

## Prelim Bits 28-09-2023 | UPSC Daily Current Affairs

### Extension of AFSPA

Recently, Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) was extended for another 6 months in parts of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Manipur.

- **Introduced** - The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act was enacted in 1958.
- **Aim** - It granted certain special powers to the members of the armed forces in disturbed areas.
- **Powers** - It gives unbridled power to the army and the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF)
  - to kill anyone acting in contravention of the law;
  - to arrest people and search of any premises without a warrant;
  - to prohibit a gathering of five or more persons in an area
- **Notification** - Under Section 3 of the AFSPA, Central Government, or the Governor of the State or administrator of the Union Territory can declare the whole or part of the State or Union Territory as a disturbed area.
- **Disturbed Area** - An area that are disturbed or in dangerous condition that the use of armed forces in aid of the civil power is necessary.
- An area can be disturbed due to differences or disputes between members of different religious, racial, language or regional groups or castes or communities.
- **State Governments** - The **Ministry of Home Affairs** would usually enforce this Act but there have been exceptions where the Centre decided to forego its power and leave the decision to the **State governments**.

### History of AFSPA

- The Act in its original form was promulgated by the British in response to the Quit India movement in 1942.
- After Independence, Indian government notified it as an Act in 1958.
- AFSPA for Northeastern states was initially implemented in Assam and Manipur.
- After amendment in 1972, it was also implemented in Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura and Arunachal Pradesh.
- **Punjab** was the first state from where it was repealed, followed by Tripura and Meghalaya in 2015 and 2018 respectively.
- It still remains in force in Nagaland, Manipur, Assam, J&K, and Arunachal Pradesh.
- However, the **Ladakh** region, which is now a separate Union territory and **Mizoram** has never been kept under AFSPA.

### References

1. [IE| Extension of Disturbed Area status](#)

## 2. [IE| AFSPA](#)

### India Ageing Report, 2023

*According to UNPFA's India Ageing Report, Indian population aged 80+ years will grow at a rate of around 279% between 2022 and 2050 with a predominance of widowed and highly dependent very old women.*

- **Published by** - **United Nations Population Fund** (UNFPA) India, in collaboration with the **International Institute for Population Sciences** (IIPS).
- **About** - The report sheds light on the challenges, opportunities and institutional responses surrounding elderly care in India.
- **Source of Data** - It uses the Longitudinal Ageing Survey in India (LASI), 2017-18, Census of India, Population Projections by the Government of India (2011-2036), and World Population Prospects 2022 by the UN DESA.

*Population ageing is associated with a rise in the proportion of population termed as 'old', usually at 60 or 65 years and above.*

### Highlights of the report

- **Prospects of elderly** - Persons aged 60 years and above comprises around 10.5% of the country's population in 2022 and the share will ***double to 20.8% by 2050***.
- By the end of the century, the elderly will constitute over 36% of the total population of the country.
- **Ageing Index** - It measures the number of person aged 60+ years per 100 children population (below 15 years) and the index score increases as the population ages.
- There are 39 older persons per 100 children in India according to 2021 population estimates.
- By 2046, elderly population will surpass the population of children.
- **State differentials** - Central and North Eastern regions have the younger group of States.
- Most of the states in the southern region and select northern states such as Himachal Pradesh and Punjab reported a higher share of the elderly population than the national average in 2021.
- **Old-age dependency ratio** - It is the ratio of number of elderly people per 100 persons (15-59 years). The higher the ratio, the greater the old age-related dependency.
- It is higher than the national average in the southern region.
- **Life expectancy** - Life expectancy at 60 years reflects the average number of years that a person of 60 years could expect to live.
- At 60 years, a person in India may expect to live another 18.3 years, which is higher in case of females at 19 years as compared to males at 17.5 years.
- **Poorest population** - More than 40% of the elderly comes under this category.
- **Inherently gendered** - Poverty is inherently gendered in old age when older women

are more likely to be widowed, living alone, with no income and fully dependent on family for support.

*United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021-2030) is a global collaboration that aims to improve the lives of older people, their families and the communities in which they live.*

## References

1. [UNFPA | India Ageing Report 2023](#)
2. [The Hindu | India Ageing Report](#)

## Android Earthquake Alert System

Google India introduced its Android [Earthquake Alerts System](#), based on smartphone accelerometer data to provide early warning alerts to users.

- **Working mechanism** - Android smartphones' *accelerometers* can act as *mini seismometers* which can detect the beginning of a quake when the phone is plugged in and charging.
- When a phone is connected and charging, it has the capability to detect the initial tremors of an earthquake.
- When many phones pick up the tremors, the company's server collects the data and process it to confirm the earthquake and send alerts to other phones nearby.
- **Early alerts** - *Internet signals travel at the speed of light*, much faster than the propagation of earthquake shaking through the ground.
- So, the alerts often reach phones several seconds before severe shaking does.
- **Two Alerts**
  - **Be Aware Alert** - When users experience MMI 3 & 4 shaking with a magnitude 4.5 or greater.
  - **Take Action Alert** - When users experience MMI 5+ shaking with a magnitude 4.5 or greater.

*The Modified Mercalli Intensity (MMI) estimates the shaking intensity from an earthquake at a specific location by considering its effects on people, objects, and buildings.*

- **Collaborative Institutions** - It was launched in collaboration with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and the National Seismology Centre (NSC).
- **Mobile Compatibility** - *Android 5 and above*.
- **Language alerts** - *Indian languages* which are already supported by Android.

## References

1. [The Hindu | Android Earthquake Alert System](#)
2. [IE | Smartphone Accelerometers](#)

## e - Cabinet System

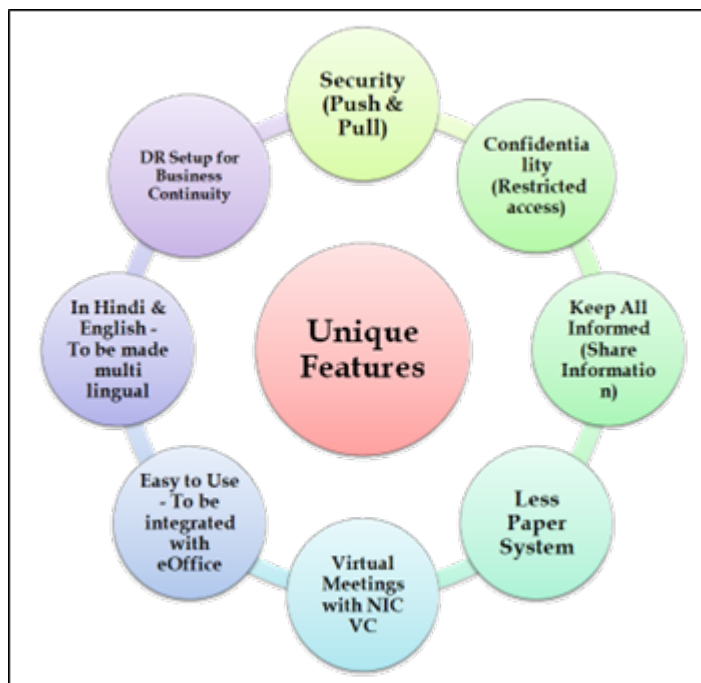
Tripura has launched an e-cabinet system to promote digital infrastructure development and digitisation of government services and information.

- **E - Cabinet** - A software portal for state governments to conduct Cabinet meetings electronically.
- **Developed by** - National Information Centre (NIC), Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY).

Tripura has become the 4<sup>th</sup> state - and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Northeast - after Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh, to have introduced an e-cabinet system.

### • Unique Features-

- Automate work flow activities before, during and after Meetings.
- Enhanced level of Security, with Push & Pull features.
- Build institutional memory & knowledge repository, enabling quick search & retrieval.



### • Advantages -

- Saves huge resources of Paper, fuel and manpower.
- Reduces carbon footprint and environmental degradation.
- Bolster e-governance and Digital India initiative.
- Eliminate delays.

- Increase transparency, efficiency and accountability.

## References

1. [IE| Tripura launches e-Cabinet system](#)
2. [NIC| e-Cabinet app](#)

## Compulsory Retirement

Recently, the IAS officer who got transferred for allegedly misusing the facilities at the stadium in Delhi, now compulsorily retired by Government.

- **Fundamental Rules** - Union Government has the power to retire any government officials prematurely on the ground of *lack of integrity and ineffectiveness and in public interest*.
- **Power to retire** - The power has been conferred under *Fundamental Rules 56(j) and rule 48* of Central Civil Services (CCS) Pension Rules, 1972.
- **FR 56 (j)** - Appropriate authority have absolute right to retire any government servant by giving him notice of not less than 3 months in writing or 3 months' pay and allowances in lieu of such notice.
- **Rule 48** - Retirement on completion of 30 years qualifying service either voluntarily or by an order of appropriate authority.
- **Issuing authority** - By *Department of Personnel and Training (DOPT)*, as it is the cadre controlling authority for IAS officers in general.
- But the power to retire is vested with the *Union Ministry of Home Affairs* for officers from the Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, and Mizoram and Union Territories (AGMUT) cadre.
- **Central Civil Services (CCS) Pension Rules, 1972** - It was 1<sup>st</sup> drafted in 1972 and have been amended 47 times.
- It regulates the pension and gratuity of the employees retiring from Central Government Departments.

## References

1. [IE| Compulsory retirement of IAS officer](#)
2. [The Hindu| Government's control over civil servants](#)
3. [CCSPR| CCS Pension and Gratuity Rules](#)