Ending AFSPA

AFSPA should go entirely because of the impunity it offers armed forces.

It augurs well for the future that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given the first authentic indication that the operation of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) may come to an end in the whole of the north-eastern region, if ongoing efforts to normalise the situation bear fruit. Mr. Modi’s remark that a good deal of work is being done in that direction, not only in Assam but also Nagaland and Manipur, may be rooted in his keenness to demonstrate the level of progress achieved in the region under his regime; but it will bring immense relief to the citizens, nevertheless. Areas notified as ‘disturbed areas’ under AFSPA have been progressively reduced in the last few years, mainly due to the improvement in the security situation. About a month ago, the Union Home Ministry reduced such notified areas considerably in Assam, Nagaland and Manipur. There was a substantial reduction in Assam, where AFSPA was removed entirely in 23 districts and partially in one. In Nagaland, after the removal of the law from 15 police stations in seven districts, it remains in areas under 57 police stations, spread across 13 districts. Areas under 82 police stations are still notified under the Act in Manipur, even though 15 police station areas were excluded from the notification from April 1. Mr. Modi, who spoke at a ‘peace, unity and development rally’ in Diphu in Assam last week, cited “better administration” and the “return of peace” as the reasons for the removal of AFSPA in these areas in a region that has seen insurgencies for decades.

AFSPA was revoked in Tripura in 2015 and in Meghalaya in 2018. It is not unforeseeable that other States will also be excluded from its purview at some point of time. It is convenient to link the exclusion of an area from AFSPA’s purview with reduction in violence by armed groups, improvement in the security situation and an increase in development activity, but what is important is the recognition that the law created an atmosphere of impunity and led to the commission of excesses and atrocities. It was hardly four months ago that 15 civilians were killed in Mon district in Nagaland in a botched military operation. Therefore, alongside the gradual reduction in the areas under the Act, there should be serious efforts to procure justice for victims of past excesses too. On the political side, it is indeed true that much headway has been made in moving towards a political solution to some of the multifarious disputes in the region, in the form of peace accords, ceasefire and creation of sub-regional administrative arrangements. The removal of AFSPA from the entire region will be an inevitable step in the process. But irrespective of the security situation, AFSPA should not have allowed such impunity to the armed forces.

Practice Exercise

- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where ‘red’ denotes ‘subject’ and ‘blue’ denotes ‘verb’.

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Vocabulary

1. **AFSPA** (noun) – Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act" (AFSPA), 1958 is an act of the Parliament of India that grants special powers to the Indian Armed Forces to maintain public order in "disturbed areas".

2. **Go** (verb) – come to an end, cease to exist, disappear, vanish समाप्त करना

3. **Entirely** (adverb) – absolutely, completely, totally, fully पूरी तरह से

4. **Impunity** (noun) – immunity, indemnity, exemption from punishment, freedom from punishment, exemption दंड-मुक्ति, छूट

5. **Augur** (well/bad/ill) (verb) – (of an event or circumstance) portend a good or bad outcome. संकेत मिलना (शुभ/ अशुभ)

6. **Ongoing** (adjective) – in progress, under way, going on, continuing चल रही

7. **Normalise** (verb) – Bring or return to a normal or standard condition or state. सामान्य बनाना

8. **Bear fruit** (phrase) – produce positive results, succeed, meet with success सफल होना

9. **Remark** (noun) – comment, statement, utterance, observation, declaration, टिप्पणी

10. **A great deal of** (phrase) – A large amount. अत्यधिक संख्या में

11. **(be) rooted in** (verb) – Have as an origin or cause. में निहित होना

12. **Keenness** (noun) – eagerness, willingness, readiness, desire, उत्सुकता

13. **Demonstrate** (verb) – show, show beyond doubt, indicate, determine, establish, प्रदर्शित करना

14. **Regime** (noun) – government, authorities, system of government, rule शासन

15. **Immense** (verb) – huge, vast, massive, enormous, gigantic अत्यधिक, विपुल

16. **Nevertheless** (adverb) – In spite of that; notwithstanding; all the same. फिर भी; के बावजूद

17. **Progressively** (adverb) – Steadily; in stages. उत्तरोत्तर

18. **Considerably** (adverb) – greatly, much, very much, a great deal काफी

19. **Substantial** (adjective) – sizeable, considerable, significant, large भारी

20. **Cite** (verb) – refer to, make reference to, mention, allude to हवाला देना

21. **Insurgency** (noun) – An active revolt or uprising. विद्रोह
22. Decade (noun) – A period of ten years.
 दशक

23. Revoke (verb) – cancel, repeal, rescind, reverse, abrogate रद्द करना, हटाना

24. Unforeseeable (adjective) – Not able to be anticipated or predicted.
अप्रशस्तियाँ

25. Purview (noun) – range of experience, outlook, perspective, scope दायरे, परिधि

26. Convenient (adjective) – suitable, appropriate, fitting, fit, suited, सुविधाजनक, उपयुक्त

27. Recognition (noun) – acknowledgement, acceptance, admission स्वीकृति

28. Atmosphere (noun) – environment, milieu, ambience, aura वातावरण, मौलिक

29. Lead (to) (verb) – Result in, give rise to, bring about, cause वजह बनना

30. Commission (noun) – The action of committing a crime or offense.

31. Excesses (noun) – Outrageous or immoderate behaviour. ज्यादतिति

32. Atrocity (noun) – barbarity, barbarism, brutality, savagery, inhumanity, cruelty, क्रूरता

33. Hardly (adverb) – scarcely, barely, only just, not much, मुश्किल से

34. Botched (adjective) – Failed, substandard, poor, spoiled, ruined, inferior, bungled असफल

35. Alongside (preposition) – Together with, along with, in conjunction with साथ - साथ

36. Gradual (adjective) – step by step, progressive, successive, continuous धीरे-धीरे

37. Procure (verb) – obtain, acquire, get, find, come by, secure प्राप्त करना

38. Victim (noun) – sufferer, injured party, casualty, injured person पीड़ित

39. Indeed (adverb) – of course, definitely, yes, certainly, assuredly वास्तव में

40. Headway (noun) – make progress, make strides, gain ground, progress, प्रगति

41. Multifarious (adjective) – diverse, many, numerous, various, varied विविध, तरह तरह का

42. Accord (noun) – pact, treaty, agreement, settlement, deal समझौता

43. Ceasefire (noun) – A temporary suspension of fighting, typically one during which peace talks take place; a truce. संघर्ष विराम

44. Arrangement (noun) – Preparation, plan, procedure, organization व्यवस्था
45. **Inevitable** (adjective) – unavoidable, inescapable, bound to happen; necessary, compulsory, required अपरिहार्य, अनिवार्य

46. **Irrespective** (of) (adjective) – regardless of, without regard for, without regard to, disregarding चाहे कुछ भी हो

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Practice Exercise

Direction (Q1 – Q3): Select the best express synonym of the given words

1. AFSPA should go entirely because of the **impunity** it offers armed forces
   A. Exemption
   B. Lampoon
   C. Congenial
   D. Insatiable
   E. None of the above

2. It **augurs** well for the future that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given the first authentic indication
   A. Facetious
   B. Erudite
   C. Portend
   D. Patriarch
   E. None of the above

3. AFSPA was **revoked** in Tripura in 2015 and in Meghalaya in 2018
   A. Expedite
   B. Rustic
   C. Abrogate
   D. Sensory
   E. None of the above

Direction (Q4 – Q5): Select the appropriate antonym of the given words

4. It is not **unforeseeable** that other States will also be excluded from its purview at some point of time.
   A. Predictable
   B. Hiatus
   C. Celibacy
   D. Ardent
   E. None of the above

5. But what is important is the recognition that the law created an atmosphere of impunity and led to the commission of **excesses** and atrocities.
   A. Guile
   B. Insipid
   C. Eccentric
   D. Moderation
   E. None of the above

[Answer]
Direction (Q6 – Q10): Spot the grammatical error in the given sentence

6. Choose only (A)/ such friends (B)/ that you (C)/ can trust. (D)
7. The book (A)/ is well illustrated (B)/ and attractively bound (C)/ making altogether an 
   attractive volume. (D)
8. No sooner he had arrived (A)/ than he (B)/ was asked(C)/ to leave again. (D)
9. If your jogging clothes (A)/ is not made of (B)/ permeable fabric you will drown (C)/ in your 
   sweat. (D)
10. The perquisites attached (A)/ to this makes it (B)/ even more attractive(C)/ than the salary 
    indicated. (D)

Direction (Q11 – Q14): Cloze test based on editorial (The cusp)

August has begun on a disconcerting note in India’s coronavirus story. The seven-day weekly average of cases hovers around the psychologically important 40,000 mark and there is an ..........11.......... in daily new cases with the latest numbers a little over 41,000. A major concern that has assumed national proportions is the trajectory of cases in Kerala. With nearly 20,000 fresh cases being added every day, it is of concern that if a State with an ..........12.......... track record during the earlier wave is under siege now, then many other States could be particularly vulnerable against new variants at the start of a third wave. In Kerala, the rise in cases is ..........13.......... with a rise in testing that has increased from 130,000 a day on July 25 to 162,000 as of Monday, indicating that the infection may be rapidly spreading. Nearly 11 States are now showing a weekly increase in cases. Kerala is not the only point of concern. The national situation has prompted the Health Secretary to write to States that all districts reporting a positivity rate of more than 10% in the last few weeks ought to consider strict restrictions to ..........14.......... the movement of people and formation of crowds to prevent the spread of infection

11. A. Proficient  B. Indigent  C. Tout  D. Uptick
12. A. Admirable  B. Emulate  C. Chasm  D. Revere
13. A. Duplicity  B. Concomitant  C. Utopia  D. Aggregate
14. A. Desiccate  B. Curtail  C. Indolent  D. Cacophony
15. Which among the following will be the Third sentence of the paragraph after the rearrangement?

P. The investment proposals and development projects inaugurated by the Prime Minister, in particular the connectivity projects between Jammu and Srinagar and Jammu and Delhi should help shore up the UT’s economy.

Q. After a period of harsh lockdowns and communication restrictions, the UT went through a tough period, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic between 2019 and 2021.

R. But significantly, the Kashmir Valley has seen a substantial increase in footfalls with a revival of the tourism industry during the recent winter despite security concerns, with its natural beauty proving a magnetic attraction for international travellers in particular, who had been affected by global travel bans.

S. In addressing the residents of Jammu for the first time since the removal of special status for Jammu and Kashmir in August 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid out a rosy picture of increased connectivity of the Union Territory with the nation’s capital, promised more investments, and hailed the boom in tourism as a harbinger of progress.

T. The UT, conflict-ridden for decades, had fared better on several development indicators compared to the rest of India, except in per capita net State GDP.

U. Data from FY2017 showed that J&K ranked 21st among States then.

A. T    B. S    C. P    D. R    E. U
STUPQR

In addressing the residents of Jammu for the first time since the removal of special status for Jammu and Kashmir in August 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid out a rosy picture of increased connectivity of the Union Territory with the nation’s capital, promised more investments, and hailed the boom in tourism as a harbinger of progress. The UT, conflict-ridden for decades, had fared better on several development indicators compared to the rest of India, except in per capita net State GDP. Data from FY2017 showed that J&K ranked 21st among States then. The investment proposals and development projects inaugurated by the Prime Minister, in particular the connectivity projects between Jammu and Srinagar and Jammu and Delhi should help shore up the UT’s economy. After a period of harsh lockdowns and communication restrictions, the UT went through a tough period, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic between 2019 and 2021. But significantly, the Kashmir Valley has seen a substantial increase in footfalls with a revival of the tourism industry during the recent winter
despite security concerns, with its natural beauty proving a magnetic attraction for international travellers in particular, who had been affected by global travel bans.

**Explanation in English**

6. (C) 'As' will be used instead of 'that' because 'such' is followed by 'as' as a Relative Pronoun and not 'who/which/that'; like-
   
i. He is such a good man as can help you.
ii. She is not such a good girl as you can trust.

7. (D) After 'Making', 'pronoun it' has to be used as object for 'book' because 'make + somebody/ something + something' is used for 'making something', like-
   
i. I made him the captain,
ii. She made the book an attractive volume.

8. (A) 'Had he' will be used instead of 'he had'.

9. (B) 'Are' will be used instead of 'is' because the subject 'clothes' of the sentence is plural for which Plural Verb will be used.

10. (B) 'Make' will be used instead of 'makes' because the subject 'perquisites' of the sentence is plural.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr.NO</th>
<th>Words</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Meanings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Q1</td>
<td>Lampoon</td>
<td>verb</td>
<td>To satirize; to mock; to parody</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Congenial</td>
<td>adjective</td>
<td>Agreeably suitable; pleasant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Insatiable</td>
<td>adjective</td>
<td>Hard or impossible to satisfy; greedy; avaricious</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q2</td>
<td>Facetious</td>
<td>adjective</td>
<td>Humorous; not serious; clumsily humorous</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Erudite</td>
<td>adjective</td>
<td>Scholarly; deeply learned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Patriarch</td>
<td>noun</td>
<td>The male head of a family or tribe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q3</td>
<td>Expedite</td>
<td>verb</td>
<td>To speed up or ease the progress of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rustic</td>
<td>adjective</td>
<td>Rural; lacking urban comforts or sophistication; primitive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sensory</td>
<td>adjective</td>
<td>Having to do with the sense of sensation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q4</td>
<td>Hiatus</td>
<td>noun</td>
<td>A break or interruption, often from work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Celibacy</td>
<td>noun</td>
<td>Abstinence from sex</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Ardent</td>
<td>adjective</td>
<td>Passionate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q5</td>
<td>Guile</td>
<td>noun</td>
<td>Cunning, duplicity; artfulness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Insipid</td>
<td>adjective</td>
<td>Dull; bland; banal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Eccentric</td>
<td>adjective</td>
<td>Not conventional; a little kooky; irregular</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q7</td>
<td>Proficient</td>
<td>adjective</td>
<td>Thoroughly competent; skillful; very good</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Indigent</td>
<td>adjective</td>
<td>Poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tout</td>
<td>verb</td>
<td>To praise highly; to brag publicly about</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q8</td>
<td>Emulate</td>
<td>verb</td>
<td>To strive to equal or excel, usually through imitation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chasm</td>
<td>noun</td>
<td>A deep, gaping hole; a gorge</td>
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<tr>
<td>Word</td>
<td>Part of Speech</td>
<td>Meaning</td>
<td>Translation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Revere</td>
<td>verb</td>
<td>To respect highly; to honor</td>
<td>सम्मान</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q9 duplicity</td>
<td>noun</td>
<td>The art of being two faced; double – dealing; deception</td>
<td>कपट, द्वैधता, दुरंगापन</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utopia</td>
<td>noun</td>
<td>an ideal society</td>
<td>आदर्शलोक</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aggregate</td>
<td>noun</td>
<td>Sum total; collection of separate things mixed together</td>
<td>कुल</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q10 Desiccate</td>
<td>verb</td>
<td>To dry out</td>
<td>सूखना</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indolent</td>
<td>adjective</td>
<td>Lazy</td>
<td>आलसी</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cacophony</td>
<td>noun</td>
<td>Harsh sounding mixtures of words, voices or sounds</td>
<td>कोलाहल</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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