

# DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS (DCA)

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### ASSAM PROHIBITION OF POLYGAMY BILL 2025

#### Context

 Recently, the Assam government introduced the Assam Prohibition of Polygamy Bill, 2025 in the State Assembly seeking to criminalize polygamy.

#### **Key Provisions of the Bill**

- Jurisdiction and Applicability: The Bill, if become a law, is applicable across Assam, except in areas under the Sixth Schedule (the Bodoland Territorial Region and the hill districts of Dima Hasao, Karbi Anglong and West Karbi Anglong) and among Scheduled Tribes under Article 342, who are governed by customary laws that permit multiple marriages.
  - The Bill extends beyond Assam's borders to include:
    - Residents of Assam entering into polygamous marriages outside the State, and;
    - Non-residents who own property in Assam or benefit from State-funded schemes or subsidies.
- Punishment and Penalties: The Bill prescribes:
  - Up to 7 years of imprisonment and a fine for engaging in polygamy.
  - Up to 10 years of imprisonment for those who conceal an existing marriage before entering another.
  - **Double punishment** for repeat offenders.
- Penalties for Religious Officials: Clerics or priests who knowingly solemnize polygamous marriages may face fines up to ₹1.5 lakh, along with imprisonment. Similar penalties apply to other abettors.
  - Additionally, the Bill brings under its ambit village heads, Qazis (Muslim clerics), and parents or guardians who assist in or conceal such marriages.
    - They may face up to 2 years in jail and fines up to ₹1 lakh.
- Safeguards and Exemptions: The Bill does not apply retroactively — marriages conducted before its enforcement under valid personal or customary laws will remain unaffected.
  - Police officers are empowered to intervene proactively to prevent prohibited marriages.
  - A designated authority aims to be established

to **process compensation claims** from **women affected by polygamous marriages** to ensure support and justice for victims.

#### **Polygamy in India: Historical Context**

- Polygamy is the practice of having more than one spouse at the same time.
- Pre-independence India: Polygamy was practiced across various communities, often justified through religious or customary norms.
  - Hindu Marriage Act, 1955: It made monogamy mandatory for Hindus, Buddhists, Jains, and Sikhs.
    - Section 5 of the Act stipulates that a marriage is valid only if neither party has a living spouse at the time of marriage.
  - Special Marriage Act, 1954: Applicable to interfaith civil marriages, this law also mandates monogamy, reinforcing the state's commitment to individual rights over religious customs.
- Present Legal Landscape: India does not have a uniform civil code (UCC), and personal laws continue to govern marriage practices for different religious groups:
  - Muslim Personal Law (Shariat): Muslim men are permitted to have up to four wives, provided they treat them justly and equally.
    - However, this practice has faced increasing scrutiny, especially in light of the Supreme Court's 2017 verdict invalidating triple talag.
  - Christian and Parsi Laws: Both communities are governed by their respective marriage laws, which prohibit polygamy.
  - Tribal and Customary Laws: Certain tribal communities continue to recognize polygamous unions under customary practices, though these are increasingly being challenged.

Source: TH

### ROW OVER SELECTING HEAD OF POLICE FORCE IN T.N.

#### Context

 Tamil Nadu has found itself in the middle of a controversy over the appointment of a regular Director-General of Police/Head of Police Force (DGP/HoPF).

#### About

- For the first time in recent years, the State was unable to appoint a regular police chief in time to succeed the outgoing DGP.
- The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)
  had finalised a panel of three senior DGP-rank
  officers from the list forwarded by the State, the
  Tamil Nadu government rejected the panel.

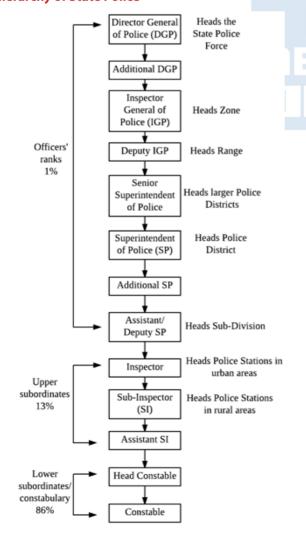


- A petitioner filed a case against the State, alleging wilful contempt for appointing an incharge DGP and withholding the appointment of a candidate from the panel.
  - The Supreme Court has sought the State's response within three weeks.

#### **Superintendence over the State Police**

- Police is a State subject in the seventh schedule to the Constitution, it is primarily the State Governments who exercises control and superintendence over the state police forces.
- At the district level, the District Magistrate (DM) may also give directions to the SP and supervise police administration.
  - This is called the dual system of control (as authority is vested in both the DM and SP) at the district level.
- In urban areas, however, the dual system has been replaced by the Commissionerate system to allow for quicker decision-making in response to complex law and order situations.

#### **Hierarchy of State Police**



#### Recruitment

- The state governments are responsible for recruiting police personnel directly to the ranks of Constables, Sub-Inspectors and Deputy SPs.
- The central government recruits Indian Police Service (IPS) officers for the rank of Assistant SP. IPS is an All India Service created under the Constitution.
- Vacancies at other positions (as well as at the ranks of Sub-Inspector and Assistant/ Deputy SPs) may be filled up through **promotions**.
- Single-window System for Appointing State DGPs: The Union Government has notified a Single Window System for appointing State Director-General of Police/Head of Police Force.
  - The new policy effective April 22, 2025, comes against the backdrop of several States not following the Supreme Court orders in the Prakash Singh case (2006) and the Ministry of Home Affairs guidelines as regards appointment of DGP/HoPF.

#### Features:

- A detailed checklist and standardised formats for State proposals.
- Aimed at quick and smooth empanelment by UPSC.
- Responsibility fixed: A Secretary-rank officer must now certify eligibility and minimum tenure of DGP-rank officers sent for empanelment to the UPSC.
- The UPSC empanelment committee is headed by its chairperson and comprises the Union Home Secretary, the Chief Secretary, the DGP of the State concerned, and an officer from among the Heads of Central Police Organisations/Central paramilitary forces.
- Eligibility Conditions (As per SC and MHA):
  - Officers must have at least 6 months residual service from the date of vacancy.
  - Proposals must be sent to UPSC at least 3 months before the DGP/HoPF post becomes vacant.

#### **Prakash Singh Judgment on Police Reforms**

- In a landmark judgment, the Supreme Court in 2006 had directed all states and Union Territories to bring in police reforms.
- The ruling issued a series of measures that were to be undertaken by the governments to ensure the police could do their work without worrying about any political interference.

### Directions to the Centre and States as per the SC Judgement:

- Constitute a State Security Commission in every state that will lay down policy for police functioning, evaluate police performance, and ensure that state governments do not exercise unwarranted influence on the police.
- Constitute a Police Establishment Board in every state that will decide postings, transfers and promotions for officers below the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police, and make recommendations to the state government for officers of higher ranks.
- Constitute Police Complaints Authorities at the state and district levels to inquire into allegations of serious misconduct and abuse of power by police personnel.
- Provide a minimum tenure of at least two years for the DGP and other key police officers within the state forces, and the Chiefs of the central forces to protect them against arbitrary transfers and postings.
- Ensure that the DGP of state police is appointed from amongst three senior-most officers who have been empanelled for the promotion by the Union Public Service Commission on the basis of length of service, good record and experience.
- Separate the investigating police from the law and order police to ensure speedier investigation, better expertise and improved rapport with the people.
- Constitute a National Security Commission to shortlist the candidates for appointment as Chiefs of the central armed police forces.

#### Conclusion

- The 2nd ARC emphasized that police reforms are central to good governance and rule of law.
- While some states have adopted measures, implementation remains uneven.
- The Supreme Court's 2006 directives in the Prakash Singh case also drew upon several of these recommendations, but compliance continues to be patchy.

Source: TH

# ARUNACHAL PRADESH IS AN INTEGRAL AND INALIENABLE PART OF INDIA: MEA

#### **Context**

 The ministry of external affairs (MEA) said that Arunachal Pradesh is an integral and inalienable part of India.

#### **About**

- Recently, Chinese immigration officials at the Shanghai airport detained an Indian Citizen for 18 hours on the ground that her passport was "invalid" as her birthplace was Arunachal Pradesh.
  - The immigration officers declared her passport "invalid," saying Arunachal is not part of India.
  - MEA strongly criticised China over the "arbitrary detention" calling it a violation of International civil aviation norms, including the Chicago and Montreal Conventions.

#### **China's Claim Over Arunachal Pradesh**

- Arunachal Pradesh, known as the North Eastern Frontier Agency (NEFA) until 1972, is the largest state in the northeast and shares international borders with China (Tibet) in the north and northeast, Bhutan towards the west and Myanmar to the east.
- China's Claims: China claims Arunachal Pradesh as a part of southern Tibet. Its main interest lies in the district of Tawang, which is in the northwestern region of Arunachal and borders Bhutan and Tibet.

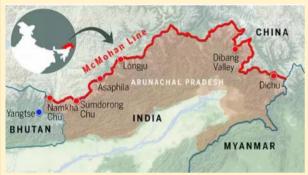
#### Why does China Claim Arunachal Pradesh?

- Tawang monastery: Tawang is the second largest monastery of Tibetan Buddhism in the world.
  - The monastery was founded by Merag Lodroe Gyamtso in the year 1680-81 to honour the wishes of the fifth Dalai Lama.
  - China claims that the monastery is evidence that the district once belonged to Tibet.
- Cultural connections and China's Concerns:
   There are some tribes in the upper Arunachal region which have cultural connections to the people of Tibet.
  - China fears that the presence of these ethnic groups in Arunachal could at some stage give rise to a pro-democracy Tibetan movement against China.
- **Dispute over the McMahon Line:** The McMahon Line, drawn during the 1914 Simla Convention between British India and Tibet, designates Arunachal Pradesh as part of India.
  - China rejects the Simla Convention, arguing that Tibet had no independent authority to sign the agreement.



#### **Shimla Convention 1914**

- The 1914 Simla convention, which included a Chinese representative on an equal footing with a Tibetan representative, gave birth to the McMahon Line separating Tibet from India in the eastern sector.
  - It clearly defined the frontiers of the boundary between India and Tibet.



- Escape of Dalai Lama: When the Dalai Lama escaped Tibet in 1959 amid China crackdown, he entered India through Tawang and stayed in the Tawang monastery for some time which has been a bone of contention between India and China.
- Strategic Importance: The region overlooks the Tibetan plateau and provides India with advantageous terrain.
  - It is close to key Chinese military assets in Tibet.
  - Control over this territory would allow China to strengthen its buffer zone and military posture in the eastern sector.
- The Bhutan factor: If China gains control of Arunachal, it would mean that the kingdom of Bhutan would have China as its neighbour on both the western and eastern borders.
- Political Leverage in Border Negotiations:
   China often uses its claim over Arunachal Pradesh
   as a bargaining tool to extract concessions in
   other sectors, especially Aksai Chin (western
   sector), which it controls.

#### **India's Stand**

- Arunachal Pradesh is an Integral Part of India: India asserts full sovereignty over Arunachal Pradesh based on historical, legal, and administrative continuity.
  - People of Arunachal Pradesh have democratically elected governments within the Indian Constitution.
- McMahon Line is the Legal Boundary: India recognises the 1914 McMahon Line as the official and legitimate boundary.

- China's Claims Are Unfounded: Government statements consistently underline that assigning invented names or issuing stapled visas does not change the ground reality.
- Evidence of Effective Control: India has administered the region continuously since Independence—governance, elections, judiciary, development schemes, and armed forces presence.
  - People of Arunachal identify culturally, politically, and socially with India.
- Development and Infrastructure in Arunachal Will Continue: India rejects China's objections to infrastructure projects.
  - Stands that development of Indian territory is India's internal matter.

#### **Way Ahead**

- India has initiated its biggest hydroelectric project of 11,000 megawatt (MW) in Upper Subansiri in Arunachal Pradesh.
  - The hydro electric project is seen as a strategic move to counter the potential impact of Chinese flow diversion through the dams it is constructing.
- India's sovereignty over Arunachal Pradesh is internationally recognised and accepted.
- India has repeatedly rejected China's territorial claims over Arunachal Pradesh, asserting that the state is an integral part of the country.

Source: IE

#### INDIA'S RESEARCH FRAUD EPIDEMIC

#### In News

 Research fraud is a global problem and has become worse due to the growing use of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

#### **Present Scenario**

- Globally, research fraud has grown with the misuse of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools, making it easier to generate fabricated papers.
- India faces a particularly acute crisis due to systemic pressures in higher education.
- India's higher education sector, with over 40 million enrolled students, is witnessing a surge in questionable publications, driven by institutional and career pressures.

#### Causes

 Faculty promotions and career advancement are tied to publication counts rather than teaching quality.

- National and global rankings reward research output, incentivising institutions to push faculty to publish at any cost.
- Many colleges lack adequate labs, libraries, funding, and research-capable faculty, making genuine research difficult.
- Despite widespread belief, evidence does not strongly support that research improves teaching outcomes.

#### **Impacts**

- Fraudulent publications erode trust in Indian research globally.
- With 80% of students being undergraduates, the neglect of teaching undermines learning outcomes.
- India's universities risk losing credibility in international collaborations.
- Resources are diverted to fraudulent publishing rather than genuine innovation.

#### **Government Steps**

- UGC Academic Performance Indicator (API) introduced in 2010, it entrenched publication bias in promotions.
  - Amendments have been made, but the emphasis on publishing remains.
- 2025 UGC draft regulations aim to reduce reliance on quantifiable metrics like publication counts and focus more on academic standards.
- NITI Aayog's report on expanding quality higher education stresses governance, funding, and employability reforms.
- The Ministry of Science & Technology highlights efforts to build infrastructure, encourage innovation, and bridge academia-industry gaps.

#### **Way Ahead**

- India's research fraud crisis stems from misplaced incentives and weak infrastructure, demanding systemic reforms to restore academic integrity.
- Therefore, there is a need to shift focus toward teaching, especially for undergraduates, adopting context-sensitive policies that distinguish between research universities and teaching colleges, and strengthening monitoring to curb fraudulent publications.
- Institutions must reward quality over quantity, invest in infrastructure and faculty training, and align with global best practices to rebuild credibility and ensure genuine knowledge creation.

#### Source:TH

#### NEWS IN SHORT

#### **CONSTITUTION DAY**

#### **In News**

26th November is being celebrated as Constitution
Day to mark the adoption of the Constitution of
India by the Constituent Assembly (CA).

### About Constitution Day (Samvidhan Divas, National Law Day)

#### Overview:

- In 2015, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment notified the GOI's decision to celebrate the 26th November as Constitution Day.
- The day was celebrated as a tribute to Dr B
   R Ambedkar as Chairman of the Drafting
   Committee.

#### **Historical Background:**

- **1934**: Demand for the Constituent Assembly was made by M.N. Roy.
- **1940:** Demand was accepted by the British government.
- 1946: 9th December, CA conducted the first session on Draft Constitution.
- 1949: 26th November, CA finally adopted the Constitution of India.
- 1950: 26th January, the Constitution of India came into force.

#### **Key Facts about Constituent Assembly**

- Took **2 years, 11 months & 17 days** for drafting the Constitution of India.
- Dr Sachchidananda Sinha was appointed as 1st President of CA.
- Dr Rajendra Prasad was the chairman of the Constituent Assembly.
- Jawaharlal Nehru (PM) made the 'Objectives Resolution' on 13th December 1946, later adopted as Preamble on 22nd Jan 1947.
- The constituent assembly acted as the temporary legislature until a new one was to be constituted.

#### **Brief About Constitution Of India**

- The longest written constitution of the World (25 Parts & 12 Schedules)
- The Constitution of India wasn't typed or printed and is handwritten & stored in a Helium filled case.



- It was handcrafted by the artists of Shantiniketan under the guidance of Acharya Nandalal Bose.
- The major portion borrowed from the GOI Act, 1935.
- Salient Features: Define India to be a sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic republic assuring its citizen's justice, equality, and liberty.
  - Parliamentary form, Federalism, Single Citizenship, Separation of Powers.
- Key Amendments:
  - 1st CAA: Added Ninth Schedule laws that cannot be challenged in courts.
  - 42nd CAA: Inserted Article 51-A (10 FDs), Socialist, Secular and Integrity added to the Preamble, & new DPSPs added (Article 39, 39A, 43 A, 48A)

Source: PIB

#### **URANIUM TOXICITY**

#### In News

 A new study published in Scientific Reports has detected uranium in breast milk samples collected from multiple districts in Bihar, raising concern over infant exposure

#### **Key Points of the study**

- It measured the uranium (U-238) concentration using ICP-MS (inductively-coupled plasma mass spectrometry) at a laboratory in Bihar.
- It found detectable uranium in every breast milk sample collected from 40 mothers, with the highest concentrations recorded in Katihar and Khagaria, reaching up to 5.25 micrograms per litre.
- It is estimated that about 70% of breastfed infants could face potential non-carcinogenic health effects from this exposure, though no evidence of cancer risk was detected.

#### **About Uranium-238**

- Uranium-238 (U-238) is the most abundant isotope of uranium found naturally, making up over 99% of natural uranium.
- It occurs widely in soil, rocks, groundwater, and even in drinking water under natural conditions due to its presence in the earth's crust.
- Its radioactivity is relatively low because it has a very long half-life (about 4.47 billion years), so the primary health risk from U-238 arises more from its chemical toxicity as a heavy metal rather than its radiological effects.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has set a
provisional safe limit of 30 micrograms per liter
(μg/L) for uranium concentration in drinking water
to prevent chemical toxicity risks.

Source :BS

#### **DR. VERGHESE KURIEN**

#### In News

 26th November commemorates the birth anniversary of Dr. Verghese Kurien.

#### About Dr. Verghese Kurien (1921-2012)

- He was the architect of India's White Revolution and is celebrated as the "Father of the White Revolution."
- Born in Kozhikode, Kerala, he spearheaded
   Operation Flood in 1970, which transformed
   India from a milk-deficient country into the world's
   largest milk producer.
- He was instrumental in establishing the Anand cooperative model, exemplified by Amul, which became a blueprint for dairy development across India.
- His efforts also led to the creation of institutions such as the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and the Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA).
- Dr. Kurien revolutionized the edible oil industry by launching the **brand 'Dhara' in 1979.**
- Dr. Kurien's contributions earned him national and international recognition, including the Padma Vibhushan, Ramon Magsaysay Award, and the World Food Prize.

Source: TH

#### **NAYI CHETNA 4.0**

#### **In News**

 Union Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched 'Nayi Chetna 4.0' national campaign for gender equality and women's empowerment.

#### **About**

- It is a month-long campaign, organised by the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) under the Ministry of Rural Development.
- Nayi Chetna 4.0 aims to strengthen community action against gender-based violence and promote women's safety, dignity and economic empowerment across rural India.

 The campaign focuses on enabling safe mobility, recognising women as key economic contributors, and addressing unpaid care work through shared community responsibility.

Source: PIB

# SC APPOINTED PANEL ASKS GOA TO NOTIFY TIGER RESERVE

#### **In News**

 A Supreme Court-appointed Central Empowered Committee (CEC) has recently recommended notifying a tiger reserve in Goa in two phases.

#### **About**

- The committee has proposed Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary and Netravali Wildlife Sanctuary, which are contiguous to Karnataka's Kali Tiger Reserve, to be notified as the core area of the tiger reserve.
- This recommendation is part of India's broader efforts to expand its network of tiger reserves under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, managed by the statutory National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) chaired by the Minister of Environment and Forests.
- The creation of a tiger reserve in Goa aims to strengthen tiger conservation in the Western Ghats, enhance biodiversity protection, and support ecological balance in the region.
- Currently, India has 58 tiger reserves, with the latest being Madhav Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh.

Source: TH

# CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTING TEA PLANTATION

#### **In News**

 Climate change is disrupting Assam's tea industry with rising temperatures, erratic rainfall, and new pests, threatening yields, flavour, and livelihoods.

#### **Tea Cultivation**

- India is a global powerhouse in the tea industry, ranking as the second largest producer and consumer of tea worldwide, and the third largest exporter.
- The primary tea-producing regions in India include Assam (notably Assam valley and Cachar), West Bengal (Dooars, Terai, and

- Darjeeling), Tamil Nadu, and Kerala, which together produce about 96% of the country's total tea output.
- Despite its large production, around 80% of this tea is consumed domestically.
- The tea plant thrives in tropical and subtropical climates with optimal temperatures ranging between 20°-30°C and requires well-distributed annual rainfall between 150 and 300 cm. It grows best in slightly acidic, calcium-free soil with porous sub-soils for efficient water drainage.

#### The Tea Board of India

- The Board was established under the Tea Act of 1953 and plays a crucial role in supporting the industry.
- It is a statutory body under the Ministry of Commerce with headquarters in Kolkata and international offices in London, Dubai, and Moscow.
- The Board provides vital financial and technical assistance to ensure quality cultivation, production, and marketing of tea, helping Indian tea compete globally.

Source: TH

#### **CUBAN GAR**

#### In News

In Cuba's Zapata Swamp, biologist Andres Hurtado leads a restoration effort to save the **Cuban gar.** 

#### **Cuban gar (Atractosteus tristoechus)**

 It is also known as Manjuarí and is endemic to Cuba, where it is restricted to western mainland drainages and possibly the Isle of Youth



- Habitat: It occurs in coastal rivers, bayous, swamps, tidelands, channels and lagoons characterized by abundant aquatic vegetation, feeding primarily on fishes.
- Threats: Habitat loss and alteration, overfishing



of prey items, and the establishment of non-native species (e.g., Clarias gariepinus) are the primary drivers of continuing declines

• Protection status: It is listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List.

Source:TH

### IMPACT RISE INITIATIVE FOR SOCIETAL CHANGE

#### **Context**

 IIT Kharagpur launched Impact RISE (Research, Innovation, Skilling, and Entrepreneurship), an initiative that focuses on sustainable tech and management practices for societal transformation.

#### **About**

- The Impact RISE initiative will have four pillars – research, innovation, skilling, and entrepreneurship.
- It will involve research aligned with sustainable development goals and India's climate and development priorities.
- The initiative will be activated through missions focusing on:
  - climate resilience in the Sundarbans:
  - the use of IIT Kharagpur's AI health diagnostics;
  - women's health with a focus on low-cost devices for screening of anaemia and oral cancer;
  - the use of arsenic filters and smart soil scanners to provide safe water;

Source: IE

### ARMY LOOKS TO RAISE AGNIVEER VACANCIES TO 1 LAKH A YEAR

#### Context

 In a bid to reduce a shortfall of nearly 1.8 lakh soldiers, the Army is looking to increase vacancies for recruitment of Agniveers to over 1 lakh every year, from the existing 45,000-50,000.

#### **Agnipath Scheme**

- It was introduced in 2022, and is also called the Tour of Duty scheme.
- It is a short-term recruitment scheme for the Indian Army.
- Under the policy, soldiers called 'Agniveers'
   — are recruited for four years, at the end of which
   only 25% of recruits from a batch are retained for
   regular service for 15 years.

- Age Limit: Candidates between the age of 17.5
  years to 21 years are eligible for enrolling in the
  Agnipath scheme.
- The scheme provides an avenue to Indian youth, desirous of serving the country to get recruited in the Armed Forces for a short duration.
  - The scheme enhances the youth profile of the Armed Forces.

#### **Reasons for Increasing Vacancies**

- Deficiency of Soldiers: Despite the recruitment of soldiers starting in 2022 with the Agnipath scheme, the retiring strength of soldiers continued to be 60,000-65,000 every year.
  - It added to the overall deficiency by 20,000-25,000 a year. Currently, the overall deficiency of soldiers is nearly 1.8 lakh.
- Retiring Agniveers: 2026-end onward, a certain percentage of Agniveers would also start retiring since the first batch would complete the four-year tenure.

Source: IE

#### **OPERATION PAWAN**

#### Context

 The Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), General Upendra Dwivedi, has paid homage to soldiers who laid down their lives during Operation Pawan (1987 – 1990) in Sri Lanka.

#### **About**

- Operation Pawan was launched by the Rajiv Gandhi government in 1987 after the signing of the Indo-Sri Lanka Accord.
- India deployed the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) to Sri Lanka during the country's civil war between the minority Tamil population, and the Sinhalese-majority government.
- India was deeply concerned due to:
  - Ethnic and cultural ties with Tamil Nadu
  - Escalating violence
  - Rising refugee inflow into India

#### Do you know?

- The Sri Lankan civil war ended on May 18, 2009 with the defeat of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).
- While India had not formally commemorated Operation Pawan for decades, Sri Lanka maintains an IPKF memorial in Colombo.
- Now, this has changed with the Indian Army officially recognising the sacrifices made by troops during the operation.

Source: TH