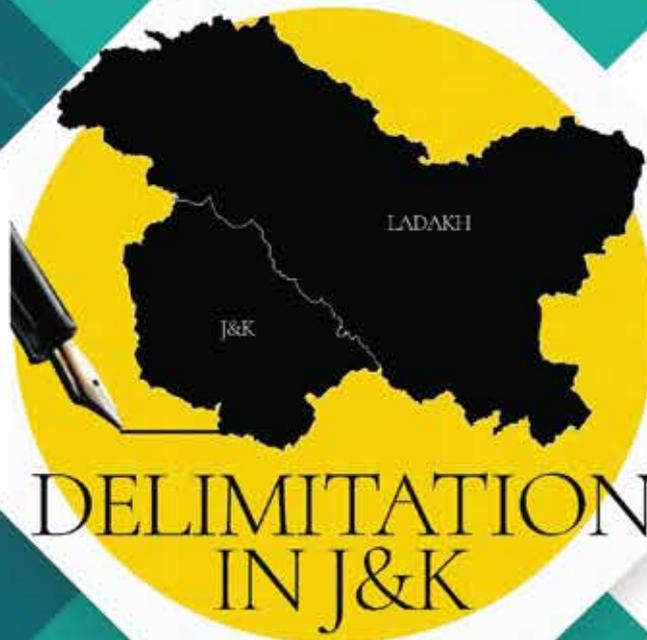




**VEDHIK**  
**IAS ACADEMY**  
*The New Learning Mantra*



**VEDHIK**

**DAILY NEWS ANALYSIS**

**05 - APRIL 2022**

## **FOREWORD**

We, at Team Vedhik is happy to introduce a new initiative - "Daily Current Affairs\_The Hindu" compilations to help you with UPSC Civil Services Examination preparation. We believe this initiative - "Daily Current Affairs\_The Hindu" would help students, especially beginners save time and streamline their preparations with regard to Current Affairs. A content page and an Appendix has been added segregating and mapping the content to the syllabus.

It is an appreciable efforts by Vedhik IAS Academy helping aspirants of UPSC Civil Services Examinations. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Dr. Babu Sebastian, former VC - MG University in extending all support to this endeavour. Finally I also extend my thanks to thank Ms. Shilpa Sasidharan and Mr. Shahul Hameed for their assistance in the preparing the compilations.

We welcome your valuable comments so that further improvement may be made in the forthcoming material. We look forward to feedback, comments and suggestions on how to improve and add value for students. Every care has been taken to avoid typing errors and if any reader comes across any such error, the authors shall feel obliged if they are informed at their Email ID.

## CONTENTS

- News -Opposition parties reject Gotabaya's offer Part I GSP 02 A
- News -Opposition parties reject Gotabaya's offer Part II GSP 02 A
- Editorials - The India-Australia trade agreement GSP 02 B
- Editorials - The road to Ukraine peace runs through Delhi GSP 02 C
- News - Plea in SC on gender bias in Hindu inheritance law GSP 02 E
- News -Criminal Procedure Bill is anti-people Dayanidhi GSP 02 E
- News -No need for laws to enforce duties on citizens GSP 02 E
- News - J&K delimitation panel starts talks, faces protests in Jammu GSP 02 H
- News - Lok Sabha passes new Criminal Procedure Bill Part I GSP 02 H
- News - Lok Sabha passes new Criminal Procedure Bill Part II GSP 02 H
- News -Biological E. to receive mRNA vaccine technology from WHO GSP 03 M
- News - IPCC report may spell death knell for coal-based units GSP 03 P
- Editorials - The partial rollback of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act GSP 03 W

# Opposition rejects Gotabaya offer

President's invite to all parties to join Cabinet came amid escalating protests

**MEERA SRINIVASAN**  
COLOMBO

Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on Monday invited all parties in Parliament to work with him to jointly address the country's spiralling crisis, even as citizens' protests calling for his resignation escalated across the country.

All major Opposition parties, however, rejected the offer, reminding the Presi-

dent of the people's chief demand that he and his family members in government quit immediately.

## 'Democratic framework'

Attributing the current crisis to "several economic factors and global developments", Mr. Rajapaksa sought solutions "within a democratic framework", days after imposing an Emergency that critics see



People protesting in Colombo on Monday. ■ REUTERS

as a move to quell dissent. Mr. Rajapaksa's outreach comes a day after *en masse*

resignations in Sri Lanka's Cabinet, amid escalating anti-government protests in the wake of a worsening economic downturn, marked by crippling shortages and long power cuts.

Scores of citizens have been protesting incessantly across the island nation, even defying curfews during the weekend.

**CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 10**

# Opposition parties reject Gotabaya's offer

On Monday evening, massive crowds gathered at different locations in the capital Colombo, signalling a heightening resistance from citizens to the Rajapaksa government that came to power promising "prosperity and splendour" to the people.

Several hundred youth dressed in black, middle-class business people, and lawyers, journalists and other professionals were out waving Sri Lankan flags and chanting anti-government slogans. Popular chants at the spontaneous citizens' protests included "Gota go home", reflecting the public rage against the President and the ruling family.

"I don't want anyone from the Rajapaksa family to be in power. Not even their cat," said an angry woman at a late-night protest on Sunday. "Cabinet reshuffle is not equal to change," read many posters at Monday's protests, rejecting the President's latest manoeuvre.

While all Ministers in Cabinet, including three members of the Rajapaksa family, resigned on Sunday night, Mr. Gotabaya and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa did not quit.

"Considering this a national need, the time has come to work together for the sake of all the citizens and future generations. The President invites all political parties representing in the Parliament to come together to accept ministerial portfolios in order to find solutions to this national crisis," said a statement from the Presidential Media Division.

Hours later, he appointed four Ministers, who were part of his earlier Cabinet, to the portfolios of Finance, Education, Foreign Affairs and Highways. Ali Sabry, a lawyer who was Justice Minis-

ter in the former Cabinet, will now helm the Finance Ministry, the most important portfolio as Sri Lanka struggles to rescue its crashing economy. The three other Ministers have retained their portfolios.

## 'Resignation first'

The Opposition Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) has said its members would not accept any position under the Rajapaksas. "The public want Gota and the Rajapaksas to go home. We stand with them in that call," SJB MP Rajitha Senaratne said. SJB leader Sajith Premadasa earlier told *The Hindu* that he would never accept a "political deal" and would come to power only through a people's mandate.

The Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) has also turned down the President's invitation to join government. "President Gotabaya Rajapaksa must tender his resignation first. Thereafter, we can discuss a system to manage this crisis," its leader Anura Kumara Disanayake has said.

Former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe of the United National Party too rejected the President's proposal, emphasising the need for a parliamentary response to the crisis, involving the leaders of all parties.

"People have not asked for a Cabinet reshuffle, their message is clear, they are asking the Rajapaksas to go. It is nonsensical that the government is playing musical chairs," said Tamil National Alliance spokesman M.A. Sumanthiran.

Opposition parties have, however, acknowledged the need for an interim arrangement and called for a parliamentary response to arrive at the same.

## EXPLAINER

# The India-Australia trade agreement

What are the key sectors being opened up for business? How will disputes be resolved?

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE

**The story so far:** On April 2, India and Australia signed an Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA). The landmark bilateral trade pact is the second trade agreement India has signed this year after inking a similar deal with the United Arab Emirates in February. The ECTA is expected to increase trade between the two sides to \$45-50 billion over five years, from the current estimate of \$27 billion, and create over 10 lakh additional job opportunities. Under this agreement, India will give 85% of Australia's exports zero-duty access to its domestic market. India is expected to get zero-duty access to Australia for its goods over five years. The negotiations had begun over a decade ago in 2011, but were restarted in September 2021.

### What are the main features?

The ECTA is guided by a Preamble and is divided into multiple sections that will govern what is hoped to be the most expansive bilateral trade since the two countries established diplomatic ties before India attained independence.

### In a historic first, India may open up to a wide-range of alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks including Australian beer

It has a section on goods exports, and lays out clearly "Rules of Origin" that are aimed at creating anti-dumping measures. There are also sections that are aimed at providing remedies and mechanisms for resolving trade disputes. The Commerce Ministry underlined that this is the first trade deal signed by India that has a compulsory review mechanism after 15 years of implementation.

### Will Australia get access to India's agriculture market?

Under this agreement, Australia will get the opportunity to export certain varieties of agricultural produce like potatoes, lentils, and meat products with some caveats. However, bovine meat is not part of the agreement. Australia may also send machineries that are required for food processing under this agreement. In a

historic first, India may open up to a wide-range of alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks including Australian beer. Australian wines costing over \$5 may face lower import duties in the Indian market. A Joint Dialogue for Wine may be created with participation from industry players and government representatives to ensure cooperation and benefits for both countries.

The Indian side said Australia will provide "preferential access" to "all the labour-intensive sectors" of export items from India such as gems and jewellery, textiles, leather, footwear, furniture, food, engineering products, medical devices and automobiles. India will also allow Australia to export raw materials under preferential terms like coal and mineral ores.

### What does it say about the services sector?

The Government of India has said that Australia has "offered wide ranging commitments" in around 135 sub-sectors and Most Favoured Nation in 120 sub-sectors which cover key areas of the Indian services sector like IT, ITES, business services, health, education and audio-visual services. Indian chefs and yoga teachers will get specific entry quotas into Australia, while Indian students in Australia will be able to secure work visas for periods ranging from 18 months to four years on a 'reciprocal' basis. As per the rules framed under the pact, students completing a diploma Down Under will be considered for an 18-month work visa; and those completing their undergraduate may get two years and those with a Ph.D. may be considered for a four-year visa.

### What about the pharmaceuticals sector?

India and Australia have agreed to enable fast track approval for patented, generic and biosimilar medicines. Therapeutic Goods Regulators of both sides will have a role to play in monitoring and ensuring smooth trade in pharma products between the two sides. Both sides have agreed to audits of imports that require sanitary and phytosanitary inspection as per the law of the land. The importing side will ensure that plants and plant products, animal products and other goods, and their packaging are inspected through recognised



methodologies. If either party finds examples of non-compliance, remedial measures will be taken by both sides.

### What is the dispute settlement mechanism in place?

Under Article 13.5, both parties have agreed to hold consultations – and make "every effort" to find a solution – in case of disputes that may emerge in the course of trade in goods or services. They have also recognised that in case they have to resort to international arbitration, they may opt for an organisation (i.e, World Trade Organization) where both are members. They may also use "good offices" and form

panels with qualified members drawn from government and business to resolve the disputes.

The dispute resolution may range from 45 days to 15 months.

### What are the rules of origin included in the agreement?

The rules of origin are based on the principle that they should be "wholly obtained or produced in the territory of one or both of the parties". This section ensures that waste material will not be exported by either side unless they contribute to the production of any of the items listed in the ECTA.

**Big deal:** India's Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal after taking part in the virtual signing ceremony of the India-Australia economic cooperation and trade agreement with Australian Trade Minister Dan Tehan, in New Delhi on April 2, 2022. \*AFP

## THE GIST

■ On April 2, India and Australia signed an Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA). The agreement is expected to increase trade between the two sides to \$45-50 billion over five years.

■ Australia will get the opportunity to export a wide variety of agricultural produce and in turn will provide "preferential access" to "all the labour-intensive sectors" of export items from India. They have also agreed to fast track approval for patented, generic and biosimilar medicines.

■ Under Article 13.5, both parties have agreed to hold consultations and make "every effort" to find a solution in case of disputes that may emerge in the course of trade in goods or services.

# The road to Ukraine peace runs through Delhi

Mediation is certainly feasible and India is well positioned to act as a 'Vishwa-Guru' between Russia and the West



UTKARSH LEO &  
FAIZAN MUSTAFA

Nearly 40 days ago, Russia launched a full-scale military invasion of Ukraine in violation of international law and its security assurances under the Budapest Memorandum, 1994. And, there are no winners in sight. Despite peace talks held on March 29, in Istanbul (Turkey), direct negotiations between the conflicting parties have failed to make much progress: a ceasefire is yet to be achieved, and the Russian attacks on the Donbas region of eastern Ukraine continue. As a result, there have been 3,455 civilian casualties recorded in Ukraine (1,417 killed and 2,038 injured) while more than four million people have fled seeking protection, safety and assistance.

Similarly, in addition to casualties on the Russian side, financial and economic sanctions imposed by the European Union and the G7 have impacted the Russian economy. Despite artificial measures to prop up the rouble, the economy is tanking, annual inflation has jumped to 15.6%, the Russian Central Bank's forex reserves remain frozen and it cannot access financing and loans from multilateral institutions. At the global level, this war is disrupting supply chains and is causing the fuel and food prices to surge. This begs the question – if this unnecessary war has resulted in a no-win situation, why have negotiations failed to end it?

## Positions versus interests

Past negotiations, by video conferencing or as peace talks (held in Belarus and Turkey) have failed to make much progress because the parties have been negotiating over 'positions' rather than 'interests'. A 'position' is a surface statement of what a party wants; for exam-

ple, Russia's demand that Ukraine recognises the separatist republics of Donetsk and Luhansk as independent states. Whereas, 'interests' are the underlying reasons behind those positions; for instance, why is Russia focused on the independence of these separatist areas? Therefore, mediation as a conflict resolution tool can assist the parties in identifying these hidden 'interests' and facilitate them in working towards crafting a solution that each of the parties would value – a Europe of common security and prosperity where the sovereignty of all nations (Ukraine, Russia and the West) are guaranteed.

Mediation (or assisted negotiation) is a flexible conflict resolution tool facilitated by a neutral third party. Depending on the choice of parties, it can be facilitative or evaluative and can be conducted in joint sessions or caucuses (i.e., private meetings). Additionally, its focus on collaborative bargaining producing a win-win outcome (in contrast to adversarial proceedings such as arbitration or litigation that result in a win-loss outcome) equips it to handle conflicts of all kinds: from workplace disputes to broken contracts to international conflicts. International mediation follows this process of "assisting two or more contending parties to find a solution without resorting to force". Due to its immense potential, the Charter of the United Nations under Article 33 recognises the promise of international mediation for peaceful resolution of international disputes.

## Brokering peace

Throughout history, individuals, countries and organisations (such as the International Committee of the Red Cross) have acted as third parties and have brokered peace between conflicting nations. Described by theorists as a form of power brokerage or a political problem solving process, international mediation has been used to resolve conflicts for hundreds of years. The best known example is



of U.S. President Jimmy Carter who mediated peace between Israel and Egypt (known as the Camp David Accords of 1978) that has resulted in 44 years of peace.

Scholarship on neuroscience proves that emotions have a significant influence on cognitive processes (Kragel and LaBar 2016). If emotions are running high between conflicting parties it is very likely that either or both parties get re-active (i.e., to act without thinking). Ambrose Bierce wrote: "speak when you are angry and you will make the best speech you will ever regret". This is where a neutral third party can act as a 'go-between' (termed: shuttle diplomacy) to gather more information and help the parties identify their hidden interests. This helps in ensuring that conflicting parties keep their eyes on the prize. More importantly, the mediator shuttling between parties helps in limiting or reducing re-active devaluation – a cognitive barrier where the disputants wrongfully construe the conflict as a zero sum game. As a result, even the value of a genuine offer coming directly from an adversary is automatically reduced in the eyes of the receiver. Therefore, subject to context and the consent of parties, the mediator can either play a passive role to facilitate communication or a more active role and exert more influence on the content of the discussion and the final solution.

## Focusing on the priority

Certainly, international mediation has a lot to offer. But is it the right choice in the Russia-Ukraine conflict?

Despite bilateral peace talks, Russian air strikes continue on Ukrainian cities resulting in civilian

casualties. The voice against dictatorships will want to hold the Russian President Vladimir Putin guilty of violating the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their additional protocols. It may appear that opting for mediation legitimises past violations of international law and civilian killings. Or does it even amount to trading justice for peace? The answer is a bit more complicated. Mediation is a tool that avoids 'being re-active'. More importantly, it helps focus on the number one priority, i.e., the safety of the Ukrainian people through a complete ceasefire. Furthermore, a mediator's skill of strategic empathy (also a tool of statecraft) will further help understand Mr. Putin's underlying drivers and constraints.

Furthermore, scholars like Zartman (1981) have argued that power parity between disputing parties is pivotal to the success of international mediation. Indeed, there exists a huge power imbalance between Russia and Ukraine – Russia commands the world's second most powerful military, whereas Ukraine, a nation of roughly 44 million people, was relying on the pinky promises (or security assurances) made by Russia in the Budapest Memorandum. However, U.S. President Joe Biden's strategy of making American intelligence (about Russia's intention to invade Ukraine under false pretexts) publicly accessible, equipped Ukraine with the 'power of solidarity' which balanced or even tipped the scale in its favour. As a result, Russia is cornered, Ukraine has the solidarity of the world, Germany shed its pacifism and took a harsher stand against Russia by halting the Nord Stream 2 project, and Finland and Sweden are being pushed closer to NATO membership. Thus, opting for mediation is the only way left for Russia to save face and escape the sanctions that have crippled its economy.

For the West, going ahead with mediation presents itself as an opportunity to build a Europe of common security, common prosperity and peace. Simply put, this

could be a starting point to include Russia in the security infrastructure of Europe (like it did with East Germany after the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989) – an opportunity that was missed after the disintegration of the Soviet Union in 1991.

## India fits the bill

Mediation is certainly feasible between Russia and Ukraine because there exists a willingness to talk. But for this to commence, the approval of the parties concerned will be crucial. Much depends on the identity of the mediator. With the recent diplomatic visits to India, by the U.S. Deputy National Security Adviser for International Economics, the British Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs and Minister for Women and Equalities, and the Russian Foreign Minister, show that the world expects India to play a more active role in the Ukrainian crisis.

This is India's golden chance to establish itself as a global power. More importantly, playing mediator in this dispute is in India's long-term interest in countering the China threat – especially with a growing "no limits" partnership between Russia and China. Moreover, with the rise of China and its belligerence, its relationship with the West has soured. As a result, the U.S. and its allies need India as a strategic partner to balance the rise of China in the Indo-Pacific; it is for this reason, that India is now a member of the Quad.

For now, India is right in not taking sides. Its relationship with the then-Soviet Union was forged to balance against China (as the U.S. was cosying up to China). But with the Ukraine invasion and western sanctions, Russia is now more dependent on China. Hence, if India wants the best of both worlds, it must step up and live up to its claim of becoming a 'Vishwa-Guru' (or world leader).

Utkarsh Leo teaches law at the NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad.  
Faizan Mustafa is Vice-Chancellor, NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad

# Plea in SC on gender bias in Hindu inheritance law

Court to hear it today; Section 15 of 1956 Act 'unveils deeply rooted patriarchal ideology', says petition

**KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL**  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court will hear a petition on gender discrimination in Hindu succession law amidst clamour for a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) to secure gender justice and dignity for women. A three-judge Bench led by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud will on Tuesday hear the petition which "unveils deeply rooted patriarchal ideology" in the provisions of the Hindu Succession Act of 1956.

The petition filed by Kamal Anant Khopkar, who is

represented by advocates Mrunal Dattatraya Buva and Dhairyashil Salunkhe, is being taken up by the court at a time when the debate around the UCC is largely focused on gender injustice perceived to be prevalent in the personal laws of minority communities.

In fact, the petition draws attention to Section 15 of the 1956 Act which actually mandates how the husband's heirs have the first right over the self-acquired property of a woman who dies intestate. That is, the husband's family

comes first in the line of inheritance even before the dead woman's own parents.

## Male lineage favoured

On the other hand, when a Hindu man dies, his blood relationship is given priority, it said. Similarly, when a Hindu woman dies intestate without leaving behind any children, the property she inherited during her lifetime returns to the source. That is, if the woman had inherited the property from her father or mother, the asset would devolve upon the

heirs of the father. The mother's family is, however, ignored.

Again, if a woman had inherited the property from her husband or father-in-law and dies intestate without leaving behind any children, the asset would this time devolve to the husband's heirs.

The plea said the provisions manage to retain property largely within the male lineage. "Sections 15 and 16 of the Hindu Succession Act, 1956 are highly discriminatory. Her own property is not inherited by her original

heirs. These sections therefore violate the scheme of the Constitution and are unconstitutional," the petition contended. It said the court should intervene on behalf of Hindu women because "while society is moving towards gender equality, the Hindu Succession Act discriminates based on gender".

Ms. Buva argues that gender equality and respect for women not only fulfil their aspirations but also contribute to the welfare of the society and national progress.

# Criminal Procedure Bill is anti-people: Dayanidhi

It undermines right to privacy, he says

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

The Criminal Procedure (Identification) Bill is anti-people and anti-federal and undermines the fundamental right to privacy, DMK leader Dayanidhi Maran said in the Lok Sabha on Monday.

The Bill, passed by the Lok Sabha, seeks to provide legal sanction to the police and prison authorities to collect, store and analyse physical and biological samples of convicts as well as persons accused of crimes.

Participating in the debate, Mr. Maran expressed his apprehension that the provisions of the Bill could be used to target minorities

and wondered if the government wanted to create a surveillance state.

The DMK member also accused the Narendra Modi government of cherry-picking laws and amending them to “terrorise” the people. He said that the Bill gives unbridled powers to police officers and people will have to live under their mercy.

Mr. Maran also questioned the need to store data for 75 years and, that too, in the absence of a Data Protection Bill. “Your government is known for targeting the minorities,” he told Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who was also present in the Lok Sabha.

# ‘No need for laws to enforce duties on citizens’

Attorney-General says Supreme Court cannot issue mandamus to Parliament to make such laws

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL  
NEW DELHI

Attorney-General K.K. Venugopal on Monday said there was no need to enact specific laws to “enforce” fundamental duties on citizens.

Mr. Venugopal, in his capacity as a constitutional officer, said the Supreme Court cannot issue mandamus to Parliament to make such laws.

## Lawyer’s petition

A Bench led by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul said the court had been very circumspect in entertaining a public interest litigation (PIL) petition filed by lawyer Durga Dutt to enforce the fundamental duties of citizens, including patriotism and unity of nation,



through “comprehensive, well-defined laws”.

Mr. Venugopal took objection to the petitioner’s lack of research, saying had he cared to look, the Ministry of Law and Justice website would have shown him detailed accounts of the “tremendous work” done by the government to create aware-

ness among the public of their fundamental duties.

Mr. Dutt had wanted to know what the government had done to comply with the Supreme Court’s direction in the Ranganath Mishra judgment of 2003 regarding the implementation of the Justice J.S. Verma Committee’s report on the “operationali-

sation of fundamental duties”. The committee’s work was a part of a report of the National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution. The report had urged the government to sensitise people to, and create general awareness of, their duties and the protection of minorities and freedom of religion.

The Supreme Court, on February 21, issued notice to the Centre and the States on this question.

“I object to this petition... The Department of Justice website shows the tremendous amount of work which has been done for the purpose of sensitising people, both citizens and the students, about Article 51A. The

duties are part of the school curriculum... The President and the Prime Minister have addressed this aspect from time to time. A one-year awareness drive was launched,” Mr. Venugopal, who was called in to assist the court, submitted.

## ‘Govt. could file affidavit’

However, the court said the government could very well file an affidavit, based on which the Bench could deal with the petition.

Counsel appearing for the Solicitor-General’s office, representing the government, agreed to file the response in four weeks.

The court listed the case in July, after the summer vacations.

# J&K delimitation panel starts talks, faces protests in Jammu

It's not delimitation commission but a discrimination commission: DDC member

PEERZADA ASHIQ  
JAMMU

Members of the Jammu & Kashmir Delimitation Commission faced protests in Jammu on Monday as they embarked on a two-day visit to hold consultations with citizens, civil society groups and political parties before making public the final draft of the redrawing of the constituencies in the Union Territory by May 6.

With Congress supporters raising slogans such as *toad phood* commission during a sit-in in Jammu, the party's J&K chief, G.A. Mir, said, "The recognised parties which are not associate members of the panel were not extended a proper invitation or given enough time. The panel is offering just two hours to seek inputs from the entire Jammu region. Is this not a joke? We wanted to point out mistakes committed by the commission. The constituencies have been drawn weirdly, without applying prescribed parameters."

T.S. Tony, a member of the District Development Council (DDC) from R.S. Pura, said he had decided not



**Consultative trip:** Members of the Delimitation Commission during their visit to Jammu on Monday. ■ PTI

to meet the commission. "We saw what they did after the previous meetings. It's not Delimitation Commission but a discrimination commission. We had pleaded that constituencies with a Sikh majority should not be touched, but the panel does opposite to it," he said.

Jamaluddin Sheikh, a sarpanch from Gulab Garh, said he pleaded before the panel to retain the name of his constituency.

## 'Changed demography'

"In its draft, our constituency name, Gool-Gulab Garh, has been removed. Even demography of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and others has been

changed significantly after the redrawing of constituencies. We have submitted our objections and are hopeful that the panel will act independently," he said.

Nearly 200 people, including elected members of panchayats and District Development Councils, met the three-member commission, headed by Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai (retd.).

Representatives from the Jammu plains and the Chenab and Pir Panjal valleys met the panel.

"There are redrawn constituencies where head has been tied to foot. Islands have been created and tied up to favour a particular party," said a delegate from the

Chenab Valley.

BJP J&K president Ravinder Raina and Kavinder Gupta met the panel in Jammu.

## CEC view

Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra has said the panel recommendation to increase six Assembly seats in the Jammu division and one in the Kashmir division was done after "considering all the requisite things while redrawing constituency seats". "The commission is considering all the suggestions received from different quarters."

The Commission will visit Srinagar on Tuesday and meet public representatives.

The panel made its draft proposal public on March 14 and had sought objections and suggestions from people. It was given a second extension earlier this year and has set a May 6 deadline to finalise the report.

J&K's main regional parties, including the National Conference and the Peoples Democratic Party, have rejected the recommendations of the panel, terming them "biased" and "unacceptable".

# LS passes new Criminal Procedure Bill

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

**NEW DELHI**

The Lok Sabha on Monday passed the Criminal Procedure (Identification) Bill, 2022, by voice vote.

It seeks to repeal the Identification of Prisoners Act, 1920, and allows the collection, storage and analysis of physical and biological samples, including retina and iris scan of the convicted, arrested and detained persons.

**CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 10**

**ANTI-PEOPLE: DMK ► PAGE 10**

# Lok Sabha passes new Criminal Procedure Bill

Responding to the debate on the proposed law, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said its sole objective was to improve the conviction rate in the country, protect the human rights of crores of law-abiding citizens and send a strong message in the society. It had not been brought for any misuse, he said.

Most of the Opposition members urged the government to send the Bill to the parliamentary standing or select committee for detailed discussion and improvement.

Mr. Shah said the Bill sought to equip the police with the necessary resources for securing convictions in courts.

Replying to the Opposition members who raised the issue of human rights, the Home Minister said they should also be worried about the human rights of the law-abiding victims of crime. He said the Central government was also working on the prison reforms.

During the debate on the Bill, the Opposition members expressed concern over the issue of data protection, possible misuse of the proposed law, violation of the citizen's right to privacy and other fundamental rights.

Mr. Shah assured them of a technology-driven fool-proof mechanism to prevent any data leak or misuse. He said the data access would be query based.

Terming some of the concerns valid, Mr. Shah said they would be addressed while formulating the rules. If required, he would bring in amendments.

Earlier, Congress member Manish Tewari said the Bill was violating Articles 14, 19 and 20 (3) and 21 of the Constitution. Its implications on civil liberties and human rights were enormous and would have far-reaching consequences, he said. Bhartruhari Mahtab of the BJD also raised concerns about possible misuse and NCP member Supriya Sule said the Bill violated Article 21.

# Biological E. to receive mRNA vaccine technology from WHO

## Hub can manufacture products beyond COVID vaccines

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD

Vaccine maker Biological E has been selected to receive mRNA technology from the World Health Organization technology transfer hub.

After examining a number of proposals from India, the WHO's Advisory Committee on Vaccine Product Development has selected Biological E as a recipient, the Hyderabad-based firm said on Monday.

The WHO's technology transfer hub has the potential to expand manufacturing capacity for other products as well, including treatments, and target other



The company, with WHO, can develop next-generation vaccines. ■ GETTY IMAGES

priorities such as malaria, HIV and cancer. The WHO and partners will work with the Indian government and Biological E to put in place

training and support for the company to start producing mRNA vaccines, it said.

“We are very pleased with the trust WHO places in our organisation... this is also a reflection of our world-class processes, scale and effectiveness,” Biological E. managing director Mahima Datta said.

The company's partnership with the WHO will enhance its ability to develop next generation vaccines suitable globally, she added.

Its Corbevax was given emergency use authorisation for children in the age group of 12 to 18 and adults up to 80.

# IPCC report may spell death knell for coal-based units

Central Electricity Authority said India has about 211 GW of operational coal-fired power plants, 10% of global capacity

JACOB KOSHY  
NEW DELHI

A consortium of scientists as part of the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) said on Monday that all coal-fired power plants, without the technology to capture and store carbon (CCS), need to be shuttered by 2050 if the world aspired to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius. These scientists were part of the Working Group 3, or those with expertise to analyse how best the impact of greenhouse gas emissions could be mitigated.

According to the Central Electricity Authority, India has about 211 GW of operational coal-fired power plants – roughly 10% of global capacity. As per Global Energy Monitor data, another 31 GW was being con-

structed and about 24 GW in various pre-construction phases. None of the existing under construction coal-fired power plants in India have CCS facilities.

## 'Untapped potential'

"Having the right policies, infrastructure and technology in place to enable changes to our lifestyles and behaviour can result in a 70% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. This offers significant untapped potential," IPCC Working Group III Co-Chair Priyadarshi Shukla said in a statement, "The evidence also shows that these lifestyle changes can improve our health and well being."

The Summary for Policymakers of the IPCC Working Group III report, as the document is known, was approved by 195 member-go-



**Not green:** The new Indian plants lack carbon capture and storage facilities. ■ DHIRAJ SINGH

vernments of the IPCC, through a virtual approval session that started on March 21. It is the third instalment of the IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report (AR6), which will be completed this year. Though the report was expected to be ready last week, negotiations between scientists and governments over the report extended well into Sunday, as officials

from major emerging economies insisted that the report acknowledge their developmental needs.

## Methane reduction

In the scenarios by the scientists, limiting warming to around 1.5 degrees Celsius requires global greenhouse gas emissions to peak before 2025 at the latest and be reduced by 43% by 2030; at the

same time, methane would also need to be reduced by about a third. Even if this happened, it was almost inevitable that this ceiling would be temporarily breached but, with appropriate action, it could again dip down by the end of the century.

"It's now or never, if we want to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius," IPCC Working Group III Co-Chair Jim Skea, said in a statement, "Without immediate and deep emissions reductions across all sectors, it will be impossible."

The global temperature will stabilise when carbon dioxide emissions reach net zero. For 1.5 degrees Celsius, this meant achieving net zero carbon dioxide emissions globally in the early 2050s; for 2°C, it is in the early 2070s. Even limiting warm-

ing to around 2 degrees Celsius would still require global greenhouse gas emissions to peak before 2025 at the latest and be reduced by a quarter by 2030, their report emphasised.

"The latest IPCC report is a stark reminder to all developed countries to significantly bring forward their transition to a net-zero economy. This would leave additional carbon space for countries like India to meet their development priorities on the path to achieving their net-zero target. Further, to accelerate the low-carbon transition, developed countries should ensure higher flows of finance and technology transfer in critical areas such as renewables, electric vehicles, and others," said Arunabha Ghosh, CEO, Council on Energy, Environment and Water.

EXPLAINER

# The partial rollback of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act

What is the history of AFSPA in the Northeast? Why has the Home Ministry decided to reduce the number of 'disturbed areas' under the Act?

RAHUL KARMAKAR

**The story so far:** On March 31, the Ministry of Home Affairs announced the reduction of "disturbed areas" under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act in Assam, Manipur and Nagaland with effect from April 1. The decision was based on the recommendations of a committee the Ministry had constituted on December 26, 2021, to study the possibility of withdrawing the AFSPA from areas in Nagaland in the wake of public anger against a botched ambush by an elite unit of the Army that led to the killing of 13 civilians at Oting in Mon district on December 4.

**How did the AFSPA come about?** The British colonial government had on August 15, 1942, promulgated the Armed Forces Special Powers Ordinance to suppress the Quit India movement. It was the foundation for four ordinances, including one for the "Assam disturbed areas" invoked in 1947 to deal with Partition-induced internal security challenges. The Armed Forces (Assam and Manipur) Special Powers Act, 1958, followed the Assam Disturbed Areas Act of 1955 to deal with the uprising in the

Naga Hills and adjoining areas. The Act was replaced by the AFSPA for wider application. A similar Act specific to Jammu and Kashmir was enacted in 1990.

**How is the AFSPA imposed?** Section 3 of the AFSPA empowers the Governor of a State and the administrator of a Union Territory (UT) to declare an area "disturbed" and issue an official notification in The Gazette of India to give the Centre the authority to deploy the "armed forces in aid of the civil power". A government considers an area "disturbed" if it perceives a threat to "public peace and tranquility, by reason of differences or disputes between members of different religious, racial, language or regional groups or castes or communities." The Act is said to give unbridled power to the armed forces and the Central Armed Police Forces deployed in "disturbed areas" to kill anyone acting in contravention of the law, arrest and search any premises without a warrant and protection from prosecution and legal suits without the Central government's sanction. It says any commissioned officer, warrant officer, non-commissioned officer or any other person of equivalent rank in the



armed forces can for the maintenance of public order "fire upon or otherwise use force" after giving such due warning as he may consider necessary. The situation is reviewed periodically for extension of the AFSPA. While the Assam and Manipur governments issue a notification in this regard, the Ministry of Home Affairs does it for Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh, where it is applicable in Tirap, Changlang, Longding and areas falling

under Namsai and Mahadevpur police stations bordering Assam. Once declared "disturbed", a region has to maintain the status quo for a minimum of three months according to The Disturbed Areas (Special Courts) Act, 1976.

**How is the AFSPA viewed?** The AFSPA has often been under the scanner for giving the armed forces personnel the "license to kill". Rights groups have panned it as a tool of State abuse, oppression and discrimination while the United Nations has often pointed out it has no place in Indian democracy. Various State governments have over the years yielded to public demand and changed political scenarios to revoke the AFSPA. Punjab was the first to do so in 1997 followed by Tripura in 2015. In April 2018, Meghalaya withdrew the Act from a 20-km area along the 885-km boundary with Assam. Manipur had in 2004 withdrawn AFSPA from seven Assembly constituencies straddling the State capital Imphal following unrest over the custodial death of a woman deemed an extremist.

**What triggered the recent decision?** Since assuming power in 2014, the

Narendra Modi government has been claiming to have tamed extremism in the Northeast, unlike the past governments, with a series of peace deals, including the Framework Agreement with the Isak-Muivah faction of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland. This, many pointed out, made the AFSPA redundant. But the trigger for the decision was the revival of the anti-AFSPA demand across the Northeast following the killing of 13 people in Nagaland's Oting village on December 4, 2021, in a botched ambush by the armed forces.

In Assam, the AFSPA has been removed completely from 23 districts and partially from the Cachar district.

The Act has been revoked from 15 police station areas in six districts of Manipur but continues in 82 police stations in 16 districts.

In Nagaland, the AFSPA has been removed from areas under 15 police stations in seven districts but remains active in areas under 57 police stations in 13 districts.

The AFSPA continues in Mon, the district that put the focus back on the "draconian law". This has not gone down well with the Naga Hoho, the apex body of various Naga tribes.

## THE GIST

■ On March 31, the Ministry of Home Affairs announced the reduction of "disturbed areas" under the AFSPA in Assam, Manipur and Nagaland with effect from April 1.

■ Section 3 of the AFSPA empowers State and UTs to declare an area "disturbed". The Act is said to give unbridled power to the armed forces in "disturbed areas" to kill anyone acting in contravention of the law and to arrest anyone without a warrant.

■ The decision was triggered after the revival of the anti-AFSPA demand following the killing of 13 people in Nagaland's Oting village on December 4, 2021, in a botched ambush by the armed forces.

General Studies Paper I	
A	History of Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of art forms, literature and architecture from ancient to modern times;
B	Modern Indian history from about the middle of the eighteenth century until the present-significant events, personalities, issues;
C	Freedom struggle-its various stages and important contributors / contributions from different parts of the country;
D	Post-independence consolidation and reorganization within the country;
E	History of the world will include events from 18 <sup>th</sup> century such as industrial revolution, world wars, re-drawing of national boundaries, colonization, decolonization,
F	Political philosophies like communism, capitalism, socialism etc.-their forms and effect on the society
G	Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India;
H	Effects of globalization on Indian society;
I	Role of women and women's organization;
J	Social empowerment, communalism, regionalism & secularism
K	Salient features of world's physical geography;
L	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;
M	Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone etc.
N	Distribution of key natural resources across the world (including South Asia and the Indian subcontinent);
O	Factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary, and tertiary sector industries in various parts of the world (including India);
P	Population and associated issues;
Q	Urbanization, their problems and their remedies
General Studies Paper II	
A	India and its neighbourhood- relations;
B	Important International institutions, agencies and fora- their structure, mandate;
C	Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests;
D	Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.
E	Indian Constitution, historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure;
F	Comparison of the Indian Constitutional scheme with other countries;
G	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; Inclusive growth and issues arising from it;
H	Parliament and State Legislatures - structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers & privileges and issues arising out of these;
I	Structure, organization and functioning of the executive and the judiciary, Ministries and Departments;

J	Separation of powers between various organs dispute redressal mechanisms and institutions;
K	Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional bodies;
L	Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies;
M	Mechanisms, laws, institutions and bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections;
N	Salient features of the Representation of People's Act;
O	Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance- applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential;
P	Citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures;
Q	Issues relating to poverty and hunger,
R	Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States, Performance of these schemes;
S	Issues relating to development and management of social sector / services relating to education and human resources;
T	Issues relating to development and management of social sector / services relating to health
General Studies Paper III	
A	Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization of resources, growth, development and employment;
B	Effects of liberalization on the economy, changes in industrial policy and their effects on industrial growth;
C	Inclusive growth and issues arising from it;
D	Infrastructure Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc. Government budgeting;
E	Land reforms in India
F	Major crops, cropping patterns in various parts of the country, different types of irrigation and irrigation systems;
G	Storage, transport and marketing of agricultural produce and issues and related constraints;
H	e-technology in the aid of farmers; Technology Missions; Economics of Animal-Rearing.
I	Issues of buffer stocks and food security, Public Distribution System- objectives, functioning, limitations, revamping;
J	Food processing and related industries in India – scope and significance, location, upstream and downstream requirements, supply chain management;
K	Issues related to direct and indirect farm subsidies and minimum support prices
L	Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nano-technology, bio-technology;
M	Indigenization of technology and developing new technology;
N	Developments and their applications and effects in everyday life;
O	Issues relating to intellectual property rights
P	Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment
Q	Disaster and disaster management
R	Challenges to internal security through communication networks, role of media and social networking sites in internal security challenges, basics of cyber security;
S	Money-laundering and its prevention;

T	Various forces and their mandate;
U	Security challenges and their management in border areas;
V	Linkages of organized crime with terrorism;
W	Role of external state and non-state actors in creating challenges to internal security;
X	Linkages between development and spread of extremism.
<b>General Studies Paper IV</b>	
A	Ethics and Human Interface: Essence, determinants and consequences of Ethics in human actions;
B	Dimensions of ethics;
C	Ethics in private and public relationships. Human Values - lessons from the lives and teachings of great leaders, reformers and administrators;
D	Role of family, society and educational institutions in inculcating values.
E	Attitude: Content, structure, function; its influence and relation with thought and behaviour;
F	Moral and political attitudes;
G	Social influence and persuasion.
H	Aptitude and foundational values for Civil Service , integrity, impartiality and non-partisanship, objectivity, dedication to public service, empathy, tolerance and compassion towards the weaker sections.
I	Emotional intelligence-concepts, and their utilities and application in administration and governance.
J	Contributions of moral thinkers and philosophers from India and world.
K	Public/Civil service values and Ethics in Public administration: Status and problems;
L	Ethical concerns and dilemmas in government and private institutions;
M	Laws, rules, regulations and conscience as
N	sources of ethical guidance;
O	Accountability and ethical governance; strengthening of ethical and moral values in governance; ethical issues in international relations and funding;
P	Corporate governance.
Q	Probity in Governance: Concept of public service;
R	Philosophical basis of governance and probity;
S	Information sharing and transparency in government, Right to Information, Codes of Ethics, Codes of Conduct, Citizen's Charters, Work culture, Quality of service delivery, Utilization of public funds, challenges of corruption.
T	Case Studies on above issues.