



Delimitation: DMK MPs, Ministers to visit seven States to muster support

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

As part of its ongoing efforts to build a momentum against a likely population based delimitation exercise, the ruling DMK in Tamil Nadu has decided to send Ministers and MPs to seven States to muster support from other political parties for its efforts. Chief Minister M.K. Stalin had written to the Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Telangana, Odisha, West Bengal, and Punjab and leaders of political parties that delimitation based on the census may hurt these States in safeguarding their representation in the Lok Sabha.

Delimitation, which redraws constituency boundaries, is expected after the delayed Census and was initially set for 2026. In Independent India's history, delimitation has taken place four times – 1952, 1963, 1973 and 2002.



Need for Delimitation

Delimitation is a constitutional mandate carried out after each Census to readjust the number of seats in Parliament and state Assemblies and redefine constituency boundaries.

Article 82 of the Constitution mandates that after each Census, the allocation of Lok Sabha seats must be adjusted based on population changes.

However, Article 81 limits the total number of Lok Sabha members to 550, with 530 from states and 20 from Union Territories.

It also requires that the ratio of seats to the population in each state be as uniform as possible, ensuring that

constituencies across the country have roughly equal populations.

The goal is to ensure equal representation by maintaining similar population sizes across constituencies.

History of Delimitation in India

- Pre-1976: After the Censuses of 1951, 1961, and 1971, seats in Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, and state Assemblies were redistributed.
- 42nd Amendment (1976): During the Emergency, Parliament froze the total number of seats until the 2001 Census to prevent states with higher population growth from losing representation while implementing family planning measures.
- 2001 Delimitation: While constituency boundaries were redrawn, the number of seats remained unchanged due to opposition from southern states.

The
More
You Learn,
The
More
You Earn



www.vedhikiasacademy.org

Madhav National Park becomes India's 58th Tiger Reserve

ECOLOGY

The Centre declared the Madhav National Park in Madhya Pradesh as the country's 58th tiger reserve on Sunday, with Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav making the announcement. The newly added Tiger Reserve is also the ninth from the State to get the recognition



What is Project Tiger?

- It is a tiger conservation programme (a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of the MoEF&CC) launched in 1973 by the Government of India and administered by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).
- It aims at
 - Ensuring a viable population of the Bengal tiger ('endangered') in its natural habitats,
 - Protecting it from extinction,
 - Preserving areas of biological importance as a natural heritage that represent the diversity of ecosystems across the tiger's range in the country.

Developments After the Launch of the Project Tiger

- In 2005, the then PM appointed a 5-member 'Tiger Task Force' after a public outcry that India's tigers existed only on paper and not in the forests of Sariska in Rajasthan.
 - In Sariska, the government had spent Rs 2 crore per tiger in 2002-2003 for their upkeep and safety, versus Rs 24 lakh per tiger elsewhere.
- The Task Force found that the increasing conflict between the forest/wildlife bureaucracy and those who coexist with the tigers was a recipe for disaster.
- So, the Parliament amended WFLPA in 2006 to create the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) and a tiger conservation plan.
 - From an administrative category arbitrarily constituted and administered by the forest bureaucracy, Tiger Reserves became a statutory category in 2006.
- Later, the government also enacted the Forest Rights Act (FRA) 2006, which recognised all customary and traditional forest rights - individual as well as community - on all forest land, including in Tiger Reserves.
 - Under the Act, the habitation-level Gram Sabha was to democratically determine and demarcate the forest rights that FRA recognised and vested in them.
 - As a result, FRA secured the livelihoods of at least 20 crore Indians – about half of them tribals – in 1.79 lakh villages.
 - Importantly, FRA introduced a 'Critical Wildlife Habitat' (CWH), akin to the CTH, with one difference: once a CWH had been notified, it couldn't be diverted for non-forestry purposes.

Centre awaits prospective names from High Courts to be appointed ad hoc judges

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

Over a month after the Supreme Court cleared the decks to appoint ad hoc judges in High Courts to deal with the rising pendency of cases, the government is yet to receive proposals from respective High Courts naming candidates. Considering a backlog of over 18 lakh criminal cases, the Supreme Court on January 30 allowed the High Courts to appoint ad hoc judges, not exceeding 10% of the court's total sanctioned strength. Article 224A of the Constitution allows the appointment of retired judges as ad hoc judges in High Courts to help deal with pendency.

Guidelines for Appointment

- A special bench comprising Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna and Justices BR Gavai and Surya Kant ruled that:
 - Chief Justices of High Courts can recommend retired judges for appointment.

- Each High Court may appoint 2 to 5 ad-hoc judges, not exceeding 10% of its sanctioned strength.

Modification of Earlier Conditions

- The Supreme Court modified and kept in abeyance certain conditions set in its April 2021 ruling by then CJI SA Bobde, including:
 - The earlier requirement that vacancies should not exceed 20% of sanctioned strength before appointing ad-hoc judges.
 - The restriction that ad-hoc judges could sit separately on benches to deal with cases.

No Fixed Timeline for Appointments

- The Supreme Court declined a request to set a fixed timeline for appointing ad-hoc judges but emphasized that the process should begin immediately.

Addressing the Pendency Crisis

- The ruling was prompted by the acute backlog of cases.
 - The High Courts have over 60 lakh cases pending, of which nearly 20 lakh are criminal appeals.
- The 80% working strength condition from the 2021 ruling had prevented ad-hoc appointments in several High Courts, such as Allahabad HC (80 judges out of 160 sanctioned strength).

Ethnic group renews ST status call before Shah's visit to Assam

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

Ahead of Home Minister Amit Shah's three-day visit to Assam on March 14, the Koch-Rajbongshis have refreshed their demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status. One of the largest communities living mostly in areas straddling western Assam and northern West Bengal, the Koch-Rajbongshis are one of six ethnic groups seeking ST status for decades. The others are Adivasis, Ahoms, Chutias, Matakas, and Morans.

What is the Status of Scheduled Tribes in India?

About:

As per Census-1931, Schedule tribes are termed as "backward tribes" living in the "Excluded" and "Partially Excluded" areas. The Government of India Act of 1935 called for the first time for representatives of "backward tribes" in provincial assemblies.

The Constitution does not define the criteria for recognition of Scheduled Tribes and hence the definition contained in 1931 Census was used in the initial years after independence.

However, Article 366(25) of the Constitution only provides process to define Scheduled Tribes: "Scheduled Tribes means such tribes or tribal communities or parts of or groups within such tribes or tribal communities as are deemed under Article 342 to be Scheduled Tribes for the purposes of this Constitution."

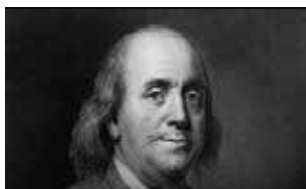
342(1): The President may with respect to any State or Union Territory, and where it is a State, after consultation with the Governor, by a public notification, specify the tribes or tribal communities or part of or groups within tribes or tribal communities as Scheduled Tribe in relation to that State or Union Territory.

The Fifth Schedule of the Constitution lays out provision for Administration and Control of Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes in states other than Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.



START YOUR JOURNEY WITH THE
BEST

INDIA'S TOP MOST CIVIL SERVANTS FOR COACHING



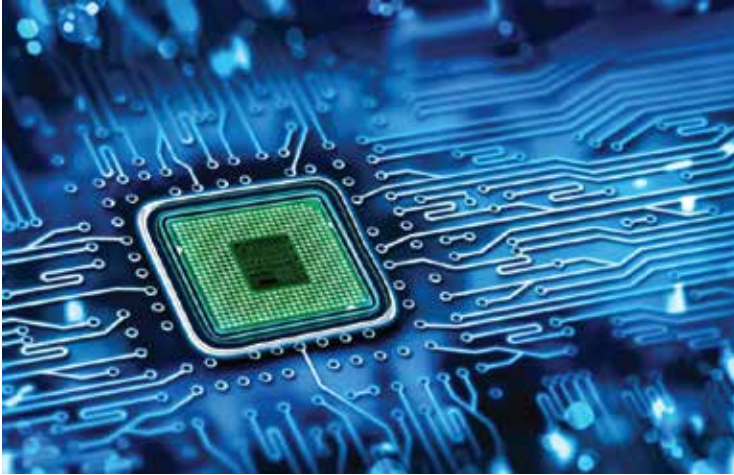
"If you invest more in your education, then you are likely to get more interest in it."

—Benjamin Franklin

As imports of semiconductor chips rise, India eyes local production

ECONOMICS & DEVELOPMENT

the World Economic Forum in January, Minister of Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw announced that India's first domestically manufactured semiconductor chip will be rolled out this year. Through domestic production, India aims to reduce its increasing import dependency. Five manufacturing facilities are under construction for the manufacturing and assembly of semiconductor chips, backed by the Semicon India Programme. These include the Tata Semiconductor Assembly and Test facility in Morigaon and the Dholera semiconductor fabrication facility (fab) by Tata Electronics in collaboration with the Taiwan-based Powerchip Semiconductor Manufacturing Corporation.



What are semiconductors? What is their importance?

Semiconductors- Semiconductors are materials which have a conductivity between conductors and insulators. They can either be pure elements, like silicon or germanium or compounds, like gallium, arsenide, or cadmium selenide.

Properties- Semiconductors have less resistivity than insulators and more than conductors. The resistance of the semiconductor decreases with an increase in temperature and vice versa.

Importance of Semiconductor chips

1. Heart and brain of modern technology products- Semiconductor chips are the heart and brain of all modern electronics

and communications technology products, contemporary automobiles, household gadgets such as refrigerators, and essential medical devices such as ECG machines.

2. Propeller of emerging technologies- The development of emerging technologies like AI, 5G, or driverless cars is dependent upon a fast and cheap semiconductor industry.

3. Most traded products after petroleum- Semiconductors are globally the most-traded products after petroleum and cars, with an annual turnover of \$500 billion.

4. Aiding the further development of electronic devices- Semiconductors make the devices more compact, less expensive, and more powerful. For ex- Semiconductor chips have enhanced the features of smartphones with powerful processing.

5. Transformative potential- Semiconductors continue to enable the world's greatest breakthroughs and transformation in industries, ranging from aerospace and consumer electronics to energy and medicine.



VEDHIK
IAS ACADEMY
The New Learning Mantra

**Comprehensive Coaching For
568 Government Jobs**

www.vedhikiasacademy.org

China military warns of 'tightening noose' around Taiwan

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

China's military vowed on Sunday to tighten its "noose" around Taiwan if separatism on the island escalated, warning independence proponents to step back from the "precipice". Beijing considers the self-ruled island of Taiwan to be part of its territory and has not ruled out using military force to claim it.



China – Taiwan Dispute Background

The island seems to have first appeared in Chinese records in AD239, when an emperor sent an expeditionary force to explore the area. This evidence is used by Beijing to back its territorial claim. After a relatively brief spell as a Dutch colony (1624-1661), Taiwan was administered by China's Qing dynasty from 1683 to 1895. In 1895, Japan won the First Sino-Japanese War, and the Qing government had to cede Taiwan to Japan. After World War Two, Japan surrendered and relinquished control of territory.

Civil War

When Japan surrendered, The Chinese Nationalist Party (also known as the Kuomintang, KMT) began ruling Taiwan with the consent of its allies, the US and UK.

Chiang Kai-shek was the ruler of this party.

However, almost immediately following Japan's surrender, the Chinese Civil War broke out between the KMT and the Chinese Communist Party (CPC).

Chiang and the remnants of his Kuomintang government fled to Taiwan in 1949.

Disagreement and confusion about Taiwan

China regards Taiwan as a breakaway province which it has vowed to retake, by force if necessary.

China has repeatedly insisted that Taiwan should be called Chinese Taipei, in efforts to prevent international recognition of Taiwan as a country.

But Taiwan's leaders argue that it is a sovereign state. Taiwan continues to participate in international events and dialogues separately.

It has its own constitution, democratically-elected leaders, and about 300,000 active troops in its armed forces.



**START YOUR
JOURNEY
WITH THE
BEST**

COME JOIN WITH US





VEDHIK

IAS ACADEMY

The New Learning Mantra

START YOUR JOURNEY WITH THE BEST

**INDIA'S
TOP MOST
CIVIL SERVANTS
FOR COACHING**

www.vedhikiasacademy.org

Head Office:

Vedhik IAS Academy
Mercy Estate,
MG Road, Ravipuram,
Ernakulam-682 015,

Corporate office:

Vedhik IAS Academy
Samkalp Bhawan, Plot No.15,
Sector 4, Rama Krishna Puram,
New Delhi, Delhi-110022

Regional office

Vedhik IAS Academy
202, Raheja Chambers, 12,
Museum Road. Bangalore -
560001. Karnataka, India.

GCC Office:

Bobscoedu,

Bobsco Educational Solutions WLL
Office No: 201, Floor: 2
AL RAYA SHOPPING CENTRE WLL
Bldg. 517, Road 2408, Area 324,
Al Fateh, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain
www.bobscoedu.com