

# Regent Education and Research Foundation Group of Institutions

## Daily Current Affairs Synopsis

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(Useful for UPSC/WBPSC/SSC Exams.)

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### Rising Cases of Thallium Poisoning: A Silent and Deadly Murder Weapon

- The cases of Poisoning by thallium as a murder weapon is increasing in India.

### **Tragic Incident in Maharashtra: Two Women Accused of Poisoning Five Family Members with Thallium**

- Recently, In Mahagaon village (Maharashtra) two women allegedly killed five family members by lacing their food with Thallium.

### **Overview of Thallium: Properties, Applications, and its Dark History in Poisoning Cases**

- Thallium is a chemical element with the symbol **Tl** and atomic number 81. It is a soft, heavy, inelastic, gray post-transition **metal** that is not found free in nature.
- **Characteristics:** Thallium is **tasteless and odourless** and has been used by murder as it is **difficult to detect**.
- **Application:** It is used in the manufacture of electronics, low temperature thermometers, Optical lenses, and imitation precious jewels it also has use in some chemical reactions and medical procedures.

### **Thallium Poisoning: Routes of Exposure and Normal Body Levels**

- Ingestion (through food or drink) is an important route of exposure.
- It can also be absorbed into the body by inhalation and skin contact.
- The normal range of thallium in the body is between **0.15 to 0.36 units**.

### **Effects of Thallium Poisoning: Symptoms and Timeline**

- Adverse effects are usually delayed by **12 to 24 hours** in acute poisoning and reach their maximum by the second and third week after exposure (slow Poisoning cases).
- Hair loss is a classic symptom of thallium poisoning.
- Transient nausea and vomiting are seen first, followed by painful sensation in the arms/hands and legs/feet within 1 to 5 days(sometimes more)
- **Other Effects include** rapid heart rate and high blood pressure; abnormal heart rhythms; respiratory failures; headache; seizures, delirium, and coma

## **Supreme Court Strength: New Appointments and Judicial Composition**

- The Supreme Court bench returned to its full strength as high court chief justices Satish Chandra Sharma, Augustine George Masih and Sandeep Mehta took oath as judges of the Supreme court.

### **Evolution and Composition of the Supreme Court of India: A Look at Article 124(1)**

- At Present **the Supreme Court consists of thirty-four Judges** (One Chief Justice and Thirty Three Other Judges).
- **Constitutional Provision: Article 124(1)** state that “there shall be a supreme court of india consisting of a Chief Justice Of India and, Until Parliament by law Prescribe a larger Number, Of more than seven other judges.”
- Originally, the Supreme Court had **eight judges** (one chief justice and seven others). The Parliament has increased the number of judges over time.

**Appointment Procedure:** The judges of the SC appointed by President On the recommendation of Collegium of judges.

- The Collegium deliberates on and discusses the names of Chief Justices and senior puisne Judges of the High Courts eligible for appointment to the Supreme Court.
- While recommending appointments to the **Supreme Court the Collegium has taken into consideration the following aspects:**
  - The **seniority of Chief Justices** and senior puisne Judges in their respective parent High Courts as well as overall seniority of the High Court Judges;
  - **The merit**, performance and integrity of the judges under consideration; and
  - The need to **ensure diversity and inclusion in the Supreme Court by:**
    - **representation of High Courts** which are not represented or are inadequately represented, in the Supreme Court;
    - **appointment of persons** from marginalized and backward segments of society;
    - **gender diversity;**
    - **representation of minorities.**