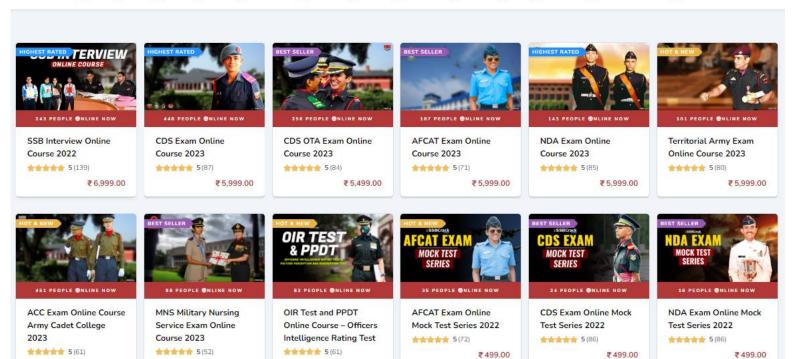


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# Israeli Parliament Passes Controversial Law Stripping Supreme Court Of Power Despite Protest

## Why In The News?

- Israeli Lawmakers Approved The Contentious Plan Of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu To Restrict The Influence Of The Supreme Court, Defying A Wide Array Of Opposition Movements That Have Threatened To Shut Down Large Parts Of The Country With Protests.
- The Plan Limits The Ways In Which The Supreme Court Can Overturn
   Government Decisions, Part Of A Deeply Divisive Judicial Overhaul That Has Led
   To Perhaps Israel's Gravest Domestic Crisis Since Its Founding 75 Years Ago.



### What Is The New Measure That Has Been Passed?

 Under The New Law, The Supreme Court Cannot Overrule The National Government Using The Legal Standard Of "Reasonableness" - A Concept That Judges Previously Used To Strike Down Decisions Made By Lawmakers And Ministers.

- Netanyahu's Government Has Argued That The Change Would Help Democracy Foster In The Country As It Gives More Power To The Elected Legislators In Comparison To Unelected Judges.
- Opponents, However, See It As A Move That Would Help The Ultra-Right Government Enact Orthodox And Illiberal Policies Without Any Intervention Of The Judiciary.



## What Are The Other Proposed Reforms?

- As Of Now, The Ruling Coalition Has Decided To Only Enact The Legislation That Concerns The Legal Concept Of Reasonableness The Other Reforms Remain On The Back Burner Due To The Large-Scale Protests That Took Place In March.
- The Government First Officially Announced Its Plans To Make Changes In The Judicial System Back In January. Apart From Reasonableness, **There Are Three Other Major Reforms** That Have Been Proposed.
- First, The Government Wants To Enable The 120-Member Parliament, Or Knesset, To Override Any Supreme Court Judgement By A Simple Majority Of 61 Votes Unless Those Rulings Are Unanimous.
- Second, A Law That Would Give A Greater Role To Lawmakers In The Appointment Of Supreme Court Judges. As Of Now, A Committee Comprising Professionals, Justices And Lawmakers Elevate Judges To The Top Court.
- The New Change Would Provide Lawmakers A Majority In The Committee,
   With Most Coming From The Right-wing And Religiously Conservative Ruling

Coalition. And Third, A New Measure That Would **Allow Ministers To Choose Their Own Legal Advisors Instead Of Using Independent Professionals.** 



## Why Is Netanyahu Changing Israel's Judicial System?

- Conservatives And The Right-Wing In Israel Have For A Long Time Seen The Judiciary As A Left-Leaning Impediment To Its Legislative Agenda.
- For Instance, The Ruling Ultra-Right Coalition Seeks More Power In A Bid To
  Overturn Court Judgements That Expanded Social Reforms To Support The
  LGBTQ Community And Barred Previous Governments From Constructing Israeli
  Outposts On Private Palestinian Land.
- Essentially, They Want To Rein In The Israeli Judiciary, Known For Its Fierce Independence, Through A Series Of Laws.

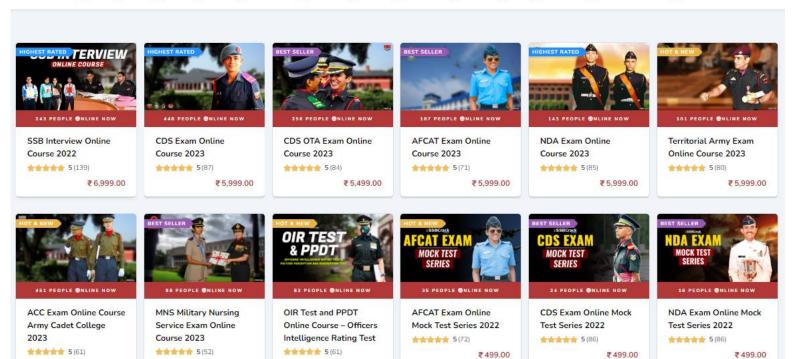
## **How Have Opponents Of The Legislation Reacted?**

- As Israel's Opposition Lawmakers Don't Have Enough Numbers In The Parliament To Stop The Reforms, Non-Parliamentary Organisations Have Taken To The Streets.
- Since December When Netanyahu's Coalition Came To Power, Large
   Demonstrations Have Been Taking Place In Different Cities Of The Country.



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