

## Current Affairs: 06.04.2021

### Challenges with National Security Act, 1980

In some cases it has been found that the **National Security Act-1980 (NSA)** was invoked to prevent the person from being released from judicial custody even if the accused had got bail. The NSA empowers the state to detain a person without a formal charge and without trial.

#### About the National Security Act, 1980:

The NSA is a **preventive detention law**. Preventive Detention involves the **detainment of a person in order to keep him/her from committing future crimes** and/or from escaping future prosecution.

**Article 22 (3) (b) of the Constitution** allows for preventive detention and restriction on personal liberty for reasons of state security and public order.

Further, **Article 22 (4)** states that no law providing for preventive detention shall authorise the detention of a person for a longer period than three months unless:

An Advisory Board reports sufficient cause for extended detention. Such a person is detained in accordance with the provisions of any law made by the Parliament.

#### Gives Power to the Government:

The NSA **empowers the Centre or a State government** to detain a person to prevent him from acting in any manner prejudicial to national security. The government can also detain a person to prevent him from disrupting public order or for maintenance of supplies and services essential to the community.

**Period of Confinement:** The maximum period for which one may be detained is **12 months**. But the term can be extended if the government finds fresh evidence.

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## International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Every year, **21<sup>st</sup> March**, is observed as **International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**. The day calls for **solidarity against racism and racial discrimination**. The **United Nation General Assembly** in **October 1966** proclaimed **21<sup>st</sup> March** as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, to be commemorated annually. On that day, in **1960**, **police opened fire and killed 69 people** at a peaceful demonstration in Sharpeville, South Africa, **against the apartheid pass laws**. It was a policy which governed **relations between South Africa's white minority and non-white majority**. It sanctioned **racial segregation**, political and economic discrimination against non-whites. Proclaiming the Day in **1966** which signifies the struggle to **end the policy of apartheid in South Africa**.

**2021 Theme:** 'Youth standing up against racism'

## Multilateral Maritime Exercise La Perouse

**Indian Navy Ships INS Satpura and INS Kiltan** alongwith **P8I Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft** are participating, **for the first time in multilateral maritime exercise La Pérouse**, being conducted in the Eastern Indian Ocean Region from **5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> April 2021**. Post conduct of **La Perouse**, the **Indo-French Naval exercise "Varuna"** is scheduled in the **Western Indian Ocean**, wherein **UAE** too shall be participating.

### About the Exercise:



The first edition of **La Pérouse** joint exercise, **initiated by France in 2019**, included ships from **Australia, Japan and the US**. The exercise is named after the **eighteenth century French Naval explorer**. **India's participation in 2021 completed the QUAD force representation in the French led Naval Exercise**. **QUAD** is a **grouping of**

**India, USA, Australia and Japan** which aims to safeguard the interests of democratic nations in the Indo-Pacific region and address global challenges. It will witness complex and advanced naval operations including **surface warfare, anti-air warfare and air defence exercises, weapon firing exercises, cross deck flying operations, tactical manoeuvres and seamanship evolutions** such

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as replenishment at sea. It will provide an opportunity for these five like-minded, high-end naval forces to develop closer links, sharpen their skills, and promote maritime cooperation throughout a free and open Indo-Pacific.

## Babu Jagjivan Ram



Recently, the Prime Minister paid tributes to **freedom fighter and former Deputy Prime Minister Babu Jagjivan Ram** on his 113<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary. Jagjivan Ram, **popularly known as Babuji**, was a national leader, a freedom fighter, a crusader of social justice, a champion of depressed classes and an outstanding Parliamentarian.

**Early Life and Education:** He pursued his schooling at the nearby town of Arrah where he faced discrimination for the first time. He was considered 'untouchable' and had to drink water from a different pot. Jagjivan Ram protested against this by breaking the pot. The principal then had to remove the separate pot from the school. In 1925, Jagjivan Ram met scholar Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya and was greatly inspired by him. On Malaviya's invitation, he joined the Banaras Hindu University.

Even at the university, Jagjivan Ram faced discrimination. This inspired him to protest against such social boycotts of a section of society. He also organized the scheduled castes to protest against injustice. After his stint at BHU, he joined the University of Calcutta from where he secured a B.Sc. degree in 1931. Jagjivan Ram had organized a number of Ravidas Sammelans and had celebrated Guru Ravidas Jayanti in different areas of Calcutta (Kolkata).