



Opposition wants HC judge remove for 'hate speech'

POLITY AND GOVERNANCE



A six-member delegation of Opposition MPs in Rajya Sabha handed over a motion seeking impeachment of Allahabad High Court judge Shekhar Kumar Yadav, to secretary general of the Upper House on Friday, accusing him of engaging in "hate speech" and "incitement to communal disharmony" in violation of the Constitution. The delegation led by independent MP Kapil Sibal included Congress's Vivek Tankha and Digvijay Singh, CPI(M)'s John Brittas, RJD's Manoj K. Jha and Trinamool Congress's Saket Gokhale. The motion has been signed by 55 Opposition MPs across parties

About Hate Speech

- Hate speech covers many forms of expressions which
- advocate, incite, promote or justify hatred, violence and discrimination against a person or group of persons for a variety of reasons.
- It poses grave dangers for the cohesion of a democratic society, the protection of human rights and the rule of law.
- If left unaddressed, it can lead to acts of violence and conflict on a wider scale.
- In this sense hate speech is an extreme form of intolerance which contributes to hate crime.

Legal Provisions of Hate Speech

Hate speech has not been defined in any law in India.

However, legal provisions in certain legislations prohibit select forms of speech as an exception to freedom of speech.

Indian Penal Code (IPC) Provisions –

Under Section 153A of IPC, 'promotion of enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc., and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony', is an offence punishable with three years' imprisonment.

Section 505 of IPC makes it an offence to making "statements conducing to public mischief".

Representation of the People Act, 1951 –

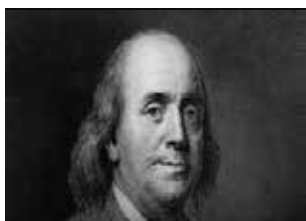
Section 8 disqualifies a person from contesting election if he is convicted for indulging in acts amounting to illegitimate use of freedom of speech and expression.

Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 –

Section 7 penalizes incitement to, and encouragement of untouchability through words, either spoken or written, or by signs or by visible representations or otherwise.

Religious Institutions (Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1988 –

Section 3(g) prohibits religious institution or its manager to allow the use of any premises belonging to, or under the control of, the institution for promoting or attempting to promote disharmony, feelings of enmity, hatred, ill-will between different religious, racial, language or regional groups or castes or communities.



"If you invest more in your education, then you are likely to get more interest in it."

–Benjamin Franklin

ED accuses T.N. Minister of derailing trial in 'scam' case

POLITY AND GOVERNANCE



The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) on Friday in the Supreme Court accused Tamil Nadu Minister V. Senthilbalaji, who was released on bail by the apex court on September 26 in a money laundering case linked to a cash-for-jobs 'scam', of "derailing" the trial.

About Enforcement Directorate

- The Directorate of Enforcement or Enforcement Directorate (ED) is a domestic law enforcement agency and economic intelligence agency.
- It is responsible for enforcing economic laws and fighting economic crimes in India.
- The origin of the ED goes back to May 1956, when an "enforcement unit" was formed, for handling Exchange Control Laws violations under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1947.
- In 1957, the unit was renamed as the Enforcement Directorate.

- Nodal Ministry: Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance

Objectives of the ED

- The prime objective of the Enforcement Directorate is the enforcement of three key Acts of the Government of India namely:
 - Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA),
 - Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA), and
 - Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018 (FEOA).

Painting on 1971 surrender replaced in Army chief's lounge, veterans miffed

INTERNAL SECURITY



A new painting adorning the Army chief's lounge, where he greets visiting dignitaries, has miffed the veteran community. The painting replaced the one showing Pakistan's surrender during the 1971 Bangladesh war.

India-Pakistan War 1971: Timeline

- Political Imbalance: In the 1950s the centralised Pakistani state was run undemocratically by a military-bureaucratic oligarchy dominated by West Pakistan. Under this system, Bengalis had no political say. But West Pakistan dominance was challenged in 1970 during general elections.
- Landslide Victory of Awami League: East Pakistan's Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's Awami League had a clear overall majority, enough to become the prime minister. However, West Pakistan was not willing to let a leader

from its eastern provincial wing rule the country.

- Cultural Differences: The then West Pakistan (present Pakistan), under the leadership of Yahya Khan, started a brutal assault on the people of East Pakistan (present Bangladesh) who were demanding freedom because of the language and cultural differences between the two regions. After political negotiations failed, the Pakistani army under General Yahya Khan decided to start the crackdown.
- Operation Searchlight: West Pakistan kicked in operation searchlight across the whole of East Pakistan on March 26, 1971. This resulted in millions of Bangladeshis fleeing to India, mainly West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura. West Bengal, in particular, was massively burdened by the onrush of the refugees and the state appealed to the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and her government for assistance for food and shelter.
- Indo-Bangla Cooperation: With the subsequent bravery of the Indian Army coupled with the spirited fight put up by Mukti Bahini — the Bangladeshi guerilla resistance movement consisting of the Bangladeshi military, paramilitary and civilians — defeated the Pakistani forces.

- **Defeat of Pakistani Military:** On December 16, 1971, Lt Gen Amir Abdullah Khan Niazi, the Chief Martial Law Administrator of East Pakistan and Commander of Pakistan Army forces located in East Pakistan signed the Instrument of Surrender.

SPG moves SC against order on vehicle registration

INTERNAL SECURITY

The Special Protection Group (SPG), an elite force which protects the Prime Minister, approached the Supreme Court on Friday against a National Green Tribunal (NGT) order refusing to extend the period of registration of three specialised armoured vehicles by another five years.



The Special Protection Group (SPG):

- It is an elite force, specifically raised for the protection of the country's Prime Minister, former PMs and their immediate family.
- The force is currently 3,000 strong (from CRPF, BSF and other Central and State forces) and it was started in 1985 in the wake of the killing of PM Indira Gandhi in 1984.

What is unique about the SPG?

- The SPG is highly trained in physical efficiency, marksmanship, combat and proximate protection tactics and is assisted by all central and state agencies to ensure fool proof security.
- SPG Special Agents assigned to the PM security wear black,

Western-style formal business suits (safari suits on occasions), with sunglasses, and carry a two-way encrypted communication earpiece, and concealed handguns.

- The SPG also has special operations commandos who carry ultra-modern assault rifles and wear dark-visor sunglasses with inbuilt communication earpieces, bulletproof vests, gloves and elbow/knee pads.

The SPG Act 1988:

- The Act provides for the constitution and regulation of the SPG to provide security to -
- The PM (both in India and abroad), as well as the PM's immediate family members.
- Former PMs, and their immediate family members residing with them at their official residence.
- It provides security to former PMs and their immediate family members for a period of 1 year from the date on which they cease to hold the office.
- Beyond this period, the SPG security is provided based on the level of threat (must emanate from a military or terrorist organisation and be of a grave and continuing nature) as decided by the central government.

Now, CCI raps table tennis body's unfair practices

ECONOMY



Fair trade watchdog Competition Commission of India (CCI) has directed the Table Tennis Federation of India (TFFI) and its affiliate bodies to cease and desist from indulging in anti-competitive practices. With the federation taking corrective measures to address concerns of unfair practices, the regulator decided not to impose any monetary penalties on the body and its affiliates, a release said on Friday.

What is Competition Commission of India (CCI)?

- It is the chief national competition regulator in India
- Established - 2003
- Ministry- Ministry of Corporate Affairs
- Statutory body- CCI has been established to enforce the competition

law under Competition Act 2002.

- Aim- To establish a competitive environment in the Indian economy by engaging with all stakeholders, the government, and international jurisdiction
- Raghavan committee- Based on the recommendations the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969 (MRTP Act) was repealed and replaced by the Competition Act, 2002.
- Competition (Amendment) Act 2009- The Competition Appellate Tribunal have been established.
- Competition Appellate Tribunal- It is the judicial body that hears and decides appeals against the orders of the CCI.
- Appellate mechanism- The government of India replaced Competition Appellate Tribunal (COMPAT) with the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) in 2017.
- Composition- CCI consists of a Chairperson and not more than 6 Members.
- Appointment- It is made by the Central Government.

Israel orders troops to 'prepare to remain' in Syria buffer zone

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz has ordered the military to "prepare to remain" throughout the winter in the UN-patrolled buffer zone that is supposed to separate Israeli and Syrian forces on the Golan Heights.

What is the Timeline of the Conflict between Israel and Syria?

Six-Day War in 1967:

The conflict between Israel and Syria goes back to the Six-Day War in 1967, in which Israel seized the Golan Heights from Syria, which it has occupied since then.

The fertile plateau of the Golan Heights overlooks both Israel and Syria, offering a commanding military vantage.

In 1973, Syrian forces made an unsuccessful bid to

recapture the area during the Yom Kippur War. Although a ceasefire agreement was reached in 1974, most of the Golan Heights remains under Israeli control.

Yom Kippur War, also called the October War was fourth of the Arab-Israeli wars, which was initiated by Egypt and Syria on the Jewish holy day of Yom Kippur.

The war eventually drew both the US and the erstwhile USSR into indirect confrontation in defense of their respective allies.

Israel's Golan Heights Law:

In 1981, Israel passed the Golan Heights Law, extending its "laws, jurisdiction and administration" to the area and effectively annexing it.

A United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolution was passed declaring Israel's imposition of law in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights "null and void and without international legal effect".

Syrian Civil War:

Israel and Syria's long-standing conflict escalated after the start of the Syrian civil war in 2011.

Iran, which denies Israel's right to exist, emerged as a key player in the conflict and has been providing weapons, money, and fighters to support the Syrian President's regime. As a result, rockets sometimes land in Israel as "errant fire" during the fighting in Syria.



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INDIA'S TOP MOST CIVIL SERVANTS FOR COACHING

Iran agrees to more monitoring at Fordo enrichment plant, says IAEA

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



Iran has agreed to increased monitoring by the UN nuclear watchdog at its Fordo enrichment plant, following its plans to ramp up production of highly enriched uranium at the site, the IAEA said on Friday. Iran insists on its right to nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and has denied it is seeking a weapons capability.

About IAEA

It is widely known as the world's "Atoms for Peace and Development" organization within the United Nations family.

Mandate: It is the world's central intergovernmental forum for scientific and technical co-operation in the nuclear field. It works for the safe, secure and peaceful uses of nuclear

science and technology.

History: Though established as an autonomous organisation, independently of the United Nations through its own international treaty, the IAEA Statute, the IAEA reports to both the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council.

Headquarters: Vienna, Austria.

Functions:

- The Agency works with its Member States and multiple partners worldwide to promote the safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear technologies.
- It applies nuclear safeguards – consisting of monitoring, inspection, information analysis, and other activities – to verify that nuclear activities remain peaceful and detect and deter their diversion, including to weapons-related purposes.
- In particular, the IAEA implements comprehensive safeguards agreements mandated by the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which serve as a first line of defense against nuclear weapons proliferation.
- IAEA assists its Member States and promotes the exchange of scientific and technical information between them.
- IAEA enhances national, regional, and international capacities to respond to nuclear and radiological incidents, which is essential to minimizing their impact.



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