U.S. light oil market and is sourced from U.S. oil fields.**

- **Brent Crude originates from the North Sea and serves as the benchmark for European, African, and Middle Eastern markets.**
- **West Texas Intermediate (WTI) is the benchmark for the U.S. oil market and is sourced from American oil fields.**
Brent Crude generally incurs lower transportation costs as it is produced near the sea, while WTI is landlocked, increasing its transportation expenses.
- **The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) uses Brent Crude as the pricing benchmark, influencing global oil prices.**
-

- **Branded the “COP of Implementation,” COP 30, the 30th session of the United Nations Climate Change Conference, held in Belém, Brazil, in November 2025, marked a decisive shift in how adaptation is understood — not as an abstract promise of resilience, but as a measurable, accountable discipline grounded in systems that function under stress. Climate**
- **change is experienced most viscerally through water. Floods submerge cities, droughts hollow out rural economies, glacial melt destabilises Himalayan river systems, saline intrusion contaminates coastal aquifers, and erratic monsoons disrupt food security.**
- **Agriculture alone accounts for roughly 40% of anthropogenic methane emissions, with rice cultivation, livestock systems, and organic waste at the centre of the challenge.**
- **So, water use efficiency, wastewater reuse, aquifer recharge, and resilient sanitation systems are now climate strategies as much as development priorities.**

- **The first focuses on climate-resilient water and sanitation systems: reducing climate-induced water scarcity, building resilience to floods and droughts, ensuring universal access to safe drinking water, and upgrading sanitation infrastructure to withstand extreme events.**
- **The second emphasises risk governance: universal multi-hazard early warning systems by 2027, strengthened hydrometeorological services, and updated national vulnerability assessments by 2030. Water security is no longer about asset creation; it is about whether systems continue to deliver when climate stress intensifies.**
- **Water must anchor climate action. Implementation must be swift, equitable, and technologically robust.**
Resilience should be measured not by infrastructure built, but by systems that continue to
- **serve people when the next flood arrives, when the next drought lingers, and when the next climate shock tests the nation's preparedness.**

House decorum

The ruling party and the Opposition must rise above partisanship

The Lok Sabha rejected by voice vote, on March 11, a resolution under Article 94(C) of the Constitution for the removal of Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla from office, but only after a hostile debate on the functioning of the House deepened the wedge between the government and the Opposition. In principle, Parliament is the foundation of representative democracy, and its routine functions act as an instrument that holds the cabinet accountable. As a forum for government-Opposition interaction, it is meant to operate in a structured, methodical way. Single-party dominance has eroded all these formal and informal functions of legislatures at all levels, and the Lok Sabha, sadly, has become a platform for political partisanship. In recent years, the chairs of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha have been dragged into political conflict. In 2024, there was an Opposition resolution to remove Jagdeep Dhankhar as Rajya Sabha Chairman. Though the resolution did not pass, he resigned as Vice-President for unexplained reasons. The Opposition has raised concerns over the Lok Sabha's functioning, but what precipitated their protest into a formal resolution for Mr. Birla's removal was, possibly, his statement that he had confidential knowledge that Congress women MPs might act against Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the House floor.

Opposition MPs are routinely denied the opportunity to raise substantive issues, though the government cites statistics in its rebuttal. The Speaker had disallowed Leader of the Opposition (Lok Sabha) Rahul Gandhi from quoting former Army Chief M.M. Naravane's unpublished memoir, which discusses Prime Minister Narendra Modi's role in the 2020 military standoff with China. The microphones of Opposition MPs are frequently switched off during debates. The Opposition has pointed out that in February, Mr. Gandhi was interrupted 20 times while speaking during the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address and also blocked from raising the Gautam Adani investigation issue in the U.S. and the EU-U.S. trade deal. The government argued that the Opposition was given 56% of Zero Hour time, and that NDA MPs, despite their majority, received 321 supplementary questions against the Opposition's 364 during his tenure. Home Minister Amit Shah said that the House's productivity during Mr. Birla's tenure had been high and that it had debated in 14 regional languages. Mr. Shah also cornered Mr. Gandhi for being frequently absent from the House. The resolution and the debate manifested a deeply fractured polity in need of urgent corrective measures. The ruling majority and the Opposition must rise above partisanship and restore the majesty of Parliament.

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- **The resolution and the debate manifested a deeply fractured polity in need of urgent corrective measures.**
- **The ruling majority and the Opposition must rise above partisanship and restore the majesty of Parliament.**

Another barrier

Mandatory period leave sans parity in recruitment will hurt women

When considering a measure to address a work-related need, care must be taken to ensure that it does not inadvertently reduce the employee's opportunity to work. This was again made evident on March 13, when a two-judge Bench of the Supreme Court, headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, refused to entertain a petition seeking a law providing menstrual leave for women workers and students. The Court cautioned that mandatory menstrual leave could unintentionally hinder women's careers and deny them "big responsibilities". Instead, it encouraged "voluntary" initiatives by States. In Odisha, women government employees up to the age of 55 can take an additional day of leave each month, while Kerala grants menstrual leave to female trainees in ITIs and universities. Karnataka issued an order that entitles women in the public and private sectors up to the age of 52 to a day's menstrual leave a month, raising concerns whether private establishments might be disincentivised from hiring women. This government order has been challenged in the High Court. Such changes must come with safeguards, and the top court rightly suggested that the government come up with a menstrual leave policy in consultation with stakeholders – as it had done in 2024 as well.

many women face debilitating menstrual pain and conditions such as endometriosis, PCOD and PCOS. But the Court's reasoning rests on another, more universal reality: women are already disadvantaged at work, facing systemic barriers such as unequal pay. In this context, mandatory menstrual leave could become a form of biological determinism, limiting opportunities, pay and promotions for women. In countries where menstrual leave policies exist, they are either poorly enforced or are not opted for by most women. In Spain, legislation enacted in 2023, and hailed as "... historic ... for feminist progress", saw few women exercising the right a year later. In Zambia, some women said it was being misused. In India, the female Labour Force Participation Rate rose from 23.3% in 2017-18 to 41.7% in 2023-24, driven largely by rural women entering work due to distress, insecure employment and unpaid household work. In this context, a blanket menstrual leave policy could be counterproductive: many women cannot afford to lose workdays, and in informal jobs, it may also be unenforceable. Providing free sanitary products and medicines at workplaces and allowing time off under existing leave provisions would be a way forward. That would be an acknowledgment of biological realities without turning such well-intentioned but poorly thought-out initiatives into yet another barrier to women's participation.

- **Mandatory period leave sans parity in recruitment will hurt women**
- **The Court cautioned that mandatory menstrual leave could unintentionally hinder women's careers and deny them "big responsibilities". Instead, it encouraged "voluntary" initiatives by States.**
 - **In Odisha, women government employees up to the age of 55 can take an additional day of leave each month, while Kerala grants menstrual leave to female trainees in ITIs and universities.**
 - **In Spain, legislation enacted in 2023, and hailed as "... historic ... for feminist progress", saw few women exercising the right a year later.**
 - **In Zambia, some women said it was being misused. In India, the female Labour Force Participation Rate rose from 23.3% in 2017-18 to 41.7% in 2023-24, driven largely by rural women entering work due to distress, insecure employment and unpaid household work.**

On the right to die with dignity

Page No.7 , GS 2

In an evening in 2013, 20-year-old Harish Rana fell from the fourth floor of his PG accommodation and sustained critical injuries. His condition confined him to a bed while tubes kept him on life support. Owing to his Persistent Vegetative State (PVS), he responded to no stimuli around him and was largely nursed by his parents, with frequent visits to the hospital. Mr. Rana's closest friends and family, who fondly describe him as energetic and exuberant, were faced with the agonising pain of witnessing his stasis. His parents, along with the doctors, devoted 13 years in tending to Mr. Rana, but no improvement was seen. Confronted with such despairing circumstances, the parents moved the Supreme Court to withdraw life support, so that nature can be allowed to take its course. What followed was a pivotal discourse on the import of life under Article 21 of our Constitution.

A respectable death

The Constitution's tryst with 'Right to Life with dignity' was first laid down in *Gian Kaur vs State of Punjab* (1996) where the Supreme Court held that 'life' under Article 21 included the right to live with dignity. However, in *Gian Kaur*, the Court opined that Article 21 did not include the right to die.

Fifteen years later, a similar case reached the Supreme Court when a young Aruna Shanbaug, owing to a brutal sexual assault, was left in PVS. Pinki Virani, journalist, and human-rights activist, petitioned the Supreme Court as Aruna's friend for withdrawal of her life support. Although under its own circumstances, Virani's plea was rejected, it culminated in the crucial decision of *Aruna R. Shanbaug vs Union of India* (2011). The Supreme Court drew sustenance from foreign legal frameworks and recognised passive euthanasia in cases of patients with terminal illness and undergoing prolonged, but



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The right of refusal of medical treatment was held to be a manifestation of dignity intersecting with privacy, autonomy, and self-determination

ineffective treatment. Guidelines were framed to bridge the legislative gap, until Parliament promulgated on the subject. Additionally, the Law Commission in 2006 and 2012, entered into an in-depth examination of the above-detailed issues and made extensive observations. It reported that withholding life support from terminally ill patients should not attract criminal liability if done in pursuance of the "best interest of the patient."

The watershed moment on the subject was the 2018 Constitution Bench's decision in *Common Cause vs Union of India*. Armed with developing jurisprudence on the subject, the Supreme Court unequivocally recognised and permitted the withdrawal/withholding of medical treatment to fall within Article 21. The right of refusal of medical treatment was held to be a manifestation of dignity intersecting with privacy, autonomy, and self-determination. This judgment provided extensive guidelines and underwent certain modifications in a similarly titled 2023 decision. These are now cumulatively referred to as the 'Common Cause guidelines', which rest on two core principles: first, that the intervention in question must qualify as "medical treatment"; and second, that its withdrawal must be strictly in the patient's "best interest."

The Supreme Court embedded various safeguards to prevent misuse and a detailed procedure involving opinions of primary and secondary Medical Boards prior to undertaking such decisions. The legislative void was once again highlighted by the Court and one Judge expressed the "pious hope" for legislative intervention. This hope still lingers.

Case evaluation

The Harish Rana chronicle has now reached its end with the intervention by the Supreme Court. Speaking through two judges, who authored separate but concurring judgments, the Court allowed the withdrawal of life

support from Mr. Rana under the Common Cause guidelines. Since he relied on Clinically Assisted Nutrition and Hydration (CANH), the first question which required consideration was whether CANH qualified as 'medical treatment.' To answer this, the Court noted that the administration of CANH requires careful and experienced medical supervision. Since such skills are only available by drawing upon medical knowledge, and owing to its continuous periodic evaluation, emergency medical management and supervision, it was held to be 'medical treatment.' The second question was whether the withdrawal of CANH from Mr. Rana was in his best interests. It held that 'best interests' must be envisaged from the lens of the stakeholders, who are the next of kin and medical boards. It was rightly opined that a doctor's duty to perform treatment continues till it is capable of "conferring some therapeutic benefit." When recovery is impossible, the continuation of treatment merely prolongs biological existence de-hors any benefits. It led to the sole conclusion – withdrawal of treatment which was noted to be in Mr. Rana's best interests.

A definitive end

"For in that sleep of death what dreams may come, when we have shuffled off this mortal coil, must give us pause." Through his prose, the Bard cautioned that hesitation about death stems from the uncertainty of what comes after. However, what is definitive is that the ones who pass-on tend to live through us. Harish Rana will soon die. Yet, his contributions will forever be etched in history and in our constitutional jurisprudence.

And so, the advancement of constitutional morality is not only circumscribed to legislative actions which reach the country at large. It is also through addressing uncomfortable issues that advance the cause for humanity, even if they concern just an indiscernible minority.

- **Article 21 of our Constitution.**
- **The Constitution's tryst with 'Right to Life with dignity' was first laid down in Gian Kaur vs State of Punjab (1996) where the Supreme Court held that 'life' under Article 21 included the right to live with dignity. However, in Gian Kaur, the Court opined that Article 21 did not include the right to die.**

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- **guidelines.**

Kharg Island



- **The United States has launched heavy air strikes on military targets on Kharg Island, Iran's primary oil export hub, marking a significant escalation in the ongoing regional conflict.**
- **Kharg Island is a small coral island that serves as Iran's primary crude oil export terminal.**
- **It functions as the main hub for loading and exporting Iranian oil to global markets, handling a significant portion of the country's petroleum shipments.**

Location:

- **Located in the northern Persian Gulf, about 50–55 km from the Iranian mainland and northwest of the port of Bushehr.**
- **Positioned close to deep waters, allowing very large crude carriers (VLCCs) to dock and load oil.**

- **18th Century:** The Dutch East India Company established a trading station, though it was later expelled by regional rulers.
- **Modern Era:** With Iran's oil boom in the 1960s, Kharg was developed into a major oil export terminal; it was repeatedly targeted during the Iran–Iraq War (1980–88).
- **Geological Features:**
- Kharg Island is a five-mile-long coral island, formed from coral limestone deposits in the Persian Gulf.
- Unlike many Gulf islands, it has natural freshwater resources, which historically supported settlement.
- Its proximity to deep waters makes it suitable for super-tanker docking and large-scale oil export infrastructure.

Thank You!

