



TATHASTU
Institute Of Civil Services

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

31st July 2025



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31st July 2025

Mains Manthan

- Boost the capacity of legal aid system
(Page No – 09)
- Lok Sabha passes resolution to extend President's Rule in Manipur for 6 months
(Page No – 13)

Prelims Saarthi

- India launches NISAR satellite

1. Boost the capacity of legal aid system

Why in News?

- Legal Aid System in India

Syllabus

- GS Paper 2 – Indian Polity

Boost the capacity of legal aid systems

Legal services institutions, established under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, are tasked with the mandate of providing free legal aid to nearly 80% of India's population.

However, the actual reach remains modest. Between April 2023 and March 2024, just 15.50 lakh people received legal aid services – far below the scale envisioned. This marked a 28% rise from the 12.14 lakh reached the previous year.

Usually attached to local courts, prisons, and juvenile justice boards, these front offices offer free legal counsel through a panel of empanelled lawyers to the economically weak, those in custody, and others facing various vulnerabilities. In rural and remote areas, legal aid clinics serve village clusters. Nationally, there is one legal service clinic for every 163 villages, as per the India Justice Report 2025. The availability and presence of these services is dependent on financial and human resources available.

Budget for legal aid

The budget for legal aid comprises less than 1% of the total justice budget (police, prisons, judiciary, and legal aid). It is provided by States as well as by the Centre through the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), which disburses grants to State Legal Services Authorities (SLSAs).

The total allocation nearly doubled from ₹601 crore in 2017-18 to ₹1,086 crore in 2022-23 across 25 States. This growth was due to an increase in State legal aid budgets, which cumulatively increased from ₹394 crore to ₹866 crore. Thirteen States increased their respective allocations to the legal aid budget by over 100%. They were led by Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Madhya Pradesh. During the same period, (2017-18 to 2022-23), NALSA's funds fell from ₹207 crore to ₹169 crore. The utilisation of NALSA funds also dropped from 75% to 59%.

As per the NALSA Manual for District Legal Services Authorities



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works with the India Justice Report



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2023, SLSAs have been barred from incurring expenditure from the NALSA fund on certain items without prior approval. These included hiring project or front office staff, purchasing or hiring vehicles and equipment, engaging outsourced personnel, expenses related to victim compensation, food distribution, and tree plantation. Instead, it directed that funds be used only for specific functions, with ceilings: 50% for legal aid and advice, 25% for awareness and outreach, and 25% for Alternate Dispute Resolution and mediation.

Since 2019, the national per capita spending on legal aid has doubled from roughly ₹3 to ₹7. According to actual expenditure figures from 2022-23 the highest spend was in Haryana (₹16), while Jharkhand (₹5), Assam (₹5), Uttar Pradesh (₹4), Bihar (₹3), and West Bengal (₹2) spent less than the average ₹6 per capita.

A shrinking frontline

The impact of low fiscal prioritisation coupled with poor utilisation of existing funds is on frontline responders. Para-legal volunteers, who are trained community resources, create awareness, assist in resolving disputes, and act as a bridge between people and legal aid services. The total number of para-legal volunteers dropped by nearly 38% between 2019 and 2024. From 5.7 per lakh population, there were only 3.1 per lakh population in 2023. West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh had only one para-legal volunteer per lakh population.

Low budgets also constrict the ability to deploy para-legal volunteers (paid on a per day basis) on the ground. Over the years, both the numbers of para-legal volunteers trained and deployed have come down drastically. In 2023-24, out of 53,000 para-legal volunteers trained, only 14,000 were deployed, whereas in 2019-20, 63,000 were trained and 22,000 deployed. What is baffling is the

reluctance of States to revise honorariums for these para-legal volunteers, which, besides rare exceptions, are invariably below minimum wages across India. As of March 31, 2023, Kerala was the only State paying para-legal volunteers a daily honorarium of ₹750. Twenty-two States paid ₹500 per day, three paid ₹400, and the remaining three (Gujarat, Meghalaya, and Mizoram) offered ₹250, which is barely enough to cover basic daily expenses.

Till 2022, lawyers empanelled with legal services took up cases for both the accused persons and victims. Since 2022, NALSA has been operating a new central sector scheme – the Legal Aid Defence Counsel (LADC), for representing only accused persons. This scheme, modelled on the public defender system, is intended to complement the assigned counsel system. NALSA initiated the scheme to ensure that accused persons/convicts have access to quality and effective legal aid through dedicated lawyers. It is now operational in 610 of the 670 districts across India. In 2023-23, ₹200 crore was specially earmarked for LADCs by NALSA and it was fully utilised. However, in 2024-25, the allocation dropped to ₹147.9 crore. There is tremendous potential that the LADC holds as it also reduces the burden on other lawyers and the system as a whole. However, as the scheme is still fledgling, it would be too early to declare it a success.

Although States are making efforts to increase allocations for legal aid, long-standing issues such as inconsistent service quality, absent accountability mechanism, and a lack of trust continue to undermine its effectiveness. Much of these ills can be ameliorated with infusions of money and manpower. It is essential to boost the capacity of legal aid systems to make them truly effective. Without these resources, the system falls short of providing the quality of justice enshrined in the Constitution.

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Key Takeaways from the Article

Legal Services Institutions (LSIs):

Established under the **Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987**.

Intended to provide **free legal aid to ~80% of India's population** (economically weaker, in custody, or vulnerable).

Attached to **local courts, jails, and juvenile justice boards**.

Legal aid clinics in rural areas: 1 clinic per 163 villages (India Justice Report 2025).

Performance (2023-24):

15.5 lakh people received legal aid (up 28% from previous year's 12.14 lakh).

Despite growth, scale remains inadequate given target population.

Funding & Budget Trends:

Legal aid receives **<1% of the total justice budget**.

2017-18 to 2022-23:

- **Total allocation** rose from ₹601 crore → ₹1,086 crore (in 25 states).
- **NALSA's fund** fell from ₹207 crore → ₹169 crore.
- **NALSA utilisation** dropped from 75% → 59%.
- **Per capita legal aid spending** doubled: ₹3 → ₹7.
- Haryana: ₹16; Bihar: ₹3; WB: ₹2.





Para-Legal Volunteers (PLVs):

Community-based intermediaries for legal awareness & dispute resolution.

PLV count fell by 38% (2019–2024).

- From 5.7 → 3.1 per lakh population.
- WB and UP: only 1 PLV per lakh.

Honorarium remains below minimum wage:

- Only Kerala pays ₹750/day.
- 22 states: ₹500/day; 3 states: ₹250/day (Gujarat, Meghalaya, Mizoram).

2023-24: Only 14,000 PLVs deployed out of 53,000 trained.

Legal Aid Defence Counsel (LADC) Scheme (2022):

New scheme focused solely on **accused persons**.

Modelled on Public Defender System.

Operates in **610 of 670 districts**.

₹200 crore earmarked in 2023–24 (fully utilised).

2024–25 allocation reduced to ₹147.9 crore.

Eases burden on other lawyers; early to evaluate success.

- **Systemic Challenges:**
- Poor service quality, low trust, and lack of accountability.
- NALSA funding restrictions on:
 - ♦ Hiring staff
 - ♦ Vehicle/equipment purchase
 - ♦ Victim compensation or food relief
 - ♦ Non-core functions like tree plantation
- **Budget ceilings imposed:**
 - ♦ 50% – Legal Aid/Advice
 - ♦ 25% – Awareness/Outreach
 - ♦ 25% – ADR/Mediation

LS passes resolution President Rule in Manipur to extend for 6 months

Why in News?

- Presidential Reference (Article 143)

Syllabus

- GS Paper 2 – Indian Polity





Lok Sabha passes resolution to extend President's Rule in Manipur for six more months

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Wednesday passed a Statutory Resolution to extend President's Rule in Manipur for six more months, with Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai asserting that peace and normalcy was returning to the State and President's Rule was that found necessary to ensure this continued.

For the extension of President's Rule to come into effect, the Rajya Sabha will also be required to pass the resolution. A notice for this resolution was submitted in the Rajya Sabha last

For the extension to come into effect, the Rajya Sabha will also be required to pass the resolution

week. Manipur was placed under President's Rule in February after N. Biren Singh stepped down as Chief Minister, nearly two years after the ethnic conflict began in the State between the valley-based Meitei community and the hills-based Scheduled Tribe Kuki-Zo group of communities.

While replying to the discussion on the Statutory Resolution in the Lok Sab-

ha on Wednesday, Mr. Rai said that only one incident of violence with one death had been reported in the State in the last eight months, and none in the last four. He said that since the imposition of President's Rule, over 2,500 weapons, 1,900 explosives, and 30,000 rounds of ammunition had been recovered.

During the discussion, Inner Manipur MP A. Bimol Akoijam of the Congress objected to extending President's Rule, and called for dissolution of the Assembly so that fresh election could be held and a government formed with the mandate of the people.

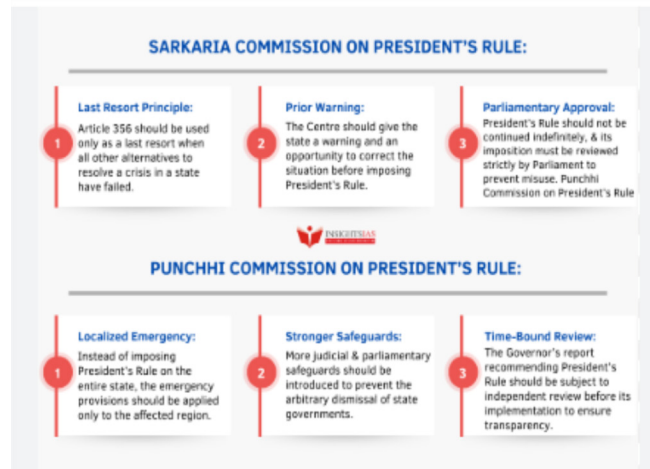
Key Takeaways from the Article

- Article 355 to Article 357 in Part XVIII and Article 365 in Part XIX of the Indian Constitution are related to the President's Rule.





- **Article 356 of Indian Constitution**
- **As per Article 356** of Indian Constitution, the President can proclaim President's Rule in a state, if he/she is satisfied that a situation has arisen in which the **government of a State cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.**
- The President can act either on a report of the Governor of the State or even without the Governor's report.
- **Article 365 of Indian Constitution**
- **As per Article 365** of the Indian Constitution, whenever a **State fails to comply with or to give effect to any direction from the Center**, it will be lawful for the President to hold that a situation has arisen in which the government of the State cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.
- **Parliamentary Approval of President's Rule**



Duration of President's Rule

If approved by both Houses of Parliament, the President's Rule continues for the period of **six months.**

President rule can be imposed for a maximum period of **three years** with the **approval** of Parliament **every six months.**





- The **44th Constitutional Amendment Act of 1978** added a new provision that the President's Rule **can be extended beyond one year**, by six months at a time, only when the **following two conditions** are fulfilled:
 - ♦ The **proclamation of National Emergency is in operation** in the whole of India or in the whole or any part of the State.
 - ♦ The **ECI certifies that general elections to the Legislative Assembly of the State cannot be held** on account of certain difficulties.

Revocation of President Rule

A Proclamation of Emergency can be revoked by the President at any time by a subsequent proclamation.

Such a proclamation does not require parliamentary approval.

India launches NISAR satellite

- **Launch Details:**
- **Date & Time:** July 30, 2025, at 5:40 p.m.
- **Launch Vehicle:** GSLV-F16.
- **Launch Site:** Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota (Andhra Pradesh).
- **Orbit:** Successfully placed into a SunSynchronous Polar Orbit (first time by a GSLV).

India launches NISAR satellite

Hemanth C.S.
SRIHARIKOTA

The NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite was successfully launched on Wednesday from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.

The Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV)-F16 rocket carrying the earth observation satellite lifted off from the second launch pad of the space centre at 5.40 p.m. Eighteen minutes later, it injected the satellite into a sun-synchronous orbit.

"The GSLV-F16 vehicle has successfully and precisely injected the NISAR satellite weighing 2,392 kg into its intended orbit," Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman V. Narayanan said after the launch.

First joint venture

The NISAR, which has a mission life of five years, is the first satellite jointly developed by the ISRO and

the U.S.'s National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

Casey Swails, Deputy Associate Administrator at NASA, said NISAR will give decision-makers the tools to monitor critical infrastructure; respond faster and smarter to natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, and landslides; map farmland to improve crop output, and more.

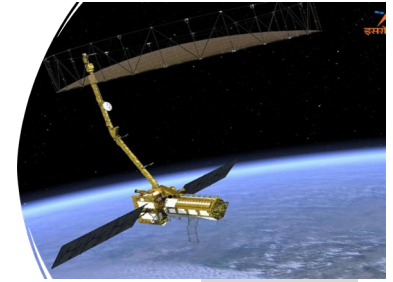
The NISAR satellite will scan the earth and provide all-weather, day-and-night data at 12-day intervals, and enable a wide range of applications. It will observe earth with a swathe of 242 km and high spatial resolution, using SweepSAR technology for the first time. "NISAR can detect even small changes on the earth's surface, such as ground deformation, ice sheet movement, and vegetation dynamics," the ISRO stated.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12





- **Mission Overview:**
- **NISAR:** NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar satellite.
- **Unique Feature**
- First Earth-observation satellite to use dual-frequency SAR (L-band and S-band).
- **L-band SAR** – Developed by NASA.
- **S-band SAR** – Developed by ISRO.



Applications of NISAR:

- **Disaster Management:** Detect earthquakes, floods, landslides, and storm characterisation.
- **Environmental Monitoring:**
 - ◆ Ice sheet movement & glacier monitoring.
 - ◆ Soil moisture changes.
 - ◆ Surface water and wetland monitoring.
 - ◆ Vegetation dynamics and forest biomass.
- **Infrastructure Monitoring:** Ground deformation, urban sprawl.
 - ◆ **Agriculture:** Farmland mapping and crop monitoring.
 - ◆ **Maritime Applications:** Ship detection, shoreline monitoring.
 - ◆ **Climate Science:** Tracking long-term geophysical changes.

