

SosinClasses

INSTITUTE FOR IAS EXAMINATION

(IAS, IFS, IPS, IRS, IRMS, IFoS & Other Civil Services)

Ashok Nagar X Road, Hyderabad

+91-90000 36699 / 9000066690

DAILY NEWS DIARY

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FOR PRELIMS AND MAINS

Warm Greetings.

- DnD aims to provide every day news analysis in sync with the UPSC pattern.
- It is targeted at UPSC – Prelims & Mains.
- Daily articles are provided in the form of Question and Answers
- To have a bank of mains questions.
- And interesting to read.
- Providing precise information that can be carried straight to the exam, rather than over dumping.

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GS 2

❖ POLITY & GOVERNANCE

Q) Discuss the significance of the new boundaries formation in Jammu and Kashmir in the first ever Assembly election in the Union Territory.

Context:

The Jammu and Kashmir Delimitation Commission has notified the new boundaries, names and number of Assembly constituencies in Jammu and Kashmir, paving the way for the first-ever Assembly election in the Union Territory.

Delimitation:

- Delimitation is the act of redrawing boundaries of an Assembly or Lok Sabha seat to represent changes in population over time.
- The Delimitation Commission is appointed by the President of India and works in collaboration with the Election Commission of India.
- This exercise is carried out by a Delimitation Commission, whose orders have the force of law and cannot be questioned before any court.
- The objective is to redraw boundaries (based on the data of the last Census) in a way so that the population of all seats, as far as practicable, be the same throughout the State.
- Aside from changing the limits of a constituency, the process may result in a change in the number of seats in a state.

How is it carried out?

- Under Article 82, the Parliament enacts a Delimitation Act after every Census.
- Article 170 provides that States also get divided into territorial constituencies as per Delimitation Act after every Census.
- Once the Act is in force, the Union government sets up a Delimitation Commission.
- The first delimitation exercise was carried out by the President (with the help of the Election Commission) in 1950-51.
- The Delimitation Commission Act was enacted in 1952.
- Delimitation Commissions have been set up four times — 1952, 1963, 1973 and 2002 under the Acts of 1952, 1962, 1972 and 2002.
- There was no delimitation after the 1981 and 1991 Censuses.

Delimitation in J&K:

1. Assembly seats in J&K were delimited in 1963, 1973 and 1995.
2. Prior to August 5, 2019, carving out of J&K's Assembly seats was carried out under the J&K Constitution and Jammu and Kashmir Representation of the People Act, 1957.
3. Until then, the delimitation of Lok Sabha seats in J&K was governed by the Constitution of India.
4. However, the delimitation of the state's Assembly was governed by the J&K Constitution and J&K Representation of the People Act, 1957.

5. There was no census in the state in 1991 and hence no Delimitation Commission was set up by the state until 2001 census.

Present status:

- After the abrogation of J&K's special status in 2019, the delimitation of Lok Sabha and Assembly seats in the newly-created UT would be as per the provisions of the Indian Constitution.
- On March 6, 2020, the government set up the Delimitation Commission, headed by retired Supreme Court judge Ranjana Prakash Desai, which was tasked with winding up delimitation in J&K in a year.
- As per the J&K Reorganization Bill, the number of Assembly seats in J&K would increase from 107 to 114, which is expected to benefit the Jammu region.

Next step: Assembly polls

- ✓ With the final order now notified, all eyes will be on the EC and the Union government regarding the timing of Assembly elections.
- ✓ Though mainstream parties in the Valley have criticised the report, it is likely that this will make space for political engagement in the UT.

Changes:

- ASSEMBLY: The Commission has increased seven Assembly seats — six in Jammu (now 43 seats) and one in Kashmir (now 47). It has also made massive changes in the structure of the existing Assembly seats.
- LOK SABHA: The Commission has redrawn the boundaries of Anantnag and Jammu seats. Jammu's Pir Panjal region, comprising Poonch and Rajouri districts and formerly part of Jammu parliamentary seat, has now been added to Anantnag seat in Kashmir. Also, a Shia-dominated region of Srinagar parliamentary constituency has been transferred to Baramulla constituency, also in the Valley.
- KASHMIRI PANDITS: The Commission has recommended provision of at least two members from the community of Kashmiri Migrants (Kashmiri Hindus) in the Legislative Assembly.
- Seats for POK migrants: It has also recommended that Centre should consider giving representation in the J&K Legislative Assembly to the displaced persons from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, who migrated to Jammu after Partition.

Why has the exercise been controversial?

- ✓ Jammu vs. Kashmir: Concerns had been expressed over how the delimitation process may end up favoring the Jammu region over Kashmir in terms of the seats.
- ✓ Under-representation of Ladakh: Arguments have been made on how Ladakh has been underrepresented, with demands for statehood/sixth schedule.
- ✓ Non-proportionate reservations: It is argued that seats for STs should've been divided in both Jammu province & Kashmir province, as the ST population is almost equal.
- ✓ Frozen till 2026: Constituency boundaries are being redrawn only in J&K when delimitation for the rest of the country has been frozen until 2026. The last delimitation exercise in J&K was carried out in 1995.

- ✓ Issue over reorganization: Again, political parties in Jammu and Kashmir have been pointing out that the Delimitation Commission is mandated by the Reorganisation Act, which is sub judice.

Source: The Hindu

Q) Analyse the progress and challenges in the Naga peace process.

Context:

The annual report of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) released a report on insurgency-related incidents in Nagaland. It recently said that the Isak-Muivah faction of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN-IM) was involved in 44% of insurgency-related incidents in 2020.

The Union government had, in 2015, signed a framework agreement with the NSCN-IM to find a solution to the Naga political issue. The negotiations are yet to be concluded.

END OF LONGEST INSURGENCY?

<p>1953 Centre bans Naga National Council headed by Phizo</p> <p>1956 NNC establishes Naga 'federal govt'</p> <p>1975 Isaac Chishi Swu and Muivah reject Shillong Accord, form National Socialist Council of Nagaland in Jan 1980</p> <p>1988 NSCN splits into Isaac-Muivah (IM) & Khaplang factions. NSCN-IM banned in 1990</p>	 <p>PM Narendra Modi with NSCN (IM)'s Thuingaleng Muivah</p> <p>1997 NSCN-IM signs ceasefire pact with Centre</p> <p>2015 Party signs peace accord with Modi govt</p>
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WHAT THE PACT MAY ACHIEVE

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Silence India's longest running insurgency ➤ Open up Northeast, particularly Nagaland and Manipur, to development and investments ➤ Isolate NSCN (K), which is active in Myanmar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Help curb extortion, kidnapping and gun-running racket being fuelled by China ➤ Improve ties with neighbour Myanmar ➤ Boost India's Act East policy that had stalled due to the insurgency
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Nagas:

The term Naga was created by the British for administrative convenience to refer to a group of tribes with similar origins but distinct cultures, dialects, and customs. The Naga tribes are accumulated in Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, and Myanmar.

Naga Insurgency:

- Residing in the Naga hills of Assam during the advent of the British and the annexation of Assam in 1820, the Nagas did not consider themselves a part of British India.
- The British adopted a way of governance over the Nagas that involved keeping in place their traditional ways of life, customs, and laws while putting British administrators at the top.
- At the time of the withdrawal of the British, insecurity grew among the Naga tribes about the future of their cultural autonomy after India's independence.
- This was accompanied by the fear of the entry of "plains people" or "outsiders" into their territory.

Collective actions of the Nagas:

1. Above mentioned factors gave rise to the formation of the Naga Hills District Tribal Council in 1945, which was renamed the Naga National Council (NNC) in 1946.
2. Amid uncertainties over the post-independence future of the Nagas, a section of the NNC, led by Naga leader A.Z. Phizo declared the independence of the Nagas on August 14, 1947.
3. The underground insurgency began in the early 1950s when Mr. Phizo founded the Naga Federal Government (NFG) and its armed wing, the Naga Federal Army (NFA).

Outcome of the then insurgency:

- The Central Government sent the armed forces into Naga areas to curb the insurgency.
- It imposed the contentious Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) which is still in place in parts of Nagaland.
- The Nagas, led by Mr. Phizo, demanding an independent state outside of India, boycotted the 1952 and 1957 general elections and armed clashes grew.
- Unlike other groups in the north east which were accepting some form of autonomy under the Constitution, Nagas rejected this in favour of sovereignty.

Negotiations with the govt:

- ✓ Some leaders among the NNC formed their own group to hold discussions with the government, leading to the formation of the State of Nagaland in 1963.
- ✓ This, however, did not satisfy many in the NNC and NFG, who, following years of negotiations with the government, eventually signed the Shillong Accord of 1975, agreeing to surrender arms and accept the Constitution.

NSCN:

- This signing of the Shillong Accord was not agreeable with many top leaders of the NNC and those operating from Myanmar.
- According to them, the agreement did not address the issue of Naga sovereignty and coerced them to accept the Constitution.
- Three NNC rebel leaders, formed the National Socialist Council Of Nagaland (NSCN) to continue the armed movement for 'independence'.

Split in NSCN:

- In 1988, after years of infighting and violent clashes along tribal lines and over the main cause of the movement, the NSCN split into two factions.
- One, led by Mr. Muiwah and Swu called the NSCN-IM and the other, led by Mr. Khaplang called the NSCN-K.
- The NSCN-IM demanded and continues to demand for 'Greater Nagaland' or Nagalim.
- It wants to extend Nagaland's borders by including Naga-dominated areas in the neighbouring States of Assam, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh.
- The NSCN-IM has now grown to become the most powerful insurgent group, also playing a role in the creation of smaller groups in other States.

Where do the peace talks stand now?

- In 1997, the Government of India got the NSCN-IM to sign a ceasefire agreement to begin the holding of talks with the aim of signing a Naga Peace Accord.
- After this ceasefire, there have been over a hundred rounds of talks spanning over 24 years between the Centre and the insurgent group, while a solution is still awaited.

Issues of contention:

- Independence celebration: Nagas across Nagaland, Manipur, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh celebrate August 14 as Independence Day. According to Naga historians, Gandhi agreed that the Nagas would celebrate their independence a day ahead of India, on August 14, 1947.
- Naga flag: In the Naga narrative, passed down generations by word of mouth, the Naga flag was not designed by a mortal but is of divine origin.
- Secessionist tendencies: A large section of the Nagas still holds dear the idea of the Naga identity and their tribal roots.

Way ahead

- ✓ The Naga struggle claimed thousands of lives over decades and devastated countless homes, all over the idea of a sovereign Naga nation.
- ✓ If the NSCN (I-M) accedes to economic and political packages alone, without a separate flag and constitution, it remains to be seen whether it will be seen as a solution, or as a defeat.

Source: The Hindu

GS 3**❖ SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

Q) Discuss the significance of the Virtual Private Network (VPN) providers in storing the user data.

Context:

Recently, the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (Cert-In) issued new directives that require Virtual Private Network (VPN) providers to store user data for five years.

VPN:

- VPN describes the opportunity to establish a protected network connection when using public networks.
- It encrypts internet traffic and disguise a user's online identity.
- This makes it more difficult for third parties to track your activities online and steal data.
- The encryption takes place in real time.

How does a VPN work?

- A VPN hides your IP address by letting the network redirect it through a specially configured remote server run by a VPN host.
- This means that if you surf online with a VPN, the VPN server becomes the source of your data.
- This means your Internet Service Provider (ISP) and other third parties cannot see which websites you visit or what data you send and receive online.
- A VPN works like a filter that turns all your data into "gibberish". Even if someone were to get their hands on your data, it would be useless.

VPN usage:

- Secure encryption: A VPN connection disguises your data traffic online and protects it from external access. Unencrypted data can be viewed by anyone who has network access and wants to see it. With a VPN, hackers and cyber criminals can't decipher this data.
- Disguising whereabouts: VPN servers essentially act as your proxies on the internet. Because the demographic location data comes from a server in another country, your actual location cannot be determined.
- Data privacy is held: Most VPN services do not store logs of your activities. Some providers, on the other hand, record your behaviour, but do not pass this information on to third parties. This means that any potential record of your user behaviour remains permanently hidden.
- Access to regional content: Regional web content is not always accessible from everywhere. Services and websites often contain content that can only be accessed from certain parts of the world.
- Secure data transfer: If you work remotely, you may need to access important files on your company's network. For security reasons, this kind of information requires a secure connection. To gain access to the network, a VPN connection is often required.

New CERT-IN directive:

- VPN providers will need to store validated customer names, their physical addresses, email ids, phone numbers, and the reason they are using the service, along with the dates they use it and their "ownership pattern".
- In addition, Cert is also asking VPN providers to keep a record of the IP and email addresses that the customer uses to register the service, along with the timestamp of registration.
- Most importantly, however, VPN providers will have to store all IP addresses issued to a customer and a list of IP addresses that its customers generally use.

What does this mean for VPN providers?

1. VPN services are in violation of Cert's rules by simply operating in India.
2. That said, it is worth noting that 'no logs' does not mean zero logs.
3. VPN services still need to maintain some logs to run their service efficiently.
4. The Indian government has not banned VPNs yet, so they can still be used to access content that is blocked in an area, which is the most common usage of these services.
5. However, journalists, activists, and others who use such services to hide their internet footprint will have to think twice about them.

Why such move?

- ✓ Crime control: For law enforcement agencies, a move like this will make it easier to track criminals who use VPNs to hide their internet footprint.
- ✓ Curbing dark-net activities: Users these days are shifting towards the dark and deep web, which are much tougher to police than VPN services.

Q) In relation to the history of ancient India, 'Ratnasagara', 'Ratnodadhi' & 'Ratnaranjaka' are associated with which of the following?

- a) Literary works of King Harshvardhana
- b) Court poets of the Gupta king, Chandragupta Vikramaditya
- c) Libraries of the University of Nalanda
- d) Great scholars in the court of Satavahana king, Gautamiputra Satakarni

 **Hey from Yesterday –**

Q) World Press Freedom Index is published by_____.

- a) World Economic Forum
- b) Amnesty International
- c) Reporters Sans Frontieres
- d) The Wikimedia Foundation

Answer: c

Explanation:

- On the World Press Freedom Day (WPDF) (3rd May), the 20th edition of the World Press Freedom Index was published by Reporters Without Borders (RSF). India ranked 150th among the 180 countries.
- It has been published every year since 2002 by Reporters Sans Frontieres (RSF) or Reporters Without Borders.
- Based in Paris, RSF is an independent NGO with consultative status with the United Nations, UNESCO, the Council of Europe and the International Organization of the Francophonie (OIF). OIF is 54 French speaking nations collective.
- The Index ranks countries and regions according to the level of freedom available to journalists. However, it is not an indicator on the quality of journalism.

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- SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY MODULE FROM 10th May to 12th May 2022
- HISTORY MODULE FROM 10th May to 20th May 2022
- CURRENT AFFAIRS MODULE FROM 13th May to 19th May 2022

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