



VEDHIK

DAILY NEWS ANALYSIS

22 - APRIL - 2022

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.

CONTENTS

- News - Prime Ministers' Museum thrown open to the public GSP 01 B
- News - Maldives bans 'India Out' campaign GSP 02 A
- News -India has never posed a threat to any country, says Modi GSP 02 A
- News - As Sri Lanka pins hopes on IMF, China vows help GSP 02 B
- Editorials - This is India's moment of reckoning GSP 02 C
- News - Growing ambitions GSP 02 C
- News -India-U.S. ties vital for global security Rajnath GSP 02 C
- News - Expert body needed on man-animal conflict House panel GSP 02 H
- News - Chargesheet filed in co-location scam GSP 02 O
- News - PM asks civil servants to prioritise 'Nation First' GSP 02 O
- News - Fertilizer subsidies may surge to ₹ 1.9 lakh cr Crisil GSP 03 A
- News - Gadkari urges voluntary EV recalls following explosions GSP 03 L
- News - NITI Aayog targets EV push with battery-swapping policy GSP 03 L

Prime Ministers' Museum thrown open to the public

Exhibits on Constitution, personal effects on display

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI

The Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML) on Thursday opened its doors to the public as the Prime Ministers' Museum dedicated to all former Prime Ministers.

The residence of India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, for 16 years that was converted into a memorial, Teen Murti Bhavan, after his death in 1964 has been refurbished over the past three years. The new Prime Ministers' Museum building in the complex that was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 14 welcomed visitors for the first time.

In what was earlier the reception of Teen Murti Bhavan, photos and displays related to Nehru made way for a model of the new building, exhibits on the Constitution and Constitution-makers and India's democracy. Outside, the Ambassador car used by Atal Bihari Vajpayee is showcased.



Icons of India: One of the galleries at the Prime Ministers' Museum in New Delhi. ■ DAMINI NATH

The museum's curator, Vintee Sain, said: "The Prime Ministers' Museum includes the new iconic building and the refurbished heritage building. For the first time, selected memorabilia from the *toshakhana* (treasure house) gifted to Nehru, Vajpayee, Mr. Singh and Mr. Modi have been put on display."

Shivam Sharma, an MBA student from Delhi, said the museum stood out to him as being "modern compared to others" and that he had made sure to visit on day one as he had heard a lot about the new building. "Na-

rendra Modi is my favourite," he said, while waiting for a letter signed in Mr. Modi's handwriting to be printed by a writing robot – one of the popular features at the new museum. While Mr. Modi was the top choice for most visitors, some asked for letters signed by Indira Gandhi, Manmohan Singh, Lal Bahadur Shastri and Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Also at the museum was Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, the BJP's Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly, who posed for a photo in front of the plaque declaring the inauguration date.

Maldives bans 'India Out' campaign

President Solih calls it a 'threat' to national security, says it 'exploited' freedoms

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

Maldivian President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih on Thursday issued a decree banning the 'India Out' campaign, now led by former President Abdullah Yameen, terming it a "threat to national security".

Stating that the government's policy was to provide freedom of expression and freedom of assembly guaranteed under the Constitution "to its fullest extent", and to "uphold democratic values", the Presidential order said

the campaign against India "exploited" the freedoms and "intends to disrupt" the long-standing bilateral relations between the Maldives and India as well as efforts to maintain peace and security in the region. The move follows a recent decision by the Maldives's National Security Council that the campaign "to incite hatred against India" is a "threat" to national security.

The 'India Out' campaign, started and sustained by critics of the Solih administration, gained prominence in

recent months with former President Yameen spearheading it.

The campaign accuses the Maldivian government of "allowing" Indian military presence in the island nation - the government has repeatedly denied it - and, of "being a puppet" of New Delhi. President Solih has opted for an 'India first' foreign policy and has said he is unapologetic about Male's close ties with New Delhi.

The Progressive Congress Coalition, representing Mr.

Yameen's political camp, said it "strongly condemns the unconstitutional executive order" by President Solih.

"Our Constitution is very clear on the question of freedom of expression, and that it has boundaries, and ends when it infringes on someone else's. This campaign is clearly aimed at creating differences and hatred, that is not in the interest of anyone," Speaker and former President Mohamed Nashied told *The Hindu* from Male over telephone.

India has never posed a threat to any country, says Modi

PM recalls the sacrifice of Guru Tegh Bahadur, releases coin and postage stamp

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday released a commemorative coin and postage stamp to mark the 400th birth anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur, and recalled the sacrifice of the ninth Sikh guru in protecting culture.

Mr. Modi addressed the gathering at the Red Fort, where a two-day celebration of the 400th birth anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur culminated on Thursday night. The Prime Minister said the Red Fort had witnessed many events in history, including the martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur. Guru Tegh Bahadur was executed in the nearby Chandni Chowk, while the order for his beheading was issued from the Red Fort.

Mr. Modi said there was a “storm of religious fanaticism in the country at that time”, and Guru Tegh Bahadur was the great hope for India to save its identity and



PM Narendra Modi releasing a commemorative coin to mark the 400th birth anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur. ■PTI

stand against Mughal emperor Aurangzeb’s tyranny.

The sacrifice of Guru Tegh Bahadur had inspired many generations to live and die “to protect the dignity of their culture”, he said.

“Great powers have disappeared, big storms have calmed, but India is still standing, moving ahead,” Mr. Modi said.

Mr. Modi said the government was working on connecting the centres of Sikh pilgrimage. He said India

had never posed a threat to any country or society and, even today, India thought about the welfare of the whole world.

Citing efforts made by his government for the community, including its decision to observe Veer Bal Diwas on December 20 to commemorate the sacrifice of Guru Gobind Singh’s sons, Mr Modi said the Citizenship (Amendment) Act has paved the way for granting citizenship to families of Sikhs and

other minorities that have come to India from neighbouring countries. “All this was possible because the Gurus have taught us to give primacy to humanity. Love and harmony are part of our values,” Mr. Modi said.

The government has shown its commitment to ‘Guru seva’ by constructing the Kartarpur Sahib corridor for which people had been waiting for decades, he added.

Earlier as part of the two-day celebrations organised by the Culture Ministry, the story of Guru Tegh Bahadur’s life was depicted through a sound-and-light show projected onto the facade of the Red Fort. Delhi Sikh Gurdwara management committee president Harmeet Singh Kalka called upon the Prime Minister to fulfil two demands – setting up a Sikh university in Delhi and naming the Indira Gandhi International Airport after Guru Tegh Bahadur.

(With PTI inputs)

As Sri Lanka pins hopes on IMF, China vows help

Beijing offers \$31 million in 'humanitarian aid' as Colombo holds talks with the IMF in Washington

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

China has pledged “an urgent emergency humanitarian aid” of RMB 200 million [roughly \$31 million] to Sri Lanka, even as Colombo pursues up to \$4 billion support from the International Monetary Fund in Washington DC this week.

Sri Lanka’s Foreign Ministry said the Chinese assistance, being extended

through the China International Development Cooperation Agency, includes 5,000 tonnes of rice, pharmaceuticals, production materials and other essentials.

Further, China’s Yunnan Province has announced a donation of RMB 1.5 million worth of food packages to Sri Lanka, the Ministry said following a meeting between Foreign Minister G.L. Peiris and the Chinese Ambassador

in Colombo on Thursday.

The development coincides with Colombo’s talks with the IMF in Washington for a comprehensive package to help the island nation restructure its debt and revive its economy.

The Sri Lankan government has pinned its hopes on IMF support, after announcing a default on its \$51 billion foreign debt and raising interest rates in the lead

up to negotiations with the Fund.

Sri Lankan Finance Minister Ali Sabry is currently in Washington and has met delegations of the IMF and the World Bank, U.S. government officials, and Indian Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, who is also in the U.S. capital for the Spring meetings of the IMF and World Bank.

According to Indian go-

vernment officials, Ms. Sitharaman has urged the IMF to provide Sri Lanka with assistance, as the country grapples with one of its worst economic downturns since its independence in 1948. India’s push comes in addition to its own support of \$2.4 billion since the beginning of this year, by way of a currency swap, loan deferment, and credit lines for food, fuel, and medicines.

This is India's moment of reckoning

The country can be the fulcrum of the new global order, as a peaceful democracy with economic prosperity



MANMOHAN SINGH

I have been deeply saddened by recent global developments of conflict and violence in Ukraine. Talk of nuclear threats have alarmed me. Regardless of provocations and causes, however justifiable they may seem to be, violence and consequent loss of human lives are deeply regrettable and avoidable. As Mahatma Gandhi's nation, India must be a committed and relentless apostle of peace and non-violence, both at home and in the world.

Conflict and a reshaping

The Russia-Ukraine conflict portends a reshaping of the world order. Ever since the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, a paradigm of free societies, frictionless borders and open economies evolved to be the governing order in many nations. This catalysed freer movement of people, goods, services and capital across the world. Global trade and per capita GDP nearly doubled in this period, marking an era of general peace and prosperity. Societies and economies in the world became intertwined closely in the pursuit of shared global prosperity. Such tight inter-dependence among nations will lead to fewer conflicts and promote peace, was the established wisdom.

The Russia-Ukraine conflict has dismantled this wisdom. If interconnectedness and trade among nations were mutually beneficial, then it follows that its disruption and blockade will be mutually harmful. Retaliatory economic sanctions imposed on Russia have hurt all nations, albeit some more than the others.

Egyptians are reeling from food shortages due to their dependence

on Russian and Ukrainian wheat, Germans suffer from high costs of heating in winter due to their dependence on Russian gas, Americans face a shortage of electric cars due to unavailability of car batteries that are dependent on Russian nickel, Sri Lankans have taken to the streets on economic woes and Indian farmers run the risk of high fertilizer prices triggered by a global shortage.

'Global Village', a lived reality

'Global Village' is not just an academic term but a lived reality for the nearly eight billion people on the planet. This 'Global Village' was built on the foundation of advanced transportation networks, cemented with the U.S. dollar as the reserve currency and fenced by integrated payment systems. Any disruption to this delicate balance runs the risk of plunging the 'Global Village' into disequilibrium and derailing the lives of all.

India too has benefited enormously from being an active participant in this interconnected world, with a tripling of trade (as share of GDP) in the last three decades and providing vast numbers of jobs. Trade with other nations should and will always be an integral cornerstone of India's economic future. A reversal towards isolationism and protectionism will be foolhardy and calamitous for India.

The Russia-Ukraine conflict is a global geo-economic conflict that threatens to hark back to the Cold War era of two dominant power blocs. Nations that did not condemn the Russian aggression in the United Nations constitute more than half the world's population but a quarter of the world economy versus nations that condemned Russia, account for three-quarters of the global economy. The former, the Russia-China bloc, are large producers with rising consuming power while the latter, the western bloc, are today's large consumers. Any new curtain that descends between



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

these two blocs and divides them will cause major upheavals to the entwined global economic equilibrium.

A trade opportunity

During the Cold War, when India pursued a prudent foreign policy of non-alignment, trade was a small part of India's economy. Now, trade represents a significant share of India's GDP. India's trade is dependent on both these power blocs and on the current global economic structures of free trade, established reserve currency and transaction systems. As the western bloc of nations looks to reduce dependence on the Russia-China bloc of nations, it presents newer avenues for India to expand trade.

The western bloc of nations has expressed its desire to embrace a new paradigm of 'free but principled trade' that values both morals and money. While one may reasonably quibble about this new doctrine, India, as the largest peace-loving democracy, stands to gain enormously from this 'principled trade' aspiration of the western bloc. It presents a tremendous opportunity for India to become a large producing nation for the world and a global economic powerhouse. However, to capitalise on these opportunities, India needs free access to these markets, an accepted and established global currency to trade in and seamless trade settlements.

The American dollar has emerged as the global trade currency, bestowing an 'exorbitant privilege' on the dollar, much to the justifiable consternation of other nations. But a forced and

hurried dismantling of this order and replacing it with rushed bilateral local currency arrangements can prove to be more detrimental for the global economy in the longer run.

I recall the time when I was part of bilateral currency negotiations such as the Indian rupee-Russian rouble agreement in the late 1970s and 1980s, when we mutually agreed on exchange rates for trading purposes. Such isolated bilateral agreements are fraught with risks, but when trade is a small share of the economy and such agreements are limited to a few trading partners, it was wieldy.

Needed, ties on either side

Now, with India's robust external sector, a flourishing trading relationship with many nations and tremendous potential to expand trade, such bilateral arrangements are unsustainable, unwieldy, and perilous. Opportunities to buy discounted oil or commodities may be enticing but if it entails a prolonged departure from the established order of dollar-based trade settlement or jeopardises established trading relationships with western bloc markets, it can have longer term implications for India's export potential. In the long run, India stands to gain more from unfettered access to the western bloc markets for Indian exports under the established trading order than from discounted commodities purchased under new bilateral currency arrangements that seek to create a new and parallel global trade structure.

India thus needs not just a non-aligned doctrine for the looming new world order but also a non-disruptive geo-economic policy that seeks to maintain the current global economic equilibrium. By the dint of its sheer size and scale, India can be both a large producer and a consumer. With rising inflation, volatile crude oil prices, global uncertainty, weak domestic private investment and deteriorating fiscal situation, expanded ex-

ternal trade in the changed global situation presents the best opportunity to salvage India's economy and create large numbers of jobs for our youth and women. To best utilise this opportunity, India needs not just cordial relationships with nations on either side of the new divide but also a stable and established global economic environment. It is important for India to adopt a strategic economic self-interest doctrine within the larger paradigm of its non-alignment foreign policy.

Social harmony is a must

Just as it is in India's best interests to balance the current geo-economic equilibrium, it is also imperative for India to maintain its domestic social equilibrium. To be a large-scale producing nation, India needs millions of factories with hundreds of millions of people of all religions and castes across all States to work together. Social harmony is the edifice of economic prosperity. Fanning mutual distrust, hate and anger among citizens, causing social disharmony is a shameful slide to perdition.

The reshaping and realignment of the world order will be a unique opportunity for India to reassess its foreign policy, economic policy and geo-political strategy and don the mantle of global leadership. Strengthening India's global economic might through a cautious geo-economic strategy in the aftermath of the Russia-Ukraine conflict can potentially mark a pivotal turn in India's economic history. India can be the fulcrum of this new global order, as a peaceful democracy with economic prosperity. But this requires India to first stem the raging communal divisions within. I sincerely wish and fervently hope that India can emerge as the harbinger of peace, harmony and prosperity in this new world.

Manmohan Singh was the Prime Minister of India from 2004 to 2014.
(With help from Praveen Chakravarty)

Growing ambitions

China's security pact with the Solomon Islands is a first, but unlikely to be the last

China's government announced on April 19 that it had signed a landmark security pact with the Solomon Islands, evoking concern from Australia and the U.S. The agreement is the first of its kind that China has agreed with any country, and underlines its ambitions to play a security role in the Pacific. The final version has not been made public, but according to a draft that was leaked last month, it will pave the way for China to deploy its security forces there. The Solomon Islands can request police and military personnel "to assist in maintaining social order", while China can make ship visits and use its ports for logistics. This will give China's vessels a strategic foothold in the Pacific, in a region close to Australia and Guam, where the U.S. has a naval base. Both countries unsurprisingly expressed concern, with Washington, this week, even dispatching a senior official and Indo-Pacific Coordinator, Kurt Campbell, to the Solomon Islands, who will take up the pact as well as plans to reopen the U.S. Embassy there. China questioned the motivations of the visit, noting that the Embassy had been closed for 29 years but the U.S. had now taken a "sudden" interest.

The significance of the pact extends beyond the immediate regional security concerns in the Pacific. For decades, China insisted it would never open a military base abroad. Then, in 2017, the PLA put into use its first foreign base in Djibouti. The Solomon Islands government said the agreement does not imply China will build a base there. Chinese military planners have, however, made clear that further bases – for its navy – are in the works, with experts suggesting possible locations in Pakistan, Cambodia, and Equatorial Guinea (in the Atlantic). The pact does, however, relate to a second key pillar of China's avowed "peaceful rise" doctrine, which was, as popularised by "Panchsheel" or the "five principles of peaceful co-existence" – the "non-interference" in the internal affairs of other countries. The deployment of security forces in a foreign country certainly does not square with that idea. China has already begun to do so elsewhere, albeit on a limited scale. Chinese media have mentioned China-Pakistan patrols in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, while reports have suggested the deployment of security forces in Tajikistan near the Wakhan corridor that links Afghanistan and Xinjiang. China's past commitments on military bases and non-interference were intended to show the world Beijing would not seek to become a global "hegemon", its favoured term to describe the U.S. But this is less of a concern for Xi Jinping, who has made clear his view that the "East is rising and West declining" and that China should be unabashed about moving to the "centre stage". The latest security pact is unlikely to be the last.

India-U.S. ties vital for global security: Rajnath

'De-escalation way forward at borders'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

When seen from the perspective of strategic convergence, India and the U.S. share a commitment to democracy, pluralism and the rule of law, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Thursday.

Virtually addressing the 30th annual general meeting of the American Chamber of Commerce in India on Thursday, he underscored that the India-U.S. "comprehensive global strategic partnership" was of "critical importance" for international peace, stability and prosperity. He called upon American companies for joint research and development, and manufacturing and maintenance of defence equipment, to achieve the Indian government's vision of "Make in India, Make for the world".

Addressing the Army Commanders' Conference later, Mr. Singh, referring to the situation along the country's northern borders, expressed full confidence that while the troops were standing firm, the ongoing talks for peaceful resolution would continue, and disengagement and de-escalation were the way forward.

"It is our 'whole of government' approach to ensure availability of best weapons, equipment and clothing to our troops brav-



Rajnath Singh

ing extreme weather and hostile forces to defend our territorial integrity," Mr. Singh said.

Stressing that the present, complex world situation affects everyone globally, Mr. Singh said: "Unconventional and asymmetric warfare, including hybrid war, will be part of the future conventional wars. Cyber, information, communication, trade and finance have all become an inseparable part of future conflicts. This necessitates that the armed forces will have to keep all these facets in consideration while planning and formulating strategies."

He said Atmanirbhar Bharat is a big step towards self-reliance in defence. In 2021-22, ₹40,000 crore worth of contracts by the Army are being awarded to Indian vendors.

Expert body needed on man-animal conflict: House panel

Standing Committee on Science says the issue needs legislative backing

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

The Environment Ministry must constitute an advisory body of experts to tackle growing instances of human-animal conflict, according to a report by the Standing Committee on Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change headed by Rajya Sabha member Jairam Ramesh.

The report analyses the Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2021 tabled in the Lok Sabha in December 2021. The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 provides a le-

gal framework for the protection of various species of wild animals and plants. While it has been amended several times, the latest set of proposed amendments by the Environment Ministry were to make it more compliant with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), to which India is a signatory.

One of the clauses proposed by the Ministry was to have a Standing Committee of the State Board for Wildlife (SBWL) to make the functioning of the body



Cat rescue: Forest staff attend to a leopard that got caught in a barbed wire fence near a village in Tamil Nadu. •FILE PHOTO

“more purposive”, but the report points out that several independent experts and bodies had expressed their concern that such a body would be packed with offi-

cial members, exercise all powers of the SBWL and take decisions independent of the SBWL itself and “end up being a rubber stamp for faster clearances of pro-

jects”. The report instead suggests that were such a body to be constituted, it should have at least one-third of the non-official members of the SBWL, at least three institutional members and the Director of the Wildlife Institute of India or his/her nominee.

A wildlife standing committee is usually a subset of members that reports to a wider Board, in the case of States where it is headed by the Chief Minister and in charge of executing day-to-day matters.

While Standing Committee reports on Bills usually stick to criticism of the text of the Bill, this report devoted space to the question of

human-animal conflict – a subject not mentioned in the proposed amendments – as it was “a complex issue as serious as hunting” and needed “legislative backing”.

The report recommends an advisory committee to be headed by the Chief Wildlife Warden, who can consult the committee to act appropriately. “Such a committee with few members and in-depth technical knowledge for evolving effective site-specific plans/ mitigation strategies including recommendations on changing cropping patterns and for taking critical decisions at short notice, empowered under the law is necessary,” the report noted.

Chargesheet filed in co-location scam

Ex-NSE MD Chitra Ramkrishna, former group operating officer, accused in case

DEVESH K. PANDEY
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has filed a chargesheet against the former National Stock Exchange (NSE) managing director Chitra Ramkrishna and its former group operating officer Anand Subramanian in the alleged co-location scam case.

After several rounds of questioning, the agency had arrested Mr. Subramanian in February and days later, Ms. Ramkrishna was also arrested. The move came after, on February 11, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) levied fines on the two accused and others on various counts, and then the Income Tax Department searched their premises in



Chitra Ramkrishna

Chennai and Mumbai.

Both the accused are currently in judicial custody. Their bail pleas are scheduled to be heard by a special court later this month.

The CBI had registered the case in May 2018.

It was alleged that Delhi-based broker firm OPG Securities, owned by Sanjay

Gupta, and some others used an algorithmic trading software to gain preferential access to the NSE server data during 2010-14, in conspiracy with some data centre staff members.

Owing to the then available co-location facility, the accused also got quicker data access through the stock exchange's secondary server.

The software was developed by accused Ajay Narotam Shah purportedly using the exchange's trade data collected in 2005-06 for the purpose of research work.

In the same case, the role of unknown officials of the SEBI and the NSE was also under the scanner for suspected abuse of official position.

This apart, the CBI is currently probing the email exchanges between Ms. Ramkrishna and a "Himalayan yogi", on whose instructions she allegedly took several key decisions. They included the appointment of Mr. Subramanian as the chief strategic adviser, his re-designation as group operating officer and huge salary increments for him in quick successions, as alleged.

The CBI has accused Mr. Subramanian of creating the email ID "rigyajurama@outlook.com" through which the unknown "yogi" was in constant touch with her and would receive the NSE's confidential documents. The CBI has retrieved about 2,500 email exchanges that are being analysed.

PM asks civil servants to prioritise 'Nation First'

Ensure India's unity, integrity, he says

DEVESH K. PANDEY
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said the civil servants' prime responsibility was the unity and integrity of the country, on which there could not be any compromise.

"Wherever we are in the system, our prime responsibility is the unity and integrity of the country, there cannot be any compromise. Every decision of ours should be evaluated on its capacity to provide strength to the country's unity and integrity. 'Nation First' should always inform our decisions," Mr. Modi said at a Civil Services Day event.

He said government functionaries should be committed to three goals: bringing a positive change in the life of common people, taking decisions in the global context, and strengthening the country's unity and integrity.

Mr. Modi, who also conferred the Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration, suggested that all training academies could virtually share the process and experiences of the award winners.

The Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration-2021 for



Narendra Modi

innovation went to the Education Department in Gujarat, Agriculture Department-Ladakh, Department of Defence Production, Departments of Land Resources, West Champaran, Bihar, and Bongaigaon, Assam; and for seamless end-to-end service delivery without human intervention to Karnataka; New Delhi Municipal Council.

Under the PM Svanidhi Yojana category, Varanasi in U.P. and Anantnag in Jammu & Kashmir were adjudged winners; while for the one-district-one-product category, the award went to Darbhanga in Bihar and Siddharthnagar in Uttar Pradesh; for Poshan Abhiyaan to Kumuram Bheem Asifabad, Telangana, and Datia in Madhya Pradesh; and for the "Khelo India" scheme to Churu in Rajasthan and Bishnupur in Manipur.

Fertilizer subsidies may surge to ₹1.9 lakh cr.: Crisil

‘Govt. may have to rework fiscal math’

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

India’s fertilizer subsidy bill could hit a record high this year, in the range of ₹1.65 lakh crore to ₹1.9 lakh crore, necessitating a reworking of the Centre’s fiscal math outlined in the Union Budget, credit rating agency Crisil said on Thursday.

The government has budgeted for a fertilizer subsidy bill of ₹1.05 lakh crore for 2022-23, but that was prior to the unprecedented rise in raw material costs and global fertilizer prices following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. If the Centre doesn’t step in with a fiscal intervention, fertilizer subsidy arrears could touch an all-time high of more than ₹75,000 crore by March 2023, the



agency estimated.

“Our assessment assumes approximately 3% growth in demand for fertilizers and a moderation of raw material and fertilizer prices in the second half of this fiscal. If the demand is higher than expected, or input prices do not soften even in the second half, the subsidy bill may inch up to ₹1.8-₹1.9 lakh crore,” Crisil said.

Gadkari urges voluntary EV recalls following explosions

Minister warns of penalties, mandatory recalls; Centre to issue safety norms

JAGRITI CHANDRA
NEW DELHI

After Okinawa and Pure EV voluntarily recalled some of their electric scooters batches following a recent series of battery explosions, Union Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari urged other EV makers who have faced similar incidents to follow suit, failing which there could be heavy penalties and mandatory recall orders.

“Companies may take advance action to recall all defective batches of vehicles immediately,” Mr. Gadkari wrote on Twitter.

On Thursday, Pure EV announced a voluntary recall of 2,000 ETrance Plus and



Hot potato: EV safety norms may include tests for compliance and the number of samples to be tested. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

EPluto 7G vehicles after at least two fire explosions. In the most recent incident, an 80-year-old man died on Wednesday after the battery of an electric scooter exploded while being charged at his

home in Telangana’s Nizamabad district. Earlier, Okinawa Autotech had issued a voluntary recall of 3,250 Praise Pro electric scooters.

The Centre has constituted an expert panel to en-

quire into the explosions. Jitendra EV and Ola Electric are also being probed, apart from Okinawa and Pure EV.

“We are waiting for the expert panel’s report on Ola and Jitendra EV,” Giridhar Aramane, Secretary, Road Transport Ministry told *The Hindu*. The panel includes experts from Defence Fire and Explosive Laboratory, Naval System Development Laboratory and the Indian Institute of Science.

Post the probe, the Ministry also intends to issue guidelines for EVs, including tests for compliance with safety norms as well as the number of samples needing to be tested, said an official.

NITI Aayog targets EV push with battery-swapping policy

Draft plan aimed at electric two- and three-wheelers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The NITI Aayog on Thursday released a draft battery-swapping policy targeted at electric two- and three-wheelers as the government think tank aims to expedite large-scale adoption of EVs.

The policy proposals include incentives for EVs with swappable batteries, subsidies to firms manufacturing swappable batteries, technical and testing requirements, and reduction of GST among other things.

Battery swapping involves exchanging discharged batteries for charged ones, delinking the vehicle and fuel and hence, reducing the upfront cost of the vehicles.



The draft policy recommends prioritising all metropolitan cities with a population greater than four million for development of battery-swapping networks under the first phase (1-2) years, followed by all major cities such as State capitals, UT headquarters and cities with population greater than 5 lakh in the next 2-3 years.

Inviting stakeholder com-

ments till June 5, the think tank states that the policy would be valid from the date of its public notification till March 31, 2025.

The NITI Aayog has also proposed that demand-side incentives offered under existing or new schemes for EV purchase could be made available to EVs with swappable batteries eligible under this policy.

To ensure battery safety and security of assets, swappable batteries would be equipped with advanced features such as IoT-based battery monitoring systems, remote monitoring and immobilisation capabilities, as well as other required control features.

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.