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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 ground rules of ‘the one land of many’

Today, some in positions of power in India seem to be questioning those rules – which makes it crucial to reaffirm them



SHASHI THAROOR

This month we celebrate another Republic Day, the 72nd anniversary of the entry into force of our Constitution. In so doing we reaffirm the essence of Indian nationalism, reified in a constitution adopted after almost three years of debate, and in the process implicitly salute the ‘idea of India’ that emerged from both the nationalist movement and its institutionalisation in the Republic.

## A gift and a vision

The idea of India as a modern nation based on a certain conception of human rights and citizenship, vigorously backed by due process of law, and equality before law, is a gift of the Constitution. Earlier conceptions of India drew their inspiration from mythology and theology. The modern idea of India, despite the mystical influence of Tagore, and the spiritual and moral influences of Gandhiji, is a robustly secular and legal construct based upon the vision and intellect of our founding fathers, notably (in alphabetical order) Ambedkar, Nehru, and Patel. The Preamble of the Constitution itself is the most eloquent enumeration of this vision. In its description of the defining traits of the Indian republic, and its conception of justice, of liberty, of equality and fraternity, it firmly proclaims that the law will be the bedrock of the national project.

To my mind, the role of liberal constitutionalism in shaping and undergirding the civic nationalism of India is the dominant strand in the broader story of the evolution and modernisation of Indian society over the last century. The

principal task of any Constitution is to constitute: that is, to define the rules, the shared norms, values and systems under which the state will function and the nation will evolve. The way in which the ideals embedded in that document were implemented and evolved, in a spirit of civic nationalism, through the first seven and a half decades of India’s independence, have determined the kind of country we are.

## To shape a new citizen

Every society has an interdependent relationship with the legal systems that govern it, which is both complex and, especially in our turbulent times, continuously and vociferously contested. It is through this interplay that communities become societies, societies become civilisations, and civilisations acquire a sense of national and historical character. The Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Constituent Assembly, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, not only understood this but explicitly hoped the Constitution would help shape a new kind of citizen. ‘I do not want that our loyalty as Indians should be in the slightest way affected by any competitive loyalty,’ said the great constitutionalist, ‘whether that loyalty arises out of our religion, out of our culture or out of our language. I want all people to be Indians first, Indian last and nothing else but Indians.’

This was a greater challenge than it might have been in another country than India. It was not just the elements he mentioned – religion, culture and language – that divided Indians and seemed to fly in the face of an idea of shared citizenship. There was, as Ambedkar knew all too well, the dark shadow of caste and social hierarchy. ‘In politics we will be recognizing the principle of one man one vote and one vote one value. In our social and economic life, we shall, by reason of our social and economic structure, continue to deny the



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

principle of one man one value. How long shall we continue to live this life of contradictions?’ Ambedkar famously asked.

## Incorporating the underclass

Ambedkar’s eloquent assault on discrimination and untouchability for the first time cogently expanded the reach of the Indian idea to incorporate the nation’s vast, neglected underclass. Ambedkar – a product of Columbia University and the London School of Economics, and principal of the prestigious Government Law College in Bombay – was deeply troubled by the iniquities of the caste system and the fear of many Dalits that national independence would merely lead to the social and political dominance of the upper castes. As an opponent of caste tyranny, and a nationalist, he believed that Dalits must support India’s freedom from British rule but that they must pursue their struggle for equal rights within the framework of the new constitution that he had a major hand in drafting.

Despite his own pessimism, Ambedkar’s solution has worked. As I had pointed out in this space, the most important contribution of the Constitution to Indian civic nationalism was that of representation centred on individuals. The establishment of a constitutional democracy in post-colonial India involved an attempt to free Indians from prevailing types of categorisation, and to place each citizen in

a realm of individual agency that went beyond the immutable identity conferred by birth. In the process the Constitution transcended all those identities that both defined and divided Indians.

The Constitution provided a legal structure to an implicit idea of India as of one land embracing many. It reflected the idea that a nation may incorporate differences of caste, creed, colour, culture, cuisine, conviction, consonant, costume, and custom, and still rally around a democratic consensus. That consensus is around the simple principle that in a democracy under the rule of law, you do not really need to agree all the time – except on the ground rules of how you will disagree. The reason India has survived all the stresses and strains that have beset it for three quarters of a century (and that led so many in the 1950s and 1960s to predict its imminent disintegration), is that it maintained consensus on how to manage without consensus. Today, some in positions of power in India seem to be questioning those ground rules, and that, sadly, is why it is all the more essential to reaffirm them now.

## The rule of law

Indian nationalism is thus the nationalism of an idea, the idea of what I have dubbed an ever-ever land – emerging from an ancient civilisation, united by a shared history, sustained by pluralist democracy under the rule of law. What knits this entire concept of Indian nationhood together is, of course, the rule of law, enshrined in our Constitution.

The struggle for Indian independence was, after all, not simply a struggle for freedom from alien rule. It was a shift away from an administration of law and order centred on imperial despotism. It is from this that the idea of ‘constitutional morality’ was born, meaning a national commitment to pursuing desirable ends

through constitutional means, to upholding and respecting the Constitution’s processes and structures, and to doing so in a spirit of transparency and accountability, free speech, public scrutiny of government actions and legal limitations on the exercise of power. This was how freedom was intended to flourish in India.

## The Constitution’s spirit

Of course, Ambedkar realised it is perfectly possible to pervert the Constitution, without changing its form, by merely changing the form of the administration to make it inconsistent with the spirit of the Constitution. Ambedkar argued that constitutional morality ‘is not a natural sentiment. It has to be cultivated. We must realize that our people have yet to learn it. Democracy in India is only a top-dressing on an Indian soil which is essentially undemocratic’. He insisted that the Directive Principles – an unusual feature of the Indian Constitution not found elsewhere – were necessary because although the rules of democracy mandated that the people must elect those who will hold power, the principles confirmed that ‘whoever captures power will not be free to do what he likes with it’.

To recall these basic principles today is to recognise how far we are currently straying from them, and the dangers inherent in the present government’s practice of paying lip-service to the Constitution while trampling on its spirit. This Republic Day, as we gear up to commemorate the 75th anniversary of our Independence a little over six months later, we must remind ourselves of, and rededicate ourselves to, the ideals that lie behind the Constitution whose entry into force we all celebrate on January 26.

Shashi Tharoor is Lok Sabha MP for Thiruvananthapuram and the author of 23 books, most recently ‘Pride, Prejudice and Punditry’

# Amar Jawan Jyoti now merged with War Memorial flame: govt.

Congress and some veterans oppose removal of tribute to 1971 Bangladesh war

DINAKAR PERI  
NEW DELHI

The iconic Amar Jawan Jyoti, which was inaugurated after the 1971 Liberation War of Bangladesh by former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, was removed on Friday, even as Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the construction of a statue of Subhas Chandra Bose, restructuring the symbolism around the India Gate.

In the face of protests from the Congress and some veterans, the Centre said the Jyoti was “not extinguished” and only “merged” with the flame at the National War Memorial (NWM). Mr. Modi said that after Independence, new things were constructed only for a “few families” but now, monuments of national importance were being built.

At a ceremony presided over by Air Marshal B.R. Krishna, Chief of Integrated Defence Staff, a torch with the flame at the Jyoti was carried with full military honours and merged with the NWM flame. The NWM, inaugurated in February 2019,



**Change of tradition:** Chief of Integrated Defence Staff Air Marshal B.R. Krishna merging Amar Jawan Jyoti with the flame at the National War Memorial in New Delhi on Friday. ■PTI

is located at the ‘C’ Hexagon near India Gate and was built in memory of the soldiers who laid down their lives for the country in the post-Independence period. Names of over 26,000 soldiers are inscribed on it.

In a change of tradition, before the commencement of the Republic Day parade in 2020, Mr. Modi paid homage to the fallen soldiers by laying a wreath at the NWM, instead of at the Jyoti.

Since the inauguration of the NWM, all homage ceremonies are being conducted only there. However, defence officials had stated that the Jyoti would be kept burning and used for ceremonial occasions and official visits.

## ‘No names mentioned’

Downplaying the controversy that emerged on the issue, a government source said it was odd to see that the Jyoti paid homage to the martyrs

of 1971 and other wars but none of their names were present. “The names of all Indian martyrs from all the wars, including those in 1971 and others before and after it, are at the NWM. Hence it is a true *shraddhanjali* to have the flame paying tribute to martyrs there,” the source said.

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UNION GOVT. ERASING HISTORY, SAYS CONGRESS ► PAGE 8

# Amar Jawan Jyoti, War Memorial merged: govt.

India Gate was a “symbol of our colonial past” as it has only some of those who fought for the British in the First World War and the Anglo Afghan War, the source noted. “It is ironic that people who did not make an NWM for seven decades are now making a hue and cry when a permanent and fitting tribute is being made to our martyrs.”

Mr. Modi said on social media: “At a time when the entire nation is marking the 125th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, I am glad to share that his grand statue, made of granite, will be installed at India Gate. This would be a symbol of India’s indebtedness to him.”

“Till the grand statue of Netaji Bose is completed, a hologram statue of his would be present at the same place. I will unveil the hologram statue on 23rd January, Netaji’s birth anniversary,” Mr. Modi noted.

Earlier in the day, speaking at the inauguration of a New Circuit House at Somnath in Gujarat, Mr. Modi said: “After Independence, new things were constructed only for a few families from Delhi, but we are building monuments of national importance.”

India Gate, designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, was unveiled by Lord Irwin on Fe-

bruary 12, 1931. It was built to honour the over 83,000 soldiers of British India who died from 1914 to 1921. The AJJ was set up to pay homage for the soldiers who laid down their lives in the 1971 war. The memorial of the unknown soldier, an inverted bayonet with a helmet structure, along with the AJJ was inaugurated under the arch of India Gate by then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on January 26, 1972 to commemorate India’s victory in the 1971 war, in which 93,000 Pakistani prisoners of war surrendered and saw the birth of Bangladesh.

Social media was abuzz with responses from the veteran community, with some calling it a “natural thing” while some calling for both flames to be kept alive. Former Army Chief Gen. Ved Malik said, “A natural thing to do now that the National War Memorial has been established and all ceremonies... are being held there.”

Stating that symbols have an intangible value in nation building, Air Vice Marshal Manmohan Bahadur (retd.) said the ‘Eternal Flame’ at India Gate was iconic. “A generation grew up around the ’71 war and the next had goosebumps hearing and seeing the last post on TV and in person. We all will lose a part of our lives,” he said.

# Setting sail for a powerful India-German partnership

The Indo-Pacific, with India as its centrepiece, features prominently in Germany's foreign policy outreach



WALTER J. LINDNER

A military vessel probably will not be your first thought when it comes to Germany's role in India. Nonetheless, against all COVID odds and with due health precautions in place, the German Navy frigate *Bayern* landed in Mumbai on Thursday, January 20, 2022. A port call (picture) which might be business as usual for India with regard to many other friendly countries is, on close inspection, a remarkable step for Indo-German relations.

## The setting of a new order

Germany has realised that the world's political and economic centre of gravity is, to a large degree, shifting to the Indo-Pacific region, with India as a key player, strategic partner and long-standing democratic friend at the hub. Here is where a significant part of the future international order is being shaped. The visit of the *Bayern* shows that we are not just talking. Here is a concrete outcome of the Indo-Pacific Policy Guidelines that Germany adopted

in autumn 2020 and the European Union's Indo-Pacific Strategy published last year. So why did we come up with such guidelines at this particular time?

Germany is determined to contribute to buttressing the rules-based international order at a time when it is exposed to grave challenges. For Europe, just like for India, it is vital that trade routes stay open, that freedom of navigation is upheld and that disputes are resolved peacefully on the basis of international law. India is a maritime powerhouse and a strong advocate for free and inclusive trade – and, therefore, a primary partner on that mission.

## The challenges

The Indo-Pacific, with India as its centrepiece, looms large in Germany's and the European Union's foreign policy. Why? The Indo-Pacific region is home to around 65% of the global population and 20 of the world's 33 megacities. The region accounts for 62% of global GDP and 46% of the world's merchandise trade. On the other hand, it is also the source of more than half of all global carbon emissions. This makes the region's countries key partners in tackling global challenges such as climate change and sustainable energy production and consumption.

As much as India, Germany is a



trading nation. More than 20% of German trade is conducted in the Indo-Pacific neighbourhood. This is why Germany and India share a responsibility to maintain and support stability, prosperity and freedom in this part of the world. Europe's key interests are at stake when championing a free and open Indo-Pacific.

The *Bayern's* seven-month journey in the region is coming full circle in India. Even before its first port call, the Indian Navy "greeted" the *Bayern* on the high seas and our troops undertook a joint passing exercise – a strong and warm Indian welcome for Germany to the region. After having visited Japan, Australia, Vietnam, Singapore and other countries in the region, Mumbai is the last station before the *Bayern* sets course to return to Germany. Our message is one of cooperation and inclusive-

ness. But inclusiveness does not mean blind equidistance. We will not stand by when the multilateral order is challenged and when attempts are made to try to place the law of power over the power of law. The *Bayern* participated in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and European Union missions Sea Guardian in the Mediterranean Sea and Operation ATALANTA – formally European Union Naval Force (EU NAVFOR) Somalia – in the Arabian Sea. On her way from Tokyo to Busan, she helped monitor United Nations sanctions against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

## A chance for coordination

After 16 years of Angela Merkel's chancellorship, Olaf Scholz took the helm of the German government in December 2021. During their inaugural conversation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and he agreed that as major democracies and strategic partners, India and Germany will step up their cooperation to tackle common challenges, with climate change on top of the agenda.

No global problem can be solved without India's active involvement. This year, Germany will hold the G7 Presidency, and from December 2022, India will assume the same role for the G20. This is an opportunity for joint and coord-

inated action.

I am particularly confident about one aspect of our relations: Germany cooperates with India to the tune of €1.3 billion a year in development projects, 90% of which serves the purpose of fighting climate change, saving natural resources as well as promoting clean and green energy. No country receives more such support from Germany than India. What world leaders agreed upon at COP26 in Glasgow, Germany and India are putting into practice. Together we work on a sustainable path for India's growth that will benefit both our countries. For example, we have been supporting the construction of a huge solar plant in Maharashtra's Dhule (Sakri). With a capacity of 125 Megawatt, it serves 2,20,000 households and generates annual CO<sub>2</sub> savings of 155,000 tons.

As India celebrates 75 years of independence, this visit sends a signal of friendship and cooperation. We are setting sail for a powerful partnership, in calm waters and heavy seas alike. And hopefully, we will exceed your expectations, every once in a while.

Walter J. Lindner is the Ambassador of The Federal Republic of Germany to India. Prior to this, he was Germany's Foreign Secretary as well as Ambassador to South Africa, Kenya, and Venezuela

# Global cooperation needed to combat terror, says Shringla

He flags recent attacks in Texas and Abu Dhabi

**SUHASINI HAIDAR**  
NEW DELHI

Lack of counter-terrorism cooperation between countries only “emboldens” terrorists, said Foreign Secretary Harsh Shringla, citing the 26/11 Mumbai attacks in which people of several nationalities were killed; last week’s Texas Synagogue shootout involving a British citizen of Pakistani origin; as well as the drone attack by Yemeni Houthis in the United Arab Emirates where two Indians died, as examples of this. In particular, Mr. Shringla said, without directly naming Pakistan, the Texas attack proved that terrorism in India’s neighbourhood is active.

“The recent incident in Texas, United States once again demonstrates that the international network of terror, with its epicentre in India’s neighbourhood, is very



Harsh Vardhan Shringla

much active and has long lasting implications,” Mr. Shringla said at a seminar organised by think tanks ORF-NMF-KAS on India-EU and India-Germany cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region. “This is a global threat that requires an unambiguous, undivided, effective and collective response,” he added.

On January 16, Malik Faisal Akram, a 44-year-old British citizen, took four people hostage at a Texas synagogue in a ten-hour stan-

doff that ended after U.S. security forces shot him. All four hostages were unharmed. During the hostage crisis, which was live-streamed, Malik Akram had made a demand for the release of Pakistani-American physicist Aafiya Siddiqui, who is serving a life term in prison for an attack on U.S. soldiers in Afghanistan. The synagogue case is under investigation in the U.S. and the U.K., where British police have arrested two people. Without elaborating on the reasons for making the linkage, Mr. Shringla said that the motivation of terrorists must not be used to undermine the fight against terrorism.

Speaking about the Indian Ocean and Pacific Ocean region, Mr. Shringla said it is the new epicentre of global politics and economics.

# U.S., Russia seek to ease Ukraine tensions

Blinken promises a written response to Moscow's security demands; both sides to hold more talks

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
GENEVA

Washington and Moscow's top diplomats agreed on Friday to keep working to ease tensions over Ukraine, with the U.S. promising a written response to Russian security demands and not ruling out a presidential meeting.

As fears grow that Russia could invade its pro-Western neighbour, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken renewed warnings of severe Western reprisals as he met for 90 minutes with Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov in Geneva.

But Mr. Blinken described the high-stakes talks as "frank" and not "polemical", with Mr. Lavrov also voicing hope for a lowering of the temperature between the former Cold War foes.

Russia has massed tens of thousands of troops on the Ukrainian border, denying it plans to invade but demanding security guarantees, including a permanent ban on the country joining NATO.

Mr. Blinken said that



**Building consensus:** Antony Blinken, left, with Sergei Lavrov in Geneva on Friday. •AFP

Washington will share written ideas with Russia next week in which it will also make clear its own positions.

"We didn't expect any major breakthroughs to happen today, but I believe we are now on a clear path in terms of understanding each other's concerns" Mr. Blinken told reporters. "We anticipate that we will be able to share with Russia our concerns and ideas in more de-

tail in writing next week and we agreed to further discussions after that," he added.

Speaking separately to reporters, Mr. Lavrov also said he was promised the written responses next week. "Antony Blinken agreed that we need to have a reasonable dialogue, and I hope emotions will decrease," he said. "I cannot say whether or not we are on the right track. We will know when we get an

answer." He added that another meeting could be held between the two, but that it was "premature" to start talking about another summit between Presidents Joe Biden and Vladimir Putin, who met in Geneva last June.

Mr. Blinken, however, did not rule out fresh talks between the Presidents after Mr. Biden twice warned Mr. Putin by telephone of conse-

quences for any Ukraine invasion.

"If we conclude (and) the Russians conclude that the best way to resolve things is through a further conversation between them, we're certainly prepared to do that," Mr. Blinken said.

Mr. Biden bluntly assessed on Wednesday that Mr. Putin is likely to "move in" on Ukraine and warned of a "disaster for Russia".

# Pushback to change in IAS cadre rules

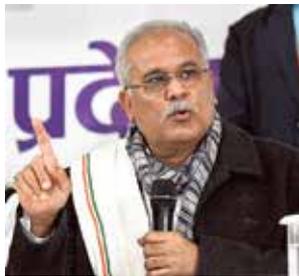
CMs of Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan write to Modi against proposed amendments

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Friday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi opposing the proposed amendments to the Indian Administrative Service (Cadre) Rules 1954.

The proposed amendments will give overriding powers to the Union government to post All India Services (AIS) officers such as the IAS, the Indian Police Service and the Indian Forest Service (IFoS) to Central Ministries and departments without the State government's nod.

Mr. Baghel and Mr. Gehlot are second in line after West Bengal Chief Minister Mama-



Bhupesh Baghel

ta Banerjee to convey their opposition against the proposed amendments to Mr. Modi.

## **Sense of 'instability'**

Mr. Baghel said the amendments could be misused and "a sense of instability and ambiguity is likely to arise among the officers of the All India Services, who are posted at various important

posts in various districts and also at the State level."

He said the proposed amendment granted the Central government the right to appoint AIS officers unilaterally without the consent of the State government or the concerned authorities, which is adopted and outlined in the Constitution, and contrary to the sentiment.

Mr. Baghel claimed that the AIS officers are posted in various States and are posted on deputation in the Central government. "The deputation has been done after the consent of the State government. The State government has been concurring on Central deputation by taking decisions as per its administrative requirement,"

he said in the letter. "There will be confusion in the discharge of official responsibilities by them and due to political interference, it will not be possible to work impartially, especially at the time of elections, due to which the administrative system in the States can crumble and a situation of instability can be created," he said.

## **Spirit of federalism**

Mr. Gehlot also tweeted on Friday that he had urged the Prime Minister to intervene and put an end to the blow the proposed amendments would cause to the autonomy of the Constitution so that the spirit of federalism developed by the framers of the Constitution is intact.

# Wrong remedy

States have rightly raised questions about proposed rule changes on IAS, IPS deputation

That the wrong remedy could exacerbate an ailment and not cure it is a well understood adage. This holds true for the Union government's (Department of Personnel & Training - DoPT) proposals to amend Rule 6 related to deputation of cadre officers of the IAS (Cadre) Rules 1954. Reports have shown that the deputation from States to the Union government has been uneven. Some States have not nominated officers for deputation adequately to work with the Union government; in this, West Bengal (11 out of the 280 officers are on central deputation), Rajasthan (13 out of 247) and Telangana (7 out of an authorised strength of 208) stand out. This has led to vacancies across Union government ministries. Numbers accessed by *The Hindu* show that actual deputation as a percentage of the mandated reserves fell from 69% (2014) to 30% (2021), suggesting that there is merit in the DoPT's identification of shortages in deputation being an issue. But does this necessitate the rule changes proposed by the DoPT, which include acquiring overriding powers for the Union government that will do away with seeking approval from the States for transferring IAS and IPS officers?

Two of the rules are particularly problematic – in case of any disagreement between the Union and State governments, the States shall give effect to the former's decision "within a specified time". And in some "specific situations", States would have to depute certain cadres whose services are sought by the Union government. These changes amount to arm-twisting States and unwilling bureaucrats to be deputed to serve the Union government and also presenting a *fait accompli* to States for "specific situations" which have not been defined and prone to misinterpretation and politicisation. These proposed changes have unsurprisingly raised the hackles of State governments. As governance responsibilities during the pandemic have shown, States are quite dependent upon the bureaucracy, and deputation to the Union government should not be done at the cost of State requirements. Also, the Union government must address the key question of the reluctance of capable civil servants to be deputed away from the States. Reports have indicated that civil servants have found the top-down culture in Union government offices to be stifling and prefer the relative autonomy at the State level. There is clearly a need for a more qualitative approach that tackles such work culture issues. Besides, a State-by-State look at deputation that disincentivises those States which depute officers much below the mandated numbers to the Union government by adjusting future cadre strength reviews by the Union Public Service Commission should also address the shortage problem. These steps are better than any rule changes that amount to fiat striking at federalism.

## People can soon invest in infra projects: Gadkari

SEBI nod awaited, says Minister

THE HINDU BUREAU  
MUMBAI

The Union government is awaiting approval of the Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for enabling common citizens to invest at least ₹1 lakh in infrastructure projects under a new model for asset monetisation, Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said on Friday.

"Most of the pension funds and foreign investors are investing in the projects. But we should take the cooperation of Indian people, particularly those who can invest a minimum ₹1 lakh in road projects, for which we have already developed a new model. We are awaiting approval from SEBI so that the common man can invest in NHAI (National Highways Authority of India). We are trying to give him an assured income of 7.5% to 8%," Mr. Gadkari said at the "Countdown to Budget 2022" event organised by *The Hindu Business-Line*, in association with



Nitin Gadkari

BoB Financial, the credit card arm of Bank of Baroda, and Hitachi India.

### 'Benefit to the poor'

"My interest is to give benefit to the poor people of this country, who can invest in their economy, because in India we have problems in pension, insurance and share economy. For that reason, if small people can invest in infrastructure and get 7.5% to 8% interest, it can be a great thing for them to contribute to infrastructure development and at the same time benefit from that," the Minister said.

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# A-G gives nod for contempt action against Narsinghanand

He had made 'derogatory' remarks against Constitution, SC

**LEGAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

Attorney-General K.K. Venugopal on Friday gave consent to a plea to initiate contempt proceedings against Yati Narsinghanand, under arrest in the Haridwar hate speech case, over his derogatory remarks against the Constitution and the Supreme Court.

The prior consent of the top law officer is mandated in law in order to file a criminal contempt petition in the Supreme Court.

Mr. Venugopal gave the consent on the basis of a letter addressed by Shachi Nelli. Ms. Nelli brought to the attention of the law officer Narsinghanand's alleged statements in an interview that went viral on social media on January 14.

"I have gone through your letter and watched the video of the statements made by Yati Narsinghanand," Mr. Venugopal wrote in his reply on January 21.

Mr. Venugopal said the man's statement "is a direct

attempt to lower the authority of the Supreme Court".

The tipping point, as apparent in the A-G's letter, seems to be Narsinghanand's statement that "those who believe in this system, in these politicians, in the Supreme Court, and in the Army will all die the death of a dog". This statement was highlighted in the top law officer and constitutional authority's response granting consent for criminal contempt action against Narsinghanand.

## People can soon invest in infrastructure: Gadkari

On the upcoming Union Budget, Mr. Gadkari said he was hopeful that the proposals will expedite India's growth to make it the largest economy in the world. He said the Indian industry and entrepreneurs should seize the opportunity arising from the "problems" facing China and "go for more exports" riding on the back of talent, availability of raw materials, power, and good infrastructure, to make the economy strong.

Stressing that agriculture was the "most important priority" of the government, he outlined several initiatives taken, including creation of more irrigation

facilities, and raising the contribution of agriculture to the GDP from 12% to 20%, which will create more jobs in rural, tribal and 120 aspiring districts.

India's ethanol production is currently 400 crore litres. This year, it's likely to go up to 550 crore litres as against a basic requirement of 4,000 crore litres. The government, Mr. Gadkari said, was working on biofuel and alternate fuel to save on India's huge oil import bill, besides acting as a bulwark for the greening of the automobile industry. "We have taken a decision to use flex engines in two, three and four wheelers," Mr. Gadkari said.

# Start-ups raised a record \$24.1 bn in 2021: study

## Twofold rise from pre-COVID levels

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

NEW DELHI

Start-ups raised a record \$24.1 billion in 2021, a two-fold increase over pre-COVID-19 levels, according to a new study by NASSCOM and Zinnov.

According to the study, 'Indian Tech Start-up Ecosystem: Year of The Titans', more than 2,250 start-ups were added in 2021, over 600 more than what was added in the previous year.

The study said: "Start-ups raised USD 24.1 billion in 2021, a two-fold increase over pre-COVID levels. In comparison to 2020, there was a 3X increase in the number of high value deals

(deals > USD 100 million), demonstrating investor confidence with a pool of active angel investors of 2400+ and a readiness to take significant risks."

### **FDI inflow from U.S.**

It added that while the U.S. remains the leading source of foreign direct investment (FDI) in start-ups, worldwide involvement is also growing. About 50% of the deals had at least one India-domiciled investor.

It said that more than \$6 billion has been raised via public markets with 11 start-up IPOs in 2021.

**CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 8**

# Intel to invest up to \$100 bn in Ohio chip units

## Firm aims to address global shortage

**REUTERS**

WASHINGTON/SAN FRANCISCO

Intel Corp. said on Friday it would invest up to \$100 billion to build potentially the world's largest chip-making complex in Ohio, as it looks to boost capacity amid a global shortage of semiconductors used in everything from smartphones to cars.

The move is part of chief executive officer Pat Gelsinger's strategy to restore Intel's dominance in chip making and reduce America's reliance on Asian manufacturing hubs, which have a tight hold on the market.

An initial \$20 billion investment – the largest in Ohio's history – on a 1,000-acre site in New Albany will generate 3,000 jobs, Mr. Gelsinger said.

That could grow to \$100 billion with eight total fabrication plants and is the lar-



gest investment in Ohio's history, he told Reuters.

Dubbed the silicon heartland, it could become 'the largest semiconductor manufacturing location on the planet,' he said.

While chipmakers are scrambling to boost output, Intel's plans for new factories will not alleviate the current supply crunch, because such complexes take years to build.

Mr. Gelsinger reiterated on Friday that he expected the chip shortages to persist into 2023.

# All set for tiger count at Bandipur, Nagarahole

This is fifth such exercise being taken up

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
MYSURU

Tiger census will commence at Bandipur on Saturday and at Nagarahole on Sunday as part of the All-India Tiger and Mega Herbivore Estimation.

This is part of the nationwide enumeration that is held once in four years and is the fifth such exercise being taken up – the earlier ones being held in 2006, 2010, 2014, 2018.

The authorities at Bandipur have divided the 912.04 sq km national park into three blocks to carry out the enumeration. While the enumeration exercise will be held in block 1 from January 22 to 27, it will be held in



**Cat count:** Tiger enumeration at Bandipur and Nagarahole will help estimate their numbers. • M.A. SRIRAM

block 2 from January 28 to February 2 and the tiger count exercise in block 3 will be taken up from February 3 to 8.

This year's enumeration exercise entails the use of MSTRIPES (Monitoring System for Tigers Intensive Protection and Ecological Sta-

tus) app and apart from the tiger counts, the exercise will also throw up data on mega herbivores, including elephants and gaurs. The use of apps ensures that the data is not only digitised but is uploaded on a real-time basis and is robust.

The training was imparted by experts from Wildlife Institute of India and the enumeration is being held as per the protocols stipulated by the National Tiger Conservation Authority.

The authorities have deployed only the department officials and frontline field staff apart from members of the Special Tiger Force squad for the exercise. While nearly 300 people will be on duty at Bandipur, around 350 will take part in the exercise at Nagarahole.

The enumeration in Nagarahole will be held from Ja-

nuary 23 to February 1. Sign survey will be held in all the 91 beats and line transects will be conducted in two phases, according to Nagarahole Tiger Reserve Director Mahesh Kumar. He said they would do the sign survey, including tiger scat, pug marks etc., for carnivores. The enumeration would also throw up data of the tiger numbers in non-protected areas.

In view of the census, the safari has been affected, including cancellation of a few trips at Nagarahole.

In the 2018 census, there were 125 tigers in Nagarahole whereas there were 72 tigers in the 2014 exercise which was a big jump. But experts believe the tiger numbers at both Bandipur and Nagarahole may have reached their optimum levels and could have stabilised or shown a marginal increase this year.

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 <sup>th</sup> 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.
<b>General Studies Paper IV</b>	
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.