

Current Affairs 26th July 2025 by Right IAS

Supreme Court Verdict on Delimitation

Background of the Case A petition was filed by Prof. K. Purushottam Reddy. The plea demanded delimitation (redrawing of Assembly constituencies) in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, citing the 2022 delimitation exercise in Jammu and Kashmir as a precedent. Supreme Court's Key Observations 1. 2. No Discrimination: The Court ruled that the Centre did not discriminate against Andhra Pradesh or Telangana by not conducting delimitation. No violation of legitimate expectations of these States' electorates. Unequal Cannot Be Treated Equally: States and Union Territories operate under different constitutional frameworks. Treating Andhra Pradesh/Telangana and J&K equally would be "treating unequals equally"

Constitutional Bar – Article 170(3): Delimitation in States is constitutionally frozen until after the first Census post-2026. Therefore, delimitation in AP and Telangana is not legally permitted until then. Jammu and Kashmir Exception: J&K is a Union Territory and not bound by the freeze under Article 170. Its delimitation in 2022 was based on the 2011 Census, legally permissible.

Distinction of Domains: 1. 2. States and UTs function in distinct constitutional domains. Delimitation in J&K cannot be cited as a precedent for States. Risk of Inequality and Discontent: Granting relief to AP and Telangana could lead to similar demands from other States. Specifically cited were four North-Eastern States Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Nagaland which were also excluded from delimitation via 2021 notification. Impact on Electoral Framework: Any exception before 2026 would destabilize electoral uniformity. It would also blur the line between constitutional norms and political discretion.

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Kargil to Pahalgam — India's Changing Security Posture

Kargil War (1999): A Turning Point Fought between May 3 – July 26, 1999, in high-altitude areas of Kashmir. First war broadcast live on Indian television, bringing visuals of war into people's homes. Indian Army showed grit, determination, and patriotism, successfully evicting Pakistani intruders. Pakistan was forced to withdraw and requested a ceasefire. Pahalgam Terror Attack (2025) and Operation Sindoor April 22, 2025: Pakistan-based terrorists

attacked civilians in Pahalgam, killing 26 tourists (men targeted specifically). India's response: Operation Sindoor (May 7–10, 2025): Precision strikes on 9 terror bases and 11 Pakistani military air-bases. BrahMos missile strike reportedly damaged a nuclear storage facility near Nur Khan Base. Pakistan quickly requested a ceasefire, mirroring 1999.

Comparison of Kargil and Pahalgam
Kargil: Demonstrated India's conventional war capabilities under nuclear threat. **Pahalgam:** Signalled a zero-tolerance policy on terrorism with swift and bold military retaliation. Both events became milestones in India's defence doctrine evolution. **Strategic Context of Kargil War** Took place a year after India's 1998 nuclear tests; followed by Pakistan's own tests. India was economically weak and had a coalition government. The war occurred amid a peace initiative (PM Vajpayee's Lahore visit in February 1999). International sympathy for India's fight against terrorism was limited before 9/11. **Lessons from Kargil Intelligence Failure:** Military and civilian agencies failed to detect Pakistani infiltration. **Delayed Decisions:** Lack of real time intel and aerial surveillance. **Operational Weaknesses:** Troops lacked high-

altitude gear. Inadequate artillery support and communication.

Deficiency in inter-services coordination.

Post-Kargil Reforms
Structural/Institutional Measures: Creation of Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA) – 2002. National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO) – 2004. Revamp of National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) and Joint Intelligence Committee (JIC). Role of National Security Adviser (NSA) formalised. **Military Modernisation:** Focus on mountain warfare and joint command. Establishment of a Mountain Corps. Birth of Cold Start Doctrine – rapid, limited military operations below nuclear threshold. Appointment of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) – 2019. Move toward Integrated Theatre Commands (ongoing). **Defence Equipment Modernisation:** Acquisition of Rafale jets, Apache, Chinook helicopters, and S-400 systems. Development of indigenous platforms like BrahMos, artillery, and missiles.

India's Fight Against Terror: Evolution Post-Kargil terror incidents with no decisive response: IC-814 hijacking (1999): India released terrorists. Parliament attack (2001): Led to Operation Parakram (mobilisation, but no action). 26/11

Mumbai (2008): No direct response to Pakistan. Shift in Doctrine Post-2016: Uri attack (2016) → Surgical strikes. Pulwama attack (2019) → Balakot air strikes (IAF crossed LoC). Operation Sindoor: A New Security Paradigm India targeted deep military and terror infrastructure inside Pakistan. Sent a strong message: Era of restraint is over. Showcased the effectiveness of India's modernised conventional military and strategic preparedness. Importance of Indigenous Defence Production 'Make in India' in defence gaining ground: Production of advanced weapon systems indigenously.

Boosting self-reliance and strategic autonomy. Final Takeaways Kargil: Taught hard lessons in preparedness, intelligence, and joint coordination. Pahalgam/Operation Sindoor: Demonstrated proactive, offensive, and precise capability. India's political and military leadership must stay vigilant. "There must never be another Kargil or Pahalgam."

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Mangroves and M.S. Swaminathan's Legacy

Early Understanding of Mangroves
Until the 1980s, mangroves were primarily valued by local coastal communities for fisheries and

livelihoods. Today, mangroves are recognised for: Disaster risk reduction (e.g., during cyclones/tsunamis) Climate adaptation via carbon sequestration Coastal biodiversity and fishery enhancement Protection of shoreline ecosystems and bird sanctuaries M.S. Swaminathan: A Turning Point in Mangrove Advocacy 1989: At a Tokyo conference, he proposed the use of mangroves for climate change mitigation. Highlighted threats like sea level rise, land salinisation, and cyclone frequency. Proposed using mangrove genetic traits (like salt tolerance) for developing resilient crops. His approach combined ecology, economics, and equity.

Establishment of ISME (International Society for Mangrove Ecosystems) Formed in 1990 in Okinawa, Japan, with Swaminathan as Founding President (till 1993). Initiatives: Drafted the Charter for Mangroves, integrated into the World Charter for Nature (1992). Promoted global mangrove conservation and awareness. Published: Manual for ecosystem restoration World Mangrove Atlas Workshops on sustainable utilisation Development of Global Infrastructure Created GLOMIS (Global Mangrove Database and Information System): Searchable database of mangrove species, experts, and research. In

1992, conducted surveys in 9 countries to identify Mangrove Genetic Resource Centres. These centres are now protected and monitored by governments. Current Status of Mangroves in India.

As per India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2023: Total mangrove cover: 4,991.68 km² 0.15% of India's geographical area Increase of 16.68 km² since ISFR 2019

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Source Code

Source code is the base of all software applications, and is not typically visible to end users, as this may permit reverse engineering or cyber exploits. Both countries (India & UK) agreed not to mandate the transfer or access to source code of software owned by a company from the other party

Dragon's teeth

Dragon's teeth are a type of anti-tank fortification, consisting of pyramidal concrete blocks designed to impede the movement of tanks and other armored vehicles. First used in World War II, they are intended to slow down and channel tanks into areas where they can be engaged by anti-tank weapons



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