



TATHASTU ICS

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS



S.NO.	TOPIC
1.	ARMED FORCES (SPECIAL) POWERS ACT (AFSPA)
2.	GREEN REVOLUTION

ARMED FORCES (SPECIAL) POWERS ACT (AFSPA)

SOURCE: [TH](#), [IE](#)

WHY IN NEWZ?

The Manipur government has extended the imposition of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) in the entire state, except for specific areas. AFSPA's "disturbed area" status will continue in all hill districts, primarily inhabited by tribal communities.

The Indian States that are under AFSPA Act are **Jammu and Kashmir, Nagaland, Assam, and Arunachal Pradesh**. The Indian Armed Forces are given special authority under the (Armed Forces Special Power) AFSP Act, an act of the Indian Parliament, to uphold public order in "disturbed areas."

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ABOUT AFSPA:

ORIGIN AND BACKGROUND OF AFSPA:

- The AFSPA, initially introduced by the British **during the Quit India movement in 1942**, was **retained by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru** after India gained independence.
- It was **formally enacted as the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act in 1958**, granting extensive powers and legal protection to the armed forces in designated "**disturbed areas**."
- The Act was primarily a response to the escalating violence in the Northeastern States, which was challenging for the State governments to manage.

KEY PROVISIONS OF AFSPA:

- AFSPA **empowers armed forces to take measures in "disturbed areas," including dispersing gatherings of five or more people, using force (including lethal force) with prior warning, and making arrests without warrants when reasonable suspicion exists.**
- Additionally, the **Act allows for warrantless searches of premises, the destruction of arms and ammunition caches, and the stopping, searching, and seizing of vehicles.**
- When individuals are arrested, they must be promptly handed over to the nearest police station along with a report detailing the circumstances of the arrest.

DECLARATION OF "DISTURBED AREAS" AND LEGAL SAFEGUARDS:

- Section 3 of AFSPA **permits the Central Government, Governor of a State, or Union Territory administrator to declare an entire region or part of it as "disturbed" due to conflicts between religious, racial, linguistic, regional, or caste-based groups.**
- Section 6 ensures that **arrested individuals and seized property are transferred to the police as quickly as possible.**
- Section 7 provides **legal protection to individuals acting in good faith within their official capacity, and any prosecution requires the prior sanction of the Central Government.**

<p>1. Empowering Armed Forces: AFSPA provides necessary powers to the armed forces to restore normalcy effectively.</p>	<p>1. Misuse of Provisions: AFSPA provisions have been misused, leading to fake encounters and extra-judicial killings. EXAMPLE: In December 2021, a total of 14 civilians were killed in and after a botched Indian Army operation, according to MHA</p>
<p>2. Security Situation: Premature withdrawal of AFSPA can worsen security situations, delaying the restoration of peace.</p>	<p>2. Draconian Law: AFSPA is often criticized as a draconian, repressive, colonial, and outdated law in a democratic society.</p>
<p>3. Inadequate CrPC: Normal Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) offers limited powers to handle violent situations in disturbed areas.</p>	<p>3. License to Kill: It's perceived by some as a license to kill granted to the armed forces.</p>
<p>4. Proxy Groups: Disturbed areas involve proxy groups, necessitating extraordinary powers to break these connections.</p>	<p>4. Violation of Constitutional Rights: AFSPA is seen as a violation of various constitutional rights, including prevention against arrest, privacy, and more.</p>
<p>5. Asymmetric Warfare: Armed forces face asymmetric warfare with raids, ambushes, mines, sabotage, etc., requiring exceptional powers.</p>	<p>5. Reducing Alienation: Abolishing AFSPA could reduce the feeling of alienation in the northeast.</p>
<p>6. National Security: AFSPA provisions play a crucial role in maintaining law and order in disturbed areas, safeguarding the nation's sovereignty and security.</p>	<p>6. Abuse of Power: Allegations exist that the immunity provided by AFSPA leads to misuse of power by armed forces, resulting in offenses like enforced disappearances and sexual assault.</p>

OBSERVATION OF GOVERNMENT COMMITTEES:

JEEVAN REDDY COMMITTEE:

- After extensive consultations with all stakeholders, the committee recommended the abolition of AFSPA.
- The committee **proposed the establishment of a comprehensive arrangement under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act as an alternative to AFSPA.**
- It suggested that Central forces should assist civil authorities in maintaining law and order.
- Only commissioned officers should be authorized to order the use of force when deemed necessary.
- The committee recommended the **creation of independent and competent grievance cells** in each district where these forces are deployed to investigate rights violations.

JUSTICE SANTOSH HEGDE COMMITTEE:

- The Justice Santosh Hegde Committee, formed **to investigate fake encounters in Manipur**, characterized AFSPA as a "symbol of oppression."
- The commission identified a **deficiency in effective safeguards against the extensive powers granted to the armed forces at the grassroots level**

JUSTICE VERMA COMMITTEE:

- The Justice Verma Committee, which focused on offenses against women in conflict areas, stated that "AFSPA legitimizes impunity for sexual violence," citing incidents like the Kunan Poshpora case and the Thangjam Manorama case in Manipur.

SECOND ARC REPORT:

- The 5th report of the Second Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) on public order also recommended the repeal of AFSPA.

SUPREME COURT'S RULING ON AFSPA (NAGA PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS V. UNION OF INDIA - 1998):

- The Supreme Court, in its **1998 judgment**, affirmed the constitutionality of AFSPA.
- According to this judgment, the Supreme Court **established the following principles**:
 - The **Central government is authorized to issue a Suo-motu declaration**. However, it is advisable that the **central government consults with the state government before making such a declaration**.
 - The declaration must have a **defined timeframe**, and there should be **regular reviews of the declaration's status after every six months**.
 - When exercising the powers granted by AFSPA, the authorized **officer should employ the minimum force necessary for achieving effective action**.
- **In 2016, the Supreme Court has said that the Army is not immune to any prosecution by criminal court if found committing any offence.**

WAY FORWARD:

1. **Human Rights Adherence:** Emphasize that complying with human rights does not conflict with operational effectiveness and actually enhances counterinsurgency capabilities.
2. **Strong Safeguards:** Ensure that protection for armed forces comes with provisions for responsibility and accountability within legal boundaries. Incorporate robust safeguards into existing or new laws.
3. **Supreme Court Guidance:** Follow the Supreme Court's judgment both in letter and spirit.
4. **Clarity in Legal Terms:** Clearly define terms like "disturbed," "dangerous," and "land forces" to improve legal clarity.
5. **Transparency:** Enhance transparency by openly communicating the status of ongoing cases on army and government websites.
6. **Independent Investigations:** Thoroughly investigate every death in disturbed areas caused by the armed forces, regardless of whether the deceased is a civilian or a criminal.

GREEN REVOLUTION

SOURCE: [TH](#)

WHY IN NEWS?

Known as the Father of India's Green Revolution, renowned agricultural scientist Dr. M. S Swaminathan passed away Following age-related issues.

GREEN REVOLUTION IN INDIA:

WHAT IS THE GREEN REVOLUTION IN INDIA?

- ❖ The Green Revolution denotes a **significant increase in food grain production, especially wheat and rice, largely attributed to the introduction of high-yielding variety (HYV) seeds** in developing countries during the mid-20th century.
- ❖ Its **objective** was to achieve **self-sufficiency in food grain production**.
- ❖ Starting in the **1960s**, it led to substantial changes in traditional farming practices.
- ❖ **Dr. M. S. Swaminathan**, advisor to India's agriculture minister, invited Norman Borlaug, and M.S. Swaminathan is often recognized as **the father of the Indian Green Revolution**.
- ❖ **In India**, it **commenced in 1968** under the leadership of **Prime Minister Indira Gandhi**, primarily **boosting food grain output in Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh**.
- ❖ This period also saw the **development of synthetic insecticides, herbicides, and chemical fertilizers, addressing India's food security concerns**.
- ❖ Various **support programs** were established, including **minimum support prices and public grain distribution**.
- ❖ India became a major food grain exporter, ranking second in rice and wheat production and first in rice exports.

GREEN REVOLUTION OBJECTIVES

- ❖ **Short-Term:** Initiated **during the second Five-Year Plan to address India's famine crisis**.
- ❖ **Long-Term:** Aims for **comprehensive agricultural modernization** encompassing infrastructure, raw materials, industrial and rural development.
- ❖ **Employment Generation:** Providing employment **for both agricultural and industrial sectors**.
- ❖ **Scientific Research:** **Cultivating resilient crops** capable of withstanding diseases and harsh weather.
- ❖ **Global Agricultural Influence:** Establishing companies in key agricultural regions and sharing technology with less-industrialized nations.

COMPONENTS OF GREEN REVOLUTION

- ❖ **High-Yielding Variety (HYV) Seeds:** Vital for the Green Revolution, HYV seeds improved responsiveness to fertilizers, matured quickly, and had sturdy stems, facilitating double cropping.
- ❖ **Irrigation:** The second most critical element, as **consistent water supply is essential for increased yield and production stability**.
- ❖ **Chemical Fertilizers:** Needed in substantial quantities for HYV seeds to achieve high yields.
- ❖ **Insecticides and Pesticides:** Controlling pests, diseases, and weeds was essential for crop production.
- ❖ **Command Area Development (CAD):** A program aimed at maximizing agricultural production from irrigated areas.
- ❖ **Land Consolidation:** Addressed challenges related to small and dispersed land holdings.

- ❖ **Land Reforms:** Implemented to improve the agricultural landscape by **abolishing the Zamindari system.**
- ❖ **Agricultural Credit:** Crucial for accessing technology, seeds, fertilizers, and machinery, especially for small and marginal farmers.
- ❖ **Rural Electrification:** Provided affordable energy for irrigation, processing, and water lifting.
- ❖ **Rural Roads and Marketing:** Crucial for farmers to access markets, and regulated markets supported agricultural trade.
- ❖ **Farm Mechanization:** Enhanced efficiency and reduced labour requirements.
- ❖ **Agricultural Universities:** Focused on research and knowledge dissemination to benefit farmers, particularly in Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh.

POSITIVE IMPACTS OF GREEN REVOLUTION:

1. **Increased Crop Production:** The Green Revolution led to a significant boost in grain production, making India one of the world's top agricultural producers by yielding 131 million tonnes of grain in 1978-79.
2. **Expansion of High-Yielding Varieties:** The cultivation of high-yielding varieties of wheat and rice expanded considerably during this period.
3. **Reduced Food Imports:** India achieved self-sufficiency in food-grains, often having surplus stocks for export.
4. **Per Capita Food Availability:** The per capita availability of food-grains also rose.
5. **Income for Farmers:** Farmers' incomes increased, with surplus earnings being reinvested in agricultural productivity.
6. **Industrial Growth:** Mechanization of farming created demand for machinery and boosted industries related to agriculture, including fertilizers and pesticides.
7. **Rural Employment:** Multiple cropping and increased fertilizer usage generated employment opportunities in both agriculture and related industries.

NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF GREEN REVOLUTION:

1. **Excluded Crops:** Non-food crops like pulses, oilseeds, and major commercial crops like cotton, jute, tea, and sugarcane was largely unaffected by the Green Revolution.
2. **Limited Crop Coverage:** The High Yielding Variety Programme (HYVP) focused on just five crops, leaving non-food crops out of the equation.
3. **Regional Disparities:** The Green Revolution mainly benefited certain regions, aggravating economic disparities and neglecting Eastern and arid regions.
4. **Chemical Overuse:** Extensive use of pesticides and synthetic fertilizers, often without proper education, led to environmental and soil pollution.
5. **Excessive Water Consumption:** Water-intensive crops like rice and sugarcane depleted groundwater levels due to increased irrigation.
6. **Soil and Crop Problems:** Repeated cropping depleted soil nutrients, necessitating more fertilizers, altering soil pH levels, and harming beneficial soil organisms.
7. **Unemployment:** Farm mechanization, except in Punjab and Haryana, caused unemployment, particularly affecting poor and landless laborers.
8. **Health Hazards:** Widespread use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides resulted in severe health issues, including cancer, renal failure, stillbirths, and birth defects.

WAY AHEAD:

EVERGREEN REVOLUTION

- **Coined by Dr. M. S. Swaminathan**, it aims to enhance output and productivity while maintaining both short- and long-term food production goals.

- Seeks to **produce more with fewer resources** (water, pesticides, and land) for sustainable agriculture.
- **Introduces modern ICT to Indian farmers for improved farm productivity.**
- ICT projects address agricultural value chain issues through weather alerts, planting season info, and price networking.
- **e-Kranti**, a part of Digital India, focuses on technology for farmers, providing real-time pricing, online ordering, and mobile banking.

BRINGING GREEN REVOLUTION TO EASTERN INDIA

- **Launched in 2010–2011 to improve productivity in rice-based agricultural systems in Eastern India.**
- **Focuses on seven states: Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Eastern Uttar Pradesh (Purvanchal), and West Bengal.**
- Includes cluster demonstrations, seed distribution, nutrient management, pest control, training, asset-building, irrigation, post-harvest support, and more.
- Funds distributed from the Government of India to states and further to districts.
- **Expanding to cover wheat, coarse-cum-Nutri cereals, pulses, and oilseeds.**
- Now part of the **Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana.**

FOOD SECURITY INITIATIVES OF GOVERNMENT:	
Initiative	Description
1. Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)	Launched in 2007. Aims to provide holistic development to the agriculture sector by incentivizing states to increase investment in agriculture and allied sectors.
2. National Food Security Mission (NFSM)	Started in 2007. Focuses on increasing the production of rice, wheat, and pulses through improved technology, seeds, and management practices.
3. Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)	Initiated in 2015. Aims to provide efficient irrigation solutions to farmers, enhancing water use efficiency in agriculture.
4. National Horticulture Mission (NHM)	Launched in 2005. Focuses on horticulture crops like fruits, vegetables, and flowers. Promotes technological interventions and market linkages.
5. National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP)	Started in 2014. Aims to increase oilseed production, reduce import dependency, and promote oil palm cultivation.
6. Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)	Launched in 2015. Promotes organic farming through the adoption of organic practices and certification.
7. Soil Health Card Scheme	Introduced in 2015. Provides farmers with information on the nutrient status of their soil, helping them make informed decisions regarding fertilizer use.
8. Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)	Launched in 2016. Offers crop insurance to farmers against various natural calamities, ensuring financial protection for farmers.

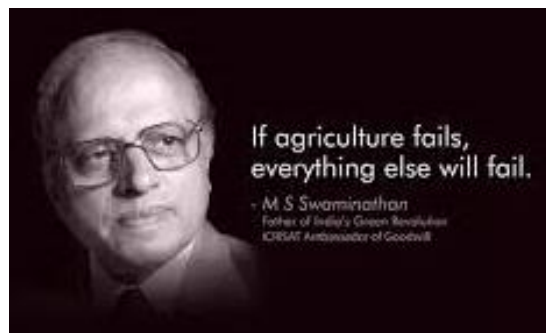


DR. MS SWAMINATHAN



EARLY LIFE AND EDUCATION

- ❖ Born in Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu on August 7, 1925.
- ❖ Initially aspired to pursue a career in civil services and **successfully cleared the civil services examination.**
- ❖ **Switched to agriculture due to his passion, influenced by the Quit India Movement and the Bengal famine of 1942–43.**
- ❖ Enrolled in the Agriculture College in Coimbatore to follow his agricultural interests.



DIVERSE ROLES IN AGRICULTURE

- ❖ Held various significant agricultural positions in India and abroad.
- ❖ Roles included **Independent Chairman of the Food and Agricultural Organization Council (1981–85), President of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (1984–90), and President of the World-Wide Fund for Nature (India) from 1989–96.**
- ❖ Also served as the **Director General of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), among other roles.**

THE GREEN REVOLUTION: A TURNING POINT

- ❖ Swaminathan **aimed to revolutionize Indian agriculture.**
- ❖ **Introduced high-yielding crop varieties, improved irrigation, and promoted fertilizer usage.**
- ❖ **India's wheat production increased from 6 million tonnes in 1947 to 17 million tonnes between 1964 and 1968.**
- ❖ Worked on enhancing crop varieties, particularly rice and wheat.
- ❖ **Pioneered the development of semi-dwarf wheat varieties to reduce lodging and increase yields.**
- ❖ **Collaborated with Norman Borlaug** to introduce dwarfing genes into wheat varieties, leading to the "**Wheat Revolution.**"
- ❖ Recognized the challenges of the Green Revolution, including loss of local crop varieties, soil fertility concerns, and indiscriminate pesticide use.

ADVOCACY FOR FARMERS

- ❖ As head of the National Commission on Farmers from 2004 to 2006, Swaminathan advocated for farmers' welfare.
- ❖ **Recommended that the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for agricultural produce should be at least 50% more than the cost of production, ensuring fair compensation for farmers.**

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

- ❖ Awarded the **first World Food Prize Laureate in 1987 for contributions to India's wheat and rice production.**
- ❖ Received the **Padma Bhushan and Padma Vibhushan**, two of India's highest civilian honours.