

INDIAN POLITY**What changes to J&K constituencies mean**

A commission set up by the Centre **submitted its final report** for the delimitation of Assembly and parliamentary constituencies in Jammu and Kashmir.

Why was the commission set up?

- Delimitation became necessary when the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 increased the number of seats in the Assembly. The erstwhile J&K state had 111 seats — 46 in Kashmir, 37 in Jammu, and four in Ladakh — plus 24 seats reserved for Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.
- When Ladakh was carved out as a Union Territory, J&K was left with 107 seats, including the 24 for PoK.
- The Reorganisation Act increased the seats to 114 — 90 for Jammu & Kashmir, besides the 24 reserved for PoK.
- In the erstwhile state, delimitation of parliamentary constituencies was governed by the Constitution of India and that of Assembly seats was carried out by the then state government under the Jammu and Kashmir Representation of the People Act, 1957.
- After abrogation of J&K's special status in 2019, the delimitation of both Assembly and parliamentary seats is governed by the Constitution.
- The Delimitation Commission was set up on March 6, 2020. Headed by retired Supreme Court Justice **Ranjana Prakash Desai**, it has the Chief Election Commissioner and J&K's Chief Electoral Officer as members, and J&K's five MPs as associate members.
- The time given to the panel, initially one year, was extended several times as the National Conference's three MPs initially boycotted its proceedings. The first draft recommendations on January 20 suggested an increase of six Assembly seats for Jammu and one for Kashmir; on February 6, it submitted its second draft report.

Why has the exercise been controversial?

- 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. In 2002, the then J&K government led by Farooq Abdullah amended the J&K Representation of the People Act to freeze the delimitation exercise until 2026, as in the rest of the country. This was challenged in the J&K High Court and then the Supreme Court, both of which upheld the freeze.
- 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.
- Also, while delimitation as a rule is carried out on the basis of Census population, the Commission said it would take certain other factors into consideration for J&K, including size, remoteness and closeness to the border.

What changes have been made?

- **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. 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".

Delimitation panel

- It is an act or process of fixing limits or boundaries of territorial constituencies
- Under article 82, Parliament enacts a law for delimitation after every census.
- Under article 170, States are divided into territorial constituencies the delimitation act.
- State can't make the delimitation act.
- First delimitation: 1950-51 with the help of election commission
- First Delimitation act: 1952
- 1981 and 1991 census resulted into no delimitation act

Set up

- Set up by President of India

- Works in collaboration with Election commission of India

Structure

- Retired Supreme Court Judge
- Chief Election Commissioner
- Respective state election commissioner

Power and Functions

- Decide the boundaries of constituencies in such manner to make population nearly equal for all constituencies
- Identify seats for SC and ST wherever their population is large
- Its orders have the power of law and can't be questioned in the court of law
- These orders come into force on a date to be specified by the President of India.
- The copies of its orders are laid before the House of the People and the State Legislative Assembly concerned, but no modifications are permissible therein by them.
- Delimitation is being carried out as per the population of 1971

INTERNAL SECURITY**The status of the Naga peace talks**

- According to the recently released annual report of the Ministry of Home Affairs the Isak-Muivah faction of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN-IM) was involved in 44% of insurgency-related incidents in Nagaland in 2020.
- The NSCN-IM continues to demand '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.
- 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. There have been over a hundred rounds of talks, after the ceasefire, between the Centre and the insurgent group but no solution.
- 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.

Why did the Naga insurgency begin?

- 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.
- 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, which was accompanied by the fear of the entry of "plains people" or "outsiders" into their territory. These gave rise to the formation of the Naga Hills District Tribal Council in 1945, which was renamed the Naga National Council (NNC) in 1946.
- 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, a day before India's declaration.
- 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). The Central Government sent the armed forces into Naga areas to curb the insurgency and 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.
- 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.

When did the NSCN come into the picture?

- This signing of the Shillong Accord was not agreeable with many top leaders of the NNC and those operating from Myanmar as the agreement did not address the issue of Naga sovereignty and coerced them to accept the Constitution.

- Three NNC leaders — Thuingaleng Muivah of the Tangkhul Naga tribe of Manipur's Ukhrul district, Isak Chishi Swu of the Sema tribe, and S. S. Khaplang from Myanmar's Hemis tribe, formed the National Socialist Council Of Nagaland (NSCN) to continue the armed movement. The motto of the NSCN was to create a People's Republic of Nagaland free of Indian rule.
- 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 '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. Its armed operations intensified along with illegal activities like tax extortion, smuggling of weapons and so on.

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.
- Government has been holding peace parleys simultaneously with the NSCN-IM, and the Naga National Political Groups (NNPGs) comprising at least seven other extremist groups, including the NSCN (K).
- In 2015, it signed a Framework Agreement with the NSCN (IM), the first step towards an actual Peace Accord. The then Joint Intelligence Chief R.N. Ravi was appointed the interlocutor for Naga peace talks and signed the agreement on behalf of the Centre. He was later appointed as Nagaland's Governor in 2019 to further the negotiations.
- The negotiations hit an impasse in 2020, with the NSCN-IM demanding the removal of Mr. Ravi as interlocutor, accusing him of "high handedness" and tweaking the agreement to mislead other Naga groups.
- The NSCN-IM continued to demand a separate flag and constitution for the Nagas and the creation of Nagalim, which it claimed was agreed upon in the Agreement. Mr. Ravi, however, denied this claim.
- After Mr. Ravi's removal as the interlocutor 2021, Intelligence Bureau officer A.K. Mishra was first appointed as the Centre's adviser and then the interlocutor for the peace talks.
- On April 19 2022, Mr. Mishra visited the NSCN-IM's camp in Dimapur to hold closed-door talks but issues over the Naga flag and constitution remain to be ironed out.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

SHIGELLA BACTERIA

- The Kerala health department on Tuesday (May 3) identified **Shigella bacteria as the cause for the food poisoning incident** in Kasaragod, which **claimed the life of a 16-year-old girl** and led to 30-odd others being admitted to hospital.
- The presence of the bacteria was confirmed in the blood and faeces of people undergoing treatment after they consumed chicken shawarma from an eatery at Cheruvathur in Kasaragod last week.

what is Shigella?

- Shigella is a bacterium that belongs to the enterobacter family — a group of bacteria that reside in the intestine, not all of which cause disease in humans. It mainly affects the intestine and results in diarrhoea, sometimes bloody, stomach pain, and fever.
- The infection spreads easily as it takes only a small number of bacteria to make someone ill, according to the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
- It is a food- and water-borne infection, and can happen when someone consumes contaminated food — like in the case from Kerala — unwashed fruit or vegetables.
- The disease is easily spread by direct or indirect contact with the excrement of the patient.
- Someone can get the infection if the person swim or take a bath in contaminated water.

How widespread is Shigella infection?

- Shigellosis happens, but it is not a very common infection. It usually seen infections like typhoid and cholera because of contaminated foods. Perhaps one in 100 cases of diarrhoea in our hospital would be shigellosis
- Shigella outbreaks appear to be exacerbated during pregnancy and in children under five years of age, and in those with weakened immune systems.

- There are four types of Shigella bacteria that affect humans — Shigella sonnei, Shigella flexneri, Shigella boydii, and Shigella dysenteriae. The fourth type causes the most severe disease because of the toxin it produces.

But is it common for people to die of the infection?

- The infection does not generally kill, unless the patient has a weak immune system or the pathogen is resistant to the antibiotics that are prescribed.
- It is a very treatable condition; if a patient reaches hospital on time they can effectively be treated using IV antibiotics.
- Usually send samples of patients with severe diarrhoea for culture to see what pathogen is causing the symptoms, in order to decide which antibiotics were likely to work the best.
- The problem though, occurs when the antibiotics do not work because the bacteria are resistant to it.
- The problem with Shigella is that it produces a lot of toxins that can affect all other organs. So, if the bacteria continue to proliferate in the body even after giving the antibiotics, it will continue to produce toxins, which can then affect the kidney, cause seizures, lead to multi-organ failure, and shock, and even turn fatal. This does not happen in most cases
- The mortality of the infection is less than 1%," he said.

precautions

- The measures to prevent a Shigella infection are the same as that of any other food- and water-borne infection. Wash hands thoroughly before and after a meal.
- Wash hands properly after a bowel movement.
- Ensure the water that you drink is clean and the fruits and vegetables are fresh.
- Products such as milk, chicken, and fish can get infected easily and must be kept at a proper temperature. They must also be properly cooked

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

1. The Cuban missile crisis was a high point of what come to be known as the Cold War state the major reason behind it along with its consequences (250 words)

Cuba got involved in the Cold War after Fidel Castro seized power from the USA backed dictator Batista in 1959. In 1961, USA broke diplomatic ties with Cuba which resulted in the relationship between the USSR and Cuba getting better. In 1961, Castro announced that he was a Marxist and Cuba was a socialist country. The USA continued its efforts to destroy the Castro regime in Cuba by military and tactical efforts. Cuba appealed to the USSR for military help. Nikita Khrushchev, the leader of the Soviet Union, decided to convert Cuba into a Russian base. The installation of weapons put the US, for the first time, within the range of USSR's missiles and nearly doubled the number of cities in the American mainland, which could be threatened by the USSR. The situation became very tense and it appeared as if a nuclear war was imminent. This event came to be known as the Cuban Missile Crisis.

The crisis came to an end after an appeal was made by the Secretary-General of the UN. The USSR agreed to withdraw the missiles and destroy the launching sites in Cuba, and in return, the USA agreed not to invade Cuba again.

The major reasons for the Cuban Missile Crisis were

- Cuba was under threat of military invasion from the USA, so the USSR wanted to help as a gesture of solidarity with Cuba which was an ally of the Soviet Union.
- The USSR lost the lead in developing Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs), so it was looking for an opportunity to encircle the USA from a close range.
- In 1959, the USA deployed Jupiter missiles in Turkey. It threatened the security of the USSR, hence, Cuba seemed to be an ideal place to initiate counter-strike against the USA.
- The Soviets felt uneasy about the number of nuclear weapons that were targeted at them from Western Europe and Turkey, and deployment of missiles in Cuba could be used for bargaining with the West.

Despite lasting for a few days, the Cuban Missile Crisis had important consequences

- The world came to realise how easily a nuclear war can be started.
- A hotline was introduced between USSR and USA to allow swift consultations.
- In 1963, the USA, the USSR and Britain signed a Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, agreeing to carry out nuclear tests only underground to avoid polluting the atmosphere any further.
- The Cuba-USSR relationship was extremely cool for several years as Cuba felt betrayed.
- The Cuban Missile Crisis was an important event in the Cold War era, which made the world realize the threat posed by the weapon race of USA and USSR, and it proved to be a kick-start for the movements to make the world safe from the horrors of a nuclear war.

DAILY QUIZ

1. Consider the following statement
 1. National commission for protection of child rights (NCPCR) can take suo motu action.
 2. Using Minors to propagate political ideologies is a violation of the juvenile Justice Act.
 Choose the correct statement using the codes given below
 a) 1 only b) 2 only c) **Both** d) Neither 1 nor 2
2. Consider the following statements
 1. India, the second biggest producer of tea in the world, accounts for about 28 per cent of global tea production
 2. Tea export from north India has been seen a positive growth while from south India it's shows a negative growth in last 5 years
 Which of the above statement is not correct
 a) 1 only b) **2 only** c) Both d) Neither 1 nor 2
3. Recently Jog fall is in news frequently , which of the following statement/s is/are correct regarding it
 1. It is the highest waterfall in India after dudhsagar falls
 2. The fall is feded by Saravati river only
 Choose the correct answer using the code given below
 a) 1 only b) **2 only** c) Both d) None of the above
4. Examine the following statements about the Farm Export of India
 1. India's Agricultural trade always surplus in last 10 years
 2. The agricultural trade surplus increased consistently in last 10 years
 3. Marine products holds the highest in India's top Agricultural Export items
 choose the correct statement using the code given below
 a) 1 and 2 only b) 2 and 3 only c) **1 and 3 only** d) 2 only
5. Terms like IISR Vadra, IISR Mahima, IISR Rejatha recently seen in news are associated which of the following
 - a) Verity of Brinjal b) Verity of garlic c) Verity of turmeric d) **Verity of Ginger**
6. Mission PURVODYA is related to which of the following ministry
 - a) **Ministry of steel**
 - b) Ministry of mines
 - c) Ministry of shipping
 - d) Ministry of petroleum
7. Consider the following statement with respect to central Central Consumer Protection Authority
 1. It is a statutory body
 2. It was established under Consumer Protection Act, 2019.
 3. The CCPA have the powers to inquire or investigate into matters relating to violations of consumer rights or unfair trade practices suo motu.
 Choose the incorrect statement/s using the code given below
 a) 1 only
 b) 1 and 2 only
 c) 2 and 3 only
 d) **None of the above**
8. Consider the following statement
 1. All the G7 countries are member of G8
 2. All the G8 members are members of G20 countries
 3. India is one of the G20 troika country
 Choose the correct statement using the code given below
 a) 1 only b) 1 and 2 only c) 2 and 3 d) **All of the above**
9. Christmas Island recently seen in news is associated with which of the following
 - a) USA b) **Australia** c) Philippines d) India
10. Consider the following statement about Lion tailed Macaque is / are correct
 1. It is endemic to north eastern states
 2. It's IUCN status is Endangered
 Select the correct answer using the codes given below
 a) 1 only b) **2 only** c) Both d) Neither 1 nor 2