



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
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U.S. Withdrawal from World Health Organization (WHO)

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n News: The **United States** is set to **formally withdraw from the World Health Organization (WHO)** after completing a **one-year notice period**, despite concerns over global health governance.

World Health Organization (WHO)

- **Type:** Specialised agency of the **United Nations**
- **Established:** **7 April 1948** (observed as **World Health Day**)
- **Headquarters:** **Geneva, Switzerland**
- **Membership:** **194 Member States**

Historical Background

- Originated from **International Sanitary Conferences (1851–1938)**
- Absorbed the **League of Nations Health Organization** after WWII
- Key achievements:
 - **Eradication of smallpox**
 - Near-eradication of **polio**
 - Coordination during **Ebola** and **COVID-19** outbreaks

Core Functions of WHO

- **Global health leadership:** Pandemic & emergency response
- **Standard setting:** ICD, International Health Regulations (IHR)
- **Universal Health Coverage (UHC)** promotion
- **Technical assistance:** Policy advice & capacity building
- **Health data & surveillance:** Global statistics and early warnings

Process of U.S. Withdrawal

- Governed by **U.S. domestic law**
- Requires:
 - **One-year advance notice**
 - **Full payment of outstanding dues**
- Current withdrawal faces **legal concerns** due to reportedly unpaid dues
- Matter under discussion in **WHO Executive Board**

Significance of U.S. Withdrawal

- **For WHO:**
 - Loss of **~18% of total funding**
 - Possible staff cuts and programme scaling-down
- **For Global Health:**

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- Weakens **pandemic preparedness** and **disease surveillance**
- **For the U.S.:**
- Reduced access to **real-time global health data**
- Loss of influence in **global health norm-setting**