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DAILY NEWS 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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India guided by interest of Afghans: Doval in NSA meet

NSA stresses that India remains important stakeholder; relationship to continue

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

Afghanistan must ensure education for girls, National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval said at the 4th Regional Dialogue on Security being held in Tajikistan capital Dushanbe.

Emphasising India's decision to help Afghanistan with humanitarian aid even though it doesn't have relations with the Taliban regime, he asserted that India remained an "important stakeholder". "The special relationship with the people of Afghanistan over centuries will guide India's approach. Nothing can change this," he stated at the conference of NSAs and State Security Council Chiefs attended by China, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. "Women and youth are critical for the future of any society. Provision of education to girls and

 **Women and youth are critical for the future of any society. Provision of education to girls and employment to women and youth will ensure productivity and spur growth. It will also have a positive social impact, including discouraging radical ideologies among youth**

AJIT DOVAL
National Security Adviser



employment to women and youth will ensure productivity and spur growth. It will also have a positive social impact including discouraging radical ideologies among youth," he observed, according to official accounts of the closed-door two-day meeting released to the media.

In the past few weeks, international calls for the Taliban to rescind an order that mandated girl students in secondary schools, from grade 6-12 were not allowed to at-

tend school. India was part of a United Nations Security Council statement criticising the Taliban regime's actions, as well as other restrictions on women in education and employment.

"There is need for all present at the Dialogue to enhance the capability of Afghanistan to counter terrorism and terrorist groups which pose a threat to regional peace and security," Mr. Doval remarked, according to news agency PTI,

indicating that the government is prepared to distinguish between the Afghan regime and trans-national terror groups.

While India has refused to recognise the Taliban regime, it has engaged Taliban officials in Doha and other locations since their takeover of Kabul in August 2021. After Pakistan gave clearance for transit trade access, India has sent about 17000 metric tonnes (MT) of wheat out of a total commitment of 50000 MT, and has also sent vaccine doses for COVID-19 and Polio, urgently needed medicines and winter clothing on flights to Kabul. The Ministry of External Affairs has refused to confirm reports that India is also considering re-establishing its diplomatic presence in Kabul, as at least 15 countries, including Russia, China, Iran, Pakistan and a few Central Asian States have.

Thiruvananthapuram Declaration seeks passage of Bill

Reservation Bill envisages 33% quota for women in the LS, State legislatures

STAFF REPORTER

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The first National Women Legislators' Conference which concluded here on Friday demanded immediate steps to ensure the passage of the long-pending Women's Reservation Bill which envisages 33% reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and State legislatures.

The Thiruvananthapuram Declaration, adopted at the valedictory session, lamented the trajectory of the Bill, which has been pending for 26 years, as a sullied blot on the democratic values and legislative traditions of the country.

'Bill in limbo'

The resolution, moved by Higher Education Minister R. Bindu, noted that the Bill remains in limbo despite all governments that have ruled the country since 1996



Speaker M.B. Rajesh with the participants during the valedictory of the National Women Legislators' Conference in Thiruvananthapuram on Friday. ■ S. MAHINSHA

(when the Bill was introduced) asserting their commitment to its passage.

"Despite the absence of the Women's Reservation Act, the people of our country did create a historic record in the last general elections when 78 women were elected to the lower house of Parliament. But, this number by itself cannot be termed a salutary feat. For, India's ranking in the partici-

pation of women in lawmaking has reached an all-time low of 148 whereas the ranking had been better at 95 in 1998," it stated.

Another resolution moved by Tamil Nadu MLA A. Tamilarasi called for a legislation to curb abusive, bullying, derogatory and misogynistic conduct in public, private and virtual spaces.

It observed that the un-

iversal spread of social media platforms and the relative anonymity it offers have spurred such behaviour. There have been reflections of these abominable manners among the political class too, both at the levels of practitioners at all levels of the political structure and the cyber wings created and run by supporters of different organisations. Taking note of instances in which women political leaders have been targeted, the conference viewed the tendency as "a manifestation of the worst forms of hegemonic power and patriarchy".

Inaugurating the valedictory session, Speaker M.B. Rajesh said the conference underlined the importance of equality, women empowerment, women and child development and equal representation of women in decision-making bodies.

Sex as work

Laws should free consenting sex workers from stigma, and grant them rights

A long-standing demand of sex workers that their work be decriminalised has been partially fulfilled with the Supreme Court passing an order on May 19 that adult sex workers are entitled to dignity and equal protection under law. Directing the police to respect the rights of consenting sex workers, the Court observed that "... notwithstanding the profession, every individual ... has a right to a dignified life under Article 21 of the Constitution". It reiterated what the Court had ruled in *Budhadev Karmaskar* (2011), that sex workers are also entitled to a "life of dignity". With the Trafficking of Persons (Prevention, Protection and Rehabilitation) Bill yet to see the light of day, the Court invoked powers under Article 142 to issue guidelines till the legislation is in force. In 2011, it had set up a panel to look at prevention of trafficking; rehabilitation; and conditions conducive for sex workers who wish to continue work. As the Court awaits the Government's response to the panel's recommendations that adult sex workers should not be "arrested or penalised or harassed or victimised," a three-judge Bench led by Justice L. Nageswara Rao did well to direct the police to treat "all sex workers with dignity and should not abuse them, ... verbally and physically, subject them to violence or coerce them into any sexual activity". During the hearings, the Additional Solicitor General Jayant Sud had conveyed to the Court that the Government has "certain reservations" on some of the panel's recommendations.

The Court has asked the Government to respond to the panel's suggestions in six weeks. By holding that basic protection of human decency and dignity extends to sex workers and their children, the Court has struck a blow for the rights of an exploited, vulnerable section. Coming down heavily on the brutal and violent "attitude" of the police toward sex workers, the Court said "it is as if they are a class whose rights are not recognised". It has asked State governments to do a survey of protective homes under the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, the legislation governing sex work in India, to review the cases of "adult women" detained there and process their release in a time-bound manner. The ITP Act penalises acts such as running a brothel, soliciting in a public place, living off the earnings of a sex worker and living with or habitually being in the company of one. The Court's general observations should help sensitise the police, media and society toward sex workers, who have generally been invisible and voiceless. The ball is in the Government's court to draw up appropriate legislation to free consenting sex workers from stigma, and grant them workers' rights. In that too, the Court suggested the Centre and States involve sex workers or their representatives to reform laws.

‘Allow surrogacy for single men, mothers’

Plea challenges provisions of the law, demands nod to commercial surrogacy; HC seeks Centre’s view

JAGRITI CHANDRA
NEW DELHI

Why can’t a single man or a married woman beget a child through surrogacy and does such a denial not result in the violation of the right to privacy? These are some of the questions that two petitioners have posed to the Delhi High Court, demanding at the same time that commercial surrogacy be decriminalised.

A Bench headed by Acting Chief Justice Vipin Sanghi and Justice Sachin Datta has issued a notice to the Centre seeking its stand on the matter within the next six weeks. The matter is listed for further hearing on November 29.

The petitioners have challenged their exclusion from

availing of surrogacy under the Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Act, 2021, and Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021.

The two petitioners are a single man and a woman who is also a mother and desires a second child.

Under the Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021, a woman who is a widow or a divorcee between the age of 35 and 45 years or a couple, defined as a legally married woman and man, can avail of surrogacy if they have a medical condition necessitating this option.

It also bans commercial surrogacy, which is punishable with a jail term of 10 years and a fine of up to ₹10 lakh. The law allows only altruistic



surrogacy where no money exchanges hands and where a surrogate mother is genetically related to those seeking a child.

The petitioners have stated that commercial surrogacy is the only option available to them but the “ban on it

The right to privacy of every citizen to be free from unwarranted governmental intrusion in matters affecting a decision to bear or beget a child through surrogacy cannot be taken away

PETITIONERS

robs them of the option”.

“The personal decision of a single person about the birth of a baby through surrogacy, i.e., the right of reproductive autonomy is a facet of the right to privacy guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution. Thus, the right

to privacy of every citizen or person to be free from unwarranted governmental intrusion in matters fundamentally affecting a decision to bear or beget a child through surrogacy cannot be taken away,” the petition argues.

It also says that the best eligibility criteria to maximise the chances of finding the best surrogate mother would be any healthy woman above the age of majority and “the needless conditions of being genetically related, of a particular age, married and already having at least one child only constrict the universe of available candidates who may otherwise become healthy surrogate mothers.”

(With inputs from PTI)

Monsoon onset over Kerala delayed

JACOB KOSHY

NEW DELHI

Monsoon has missed its May 27 date with Kerala, with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) saying that it will likely take “2-3 days more” for the onset.

On May 13, the IMD announced that monsoon was to arrive on May 27, four days ahead of its normal date of June 1.

Friday’s forecast said the monsoon system had further advanced into parts of the South Arabian Sea, Maldives and parts of Lakshadweep as well as the Comorin area. Westerly winds had strengthened in the lower levels over the south Arabian Sea and

there was an increase in cloudiness over the Kerala coast and adjoining south-east Arabian Sea, the update stated.

For the IMD to declare the onset over Kerala, three key criteria must be met: one, the rain-bearing westerlies have to be at a minimum depth and speed; two, at least 60% of the available 14 stations in Kerala and coastal Karnataka must be reporting rainfall of 2.5 mm or more for two consecutive days after May 10; and, finally, a certain degree of clouding.

IMD Director General M. Mohapatra told *The Hindu* that all criteria had been met except the stations criteria.

Doing no justice to a vision of democracy

The existing economic system pursued by the political parties is antagonistic to the model envisioned by B.R. Ambedkar



C. LAKSHMANAN AND APARAJAY

Across the globe, like never before, Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar's 131st birthday (April 14) was celebrated in diverse forms. To honour him and other anti-caste icons such as Jyotirao Phule, Canada's British Columbia province has declared April as 'Dalit History Month'. In the federal State of Colorado and Michigan in the United States it is 'Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Equity Day'. In India, the Government of India has directed public institutions to formally celebrate Ambedkar's birthday. The Uttar Pradesh government celebrated this day as "Day of Social Harmony". The Tamil Nadu government has declared it a "Day of Equality". At the same time, attempts are also being made to (mis)appropriate Ambedkar by parties, organisations and individuals of various ideological persuasions for their own interests without making any effort to embody Ambedkar's principles of socio-cultural justice and economic fairness.

Celebration needs substance

A critical examination of these celebrations, at least in India, reveals that these are primarily a celebration of Ambedkar's zeal, mainly keeping electoral gains in mind. This maybe important but it does not do justice to Ambedkar's grand emancipatory vision of democracy. Most of these celebrations have not only been oblivious of Ambedkar's anti-caste and anti-patriarchal vision but also seem to be deliberately ignoring his worldview on economic equality, fairness and justice. The existing economic system pursued by the political parties at the Centre and State levels is mostly antagonistic to the model envisioned by Ambedkar.

It would be worthy to revisit some of the salient features of his works on economic democracy to draw lessons for today. As Labour Minister (Member) of the Viceroy's Council (1942-1946) and through his writings such as States and Minorities (1947), Ambedkar clearly laid out his vision regarding the substance of political economy.

As far back as 1928, Babasaheb had struggled to get the Maternity Benefit Bill passed in the Bombay Legislative Council. This was later taken up by the Madras Legislative Council in 1934. In 1942, Ambedkar changed the work time to eight hours per day from earlier 12 hours. Ironically, the current dispensation, during the COVID-19 pandemic, wanted to bring back the 12 hours of work a day norm. Recently, a few trade unions had to submit a memorandum to the Bharatiya Janata Party government opposing its plan to change the Factories Act, 1948 to reinstate 12 hours of work. In fact, the Uttar Pradesh government in 2020 was forced to rollback 12 hours of work time after labour unions protested and the Allahabad High Court issued a notice to the government.

The process of massive 'contractualisation' and 'informalisation/casualisation' of labourers since the 1990s has not only widened the economic inequality between employer and employee but also between high paid permanent employees on the one hand and low paid regular, contractual and temporary employees on the other. Contract workers have increased from 15.5% in 2000-01 to 27.9% in 2015-16 even in the organised manufacturing sector. In States such as Bihar, Uttarakhand and Odisha, a majority of the organised manufacturing workforce is contractual. Despite the prohibition under the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970, contract workers are being paid lower salary/wage for the same work. This is a clear violation of the law and Article 141 of the Constitution, as observed by the



GETTY IMAGES

Supreme Court of India in 2016. The Supreme Court overturned the verdict of the Punjab and Haryana High Court that temporary employees of Punjab government were not entitled to equal pay for equal work on par with permanent employees. Even among regular workers, according to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) data (2017-18), 45% were paid less than ₹10,000 a month and 72% were paid below ₹18,000 a month. Only around 3% of regular workers earned between ₹50,000 to ₹1,00,000 a month and only 0.2% earned more than ₹1,00,000 a month. The emergence of new classes and new contradictions threatens the very democratic existence and secular fabric of this country. Ambedkar was clear that a continued existence of glaring inequalities and the tyranny of majority will sound the death knell of Indian democracy.

Adhering to the principles

It is worth recalling here that Ambedkar not only established equal pay for equal work irrespective of gender as a member of the Viceroy's Council but also included this as part of the Directive Principles in the Indian Constitution. However, women still continue to receive on average between ₹70 to ₹90 a day, less than men as both formal and informal workers. Imagine what would have been the stand of Ambedkar regarding this had he been alive? He would have been equally shocked to see the huge pay gap between formal and informal sector workers. Informal workers constitute 93% of the formal and informal sector workforce in India. Some recent estimates

suggest that informal sector workers on average continue to get 30% to 40% of the real daily wage of formal workers. The four labour codes (on wages, social security, occupational safety and industrial relations), which were brought in by the BJP government after consolidating 44 labour laws, are going to worsen the situation of workers.

Workers in the unorganised sector organised a protest in April 2022 in Tamil Nadu urging the State government to pass a resolution in the State Assembly demanding that the Central government withdraw the four labour codes. One of these codes – Industrial Relations Code, 2020 (IRC) – directly infringes upon the right to strike, which was recognised by Ambedkar as one of the fundamental rights of workers. This was the reason the Indian Trade Unions (Amendment) Bill was passed in 1943, with the effort of Ambedkar, which had made recognition of trade unions compulsory. There were many other contributions of Ambedkar in institutionalising laws related to worker's insurance, minimum wages, worker's welfare, etc., many of which the four labour codes seek to circumvent or reverse surreptitiously. Therefore, it is high time we stand by the ideals of the architect of the Constitution.

Ambedkar's vision

It is imperative to understand the main reasons behind Ambedkar's active interest in economic and labour rights. First, he strongly argued for simultaneously addressing substantive questions of political, social, and economic democracy because they are intertwined with each other in a way that leaving out one will jeopardise the progress made in another. Second, he was as much a believer in economic justice as in social justice.

This becomes clear when we go through his work, States and Minorities. This document not only contained extensive safeguards for

the emancipation of the Scheduled Castes but also laid out his vision of socio-cultural justice and economic fairness. He had argued for nationalisation of key and basic industries, the agriculture and insurance sectors. He wanted the State to allocate agriculture land only on tenancy basis to people (irrespective of caste, class and creed) for collective farming. This vision was obviously against whatever is being done in the country in the post-liberalisation period and greatly intensified in the last decade or so. The on-going monetisation/sell-off/privatisation of airports, the Indian Railways, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)/Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL), the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), public sector banks and other public sector organisations are grave assaults on economic democracy.

It is not without reason that labour was placed under the Concurrent list in the Indian Constitution. Further, the Labour Investigation Committee and Labour Commissioners' were instituted by Babasaheb to ameliorate the condition of workers as much as possible within the existing law. Hence, the Union and State governments must take the lead in not only stalling the privatisation spree and undertake necessary measures to get the four labour codes repealed but also take proactive measures to follow the triad vision of democracy – social, economic and political – if they want to celebrate Babasaheb in the true sense. Without adhering to Ambedkar's ideals and merely appropriating the icon is just another pretext to divert people's attention from everyday materiality. Dr. Ambedkar was dead against hero worship or Bhakti in politics, which he thought was a sure path to degradation of democracy and eventual dictatorship.

C. Lakshmanan is Associate Professor, Madras Institute of Development Studies (MIDS), Chennai. Aparajay is an independent researcher

IISc develops device to improve data security

‘This will provide protection for digital data like credit card details, passwords’

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

A team at the Department of Electrical Communication Engineering (ECE), Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has developed a true random number generator (TRNG), which, the team says, can improve data encryption and provide improved security for sensitive digital data such as credit card details, passwords and other personal information. The study describing the device has been published in the journal *ACS Nano*.

“Almost everything we do on the internet is encrypted for security. The strength of this encryption depends on the quality of random number generation,” explained Nithin Abraham, a PhD student who is a part of a team led by Kausik Majumdar, Associate Professor at ECE, which has developed the



Internet operations can be made more secure with the new technology: IISc team.

device. Encrypted information can be decoded only by authorised users who have access to a cryptographic ‘key’. But the key needs to be unpredictable and, therefore, randomly generated to resist hacking. Cryptographic keys are typically generated in computers using pseudorandom number generators, which rely on mathematical formulae or pre-programmed tables to pro-

duce numbers that appear random but are not. In contrast, a TRNG extracts random numbers from inherently random physical processes, making it more secure, the IISc release explained.

In IISc’s TRNG device, random numbers are generated using the random motion of electrons. “It consists of an artificial electron trap constructed by stacking atomically-thin layers of materials like black phosphorus and graphene. The current measured from the device increases when an electron is trapped, and decreases when it is released. Since electrons move in and out of the trap in a random manner, the measured current also changes randomly. The timing of this change determines the generated random number,” it added.

“You cannot predict ex-

actly at what time the electron is going to enter the trap. So, there is an inherent randomness that is embedded in this process,” explained Prof. Majumdar.

The performance of the device on the standard tests for cryptographic applications designed by the US National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has exceeded their expectations. “Min-entropy is a parameter used to measure the performance of TRNGs. Its value ranges from 0 (completely predictable) to 1 (completely random). The device from Majumdar’s lab showed a record-high min-entropy of 0.98, a significant improvement over previously reported values, which were around 0.89,” the release said, adding that the team’s electronic TRNG is also more compact than its clunkier counterparts.

India to get semi-high speed freight train

The 'Gati Shakti' train will run from December

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA
CHENNAI

To tap the growing freight sector in the country, the Railways is aiming to introduce the country's first semi-high speed freight train by December 2022.

Based on the Vande Bharat platform, the 16-coach 'Gati Shakti' train will be able to run at 160 km/hour, and will be manufactured at the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) in Chennai.

"The design work for these trains has already started. We have also given the order for material...By December this year, we will be able to manufacture two of these trains," ICF General Manager A.K. Agarwal said.

Mr. Agarwal added that



New features: A view of a Vande Bharat train cabin under production at the Integral Coach Factory. ■ R. RAGU

the overall target of 25 such trains had been set.

The final number of trains would depend on how the initial trains will be received by market, he said.

Focus on e-commerce

With these trains, the Railways plans to target the e-commerce and courier par-

cel segment.

Quoting data from IBEF, an ICF official added that with the turnover of \$50 billion in 2020, India had become the 8th largest market for e-commerce.

"India's e-commerce market is expected to reach \$111 billion by 2024, \$200 billion by 2026 and expected to

reach \$350 billion by 2030," the official said.

The official added that the Railways has planned to capture the small size parcel shipments by running dedicated high speed freight trains.

Additionally, each train would have two refrigerated wagons – the first and last

wagons in the train, to ferry perishable items such as fruits and vegetables.

The Railways is aiming to increase its share in freight transportation from the present 27% to 45% by 2030 through better infrastructure and business development plans, according to the National Rail Plan.

New Arunachal monkey named after mountain pass

Sela macaque was identified and analysed by a team from the ZSI and the University of Calcutta

RAHUL KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI

A new species of old world monkey recorded from Arunachal Pradesh has been named after a strategic mountain pass at 13,700 ft above sea level.

Sela macaque (*Macaca selai*), the new-to-science primate was identified and analysed by a team of experts from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) and the University of Calcutta. Their study has been published in the latest edition of *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution*.

Phylogenetics relate to the evolutionary development and

diversification of a species or group of organisms.

The phylogenetic analysis revealed that the Sela macaque was geographically separated from the Arunachal macaque (*Macaca munzala*) of Tawang district by Sela. This mountain pass acted as a barrier by restricting the migration of individuals of these two species for approximately two million years, the study said.

Sela is situated between Dirang and Tawang towns in western Arunachal Pradesh.

“We found the new macaque species in western and central Arunachal Pradesh while exploring the



Sela macaque

Arunachal macaque’s wild population for genetic insights. It was found to be genetically different from the other species of monkeys reported from this region,” ZSI’s Mukesh

Thakur, one of the authors of the study said.

Major cause for crop loss

The study describes the Sela macaque as genetically closer to the Arunachal macaque. The two have some similar physical characteristics such as heavy-build shape and long dorsal body hair.

The zoologists identified some distinct morphological traits to differentiate the two species. While the Sela macaque has a pale face and brown coat, the Arunachal macaque has a dark face and dark brown coat.

“According to the villagers, the Sela macaque

is a major cause of crop loss in the West Kameng district of the State,” Mr. Thakur said.

The study says the Sela macaque has a tail longer than the Tibetan macaque, Assamese macaque, Arunachal macaque and the white-cheeked macaque but shorter than the bonnet macaque and toque macaque. Sela macaque belongs to the *sinica* species-group of *Macaca*, but it differs from all other members of this group through attributes such as brown collar hair and muzzle, and the absence of chin whiskers, the study says.

International Booker Prize for Geetanjali

ZIYA US SALAM
NEW DELHI

Indian author Geetanjali Shree has won the prestigious International Booker Prize for her Hindi novel *Ret Samadhi*, translated into English as *Tomb of Sand* by Daisy Rockwell.

The Mainpuri-born, 65-year-old Ms. Shree follows in the footsteps of Indian-origin author Salman Rushdie, Kiran Desai, Arundhati Roy and Arvind Adiga to win the international honour. The book was chosen among 135 longlisted ones. The Hindi original was published in 2018 while the English translation hit the stores in India in March this year.

“This rather chunky text,” as Ms. Rockwell said at the award ceremony, “is the first time the translation of a Hindi language book had been nominated for the award”.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 8

International Booker Prize for Geetanjali

“Shortlisting from 135 books was daunting. Choosing a single one from them has been agonising,” as the compere said before the announcement.

Shortly before the award ceremony in London, Ms. Shree, who has four other novels under her belt, told the media, “The plot challenges the boundaries of time and geography. It is recognition of a very special kind. When a work appeals to unknown people sitting in faraway places, then it must have the ability to transcend its specific cultural context and touch the universal and the human. The final selection for the Booker shows how rich and meaningful my and Daisy’s interactions have been.”

Her translator, Ms. Rockwell chipped in, “The longlisting brought the book many new readers around the world, in English and in Hindi as well. It also created an awareness of Indian literature written in languages other than English, and I sincerely hope that awareness will grow into a desire for more.”

Ms. Rockwell said, “I am honoured and overjoyed... The subcontinent has so many talented translators and amazing translated

works to offer.”

It is an unprecedented moment in the history of literature in Indian languages.

Ms. Shree is happy to soak in the moment. International newspapers and channels vied for the attention of Ms. Shree and Ms. Rockwell who are beseeched with requests for interviews from across the world.

Amidst all the chaos of flashing lights and reporters seeking replies, Ms. Shree hails her feat as not that of an individual, but an entire culture of literature of south Asia. “This is not just about me, the individual. I represent a language and culture and this recognition brings into larger purview the entire world of Hindi literature in particular and Indian literature as a whole.”

Ashok Maheshwari, managing director of Rajkamal Prakashan, the publishers of the Hindi original, nods in agreement. “It is a historic feat, unprecedented too. It is a moment of pride for Hindi literature and indeed all Indian languages.”

His words are backed by early reports from the market. Penguin which published the English translation reported all copies sold out in the morning itself.

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.