

DATE: 24 JULY 2026

1 Taiwan Strait (Source: The Hindu)

- **Other Name:** Formosa Strait
- **Location:**
 - It is a strait separating the island of Taiwan and continental Asia.
 - The strait extends from southwest to northeast between the South and East China Seas.
- **Islands and Ports:**
 - It contains the Pescadores Islands which are controlled by the government of Taiwan.
- **Features:**
 - The median line is an informal dividing line in the Taiwan Strait between the Chinese mainland and Taiwan.

LOCATION MAP OF TAIWAN STRAIT



2 National Security Act (NSA) of 1980 (Source: The Hindu)



NATIONAL SECURITY ACT (NSA) OF 1980

An extraordinary law to detain individuals to prevent threats to National Security, Public Order and Essential Supplies.

WHAT IS NSA?

The National Security Act, 1980 empowers the Central and State Governments to detain individuals without trial for a specified period to prevent them from acting in any manner prejudicial to:

- National Security
- Public Order
- Essential Supplies and Services to the Community

KEY FEATURES

- Preventive Detention Law**
Not a punitive law. Detention is preventive, not as a punishment for a past act.
- Detention Period**
Up to 12 months at a time. Can be extended up to a maximum of 12 months.
- Executive Order**
Detention is ordered by the District Magistrate, State Government or Central Government.
- No Regular Trial**
The detained person is not produced in court for trial.

AUTHORITIES EMPOWERED

State Level
District Magistrate or State Government (Home Department) can order detention.

Central Level
Central Government (Ministry of Home Affairs) can order detention for matters affecting more than one State or the country as a whole.

PROCEDURE FOR DETENTION

01

Satisfaction
Authority is satisfied that the person's activities are prejudicial to National Security, Public Order or Essential Supplies.

02

Detention Order
Written order of detention is passed.

03

Communication
Grounds of detention are communicated to the detainee as early as possible.

04

Representation
Detainee can make a representation against the order.

05

Review
Government reviews the representation and may confirm, modify or revoke the detention order.

IMPORTANT SAFEGUARDS

- Advisory Board**
Every detention order is placed before an Advisory Board within 3 weeks.
- Board's Review**
Board must report within 5 weeks whether the detention is justified.
- Maximum Period**
Detention cannot exceed 12 months (extendable up to another 12 months).
- Right to Representation**
Detainee has the right to represent against the order.
- Not Beyond Approval**
Order cannot be made unless State Govt. has obtained prior approval of Central Government (in most cases).

OFFENSES / ACTIVITIES COVERED

- Acts prejudicial to National Security
e.g., espionage, sabotage, waging war, etc.
- Acts prejudicial to Public Order
e.g., communal violence, riots, propaganda causing disaffection, etc.
- Acts prejudicial to Essential Supplies and Services
e.g., hoarding, black-marketing, smuggling of essential goods, disruption of supply chains, etc.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

- ✓ NSA is not a penal law; it is a preventive detention law.
- ✓ Detention is based on subjective satisfaction of the authority.
- ✓ Detainee cannot be produced before a Magistrate or Court.
- ✓ Used in situations where ordinary laws are considered inadequate to prevent a threat.

CONSTITUTIONAL VALIDITY

Upheld by the Supreme Court in A.K. Gopalan v. State of Madras (1950) and Subsequently in other cases, while emphasizing procedural safeguards.

“NSA is an exceptional law meant for extraordinary situations to safeguard the security and order of the nation.”



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3 Aditya-L1 Mission (Source: PIB)

It is a solar observatory mission launched by ISRO to the L1 Lagrange point using the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) XL.

- *It aims to study the layers of the Sun, solar wind, coronal mass ejections, and flares.*
- The primary objective of Aditya-L1 is to gain a deeper understanding of the Sun's behavior, including its radiation, heat, particle flow, and magnetic fields, and how they impact Earth.

Lagrange Points

- Lagrange points are special positions in space where the gravitational forces of two large orbiting bodies, such as the Sun and the Earth, balance each other out.

Terms Associated with the Sun

- **Solar Wind:** The solar wind is made of plasma (ionised atoms), a stream of energised, charged particles, primarily electrons and protons, flowing outward from the Sun at speeds as high as 900 km/s and at a temperature of 1 million°C.
- **Solar Flares:** Solar flares are magnetic storms that appear as very bright spots with a gaseous surface eruption.
- **Coronal Mass Ejection (CME):** A Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) is a massive burst of plasma and magnetic field released from the Sun's outer atmosphere (the corona) into space.