

Emergency in Sri Lanka

Why in news?

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- Sri Lanka declared an island-wide state of emergency. $\space{1mm}\space{1$
- This was to curb growing anti-Muslim violence in the country's Central Province.

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What is the situation in Sri Lanka?

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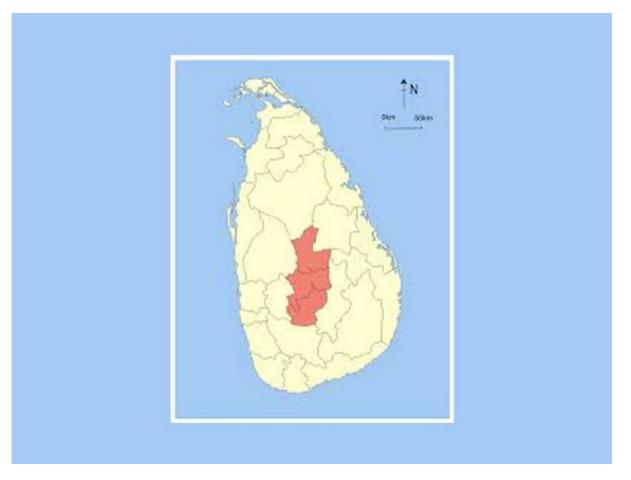
• The violence, according to police sources, was triggered by the death of a 41year-old man.

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• He succumbed to injuries inflicted by a group of Muslim men, following a road rage incident.

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- The suspects were arrested immediately after the incident and remanded. $\space{\space{1.5}\spac$
- However, the incident triggered a series of anti-Muslim attacks. h
- The violence is provoked reportedly by Sinhala-Buddhist extremist group. $\ensuremath{\sc n}$
- A series of arson attacks targeted dozens of mosques and Muslim-owned shops and homes in Kandy, located in the Central Province. \n
- Two mosques and shops were vandalised in Ampara. $\slash n$
- Ampara is a district with a near equal population of Muslims and Sinhala-Buddhists.



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Why was Emergency declared?

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- There were concerns of mishandling of the whole situation. \slashn
- The police and the Special Task Force were accused of a delayed and inadequate response.
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- The Sri Lankan government was criticised for "pandering to extremist forces" in the Sinhala majority community. \n
- The move to declare emergency is seen as a "confidence-building measure". \n
- The emergency allows the government to deploy the army in case of any violent clashes. γn
- Procedurally, the emergency will lapse in two weeks unless the parliament votes to extend it.

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What is the significance?

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- This is the first time that emergency had been reimposed after it was in force for 40 years from 1971 during the civil war. \n
- The latest unrest underlines the new political and ethnic dynamics in Sri Lanka.

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Source: The Hindu

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