

VEDHIK
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ANALYSIS

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FOREWORD

We, at Team Vedhik is happy to introduce a new initiative - "Daily Current Affairs_The Hindu" compilations to help you with UPSC Civil Services Examination preparation. We believe this initiative - "Daily Current Affairs_The Hindu" would help students, especially beginners save time and streamline their preparations with regard to Current Affairs. A content page and an Appendix has been added segregating and mapping the content to the syllabus.

It is an appreciable efforts by Vedhik IAS Academy helping aspirants of UPSC Civil Services Examinations. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Dr. Babu Sebastian, former VC - MG University in extending all support to this endeavour. Finally I also extend my thanks to thank Ms. Shilpa Sasidharan and Mr. Shahul Hameed for their assistance in the preparing the compilations.

We welcome your valuable comments so that further improvement may be made in the forthcoming material. We look forward to feedback, comments and suggestions on how to improve and add value for students. Every care has been taken to avoid typing errors and if any reader comes across any such error, the authors shall feel obliged if they are informed at their Email ID.

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The Evergrande-sized question over Chinese politics

The Evergrande crisis is significant, with answers linked to the Communist Party of China's political and social outlook



AVINASH GODBOLE

China's construction giant, the Evergrande Group, was in the news about a month ago as it ran out of money, had no options to get more loans or overdrafts, and had almost \$310 billion worth of liabilities and several angry lenders, suppliers and homebuyers wanting clear answers that did not seem to come from anywhere. It began in January 2021 when regulators in China changed lending regulations with an aim to "strengthen [the] anti-monopoly push and prevent disorderly expansion of capital" which brought in more curbs in lending to big private businesses. While this was a delayed structural reform, it also marked the beginning of the end for Evergrande.

Housing as a bubble

The Evergrande crisis is a significant recent development that has struck the country's ruling elites. However, at least since 2014, China's housing sector has been labelled as a "bubble waiting to burst". What kept it going on over the seven years or so and why Evergrande has imploded so suddenly is the real story that can be

answered only with reference to the Communist Party of China's (CPC) present political and social outlook.

Developments in China tend to be explained with the help of Chinese idioms. One such popular idiom is to "kill the chicken to scare the monkey". Perhaps what China did with the Ant Financial IPO late last year was akin to killing the chicken. But now it seems that Evergrande was indeed the monkey that is now about to die, and the party does not know how exactly to handle it. In other words, did the Chinese government want to make an example out of Evergrande?

Factors behind China's rise

China's spectacular rise thus far is based on two pillars of exports and infrastructure. There is a realisation now that this has led to what was called "unbalanced and inadequate growth" when the new principal contradiction was declared during the 19th Party Congress in 2017. Recently, exports have slowed down and are not as profitable as before. The infrastructure sector, on the other hand, is at the centre of the guanxi (social network) induced corruption and cronyism, and is adding to the country's debt problem. China's President Xi Jinping has spoken of a need for course correction right since 2012, primarily to avoid a heating of the economy; expensive



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houses would make the middle class angry and it may have cascading implications for the party's credibility.

Second, the ostentatious lifestyle of the Evergrande boss is also something the party wants to distance itself from, and may be punish; in China, it is okay to make money but let it be about your hard work and acknowledge the party's guidance but do not be nouveau riche. This feeling has only got stronger since the 2012 incident involving a fatal Ferrari crash involving Ling Jihua's son. China's netizens are also aware of this problem and they often take to social media to vent their anger. Chinese youth are angry as jobs are hard to find, and recently, there have been popular protests targeting several icons. Such protests may even be managed from inside the party to underwrite its imminent policy choices as it helps the party appear more responsive and engaged. Thus, celebrities with businesses outside China, non-conforming youth, fin-tech

and ed-tech moguls who were too autonomous for the party's liking were targeted because the party leads everything as Mr. Xi proclaimed in 2019.

Common prosperity is the central explanation for what is happening in China right now in several diverse sectors. This idea did not make a sudden appearance in the party lexicon. It was mentioned in the 19th Party Congress document as a target for the Chinese people "... to work together and... ultimately achieve common prosperity for everyone" and more as a wishlist in the previous two reports. For the same reason, Alibaba will invest \$15.5 billion in corporate social responsibility under the party's guidance. There is also a strong influence of China's new left thinkers who have for long argued that China is moving from being a market economy to a market society where corruption and cronyism are rampant and where distribution of social goods takes a back seat.

Domestic consumption

However, there is another dilemma that the CPC must resolve soon. China needs companies such as Evergrande to operate because the country has ambitious twin targets of expanding urbanisation and increasing domestic consumption as was highlighted in the Dual Circulation strategy. Today, China's construction sector

directly accounts for 7% and along with allied industries accounts for close to 17% of the country's GDP. So, the role of the construction sector is critical in terms of employment, wealth creation, contribution to tax, and in terms of the overall expansion of the urban middle class. The CPC already finds it hard enough to make the Chinese middle class spend its money since it is a savings driven class. Any sign of contraction may drive the middle class away from consumption and that may indeed be a bad sign for the economy.

Also, China consumes 50% of the global steel and cement production. So the Evergrande crisis does have global implications. Is it possible then that this is one that is actually a party-engineered crisis to assert Chinese centrality for the world economy? There are economic reasons to consider and whether China would let Evergrande fall. However, beyond that is the political issue of whether it might happen because it is closer to the Jiang Zemin faction and has links to the family of former Premier Wen Jiabao. Depending on how these questions are answered one might find the clues to what happens in the next party congress in fall next year.

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U.S. to deepen relations with Taiwan

Actively working on new areas of cooperation, such as cybersecurity and supply chains, says diplomat

ASSOCIATED PRESS

TAIPEI

The U.S. wants to deepen its relationship with Taiwan, the self-ruled island that has become a major point of conflict in the strained U.S.-China relationship, and will work to counter Beijing's "malign" influence, a U.S. diplomat said on Friday.

In her first public news conference, Sandra Oudkirk, the new director of the American Institute in Taiwan, the de facto embassy, reiterated that the U.S. remains deeply committed to Taiwan and is actively working on new areas of cooperation, such as cybersecurity and supply chains.

"The value of our partnership and our support for Taiwan is rock solid," Ms. Oudkirk said. "We are committed to deepening our ties with



Help at hand: A file photo of U.S. vessels transiting the Taiwan Strait amid tensions with China. • AP

Taiwan." The U.S. support for Taiwan comes as tensions between China and the island are now at the highest in decades, with Beijing stepping up its military harassment by flying fighter jets toward Taiwan. China has not

ruled out force to reunify with Taiwan, which split from the mainland during a civil war in 1949.

The U.S. switched diplomatic recognition of China from the ruling Nationalist Party government in Taipei

to the Communist Party in Beijing in 1979, but has continued to maintain a strong unofficial relationship with the self-ruled island.

Ms. Oudkirk declined to comment on any security initiatives or give any details about the presence of U.S. troops on the island, after Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen confirmed on Thursday that U.S. boots were indeed on the ground, though less than what people would think.

'Malign PRC influence'

"We are going to continue to advance global and regional goals of the Biden administration, including countering malign PRC influence, recovering from the devastating impacts of the pandemic and addressing the threat of climate change," Ms. Oudkirk

said, referring to the People's Republic of China, China's official name.

Washington has supported Taiwan with arms sales to boost the island's ability to defend itself, and also routinely navigates the waters around the island in what it calls freedom of operation movements.

Ms. Oudkirk, who became director over the summer, also reaffirmed that the U.S. will support Taiwan in its role on the international stage, without giving details.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Tuesday called on other members of the United Nations to support Taipei's independent participation in international organisations related to transportation, health, climate change, culture and education.

Descent into chaos

The Myanmar junta should immediately end the violent suppression of democratic protests

The decision by ASEAN to exclude Myanmar's military junta from its annual summit held on October 26-28 is a major setback for the Generals' attempts to gain regional legitimacy for their brutal regime. Ever since it seized power by toppling the democratic government of Aung San Suu Kyi in February, the junta has unleashed a reign of terror claiming an estimated 1,000 lives. Ms. Suu Kyi, who had been the State Councillor for five years from 2015 heading the quasi-democratic government, has been in detention since the coup and is facing absurd charges such as "illegally owning walkie-talkies". Thousands of others were arrested by the military, notorious for its reprisal of democratic protests in the past. But this time, the crisis seems much worse. Months after the seizure of power, the junta, led by Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, is still struggling to restore order. If in the past the National League for Democracy (NLD), Ms. Suu Kyi's party, had upheld non-violence even in the face of repression, this time, NLD leaders have called for a "revolution". The remnants of the old regime have formed a National Unity Government, which claims to be the true representative of Myanmar. In cities, protests slid into armed fighting between pro-democracy protesters and security personnel, while in the jungles, anti-junta groups joined hands with rebels for military training. The situation was so grave that the UN Special Envoy warned this month that Myanmar had descended into a civil war.

One of the regional groupings with some leverage over the junta is ASEAN. In April, Gen. Min Aung Hlaing was invited to Jakarta for emergency talks with ASEAN members. The bloc asked him to immediately end violence, start the reconciliation process and allow a regional special envoy to meet with all stakeholders, including Ms. Suu Kyi. None of these requests was met. Most recent reports suggest that the junta has been systematically torturing political prisoners. A special envoy was appointed as part of the ASEAN plan, but he was not allowed to meet Ms. Suu Kyi. Regime violence, political crises and strikes and counter-attacks by protesters have all pushed Myanmar to the brink of collapse. According to the UN, some three million people are in need of life-saving assistance because of "conflict, food insecurity, natural disasters and COVID-19". Still, the Generals do not show any signs of compromise and are not even ready to talk with the NLD. Violence might allow them to hold on to power for now, but that is not sustainable. The ASEAN snub is a reminder that continuing violence could cause regional isolation of the regime, which could worsen the crisis. The international community should continue to put pressure on the junta and urgently start a reconciliation process.

UIDAI seeks indemnity from Data Bill

It was implementation of Aadhaar that first triggered the data privacy debate

SOBHANA K. NAIR
NEW DELHI

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has asked for exemption from the Personal Data Protection (PDP) Law. In an interaction with the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Data Protection Bill 2019 on Thursday at its office in Bengaluru, UIDAI functionaries said the authority is already being governed by the Aadhaar Act and there cannot be duplicity of laws.

Ironically, it was making Aadhaar compulsory for many key services including the banks that first triggered the data privacy debate. The genesis of this Bill lies in the report prepared by a Committee of Experts headed by

Justice B.N. Srikrishna. The committee was constituted by the government in the course of hearings before the Supreme Court in the right to privacy case (*Justice K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India*).

The Personal Data Protection (PDP) Bill 2019 has a contentious section 35, which invokes “sovereignty and integrity of India,” “public order”, “friendly relations with foreign states” and “security of the state” to give powers to the Central government to suspend all or any of the provisions of this Act for government agencies.

The UIDAI during the interaction with the Joint Parliamentary Committee, sources

said, demanded that it should get a blanket exemption from the act under this section. It further argued that it already is being governed by the Aadhaar Act and the PDP bill could be counter productive.

The 2019 Bill already has clauses which are open to interpretation. As Prasanth Sugathan, Legal Director, Software Freedom Law Centre pointed out, “Section 12 of 2019 Bill gives UIDAI some leeway from the rigours of the Bill as it enables for processing data for provision of a service or benefit to the data principal. However, even then prior notice has to be given.”

Sources indicate that UIDAI might not be the only

one to seek exemption. “Our fear is that the Bill, if implemented in the present form, may create two distinct ecosystems. One with the government agencies who will be completely out of the ambit of the law, giving them complete freedom to deal with the personal data. And the second will be private data fiduciaries who will have to deal with every letter in the law,” one of the members said. The committee is on a tour to meet various data fiduciaries for a last round of discussion on “operational issues” in the implementation of the law. The panel which has already got five extensions has to submit its report at the upcoming session of Parliament.

In India, the steady subversion of equality

The sharp turns away from democracy seen recently in the country must jolt citizens into stopping the descent



SEEMA CHISHTI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has loudly reiterated India's embrace of democracy internationally, hailed its 'diversity' when abroad and is seeking India's relevance as an ally of the West on 'democratic values'. Therefore, it is imperative to measure the distance between today's India and democratic values.

The central edifice of a democracy, or what makes it a revolutionary idea, is equality, or that it accords an equal status to all its people. But the E-word is in rapid remission. A commitment to all being equal as a desired ideal – even if not fully realised in reality – accorded India its sheen and power in the past. India now, from being a truly remarkable case of composite nationalism, appears happy to huddle in that corner of the room which many of its neighbours occupy.

Faith as differentiator

The promise of the far-sighted Indian Constitution was of equal rights to all. If any benefit was accorded to smaller groups, religious or linguistic minorities or Dalits, it was in order to achieve substantive equality. This cut across all markers of identity – colour, race, language, faith, caste, region or food. But faith seems to have increasingly emerged as a visible differentiator between citizens. It must be recognised that laws – and not just the spirit – are in the process of being rewritten in India.

First and foremost, the basis of citizenship under the Citizenship (Amendment) Act 2019, allowing for non-Muslims from three countries to fast-track their citizenship, was the most serious push to introduce religion into citizenship.

Second in terms of marital choices, laws in the country in States where the national ruling party holds sway have drawn

harsh attention on inter-faith couples. Imaginary fears of a 'love-jihad', the basis for new legislations have meant that inter-faith marriages are seen as crimes unless proven otherwise. The Gujarat law criminalising inter-faith marriages has been called out by the Gujarat High Court, but the ordinance introduced in Uttar Pradesh (Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Ordinance, 2020), which is now a law, till July, saw 63 FIRs filed against it, and 80 people arrested among 162 people who were booked, the majority being Muslim. A similar law in Madhya Pradesh has a similar trajectory, and a differential impact on Muslims, emphasising the rapid unspooling of the E-word. In terms of personal law, only Muslim men divorcing their wives through the triple talaq, now outlawed by the Supreme Court, is deemed a criminal act; not so for men of other faiths.

Drastic changes

Third, food has been criminalised. Stringent laws on cattle end up penalising those who have a certain diet, namely beef. The mood in the country created and abetted by people close to the powers that be, has led to lynchings. IndiaSpend has recorded bovine-related hate violence since 2010 and concluded that 98% of these attacks occurred post-May 2014, after the Bharatiya Janata Party assumed office. State governments and the Union government have mostly ignored the Supreme Court's directions in 2018 to set up fast track courts, advice to take steps to stop hate messages on social media, or compensation to victims, or bringing in an anti-mob lynching law.

Fourth, consider the Gujarat Prohibition of Transfer of Immovable Property and Provision for Protection of Tenants from Eviction from Premises in Disturbed Areas Act, popularly known as the Disturbed Areas Act, which circumscribes where one can reside. Brought in an atmosphere where there was communal rioting and forced displacement, to ostensibly protect communities from distress sales, the twist accorded to it over the years firmly makes the forced



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separation of communities evident. Vijay Rupani, till recently the Chief Minister of Gujarat, said in an interview on July 27, 2019: "A Hindu selling property to a Muslim is not okay. A Muslim selling property to a Hindu is also not okay." He added, "We have set this rule in areas where there have been riots to tell them (Muslims) that they must buy property in their own areas."

Hostile environment

That the environment in even the informal sector where minorities sought refuge in vocations to battle the prejudices of the formal sector is now curdling, is clear from recent studies on the subject. The linkages between those wielding extraordinary power in high offices with those making vicious noise on social media, and with the violent mobs on the ground trying to shut down Muslim businesses – or attack vegetable sellers or bangle sellers to prevent them to operate – are becoming more explicit by the day. It is old hat to say that several purveyors of hate are "proud to be followed by the Prime Minister" on social media. But even that is just the tip of the iceberg.

Those in power actively support and reward those who head mobs, raise slogans or demonstrate hate enough to shut down cities and regular life. Ministers garland them and the anti-minority hate spewed by them is a CV building exercise for better political prospects within the ruling party. The Member of Parliament representing Bhopal, Pragma Thakur, a public defender of the Mahatma's assassin, is only one of the many who exemplify the career path available to those who sharply de-

nounce amity or calls for harmony.

Scholars like Thomas Blom Hansen and Paul Brass have unequivocally pointed to the role of violence that has historically been acceptable in Indian society and politics. The stark difference between now and a few decades ago is a difference in top leaders being silent at important moments when mob violence is reported prominently. Dissenters are sought to be marked out "by their clothes" as the Prime Minister said infamously in December 2019 about those protesting the discriminatory citizenship laws. Far from discouraging those indulging in hate speech, they are given a place in the party hierarchy.

The line was drawn simply but sharply by no less a person than Sardar Patel on September 11, 1948 when the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) was banned after the Mahatma's assassination. Patel wrote to the RSS chief M.S. Golwalkar, that he had no problem with the Sangh indulging in activities organising or benefiting Hindus, but had a problem with actions that were aimed at solely spreading anti-Muslim hate – "All their speeches were full of communal poison. It was not necessary to spread poison in order to enthrone the Hindus and organize for their protection."

Exclusive entitlement

There was clearly a sentiment in Indian society and politics that wanted a country in the mirror image of Pakistan, as one for a Hindu majority. This view did not want to better the lives of Hindus. This was about claiming that those adhering to one religion have exclusive entitlement to Indianhood. The Vishwa Hindu Parishad, an organisation very much in the family of the ruling party, rubbishes the idea of the mosaic that India is, when its secretary-general, Milind Parande said on September 7, 2021, that "the very idea of Ganga-Jamuni tehzeeb (term used to denote the coming together fusion of Hindu and Muslim cultures in the country), is irrelevant. What exists is one culture, and the rest can simply merge into it. The Hindu

cause must be prime." Statements like these to denigrate the idea of India as a shared palette are never denounced by those in power. In fact, increasingly, there is little to distinguish these from statements of those in power and wielding authority representing the Indian state. The seriousness of what is afoot must be acknowledged.

The backbone

Scholars like Christophe Jaffrelot have pointed out that there will not be a seamless transition to an "ethnic democracy". There is no smooth path towards a 'Category two' or diminished citizenship status for large numbers of people who deviate from a prescribed cultural path. The Indian nation is one formed on the promise of shared and participatory kinship, which recognised Indian nationalism as being distinct from the faith you practised at home. Prioritising any one identity will have disastrous consequences and history provides enough evidence of this. Rwanda, South Africa or Germany are reminders that the E-word is as much a pragmatic consideration as it is a normative ideal.

India was proud of its hallowed constitutional precepts. More so as it was in a region which has seen a precipitous slide; Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and Myanmar prioritised one ethnicity/religion and defined belonging and nationhood in the narrowest sense possible. But differences between them and India are fast fading and not merely due to hotheads or mobs on the street. The formal ruling establishment, with its silences, utterances and formalising of new laws and norms, is indistinguishable with the ideas guiding mobs. The mobs read together with actions of the Union government and that of State governments mark a sharp turn away from the democracy India claims it is. That must jolt us into recognising the distance we have already travelled down the wrong path. That may be the first step to try to wrest the descent into the darkness of an apartheid state.

Seema Chishti is a journalist. The views expressed are personal

Ensure Afghan soil is not used for terror, U.S., India tell Taliban

Both sides agree to continue consultations on Afghan issue

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON

India and the U.S. have called on the Taliban to ensure that Afghanistan is not used as a safe haven for terrorists, as officials from the two countries concluded their joint dialogue on counter-terrorism to expand their cooperation to combat the scourge.

The Indian and the U.S. sides also called for concerted action against all terror groups, including those proscribed by the UN Security Council such as the Lashkar-e-Taiba and the Jaish-e-Mohammad, a joint statement issued after the meeting here said on Thursday.

Reaffirming counter-terrorism cooperation as an im-

portant pillar under the U.S.-India Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership, both sides pledged to further expand cooperation on law enforcement, information sharing, exchange of best practices and strategic convergence on counter-terrorism challenges, it said.

During the meeting here on October 26 and 27, the U.S. reiterated its commitment to stand together with the people and the Government of India in the fight against terrorism. They called on the Taliban to ensure that Afghanistan is not used as a safe haven for terrorists. According to the joint U.S.-India statement, the two countries strongly condemned any use of terro-

rist proxies and cross-border terrorism in all its forms, and called for the perpetrators of the 26/11 Mumbai attack to be brought to justice.

"In line with UNSC Resolution 2593 (2021), both sides called on the Taliban to ensure Afghan territory is never again used to threaten or attack any country, shelter or train terrorists, or plan or finance terrorist attacks," it said. Both sides committed to continuing close consultations on developments in Afghanistan and potential terrorist threats emanating from there. They also exchanged views on countering narco-terror networks and trans-national illegal weapons smuggling networks.

Modi holds talks with top EU leaders

COVID-19, trade, security relations were discussed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ROME

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday held wide-ranging talks with the top leaders of the European Union here during which the two sides discussed deepening the India-EU friendship, particularly in areas such as political and security relations, trade, culture and the environment.

Prime Minister Modi, who arrived here earlier in the day to participate in the G20 Summit, began his official engagements in Rome with a "productive interaction" with President of the European Council Charles Michel and President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen.

Later, Mr. Modi described his meeting with the EU leaders on the sidelines of the 16th G20 Summit here as "wonderful". "Wonderful meeting with @EU_Commission President @vonder-



Deepening ties: Narendra Modi with the president of the European Council Charles Michel and president of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen on Friday. •PTI

leyen and @eucopresident Charles Michel. We had wide-ranging talks on deepening the India-EU friendship, particularly in areas such as trade, commerce, culture and the environment," Mr. Modi tweeted after the meeting.

In a tweet, European Council President Michel said India has a key role to play in green transition. "India has a key role to play in green transition. We discussed global health and fighting the pandemic, the strong EU-India Strategic

Partnership, the situation in Afghanistan and the Indo-Pacific," he said, amid China creating tensions in the region.

European Commission President Leyen said it was "good to meet" Prime Minister Modi. "Good to meet @narendramodi. Our strategic agenda is on the right track. We agreed that our trade negotiators will start to work. We'll deepen our cooperation on climate including on innovation & technology. Looking forward to cooperating in the Indo-

Pacific," she said in a tweet.

She also congratulated India for its "excellent progress" on vaccination and for resuming the export of vaccines. "We need to join forces to help vaccinate the world and beat the global pandemic," Ms. Leyen said. Her remarks came as India achieved a major milestone in its vaccination programme.

After their meeting, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said that a number of key issues were discussed. "An extensive discussion covering trade & investment ties, climate change, COVID-19, global & regional developments," Mr. Bagchi tweeted. They also reviewed India-EU cooperation in covering political and security relations, trade and investment as well as the Roadmap 2025 agreed at the last India-EU Summit.

In a press release, the MEA stated that they "recalled their productive virtual engagements in the form of India-EU Leaders' meeting in the form of EU-27 in May 2021 and 15th India-EU Summit in July, 2020."

General Studies Paper I	
A	History of Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of art forms, literature and architecture from ancient to modern times;
B	Modern Indian history from about the middle of the eighteenth century until the present-significant events, personalities, issues;
C	Freedom struggle-its various stages and important contributors / contributions from different parts of the country;
D	Post-independence consolidation and reorganization within the country;
E	History of the world will include events from 18 th century such as industrial revolution, world wars, re-drawing of national boundaries, colonization, decolonization,
F	Political philosophies like communism, capitalism, socialism etc.-their forms and effect on the society
G	Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India;
H	Effects of globalization on Indian society;
I	Role of women and women's organization;
J	Social empowerment, communalism, regionalism & secularism
K	Salient features of world's physical geography;
L	Geographical features and their location- changes in critical geographical features (including water bodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes;
M	Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone etc.
N	Distribution of key natural resources across the world (including South Asia and the Indian subcontinent);
O	Factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary, and tertiary sector industries in various parts of the world (including India);
P	Population and associated issues;
Q	Urbanization, their problems and their remedies
General Studies Paper II	
A	India and its neighbourhood- relations;
B	Important International institutions, agencies and fora- their structure, mandate;
C	Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests;
D	Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.
E	Indian Constitution, historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure;
F	Comparison of the Indian Constitutional scheme with other countries;
G	Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the States, issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure, devolution of powers and finances up to local levels and challenges therein; Inclusive growth and issues arising from it;
H	Parliament and State Legislatures - structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers & privileges and issues arising out of these;
I	Structure, organization and functioning of the executive and the judiciary, Ministries and Departments;

J	Separation of powers between various organs dispute redressal mechanisms and institutions;
K	Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional bodies;
L	Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies;
M	Mechanisms, laws, institutions and bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections;
N	Salient features of the Representation of People's Act;
O	Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance- applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential;
P	Citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures;
Q	Issues relating to poverty and hunger,
R	Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States, Performance of these schemes;
S	Issues relating to development and management of social sector / services relating to education and human resources;
T	Issues relating to development and management of social sector / services relating to health
General Studies Paper III	
A	Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization of resources, growth, development and employment;
B	Effects of liberalization on the economy, changes in industrial policy and their effects on industrial growth;
C	Inclusive growth and issues arising from it;
D	Infrastructure Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc. Government budgeting;
E	Land reforms in India
F	Major crops, cropping patterns in various parts of the country, different types of irrigation and irrigation systems;
G	Storage, transport and marketing of agricultural produce and issues and related constraints;
H	e-technology in the aid of farmers; Technology Missions; Economics of Animal-Rearing.
I	Issues of buffer stocks and food security, Public Distribution System- objectives, functioning, limitations, revamping;
J	Food processing and related industries in India – scope and significance, location, upstream and downstream requirements, supply chain management;
K	Issues related to direct and indirect farm subsidies and minimum support prices
L	Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nano-technology, bio-technology;
M	Indigenization of technology and developing new technology;
N	Developments and their applications and effects in everyday life;
O	Issues relating to intellectual property rights
P	Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment
Q	Disaster and disaster management
R	Challenges to internal security through communication networks, role of media and social networking sites in internal security challenges, basics of cyber security;
S	Money-laundering and its prevention;

T	Various forces and their mandate;
U	Security challenges and their management in border areas;
V	Linkages of organized crime with terrorism;
W	Role of external state and non-state actors in creating challenges to internal security;
X	Linkages between development and spread of extremism.
General Studies Paper IV	
A	Ethics and Human Interface: Essence, determinants and consequences of Ethics in human actions;
B	Dimensions of ethics;
C	Ethics in private and public relationships. Human Values - lessons from the lives and teachings of great leaders, reformers and administrators;
D	Role of family, society and educational institutions in inculcating values.
E	Attitude: Content, structure, function; its influence and relation with thought and behaviour;
F	Moral and political attitudes;
G	Social influence and persuasion.
H	Aptitude and foundational values for Civil Service , integrity, impartiality and non-partisanship, objectivity, dedication to public service, empathy, tolerance and compassion towards the weaker sections.
I	Emotional intelligence-concepts, and their utilities and application in administration and governance.
J	Contributions of moral thinkers and philosophers from India and world.
K	Public/Civil service values and Ethics in Public administration: Status and problems;
L	Ethical concerns and dilemmas in government and private institutions;
M	Laws, rules, regulations and conscience as
N	sources of ethical guidance;
O	Accountability and ethical governance; strengthening of ethical and moral values in governance; ethical issues in international relations and funding;
P	Corporate governance.
Q	Probity in Governance: Concept of public service;
R	Philosophical basis of governance and probity;
S	Information sharing and transparency in government, Right to Information, Codes of Ethics, Codes of Conduct, Citizen's Charters, Work culture, Quality of service delivery, Utilization of public funds, challenges of corruption.
T	Case Studies on above issues.

SC prefers to wait and watch for Covaxin's WHO approval

Plea seeks revaccination with Covishield

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday decided to wait and see if the World Health Organization (WHO) gives emergency use authorisation to Bharat Biotech's Covaxin before considering a plea to allow people vaccinated with Covaxin to be administered two doses of Covishield.

"Let us see if authorisation from the WHO comes or not," a Bench of Justices D.Y. Chandrachud and B.V. Nagarathna told petitioner-in-person Kartik Shah. However, the court was sceptical about intervening in the issue.

"You want us to order people who were given Covaxin to be given Covishield...



Unending woes: The petition said the people inoculated with Covaxin were forced to undergo quarantine abroad. • THE HINDU

Revaccination of fully vaccinated people? We cannot play with the lives of people," Justice Chandrachud addressed Mr. Shah.

The petitioner said students and professionals travelled out of India every day. If they were inoculated with Covaxin, they were forced to be under quarantine abroad.

Justice Chandrachud observed that the court would not be made a forum for competitors to battle each

other for the market.

In his petition, Mr. Shah stated that the government "at the time of rolling out Covaxin for use in the market, failed to make the public aware that it was not approved by the WHO and that it had not even submitted an application for approval... This was submitted as late as in April 2021".

Until May 1, the Government did not allow people to choose their vaccine, Mr. Shah submitted.

Assembly Committee summons Facebook

It is probing violence during Delhi riots

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Legislative Assembly's Committee on Peace and Harmony has summoned Facebook in connection with its examination into the "unprecedented communal disharmony and violence in Delhi" during the riots in February 2020.

The Committee has called representatives of Facebook India to depose on "the important role of social media in curbing the spread of false, provocative and malicious messages which can fan violence and disharmony".

The proceedings, scheduled for November 2, will be live-streamed to maintain "the utmost transparency" in the functioning of the Committee, the Assembly said.

So far, the Committee has examined crucial witnesses, including senior journalists, fact checkers, digital rights activists, and Facebook

employees.

The Committee issued a notice for appearance to Facebook India Online Services Private Limited on October 27 to depose before it at 12.30 p.m. on November 2.

"The Committee is examining the unprecedented communal disharmony and violence in Delhi in February 2020, with a view to recommend suitable measures to defuse the situation and restore harmony among religious communities, linguistic communities, or social groups," the Assembly said.

According to the Assembly, the summons was issued in furtherance of the judgment of the Supreme Court in the 'Ajit Mohan & Others Vs. Legislative Assembly, NCT of Delhi' case, dated July 8, 2021, where the court upheld the powers of the Committee to summon both members and non-members, including representatives of Facebook.