



**TATHASTU**  
Institute of Civil Services

# DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS



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## HOME MINISTRY EXTENDS BAN ON LTTE BY 5 YEARS: 'THREAT TO INDIA'

**SOURCE:** [THE INDIAN EXPRESS](#)

**TAG:** GS-II, III – **Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries; Security.**

### Why in News:

- ❖ The Union Home Ministry extended the ban on the LTTE by five more years for fostering a separatist tendency among the masses and enhancing the support base for it in the country, particularly in Tamil Nadu, besides threatening the territorial integrity of India.
- ❖ The Centre has imposed the ban invoking the sub-sections (1) and (3) of section 3 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

### About the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE):

- ❖ The LTTE was a Tamil militant organization that sought to create an independent Tamil state called 'Tamil Eelam' in the north and east of Sri Lanka.
- ❖ It was founded in 1976 by Velupillai Prabhakaran and grew to become one of the world's most powerful rebel groups.
- ❖ The LTTE employed guerrilla tactics and carried out numerous attacks, including suicide bombings, against the Sri Lankan military and civilian targets.
- ❖ It was designated as a terrorist organization by 32 countries, including India, the European Union, and the United States.
- ❖ The LTTE controlled large swathes of territory in northern and eastern Sri Lanka for over two decades, running a de facto state with its own civil administration.
- ❖ The Sri Lankan military launched a major offensive against the LTTE in 2009, leading to the group's eventual defeat and the killing of its leader Prabhakaran.
- ❖ The LTTE's campaign for a separate Tamil homeland resulted in a deadly civil war that lasted over 25 years and claimed the lives of an estimated 100,000 people.
- ❖ The defeat of the LTTE in 2009 marked the end of the protracted armed conflict in Sri Lanka, though the political issues underlying the conflict remain unresolved.

### How the LTTE impacted India's relationship with Sri Lanka:

- ❖ India initially supported the LTTE's separatist cause in the 1980s, providing training and arms to the group.
- ❖ However, the LTTE's growing violence and its involvement in the assassination of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1991 strained India-Sri Lanka ties.
- ❖ India subsequently banned the LTTE and supported the Sri Lankan government's efforts to defeat the militant group militarily.



- ❖ The presence of LTTE elements in Tamil Nadu and their activities caused security concerns for India, leading to military intervention in 1987 (Operation Pawan) to disarm the LTTE.
- ❖ India's involvement in the Sri Lankan civil war, seen as favoring the Sinhalese government over the Tamil minority, caused resentment among some sections in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The eventual defeat of the LTTE in 2009 was welcomed by India as it removed a major security threat, but concerns remained over the treatment of Sri Lankan Tamils.
- ❖ The LTTE's violent campaign strained India-Sri Lanka relations for decades, complicating India's strategic interests in the region and its diplomacy in resolving the ethnic conflict.

### Impact of regionalism in national integration:

#### 1. Negative Impacts:

- ☛ Promotes sub-national identities over national identity, weakening national unity.
- ☛ Fuels demands for greater autonomy or separate statehood, challenging national integrity.
- ☛ Can lead to conflicts and tensions between regions over resource allocation and development.
- ☛ Encourages protectionist policies and barriers, hampering national economic integration.

#### 2. Positive Impacts:

- ☛ Allows for the preservation and celebration of regional diversity and cultural identities.
- ☛ Promotes decentralization and devolution of power, giving regions a stake in governance.
- ☛ Enables tailored development policies suited to regional needs and aspirations.
- ☛ Fosters healthy competition between regions, driving overall progress.

### Conclusion:

- ❖ The Indian Home Ministry's decision to extend the ban on the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) by 5 years underscores the group's continued threat to India's security and national integration.



## THE NEW FLIRT VARIANT OF THE COVID VIRUS

**SOURCE:** [THE INDIAN EXPRESS](#)

**TAG:** GS-II – **Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health.**

### Why in News:

- ❖ The new coronavirus variant called KP.2 — nicknamed FLiRT — that has been linked to rising cases of Covid-19 in the United States, United Kingdom, and South Korea, has been in circulation in India since November 2023, genomic surveillance data show.
- ❖ KP.2 is a descendant of the JN.1 variant of the virus. It is a sub-variant of the Omicron lineage with new mutations. FLiRT, the nickname of KP.2, is based on the letters representing two immune escape mutations that allow the virus to evade antibodies.
- ❖ FLiRT is characterised by its ability to evade immunity from vaccines and previous infections. Its symptoms are similar to those of earlier variants, including fever, cough, fatigue, and digestive issues.

### The Global Initiative on Sharing All Influenza Data (GISAID):

- ❖ GISAID is an international initiative dedicated to promoting the rapid sharing of influenza virus sequences and related data.
- ❖ Established in 2008 by the World Health Organization (WHO) and private partners.
- ❖ Provides a platform for countries and institutions to share influenza virus data openly.
- ❖ Aims to facilitate global monitoring and risk assessment of seasonal and pandemic influenza viruses.
- ❖ Promotes international collaboration and data sharing to improve influenza preparedness and response.
- ❖ Maintains the largest publicly accessible database of influenza virus sequences and associated metadata.
- ❖ Contributes to the selection of influenza vaccine strains and development of diagnostic tools.
- ❖ Operates through an open data access agreement that balances rapid data sharing with protecting contributor interests.
- ❖ Plays a crucial role in the timely sharing and analysis of influenza data worldwide for public health purposes.

### About KP.2 and JN.1:

- ❖ KP.2 and JN.1 are two newly identified sub-lineages of the Omicron variant of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

### 1. KP.2:

- ❖ Sub-lineage derived from BA.2 Omicron subvariant.
- ❖ First detected in India in April 2022.
- ❖ Has two additional mutations compared to BA.2.
- ❖ Designated as a variant of concern by India due to increased transmissibility.
- ❖ Spreading rapidly in India, becoming dominant strain in some regions.



## 2. JN.1:

- ❖ Sub-lineage derived from BA.2 Omicron subvariant
- ❖ First detected in Mexico in April 2022
- ❖ Has five additional mutations compared to BA.2
- ❖ Designated as a variant of interest by the World Health Organization (WHO)
- ❖ Spreading in several European countries and the United States
- ❖ Exhibits immune evasion properties and potential higher transmissibility

## Conclusion:

- ❖ The emergence of the FLiRT variant underscores the need for continuous genomic monitoring and preparedness to address the evolving threat posed by new SARS-CoV-2 variants.





## INDIA VIX IS A MEASURE OF THE MARKET'S EXPECTATION OF VOLATILITY

**SOURCE:** [THE HINDU](#)

**TAG:** GS-III – **Economy.**

### Why in News:

- ❖ India VIX, which is an indicator of the market's expectation of volatility over the near term, surged past the 21 mark. The rise shows that fear among traders or market participants on the expected volatility is more now, as compared to 15 days earlier.

### About India VIX:

- ❖ India VIX is the volatility index for the Indian equity markets, similar to the VIX index for the US markets.
- ❖ It is calculated and disseminated by the National Stock Exchange (NSE) based on the order book of Nifty options.
- ❖ It measures the market's expectation of volatility over the next 30 calendar days.
- ❖ A higher India VIX value indicates increased expected market volatility, while lower values suggest expectations of calmer markets.
- ❖ India VIX acts as a fear gauge, reflecting investor sentiment and risk perception in the Indian stock markets.
- ❖ It is widely used by traders, portfolio managers, and risk managers to assess market risk and volatility expectations.
- ❖ Volatility trading strategies, such as buying or selling options, are based on movements in the India VIX.
- ❖ The index helps investors and market participants make informed decisions about their exposure to the Indian equity markets.

### How the VIX index can be used for trading:

- ❖ **Hedging:** Traders can use VIX options or VIX futures to hedge their equity portfolios against potential market volatility and downside risk.
- ❖ **Speculation:** Traders can speculate on the future direction of market volatility by taking long or short positions in VIX derivatives.
- ❖ **Volatility trading strategies:** Options strategies like straddles, strangles, and other volatility-based spreads can be implemented using the VIX index level.
- ❖ **Market timing:** High VIX levels may signal potential market bottoms, while low VIX levels could indicate market tops, aiding in entry and exit decisions.
- ❖ **Risk management:** The VIX can help assess the implied volatility of the market and adjust position sizing and risk exposure accordingly.

### The relationship between the VIX Index and economic stability:

- ❖ The VIX Index, also known as the Fear Index, is a measure of expected volatility in the stock market.
- ❖ High levels of the VIX Index (above 20) indicate increased investor fear and market instability, often associated with economic uncertainty or potential downturns.



- ❖ Conversely, low VIX levels (below 20) suggest investor complacency and stable market conditions, which typically coincide with periods of economic growth and stability.
- ❖ During times of economic turmoil, such as recessions, financial crises, or geopolitical tensions, the VIX tends to spike as investors become more risk-averse and volatile.
- ❖ Stable and growing economies, on the other hand, are generally characterized by low and steady VIX levels, reflecting investor confidence and calm markets.
- ❖ Central banks and policymakers closely monitor the VIX as a gauge of market sentiment and a potential leading indicator of economic instability or stress.

#### Conclusion:

- ❖ India VIX serves as a reliable barometer of market sentiment, reflecting investors' expectations of near-term volatility in the Indian equity markets, making it a crucial tool for risk management and trading strategies.

