

# **The Indian Express**

## **Front Page**

### **Sri Lanka crisis: Angry protesters storm presidential palace, set PM's house on fire (Page no. 3)**

#### **(GS Paper 2, International Relation)**

The private residence of Sri Lanka Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe was set on fire by the anti-government protesters, news agency AFP reported.

This comes after Wickremesinghe announced his resignation from the PM's post to make way for an all-party government to take over.

To ensure the continuation of the Government including the safety of all citizens I accept the best recommendation of the Party Leaders today, to make way for an All-Party Government. To facilitate this I will resign as Prime Minister," he wrote on Twitter.

Protesters stormed President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's official residence in Colombo on Saturday amid months of mounting public anger over the island nation's worst economic crisis in decades.

News agency Reuters quoted two defence ministry sources saying President Rajapaksa was moved out of the official residence on Friday for his safety ahead of the planned rally over the weekend.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe called for an emergency meeting of political party leaders and requested the speaker to summon parliament.

In one of the largest anti-government demonstrations in the crisis-hit island nation, thousands of protesters marched down the street's of Colombo's government district, shouting slogans against the president and tearing down barricades.

### **AMU seeks Centre's nod to confer degree on Saudi prince MBS (Page no. 3)**

#### **(GS Paper 2, International Relation)**

The Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) has sought the Centre's permission to confer an honorary Doctor of Letters (D.Litt.) degree on the crown prince of Saudi Arabia, Mohammed bin Salman, in "view of his exemplary services and contribution to global affairs".

Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) first received AMU's proposal in September last year, following which it asked for a list of foreign dignitaries who have been given honorary degrees by the university since its inception. The university shared the names with the Centre in October 2021.

The AMU reiterated its proposal in January this year. The reiteration came as part of a request seeking a year's extension for Vice-Chancellor Prof Tariq Mansoor, in which the main reason cited by Registrar Abdul Hamid was the vacant positions in the university's court and executive council — which shortlists and recommends candidates for the V-C's post to the President — as elections could not be held due to Covid-19.

## **The City**

### **MHA forms panel for delimitation of municipal wards, AAP says BJP running away from polls (Page no. 5)**

#### **(GS Paper 2, Polity and Governance)**

To expedite the process of holding the civic body polls in Delhi, the Ministry of Home Affairs Saturday constituted a commission for delimitation of the municipal wards.

The three-member delimitation commission will present its report in four months of its formation, the MCD said in a statement.

Taking a step forward in the direction of holding the municipal elections Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt of India by exercising its powers under sections of DMC Act, 1957 has constituted a delimitation commission to assist central government in delimitation of wards and carrying out other functions related to it.

The three members of the commission include Vijay Dev, State Election Commissioner of Delhi, who will be the Chairman, Pankaj Kumar Singh, Joint Secretary, MoHUA, Government of India and Randhir Sahay, Additional Commissioner, MCD.

The MCD polls, originally scheduled for April, were put off hours before the election schedule was to be announced.

The election was called off as the BJP-led Central government wanted to unify the MCDs and also conduct delimitation to decrease the number of wards.

## **Govt. and Politics**

### **States discuss river water sharing, women's safety, fast-track courts at meet with Shah (Page no. 7) (GS Paper 2, Polity and Governance)**

Three states and as many Union Territories discussed issues of river water sharing, safety of women, setting up fast-track courts, cyber security and the issue of strengthening rural banking with union Home Minister Amit Shah during a meeting of the Northern Zonal Council in Jaipur.

According to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Shah asked the states to resolve the issues amicably and through discussion.

The "complex problems" of sharing river water among the member-states were discussed, and Shah asked the states to take a "cordial approach to the issue and find a time-bound solution", the MHA said in a statement.

Shri Amit Shah said that all stakeholders should come together to establish a strong cooperative mechanism for development, for which purpose the regional councils were created.

The meeting was attended by Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot, Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar, Himachal Pradesh CM Jai Ram Thakur, Delhi L-G Vinai Kumar Saxena, Ladakh L-G Radha Krishna Mathur, Chandigarh Administrator Banwarilal Purohit, who is also the Governor of Punjab, Delhi Deputy CM Manish Sisodia, Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema, and senior ministers of the member-states.

## **Economy**

### **Supply outlook favourable, inflation may ease in FY23 second half: Das (Page no. 11) (GS Paper 3, Economy)**

Governor Shaktikanta Das said inflation is likely to ease gradually in the second half of the ongoing fiscal, "precluding the chances of a hard landing in India".

"Overall, at this point of time, with the supply outlook appearing favourable and several high frequency indicators pointing to resilience of the recovery in the first quarter of 2022-23, our current assessment is that inflation may ease gradually in the second half of 2022-23, precluding the chances of a hard landing in India.

We will continue to calibrate our policies with the overarching goal of preserving and fostering macroeconomic stability. With the origins of this inflation being essentially in the supply side, energy and food prices account for over 50 per cent of the rise in prices, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor said.

There are also increasing signs of sectoral price spillovers, given that the rise in global energy and commodity prices quickly translate into higher input price pressures.