

CURRENT AFFAIRS: 25&26.06.2026

Mahesh Dixit Appointed Intelligence Bureau Chief

The Union Government has appointed **Mahesh Dixit**, a **1993-batch Indian Police Service** officer of the Andhra Pradesh cadre, as the new Director of the Intelligence Bureau for a tenure of two years. He will succeed **Tapan Kumar Deka**, who served as the Intelligence Bureau chief for four years.



Intelligence Bureau (IB)

- **About:** The Intelligence Bureau is India's internal security and domestic intelligence agency, functioning under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.
- **Historical Background:** The Intelligence Bureau has colonial-era roots and is commonly traced to the **Central Special Branch established in 1887**, though some accounts link its origins to India's first intelligence unit set up by Major General Sir Charles Metcalfe MacGregor in 1885.
- **Mandate:** It works with intelligence and law enforcement agencies to **counter terrorism, collect and disseminate intelligence, protect critical infrastructure, especially aviation**, and guard against secessionist activities.
- **Security Clearances:** The Intelligence Bureau conducts background checks for security clearances of diplomats, judges and other important individuals.
- **Composition:** The Bureau comprises personnel from law enforcement agencies, mainly the Indian Police Service, Indian Revenue Service and the military.
- **Institutional Position:** The Intelligence Bureau Director is part of the Strategic Policy Group and the **Joint Intelligence Committee of the National Security Council** and reports directly to the Prime Minister.

Passport is Not Proof of Citizenship

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) clarified that an **Indian passport is primarily a "travel document" meant to facilitate international transit, not a conclusive "citizenship document,"** sparking debates amidst the ongoing **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** of electoral rolls.

- **Legal Status of a Passport:** While the Passport Manual notes a passport is "strong evidence" of nationality (supported by the ***Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India, 1978*** judgment), it is **not definitive proof in a citizenship dispute**.
 - Furthermore, under **Section 20 of the Passports Act 1967**, the Union Government can issue passports to **non-citizens in the public interest** (e.g., the **2023 Madras High Court ruling permitting a stateless Sri Lankan refugee to apply for a passport**).
- **Electoral Rolls and Identity Cards:** The Supreme Court in ***Lal Babu Hussein v. Electoral Registration Officer (1995)*** ruled that inclusion in the **electoral roll grants a presumption of citizenship** that can only be displaced by due legal procedure.
 - However, in May 2026, the Supreme Court in ***Association for Democratic Reforms & Ors. v Election Commission of India***, upheld the **constitutional validity of the Election Commission of India (ECI) SIR of electoral rolls under Article 324 and Section 21(3) of the Representation of the People Act, 1950**, affirming the ECI's power to conduct limited citizenship inquiries for enrollment.

- Crucially, the Court drew a strict line between electoral eligibility and citizenship screening, **ruling that voter list deletion does not strip a person of citizenship**, as the ECI determines voting rights rather than formal nationality.
- To prevent arbitrary disenfranchisement, the Court mandated that suspected cases be forwarded to the **Ministry of Home Affairs for fair adjudication under the Citizenship Act, 1955, prior to elections.**
- **No Universal Proof:** India does not have a single universal citizenship document. Citizenship is determined strictly under the **Citizenship Act, 1955**, and proven through contextual documents establishing birth, parentage, and nationality.
- In **Sarbananda Sonowal v. Union of India (2005)**, the Supreme Court held that the burden of proving Indian citizenship lies on the person claiming it.
- **Modes of Acquiring Citizenship (Citizenship Act, 1955):** Ordinary citizens who acquire citizenship by birth or descent do not receive a citizenship certificate. A formal citizenship certificate is **only issued when an individual acquires citizenship through registration or naturalisation.**
- **By Birth (Shift from *Jus Soli* to *Jus Sanguinis*):**
 - Born 26th January 1950 – 1st July 1987: Citizen by birth regardless of parents' nationality.
 - Born 1st July 1987 – 3rd December 2004: **At least one parent must be an Indian citizen.**
 - Born on or after 3rd December 2004: **One parent must be an Indian citizen, and the other must not be an illegal migrant.**
- **By Descent:** Born outside India to Indian parent(s), with mandatory consular registration for births after 3rd Dec 2004.
- **By Registration & Naturalisation:** Available to **Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs)**, spouses of citizens, and foreign nationals meeting residency requirements (**generally 12 years**). **India strictly prohibits dual citizenship.**
- **Key Amendments:** The **2003 Amendment** made the law restrictive by barring illegal migrants from citizenship.
- The **Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), 2019** reduced residency requirements for specific persecuted minorities (**Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi, and Christian**) from **Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan** who entered India on or before **31st December 2014**.

• WHO IS AN INDIAN CITIZEN?

Under The Citizenship Act, 1955, there are four ways to obtain citizenship:

1. Citizenship by birth: For birthright citizenship, those born in India between 1950 and 1987 are citizens.

- For those born between 1987 and 2003, citizenship is accorded only if either parent is a citizen of India at the time of their birth.

- For those born after 2003, citizenship is accorded if only if either parent is a citizen at the time of their birth and the other is not an illegal immigrant.

2. Citizenship by descent: A person born outside India and who has at least one Indian parent will be granted citizenship, provided that the birth is registered within one year with the Indian consulate in the jurisdiction.

3. Citizenship by registration: This is for persons related to an Indian citizen through marriage or ancestry.



- Citizenship is treated as a legal status arising from facts such as birth, parentage, domicile or naturalisation.
- Documents serve as evidence of those facts. A **passport** is issued because the government is satisfied a person is a citizen. It does not create citizenship.

4. Citizenship by naturalisation:

Naturalisation certificate can be granted to a person who isn't an illegal immigrant and has lived in India for 12 months continuously before applying.

- In the 14 years before the 12-month period, the person must have lived in India for at least 11 years. This is relaxed for some categories.

Waiver clause: If the Centre believes the applicant has rendered distinguished service to science, philosophy, art, literature, world peace or human progress, it may waive all or any of the conditions in the Act. This is how the Dalai Lama or Adnan Sami, the Pakistani singer, got Indian citizenship.

- BY APURVA VISHWANATH

NCERT Introduces Emergency in Class 9 Textbook

The **National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)** has introduced the 1975 Emergency in its **Class 9 textbook, *Understanding Society: India and Beyond***.

- The Emergency was imposed on 25th June 1975 on the grounds of internal disturbance and remained in force until March 1977.

National Emergency

- **About: National Emergency (NE)** is proclaimed by the **President** under **Article 352** when the **security of India or a part of it** is threatened by **War, External Aggression (external emergency), or Armed Rebellion (internal emergency)**.
 - The **38th Amendment Act, 1975**, empowered the **President** to issue **multiple proclamations** on grounds of **war, external aggression, internal disturbance, or imminent danger** thereof, regardless of whether a prior proclamation is already in effect.
 - Originally, the Constitution used '**internal disturbance**' as the **third ground** for proclaiming a **National Emergency**, but the **44th Amendment Act, 1978**, replaced it with '**armed rebellion**' to remove its **vagueness** and make it **more objective**.
- **Territorial Extent:** NE can extend to the **whole of the country or only a part of it**. **42nd Amendment Act, 1976** enabled the President to limit the operation of NE to a **specific part of India**.
- **Parliamentary Approval:** As per the **44th Amendment Act, 1978**, a **NE** must be approved by **both Houses within one month** by a **special majority** (originally two months).
 - If the **Lok Sabha is dissolved** at the time of declaration, the **Rajya Sabha's approval** remains valid, but the **reconstituted Lok Sabha** must approve it within **30 days of its first sitting**.
- **Duration:** It continues for **6 months**, and can be **extended to an indefinite period** with **approval of Parliament** for **every 6 months** (44th Amendment Act 1978).
- **Revocation:** It can be **revoked anytime by the president** without the requirement of approval by Parliament.
 - The **Lok Sabha** can pass a **resolution to disapprove the continuation** of a **National Emergency**. If **one-tenth of its total members** submit a **written notice** to the **Speaker** (if in session) or to the **President** (if not in session), a **special sitting** must be held within **14 days**. The resolution must be passed by a **simple majority**.
- **Judicial Review:** The **38th Amendment Act, 1975**, made the **Emergency declaration immune to judicial review**. This was later **reversed by the 44th Amendment Act, 1978**.
 - In the **Minerva Mills case, 1980**, the Supreme Court held that a **Proclamation of NE can be challenged** if it is **mala fide**, based on **irrelevant or extraneous facts**, or is **absurd or perverse**.