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CURRENT ISSUES WRITING PRACTICE

PRE-TEST MATERIAL FOR CIWP – T

World Food Program

Why in News?

The Norwegian Nobel Committee awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, 2020 to the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in recognition for its efforts to combat hunger. WFP provides life-saving food assistance to millions across the world, even in extremely dangerous and hard-to-access conditions. WFP is the largest humanitarian organization in the world. Therefore, WFP was lauded by the committee for its involvement in bettering conditions for peace in conflict-affected areas and for acting as a driving force in efforts to prevent the use of hunger as a weapon of war and conflict.

Governments are the principal source of its funding; its largest donations are coming from the US, Germany, and the UK. Money is also given to the WFP from corporations and individuals. Fund cut due to loss in income and COVID-19 pandemic is the major barrier to the ground works of WFP. It is being alleged that WFP makes some nations overly reliant on foreign aid. Also, WFP's food buying policy is being criticized by various economists.

Connectedness to the Syllabus

Essay:

UPSC may ask candidates to write an essay on the Food Security for sustainable development, Food security is peremptory to become a developed society, Access to food and socio-economic empowerment, Development is more plausibly determined by food, By Controlling food-people can be controlled, Food and peace are complementary to each other, International welfarism, Hunger is not an issue of charity and Hunger is our common Ground etc.

General Studies I:

- Population and associated Issues, Poverty and Developmental issues, their problems and their remedies
- Effects of Globalization on Indian society
- Social Empowerment

General Studies II:

- Issues Relating to Development and Management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.
- Issues relating to Poverty and Hunger
- Important Aspects of Governance
- Important International Institutions, agencies - their Structure, Mandate.
- Bilateral, Regional and Global Groupings and Agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests

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General Studies III:

- Issues of Buffer Stocks and Food Security
- Food Processing and Related Industries in India- Scope' and Significance, Location, Upstream and Downstream Requirements, Supply Chain Management.
- Role of External State and Non-state Actors in creating challenges to Internal Security.

Articles Link

https://library.stanford.edu/sites/default/files/widget/file/zalite_wfp_unday2013_0.pdf

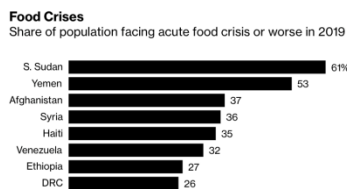
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-54477214>

<https://www.wfp.org/our-work>

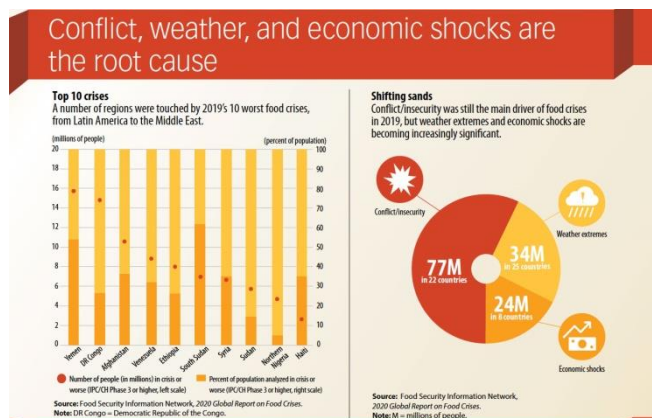
<http://www.fao.org/3/ca2079en/CA2079EN.pdf>

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-ideas-why-nobel-peace-prize-to-world-food-programme-matters-6722546/>

Maps and Figures



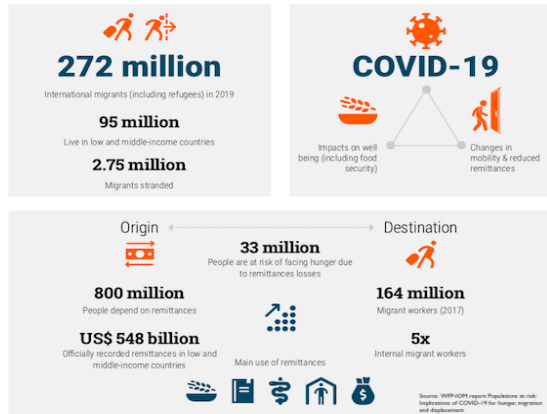
Source: Global Report on Food Crises



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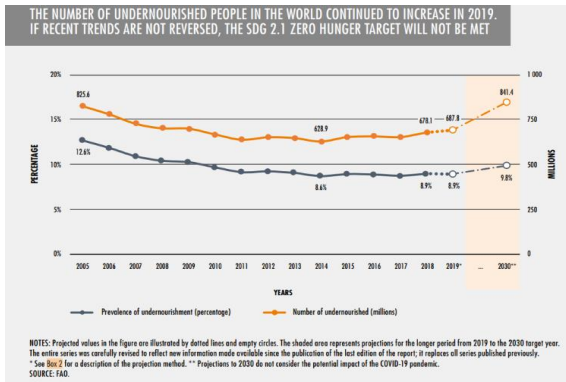
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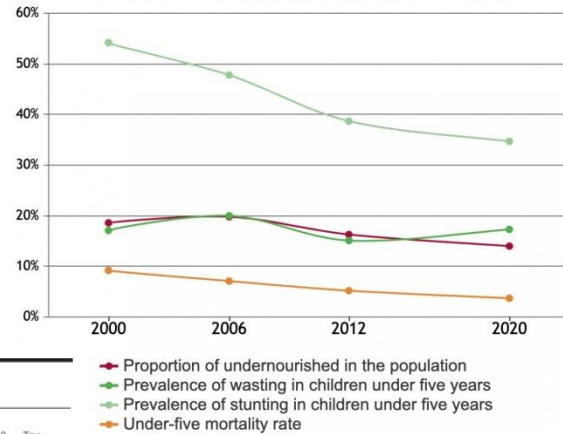
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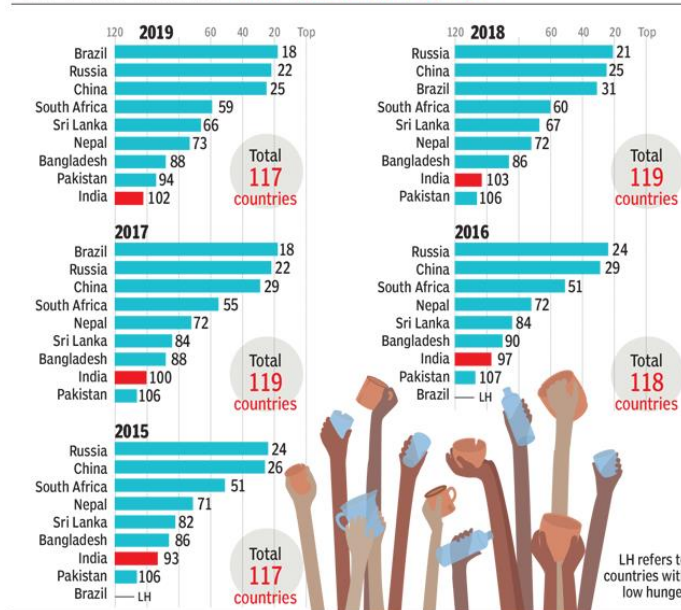
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Trend for Indicator Values - India



INDIA WAS AT 93 IN 2015



Video Links

United Nations: UN Chief on 2020 Nobel Peace Prize

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EQgfHVTNCoA>

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The Hindu: World Food Programme

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mw_-1OpCWuY

RSTV: In Depth - Tackling Global Hunger

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qFw22YhiwPY>

RSTV: The Big Picture: World Food Day - Zero Hunger Challenge

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=82LiL3vqCB8>

Euthanasia in India

Why in News?

Spanish lawmakers legalised euthanasia and assisted suicide for people with serious and incurable or debilitating diseases who want to end their life, making Spain the fourth country in the European Union to take the step. It started a debate in India for the similar legislation.

Connectedness to the Syllabus:

Essay: UPSC may ask candidates to write an essay on the issue of Euthanasia in India and the issues related to it, Health and Wealth loss, etc.

General Studies I:

- Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India.
- Role of women and women's organization, population and associated issues, poverty and developmental issues, urbanization, their problems and their remedies.
- Effects of globalization on Indian society.

General Studies II:

- Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.
- Development processes and the development industry —the role of NGOs, SHGs, various groups and associations, donors, charities, institutional and other stakeholders.
- Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes; mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.
- Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.
- Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential; citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures.
- Role of civil services in a democracy.

General studies IV:

- Ethical issues

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Article Links:

<http://www.legalservicesindia.com/article/787/Euthanasia-in-India.html>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3440914/>







<https://www.latestlaws.com/articles/euthanasia-india-team-latest-laws/>

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/europe/spain-poised-to-legalise-euthanasia-assisted-suicide/articleshow/81562564.cms>

<https://www.indiatoday.in/world/story/spain-spanish-parliament-legalise-euthanasia-assisted-suicide-serious-incurable-debilitating-diseases-1780900-2021-03-18>

Maps and Images:

PAVES WAY FOR DECRIMINALISING SUICIDE

<p>Matter Of Life & Privacy: The judgment paves the way for decriminalising suicide by suggesting that the right to die should now be considered a part of right to life and right to privacy. Cites Mental Healthcare Act, 2017, as the first step</p> 	<p>to treat terminal cases. SC also questions the fairness of limited life-saving facilities being blocked by patients who won't recover</p> 	or collector or high court, to implement euthanasia and living will
<p>State's Failure: "When the state is not being able to guarantee the right to healthcare for all, can the citizens be denied the right to die with dignity?" asks SC</p> 	<p>Euthanasia Was In Practice: Buddhism and Jainism allow euthanasia, while Hinduism, Islam and Christianity are against it. SC found that limited euthanasia was allowed through medical council regulations, 2002</p> 	<p>What About Active Euthanasia? Allowed in several western countries, active euthanasia, or assisted suicide, will continue to be a crime and can be made legal only through legislative action</p> 
<p>Stressed Finances And Facilities: Poor are forced to sell properties and endanger family's future</p>	<p>The Safeguards: Mandatory provision for a double medical board, involving judicial magistrate</p> 	<p>“Rote hue aate hain sab, hansta hua jo jayega, woh muqaddar ka sikandar, janeman kehlayega (title song of 1978's Bollywood superhit quoted by Supreme Court)</p>


<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/right-to-live-includes-right-to-die-supreme-court/articleshow/63239760.cms>


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PROVISIONS & SAFEGUARDS

**WHAT'S PASSIVE EUTHANASIA?**
Halting or withdrawal of artificial life-support in case of incurable illnesses. Germany, Canada & South Africa allow it


**ACTIVE EUTHANASIA STILL ILLEGAL**
It's done by administering lethal substances. Belgium, Netherlands, Colombia & Japan allow both forms of euthanasia

**LIVING WILL RECOGNISED**
It will allow patients to give explicit instructions in advance about medical treatment to be administered when they are terminally ill or no longer able to express informed consent

**EXECUTION**
In case of no advance directive, patient's family member or next of friend can approach a high court that will ask a medical board to take a call

**WHAT NEXT**
SC guidelines to be in place until a law on passive euthanasia is enacted

Centre has already proposed a law: the Medical Treatment of Terminally Ill Patient (Protection of Patients and Medical Practitioners) Bill, 2006



<https://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-passive-euthanasia-is-legal-2592404>

THE END-OF-LIFE DICTIONARY

Suicide | Impulsive act under severe emotional stress where a person takes own life

person with the knowledge or means or both required to commit suicide

Voluntary death | Well considered decision by a person if he or she is still able to make medical decisions on how and when they would like to die

Passive euthanasia | Causing death of a person in a permanent vegetative state with no chance of recovery by withdrawing artificial life support

Physician-assisted suicide | Where a doctor knowingly and intentionally provides a

Active euthanasia | Administering patient a lethal drug to cause his or her death

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/govt-opposes-it-but-supreme-court-calls-for-debate-on-euthanasia/articleshow/38504924.cms>

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1 WHAT IS EUTHANASIA?

Active Euthanasia

- Death caused by lethal injection or drugs, includes physician-assisted suicide. Active euthanasia illegal in most countries. The ones that allow active euthanasia shown on the map...

Passive Euthanasia

When doctors don't provide, or remove patients from, life-sustaining treatment. Includes:

- Disconnecting life-support machines, feeding tubes, not carrying out life-saving operations, not providing life-extending drugs
- Non-treatment not seen as cause of death; patient understood to have died because of underlying condition

2 WHAT ARE LIVING WILLS

- Where individuals can express their wish at a prior point in time, when capable of making informed decisions, regarding their medical treatment in the future, when they may not be able make an informed decision
- Exercise of the right to refuse treatment and the right to die with dignity

3 WHO CAN MAKE A LIVING WILL?

- Anybody can. SC's judgment allows living wills to be executed for the terminally ill. So you can make a living will that'll be in force in future if at the time you suffer from a terminal illness and cannot take a decision

4 SAFEGUARDS THAT SOME OTHER COUNTRIES THAT ALLOW LIVING WILLS, SPECIFY



<p>All countries that allow euthanasia have safeguards built into the provision in various ways</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> By specifying who may act as witness By allowing a person to change his/ her mind By allowing validity of directive to be challenged 	<p>Netherlands Patients aged 16 or above may make advance directives</p>	<p>Germany Court authorisation reqd to stop treatment of minors</p>	<p>Switzerland Persons with mental illnesses cannot discontinue treatment if it is expression or symptom of their mental illness</p>	<p>UK Person can alter/ withdraw an advance decision at any time he has the capacity to do so</p>
	<p>Hungary Pregnant women can't refuse treatment if they're able to carry through the pregnancy</p>	<p>Australia Living wills to be signed in presence of two witnesses, with rules on who can be witness: Not if he/ she 1) is a substitute decision-maker in the living will, 2) stands to profit, directly or indirectly, from the person's estate or 3) is a health practitioner for the person writing the living will</p>	<p>Oregon, US Person can change his/ her mind at any time and as many times, quash a written request for medication regardless of mental state</p>	

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/right-to-live-includes-right-to-die-supreme-court/articleshow/63239760.cms>

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DEATH BY CHOICE		SC JUDGMENTS SO FAR
PASSIVE EUTHANASIA	Involves pulling out life support. In active euthanasia, doc injects medicine to trigger cardiac arrest	
 If medical interventions fail and the process of death has commenced, why should the patient not have a right to die?	 Who decides when the process of death commences? What if medical research tomorrow finds a cure to the disease?	1994 Attempt to suicide not an offence 1996 Right to live with dignity includes right to die with dignity. Legislature to decide on passive euthanasia 2011 Allowed passive euthanasia while rejecting plea to end life of Aruna Shanbaug
—Prashant Bhushan FOR NGO COMMON CAUSE	—Mukul Rohatgi ATTORNEY GENERAL	

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/govt-opposes-it-but-supreme-court-calls-for-debate-on-euthanasia/articleshow/38504924.cms>

Video Links:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZHd7v58A350>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lJLHxJAxIrU>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RZNSz4bTPgc>

U.S Elections

Why in news?

Result of US presidential election and its impact on India.

Connectedness to the Syllabus

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Essay: UPSC may ask candidates to write an essay on Impact of US Election Results on India, the bilateral issues between India and the US, Bilateral Trade, US H1B Visa, Civil Liberties and Democratic Rights in India and the issues related to it.

General Studies I:

- Post-independence consolidation and reorganization within the country.
- Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India.
- Role of women and women's organization, population and associated issues, poverty and developmental issues, urbanization, their problems and their remedies.
- Effects of globalization on Indian society.
- Social empowerment, communalism, regionalism & secularism.
- Salient features of world's physical geography.
- Distribution of key natural resources across the world (including South Asia and the Indian sub-continent); factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary, and tertiary sector industries in various parts of the world (including India).
- Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone etc., geographical features and their location-changes in critical geographical features (including water-bodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes.

General Studies II:

- Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the States, issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure, devolution of powers and finances up to local levels and challenges therein.
- Comparison of the Indian constitutional scheme with that of other countries.
- Parliament and State legislatures—structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers & privileges and issues arising out of these.
- Structure, organization and functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary—Ministries and Departments of the Government; pressure groups and formal/informal associations and their role in the Polity.
- Salient features of the Representation of People's Act.
- Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies.
- Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies.
- Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.
- Development processes and the development industry —the role of NGOs, SHGs, various groups and associations, donors, charities, institutional and other stakeholders.
- Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes; mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.
- Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.
- Issues relating to poverty and hunger.
- Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential; citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures.
- Role of civil services in a democracy.

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- India and its neighbourhood- relations.
- Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.
- Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests, Indian diaspora.
- Important International institutions, agencies and fora- their structure, mandate.

General Studies III:

- Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment.
- Inclusive growth and issues arising from it.
- Government Budgeting.
- Food processing and related industries in India- scope' and significance, location, upstream and downstream requirements, supply chain management.
- Land reforms in India.
- Effects of liberalization on the economy, changes in industrial policy and their effects on industrial growth.
- Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc.
- Investment models.
- Science and Technology- developments and their applications and effects in everyday life.
- Achievements of Indians in science & technology; indigenization of technology and developing new technology.
- Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nano-technology, biotechnology and issues relating to intellectual property rights.
- Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.
- Disaster and disaster management.
- Linkages between development and spread of extremism.
- Role of external state and non-state actors in creating challenges to internal security.
- Challenges to internal security through communication networks, role of media and social networking sites in internal security challenges, basics of cyber security; moneylaundering and its prevention.
- Security challenges and their management in border areas - linkages of organized crime with terrorism.
- Various Security forces and agencies and their mandate.

Articles Link

<https://www.indiatoday.in/world/story/us-elections-2020-how-does-america-elect-its-presidents-what-is-electoral-college-1737329-2020-11-02>

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/us-elections-impact-on-stock-market>

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/us/how-united-states-of-america-elects-its-president-all-you-need-to-know/articleshow/77672231.cms>

<https://www.nbcnews.com/specials/world-watches-us-vote-trump-biden-election/>

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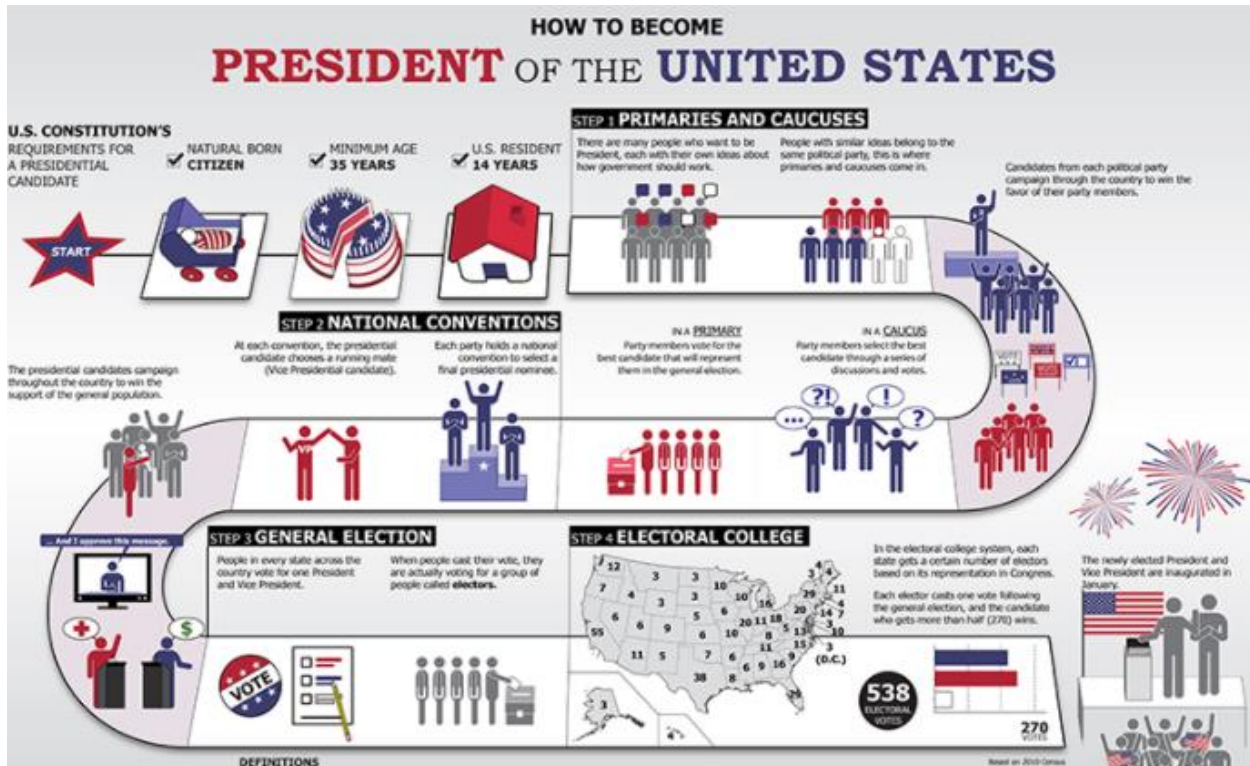
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<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/how-a-biden-presidency-may-affect-indias-economy-explainspeaking-7019832/>

Figures and Maps

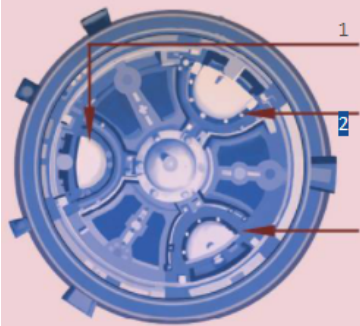


<https://www.usa.gov/election>

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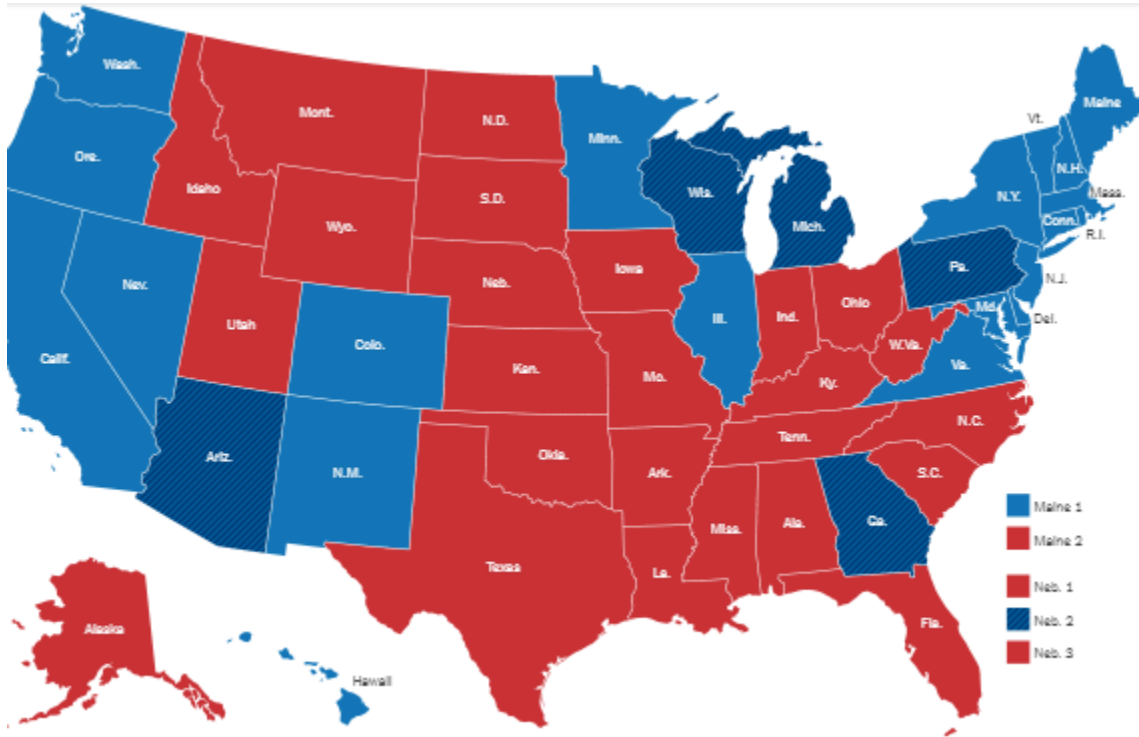
Interesting facts	
	Primaries and caucuses were never included in the U.S. Constitution but were created over time by the political parties.
	The overall results of the primaries process may not be representative of the U.S. electorate as a whole. The states that have historically held primaries and caucuses first, in February, have a much larger influence on individual races. These states include Iowa and New Hampshire. However large states such as California, which usually hold their primaries in June, end up having minimal impact on the races because the candidate for each party has more or less been picked by then. Some states seek to hold primaries earlier to have a greater influence on the process.
	Primaries may be closed or open. An open primary is a primary election that does not require voters to be affiliated with a political party in order to vote for candidates. Each voter cannot, however, participate in more than one primary. A closed primary does require party affiliation for voters. A third less common type of primary, the blanket primary, allows registered voters to participate in all primaries.
<p>Sources:</p> <p>1. U.S. State Department, Library</p>	

<https://www.thehindu.com/specials/in-depth/us-presidential-elections-2016-primaries-caucuses-how-does-it-work/article14156492.ece>

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<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/11/03/us/elections/results-president.html>

Videos Link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mxvZLqkemAw>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ajavsMbCapY>

<https://youtu.be/WiCaNBRAxQM>