



**VEDHIK**

**IAS ACADEMY**

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**VEDHIK**

**DAILY NEWS ANALYSIS**

**18 - JULY - 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.

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INTERVIEW | JOKO WIDODO

# 'Need to prioritise food and energy security'

Leaders of the Ukraine-Russia conflict must put their ego aside, says Indonesian President

SUHASINI HAIDAR

**Indonesian President Joko Widodo** is recasting himself as a global peacemaker ahead of the G-20 summit in Bali in November where growing tensions between the West and Russia are expected to spill over. In his first interview since his visit to Russia and Ukraine, where he spoke to both leaders and forged an agreement on wheat exports, 'Bapak' Jokowi said it is time for leaders in the conflict to put their "egos" aside to save the world from disruptions in food and oil supply chains. *Excerpts:*

**You are the first Asian leader to travel to both Kyiv and Moscow. How successful do you think your peace mission was?**

■ My motivation to visit Ukraine and Russia was only one – and that is humanity. We need to ensure that we don't let countries have their civilians starve and fall into extreme poverty because of the problems of the food crisis and the fertilizer crisis – innocent civilians should not become the casualties of war.

I wish to appeal to the conscience of the leaders to stop the war immediately. In my talks with President [Volodymyr] Zelensky and President [Vladimir] Putin, I stressed that the supply chains for food, fertilizer and energy should recover very soon.

**There are serious concerns about the G-20 summit in November, given the walkouts by both sides at the**

**IMF meeting and the Foreign Ministers' meeting in Bali. How worried are you?**

■ If you look at the meeting of the Foreign Ministers in Bali, the result was productive – in the sense that at least all countries attended and could sit together in one room.

The walkouts that you speak of are, of course, one of the dynamics of the situation [since the Russia-Ukraine conflict].

The space for dialogue that we are providing at the G-20 must be utilised. Most importantly, we have to reduce the egoism of leaders for the betterment of the people of the world.

**Will both President Putin and President Zelensky attend the G-20?**

■ President Putin said he will attend, while for President Zelensky, due to the situation in Ukraine, there is still some uncertainty about his attendance.

**Like Indonesia, India has taken a stand where it does not condone Russia's actions, but neither has it joined Western sanctions. Is there also a place at the G-20 for countries that are non-aligned in this conflict?**

■ The first thing is that we must sit together regardless of whether you belong to one or other blocs, on either side of the spectrum, as well as those who want to sit on the fence. We need to reduce our egoism, promote humanity, give issues like food security and energy security, priority.



**The space for dialogue that we are providing at the G-20 must be utilised**

**Indian and Chinese Armies have been in a stand-off at the Line of Actual Control for more than two years. Do you hope to see Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping meet in Bali?**

■ You have to look at the space for dialogue that is created, if there is a meeting between two major powers like India and China. Indonesia stands ready to mediate – we are always ready to help with anything that will ensure the betterment of people's lives.

**You also met with Prime Minister Modi last month in Germany, and he wrote to wish you for Id. How much are you both coordinating ahead of the G-20?**

■ We discussed a lot of issues on the economy and investment as well as broadly on Indonesia-India bilateral relations when we met. We also discussed Indian imports

of cooking oil, and I told him that we lifted the restriction in May so the distribution of palm oil across the globe has now been restored.

**Last month, your government protested with the Indian government over comments that were made about the Prophet and there were protests in Indonesia too. Did you discuss this?**

■ In Indonesia, protests and demonstrations are an expression of our democracy and we never restrict them, we provide space for differences as long as it stays within the law. I wouldn't want to speak about [India].

**Both countries are seeing religious radicalisation, majoritarian movements and violence. How can you manage the challenge of staying a republic amid this radicalisation and extremism?**

■ I think there are no fundamental problems among different religions.

In my Cabinet, and in my government, we have a diverse group, we have members of the Catholic faith,

Hindus, Muslims and so on. These are the relations I wish to project to the people to show by example that of course, there are problems, but we must be able to settle them by sitting together.

**Four years after PM Modi and you exchanged visits, plans for India to join the Malacca Straits Patrol and to invest in the Western Sabang port have not moved forward...**

■ We welcome India's [plan for] investment in Sabang port, which will give added value to the connectivity between Aceh and the Andaman Islands in India.

It is really important we are able to increase trade and tourism, and these projects can be realised quickly, fairly quickly, so Sabang can become one of the one of the biggest maritime ports as it was before.

**Would you consider joining an expanded Quad with U.S., India, Australia and Japan, a group China has called an Asian NATO?**

■ Cooperation on the Indo-Pacific must be increased between ASEAN and India. We have to ensure that initiatives don't lead to unhealthy competition among the countries. We have to manage this [U.S.-China] rivalry and ensure that it is not escalated to an open conflict.

Indonesia has a "free and active" foreign policy and its goal is to be friends with all countries. The U.S. is Indonesia's strategic partner, and China is also a major strategic partner.

*(For full interview, visit <https://bit.ly/THJokowi>)*



# Opposition picks Margaret Alva for Vice-President poll

She is our unanimous choice, says NCP chief Sharad Pawar

**SANDEEP PHUKAN**  
NEW DELHI

Former Rajasthan Governor Margaret Alva will be the joint Opposition candidate for the August 6 Vice-Presidential (V-P) election.

The decision to field Ms. Alva, 80, was taken at a meeting of the leaders of 17 Opposition parties at the residence of Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) president Sharad Pawar, and comes a day after the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) announced West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar as its candidate.

"It is a privilege and an honour to be nominated as the candidate of the joint Opposition for the post of Vice-President of India. I accept this nomination with great humility and thank the leaders of the Opposition for the faith they have put in me. Jai Hind," Ms. Alva tweeted soon after her name was announced as the Opposition candidate.

She will be filing her nomination papers on the last date, July 19.

"We have unanimously decided to field Margaret Alva as our joint candidate for the post of Vice-President," Mr. Pawar announced after the two-hour meeting.

Sources said her name was finalised after informal consultations among Mr. Pa-



Margaret Alva

war, Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge and Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI(M)] general secretary Sitaram Yechury.

## Sonia's approval

When her name was discussed for approval by others in the meeting, the sources cited above claimed that a few leaders wanted to know if the decision had the approval of Congress president Sonia Gandhi.

Mr. Kharge is said to have then informed the leaders that the move was taken after consulting Ms. Gandhi.

Addressing mediapersons, Mr. Pawar said a total of 17 parties had unanimously taken the decision to field her and with the support of the Trinamool Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party, Ms. Alva would be the joint candidate of 19 parties.

"We are trying to contact Mamata Banerjee and Ar-

vind Kejriwal. Last time they supported our joint Presidential candidate," Mr. Pawar said, adding that even the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha is together with the Opposition parties in this election.

Leaders who attended the meeting at the NCP chief's residence included Jairam Ramesh of the Congress, D. Raja and Binoy Viswam of the Communist Party of India, Sanjay Raut of the Shiv Sena, T.R. Baalu and Tiruchi Siva of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), Ram Gopal Yadav of the Samajwadi Party, Vaiko of the Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, K. Keshava Rao of the Telangana Rashtra Samiti, besides Mr. Kharge and Mr. Yechury. A.D. Singh of the Rashtriya Janata Dal, E.T. Mohammed Basheer of the Indian Union Muslim League and Jose K. Mani of the Kerala Congress (M) were also present.

The electoral college for the Vice-Presidential election is made up of the 788 members of Parliament (543 Lok Sabha and 245 Rajya Sabha) and the numbers are heavily stacked in favour of the ruling NDA.

With eight vacancies, the halfway mark is 390.

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ALVA, A VETERAN OF POLITICAL  
COMEBACKS ► PAGE 11

# Opposition picks Margaret Alva for V-P election

The NDA candidate could get anywhere between 450 votes to over 520 votes, depending on whether a few Opposition parties such as the Biju Janata Dal, YSR Congress, Bahujan Samaj Party and the Janata Dal (Secular) support Mr. Dhanekar, just the way they did for NDA's presidential nominee Droupadi Murmu.

The Opposition, on the other hand, can expect a little over 250 votes, which is way below the halfway mark.

"Everyone knows the outcome but it was decided that the V-P's post should not go uncontested. Margaret Alva was a unanimous choice as she is not only a dignified woman leader, who represents the minority Christian community, but

also an able administrator," an Opposition leader said.

"We are all together in this election," said Mr. Raut, whose party has supported Ms. Murmu in the presidential polls

Congress's communication chief Jairam Ramesh tweeted, "Margaret Alva, former Governor, former Union Minister, long time MP and very distinguished representative of India's wonderful diversity is the common Opposition candidate for Vice-President"

"Congratulations @alva\_margaret! Having known you since your visits to the @UN thirty-plus years ago, I am delighted that such an able, worthy & qualified candidate will represent us in the race," added Congress MP Shashi Tharoor.

# Presidential election today; Murmu has an edge over Sinha

Arrangements have been made in Parliament and Assemblies for polling

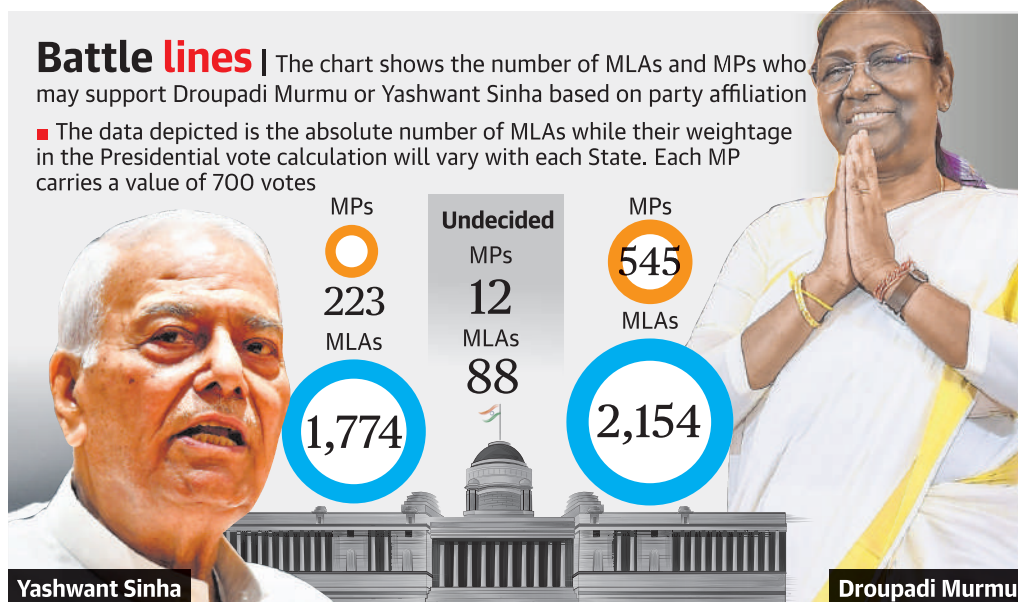
**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

The election of the new President of India will be held on Monday. The contest is between the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) candidate and former Jharkhand Governor, Droupadi Murmu, and the Opposition's choice, senior politician and former Union Minister Yashwant Sinha.

There are 4,809 eligible voters in the electoral college. With the Opposition parties such as the Biju Janata Dal, Telugu Desam Party, YSR Congress Party, Janata Dal(S), Bahujan Samajwadi Party, Shiromani Akali Dal and Jharkhand Mukti Morcha pledging support to Ms. Murmu, along with the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, Shiv Sena factions, and the Janata Dal(U), she is comfortably placed to win more than two-thirds of the votes.

The elected members of both the Houses of Parliament and the Assemblies of the States, the National Capital Territory of Delhi and the Union Territory of Puducherry make up the electoral college for the Presidential election. Secretary-General of the Rajya Sabha P.C. Mody is the Returning Officer.

Arrangements have been made in Parliament and in



all Assemblies for polling. Counting will take place here on Thursday. There are 31 such polling stations across the country for the 16<sup>th</sup> Presidential election to elect the 15<sup>th</sup> President.

The value of total votes is 10,86,431. Given its strength in Parliament and Assemblies and considering the support Ms. Murmu received from various unexpected quarters, the ruling NDA's candidate is likely to win more than 6.67 lakh votes. Nominated MPs and MLAs and members of the Legislative Councils are not entitled to vote in the election.

In 2017, President Ram Nath Kovind received votes

with a value of more than seven lakh against his opponent, Meira Kumar of the Congress. Considering the support for Ms. Murmu, it is possible that she may receive a similar value.

## Green, pink ballots

MPs will get a green colour ballot paper and MLAs a pink ballot paper. "For marking the vote, the commission will supply particular pens. The pen will be given to the electors in the polling station by the designated official when the ballot paper is handed over. Electors have to mark the ballot only with this pen and not with any other pen. Voting by using

any other pen shall lead to invalidation of the vote at the time of counting," the Election Commission said.

The 84<sup>th</sup> amendment to the Constitution provides that the population of the States for the purposes of calculation of value of votes for the Presidential election shall be based on the 1971 census. The value of votes of all members of each Assembly is worked out by multiplying the number of elective seats in the Assembly by the number of votes for each member. It is  $175 \times 159 = 27,825$  for Andhra Pradesh, a background note said.

**CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 10**

# Presidential poll today; Murmu has an edge

The total value of votes of all the States added together is divided by the total number of elected members of Parliament (Lok Sabha 543 + Rajya Sabha 233) to get the value of votes of each Member of Parliament,” a background note of the Commission added.

The value of vote of each Member of Parliament is 700. Each MLA of Uttar Pradesh has the highest value of vote, which is 208 and Sikkim MLA has the lowest value of vote of 7.

## **‘Palpable excitement’**

On the eve of presidential polls, NDA constituents met to felicitate their candidate Ms. Murmu, who addressed the gathering and said there was palpable excitement among the tribal communities and women over her candidature. “With my nomination there is excitement among tribals and wo-

men,” Ms. Murmu told the meeting, according to the sources. “There are around 10 crore tribals with more than 700 communities, and all are delighted with my nomination,” she said, according to an NDA MP present at the meeting. Before Ms. Murmu’s arrival, a mock drill for voting in the poll was carried out at Parliament. BJP leaders having parliamentary experience and members of the party’s legal cell guided the MPs about the process to cast the votes.

In his appeal to the electorate, Mr. Sinha said his rival candidate is supported by those who are mounting attacks on democracy. “Please ask yourself. What kind of President does India deserve? One who will protect the Constitution or one who will protect the Prime Minister?” he asked in the appeal.



# Packed curd, *paneer*, *atta* to attract 5% GST from today

## Tax on hospital room tariff, solar water heaters will go up

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Customers will have to pay a 5% Goods and Services Tax (GST) on pre-packed, labelled food items such as *atta*, *paneer* and curd, besides hospital rooms with rents above ₹5,000, starting from Monday.

Hotel rooms with tariffs of up to ₹1,000 a day, maps and charts, including atlases, will attract a 12% GST, while cartons and fees charged by banks for the issue of cheques (loose or in book form) will attract 18%.

Last month, the GST Council, chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and including State Finance Ministers, pruned the exemption list and imposed the tax on many goods and services.

### Duty inversion removed

The Council, based on an interim report of the Group of Ministers (GoM) on rate rationalisation, removed duty inversion for goods where the taxes on inputs were higher than those on the output.

Tax rates on products



Pre-packed food items will attract a 5% GST.

such as printing, writing or drawing ink; knives with cutting blades, pencil sharpeners; LED lamps; and drawing instruments will be hiked to 18% on Monday, from 12% currently, to correct the inverted duty anomaly. Solar water heaters will now attract a 12% GST from the 5% earlier.

The tax on services such as work contracts for roads, bridges, railways, metro facilities, effluent treatment plants and crematoriums will go up to 18% from the current 12%.

### Reduction & exemptions

Taxes will be cut on ostomy appliances and on transport of goods and passengers by ropeways to 5% from 12%.

Renting of trucks and goods carriages where the cost of fuel is included will now attract a lower 12% rate as against 18%.

The exemption on the transport of passengers by air to and from the north-eastern States and Bagdogra will be restricted to economy class only.

Services rendered by regulators such as the RBI, the IRDA and the SEBI will be taxed at 18% and so will be renting of a residential dwelling to business entities.

Biomedical waste treatment facilities shall attract a 12% GST, while non-ICU hospital room rents exceeding ₹5,000 a day will be levied a 5% GST, without input tax credit, to the extent of the amount charged for the room.

Besides, individuals will be able to claim GST exemption for training or coaching in recreational activities relating to arts, culture or sports.

Electric vehicles, whether fitted with a battery pack or not, will be eligible for the concessional GST rate of 5% from July 18.

# Only 50% of farmers benefited from loan waivers, says study

'Implementation poor in Telangana, M.P., Jharkhand, Punjab, Karnataka and U.P.'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

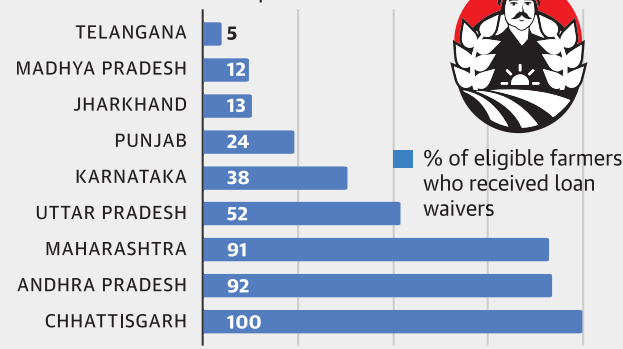
Only about half of the intended beneficiaries of farm loan waivers announced by nine States since 2014 have actually received debt write-offs, shows a study by State Bank of India researchers.

As of March 2022, the poorest implementation of farm loan waiver schemes in terms of proportion of eligible farmers who had received the announced benefits was in Telangana (5%), Madhya Pradesh (12%), Jharkhand (13%), Punjab (24%), Karnataka (38%) and Uttar Pradesh (52%).

By contrast, farm loan waivers implemented by Chhattisgarh in 2018 and Maharashtra in 2020 were received by 100% and 91% of the eligible farmers, respectively. A similar waiver announced by Maharashtra in 2017 worth ₹34,000 crore for 67 lakh farmers has been implemented for 68% of beneficiaries, SBI researchers reckoned.

The SBI study was based on the outcomes of 10 farm loan write-offs worth about

**Poor implementation** | The chart shows the share of eligible farmers who received loan waivers. Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Punjab fared the worst in terms of implementation



₹2.53 lakh crore announced by nine States, starting with Andhra Pradesh and Telangana in 2014. As many as 92% of Andhra Pradesh's 42 lakh farmers eligible for loan waivers had benefited, while the number was a mere 5% for Telangana.

"Since 2014, out of approximately 3.7 crore eligible farmers, only around 50% of the farmers received the amount of loan waiver till March 2022... Despite much hype and political patronage, farm loan waivers by States have failed to bring

respite to intended subjects, sabotaging credit discipline in select geographies and making banks and financial institutions wary of further lending," the SBI report noted, terming it a "self goal" inflicted by the State on its subjects.

## Possible reasons

The report identified rejection of farmers' claims by State governments, limited or low fiscal space to meet promises, and change in governments in subsequent years, as the possible rea-

sons for the low implementation rate of these loan waivers.

Apart from benefits not reaching the targeted farmers, the report flagged concerns about whether they actually help farmers in genuine distress. "Of the total accounts eligible for farm loan waiver, most of the accounts (more than 80% in some States) were in standard category, begging a question whose interest rampant waivers actually serve," it noted.

The proportion of standard accounts, which refers to loans being serviced in a timely manner by borrowers, that were covered by the farm loan waiver, was particularly high in Jharkhand (100%), U.P. (96%), Andhra Pradesh (95%), Punjab (86%) and Telangana (84%).

"Loan waivers destroy the credit culture which may harm the farmers' interest in the medium to long term and also squeeze the fiscal space of governments to increase productive investment in agriculture infrastructure," the report said.

## EXPLAINER

# Why is Kerala protesting Supreme Court's ESZ notification

Why is the notification controversial in the State? What were the earlier efforts of the State to draft ESZ notifications? How have the people of the State reacted to the directive?

K.S. SUDHI

## THE GIST

■ Nearly 30% of Kerala is forested land and the Western Ghats occupies 48% of the State.

■ Kerala apprehends that the Supreme Court's notification would adversely impact the interests of the State besides upsetting the lives of millions living near the protected areas.

■ As it occurred during the post Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP) days, a section of the Church has openly come out against the notification.

**The story so far:** On July 7, the Kerala State Assembly unanimously passed a resolution urging the Central government to exclude the State's human habitations, farmlands and public institutions from the purview of the Ecologically Sensitive Zones (ESZ), recently notified by the Supreme Court, to be set-up around all protected forests in the country. The Assembly also called upon the Centre to notify the zones by considering the State government's proposals that marked the ESZ as zero around 10 protected areas of the State, urging the union government to enact laws for the purpose.

### Why is the ESZ notification controversial in Kerala?

The June 3 directive by a three-judge Supreme Court Bench consisting of Justices L. Nageswara Rao, B. R. Gavai and Anirudha Bose to have a mandatory ecologically sensitive zones of minimum one kilometre measured from the demarcated boundary of every protected forest, including the national parks and wildlife sanctuaries, has stirred the hornet's nest in Kerala where any regulatory mechanism on land and land use patterns would have political ramifications.

**With an average population density of 900 persons per square kilometre, much higher than the national average, the demographic pressure on the available land is unusually high in the State**

The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change had notified the draft ecologically sensitive zones of 20 of the 23 protected areas in the State, while issuing the final notification of the Mathikettan Shola National Park way back in December 2020.

However, the draft notification of the Periyar National Park, also called as Periyar Tiger Reserve, is yet to be published though

the State government had submitted the proposal earlier.

The State is yet to submit the draft ESZ of Karimpuzha Wildlife Sanctuary, the newest one in Kerala, located in Malappuram district.

What worries the State is the possible impact of the apex court's order on its unique landscape. Nearly 30% of Kerala is forested land and the Western Ghats occupies 48% of the State.

Moreover, there is a network of lakes, canals, wetlands and the 590-kilometre-long coastline, which are all governed by a series of environmental conservation and protection legislations, leaving little space for its 3.5 crore population to occupy.

With an average population density of 900 persons per square kilometre, much higher than the national average, the demographic pressure on the available land is unusually high in the State, as noted by the State Assembly's resolution.

The State Government apprehends that the Supreme Court's notification may worsen the ground situation as it would adversely impact the interests of the State besides upsetting the lives of millions living near the protected areas.

### How did the State's earlier efforts to draft ESZ notifications go?

Earlier, while preparing the draft ESZ notifications for its protected areas including the Malabar, Idukki, Aralam, Kottiyoor, Shendurney and Wayanad wildlife sanctuaries, the State Government had taken care to exclude the areas with high population density, government and quasi-government institutions, and public institutions from the ambit of the notification.

The marking of the ESZ for the protected areas that shared the forest boundary with the neighbouring States was a peaceful affair as there were no human habitations in between.

However, the apex court's recent order has changed the picture and forced the State



government to re-look the ESZs of at least 10 protected areas which were earlier marked as zero.

### What has been the reaction to the directive?

The apex court order comes a decade after the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP) report, aka Gadgil report, that had radically influenced the socio-political, economic and ecological narratives in the State. Though not to the level of the high-pitched public unrest and protests that the State witnessed during the days preceding the WGEEP report, the ESZ notification too has triggered state-wide protests. As it occurred during the post WGEEP days, a section of the Church has openly come out against the notification.

The Church groups have also demanded the recalling of the apex court order.

The Kerala Catholic Bishops' Council, a powerful body catering to the special needs of the apostolate in the State, termed the apex court verdict as unfortunate as it feared that the order will upset the lives of

thousands of settler farmers and people living on the forest fringes. The forum apprehended that the order will effectively turn four lakh acres around the 23 wildlife sanctuaries in the State into buffer zones, thus affecting around 1.5 lakh families.

Since June 3, both the ruling Left Front and the Opposition have observed *hartals* in the hilly districts of the State, protesting the Supreme Court directive.

### What's next for Kerala?

Kerala is pinning its hope on the Centre's stand that it was willing to discuss its concerns with the State government. The State government has also decided to explore the option of approaching the Central Empowered Committee, as directed by the Supreme Court in its order, to convince the forum of the need to maintain zero ecologically sensitive zone in the areas of human habitation.

It may also approach the apex court seeking exemption from the one kilometre ecologically sensitive zone regime and to limit it to zero wherever required.

**Initial help:** Kerala is pinning its hope on the Centre's stand that it was willing to discuss its concerns with the State government. • VISHNU PRATHAP

# India, China hold 16th round of talks on Ladakh

## Aim to revive de-escalation process

**DINAKAR PERI**

NEW DELHI

India and China held the 16th round of Corps Commander-level talks on Sunday for over 12 hours as the two sides attempted to revive the stalled process of disengagement and de-escalation in Eastern Ladakh.

Talks began at 9.30 a.m. on the Indian side of the Chushul border personnel meeting point and ended around 10 p.m., an official source said on Sunday.

The Indian side is led by Lt.Gen. Anindya Sengupta, 14 Corps Commander.

While an agreement for disengagement from Patrolling Point-15 was close by in the previous few rounds of talks, China's refusal to dis-

cuss other friction areas, Demchok and Depsang, maintaining that they are not a part of the current stand-off, has stalled any progress. India has been insisting on comprehensive disengagement and de-escalation to end the ongoing stand-off in Eastern Ladakh.

Since the stand-off began in May 2020, the two sides have so far held 15 rounds of talks with disengagement undertaken from both sides of Pangong Tso in February 2021, and from PP 17 in the Gogra-Hot Springs area in August, in addition to Galwan in 2020 after the violent clash.

The 15th round of Corps Commander talks took place on March 11, 2022.



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.
General Studies Paper IV	
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.