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VEDHIK

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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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Musings on 'Indic civilisation' and Indianness

India's civilisational heritage must be treated as a matter of pride — as one that unites every Indian



SHASHI THAROOR

I have been musing about the nature of Indian nationhood for at least the last four decades, ever since a distinguished foreigner said to me: 'You Indians have allowed yourself to forget that there is such a thing as Indic civilization. And we are its last outpost.'

The words were spoken to me in 1982, when I headed the United Nations office in Singapore, by the Khmer nationalist politician and one-time Prime Minister, Son Sann, lamenting India's support for Vietnam in its conquest of Cambodia in 1979. To Son Sann, a venerable figure then already in his late seventies, Cambodia was an 'Indic civilization' being overrun by the forces of a Sinic state, and he was bewildered that India, the fount of his country's heritage, should sympathise with a people as distinctly un-Indian as the Vietnamese. Given that Vietnam's invasion had put an end to the blood-soaked terror of the rule of the Khmer Rouge, I was more inclined to see the choice politically than in terms of civilisational heritage. But Son Sann's words stayed with me.

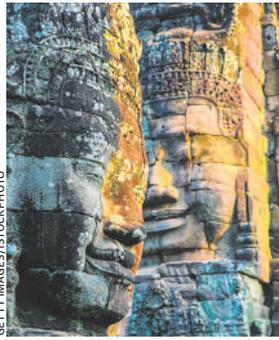
The long reach of culture

They came back to mind during a visit to Angkor Wat, perhaps the greatest Hindu temple ever built anywhere in the world — and in Cambodia, not in India. To walk past those exquisite sculptures recounting tales from the Ramayana and the Mahabharata, to have my Cambodian guide tell me about the significance of the symbols protecting the shrine — the *naga*, the *simha*, and the *garuda*, corresponding, he said earnestly, to today's navy, army, and air force — and to marvel at the epic scale of a Hindu temple as impressive as the

finest cathedral or mosque anywhere in the world, was also to marvel at the extraordinary reach of a major strand of our culture beyond our own shores. Hinduism was brought to Cambodia by merchants and travellers more than a millennium ago. It has long since disappeared, supplanted by Buddhism, also an Indian export. But at its peak, Hinduism profoundly influenced the culture, music, dance, and mythology of the Cambodian people. My Cambodian guide at Bayon, a few minutes' drive from Angkor Wat, spoke with admiration of a sensibility which, in the 16th century, saw Hindus and Buddhists worship side by side in adjoining shrines within the same temple complex. That seems inconceivable today in India, where contestations over places of worship have been reduced to winner-takes-all.

Last outpost standing

Perhaps Son Sann was right, and Cambodia is indeed the last outpost of Indic civilisation in a world increasingly Sinified. But what exactly does that mean? At a time when the north of India was reeling under waves of conquest and cultural stagnation, our forefathers in the South and East were exporting aspects of Indianness to Southeast Asia. It was an anonymous task, carried out not, for the most part, by warriors blazing across the land bearing swords of conquest, but by individuals who had come in peace, to trade, to teach, and to persuade. Their impact was profound. To this day, the kings of Thailand are crowned in the presence of Brahmin priests; the Muslims of Java still bear Sanskritised names, despite their conversion to Islam, a faith whose adherents normally bear names originating in Arabia; Garuda is Indonesia's national airline, and Ramayana its best-selling brand of clove cigars; even the Philippines has produced a pop-dance ballet about Rama's quest for his kidnapped queen. Many Southeast Asian countries also



mirror the idea of a 'sacred geography': the old Thai kingdom of Ayutthaya derived its name from the Indian Ayodhya, and places in Thailand are associated with events in the Ramayana epic, such as a hill where Hanuman was sent to find the Sanjeevani. Since 1782, Thai kings are still named Rama in continuation of the Ramayana tradition; the current monarch, Vajiralongkorn, is styled Rama X. (The Javanese city of Yogyakarta in Indonesia is also a transliteration of Ayodhya).

Ideas that are inadequate

Indeed the pioneering French Indologist, Sylvain Lévi, spoke and wrote of '*le monde Indien*' or 'greater India', a concept echoed in the American Sanskrit scholar, Sheldon Pollock's 'the Sanskrit cosmopolis'. Both terms refer to countries whose cultures were Indic in the sense of having been strongly influenced by Sanskrit language and literature. For such scholars, the geographical idea of India (the subcontinent bordered by the Arabian Sea, the Bay of Bengal, and the Himalayan mountains) and the geopolitical idea of India (today the Republic of India; at its biggest extent, the British Raj as it was in 1914, or more pragmatically, the British India of 1947) are inadequate—for the civilisational idea of India is much broader.

In a perverse way, it is also narrower, for Indic civilisation was often not as well-entrenched in some parts of today's Republic of

India as it was in countries that were not, for long, part of any Indian polity, such as Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Java, Bali, or Sumatra. These countries, at least during large parts of the first millennium CE, were 'culturally as much Indian as Andhra Pradesh or Bangladesh during that very period', argues the French Indologist, Gérard Fussman. 'In these countries, non-Sanskritic languages were spoken and local gods were worshipped. But the language of culture and politics was Sanskrit as in India proper, or Pali; the upper strata's cults were Hindu or Buddhist, as in India proper; artists and architects followed the precepts of Sanskrit technical treatises.'

But contemporary international politics has rendered all this much less significant than the modern indices of strategic thinking, economic interests, and geopolitical affinities. India is far less important to the countries that still bear such 'Indic' influence than, say, China, whose significance is contemporary, rather than civilisational.

The idea of India and beyond

Should we care, and what, if anything, does this have to do with the idea of India? Of course, we should care: no great civilisation can afford to be indifferent to the way in which it is perceived by others. But what, today, is Indic civilisation? Some have argued that India is a "civilization-state" rather than a "nation-state", but they anchor the idea of Indian civilisation solely in the Hindu dharma, with no regard for the multiple non-Hindu influences that have undoubtedly helped shape contemporary Indian civilisation. The Huntington idea that the principal fault lines in the world would be between civilisations rather than ideologies — over identity rather than ideas — appeals to votaries of the Hindutva movement, who see Hindu civilisation as the defining characteristic of the Indian nation. Atal Bihari Vajpayee had stated

bluntly: "For me, Hindu Nation and Indian Nation are synonyms." But this is a highly contestable proposition. Can we afford to anchor ourselves in a purely atavistic view of ourselves, hailing the religious and cultural heritage of our forebears without recognising the extent to which we ourselves have changed?

A hybrid

The examples I have cited are, after all, all from the Hindu tradition. But is not Indian civilisation today an evolved hybrid that draws as much from the influence of Islam, Buddhism, Christianity, and Sikhism, not to mention two centuries of British colonial rule? Can we speak of Indian culture today without *qawwali*, the poetry of Ghalib, or for that matter the game of cricket, our de facto national sport? When an Indian dons a 'national dress' for a formal event, he wears a variant of the *sherwani*, which did not exist before the Muslim invasions of India.

When Indian Hindus voted a few years ago, in a cynical and contrived competition on the Internet, to select the 'new seven wonders' of the modern world, they voted for the Taj Mahal constructed by a Mughal king, not for Angkor Wat, the most magnificent architectural product of their religion. So, does not Indianness today — composed of elements influenced by various civilisations that have made their homes on Indian soil — subsume the classical Indic civilisation that Son Sann was referring to? It does, and we are all much better for it. Let us treat our civilisational heritage as a matter of pride, and not of parochialism; as a heritage that unites, rather than divides one Indian from another.

Shashi Tharoor is the Member of Parliament (Congress) for Thiruvananthapuram and the Sahitya Akademi award-winning author of 23 books, including a study of nationalism globally and in India, *The Battle of Belonging*, 2021

Adani power project sparks row in Sri Lanka

Official says Modi 'pressured' Gotabaya, later recalls charge

MEERA SRINIVASAN
JAFFNA

An Adani project in Sri Lanka is yet again at the centre of a controversy, after a top official of the Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) told a parliamentary panel that a renewable energy project in the island's northern Mannar district was given to the Adani Group after Prime Minister Narendra Modi "pressured" President Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

CEB Chairman M.M.C. Ferdinando made the remark on Friday before the Committee on Public Enterprises (COPE), but soon withdrew it, saying he had been "emotional".

President's denial

Between his statement on Friday and swift withdrawal was a tweet from Mr. Gotabaya on Saturday that said: "Re[garding] a statement made by the #lka CEB Chairman at a COPE committee hearing regarding the award of a Wind Power Project in Mannar, I categorically deny authorisation to award this project to any specific person or entity. I trust responsible communication in this regard will follow."

The President's office followed up with a statement "vehemently denying" the CEB official's remarks. "Sri



In the dark: A man using his mobile phone torch during a power cut in Colombo in Sri Lanka. The island-nation has been in the throes of an acute power shortage. ■AP

Lanka is currently in an acute shortage of power and President desires to expedite implementation of mega power projects. However, no undue influence will be used in awarding such projects. Project proposals for large-scale renewable energy projects is limited, but special attention will be paid to the selection of institutions for the projects, which will be carried out strictly in accordance with the transparent system by the government of Sri Lanka."

The development comes days after Sri Lanka amended its electricity law, effectively eliminating competitive bidding. The move drew flak from critics. In the parliamentary debate on the Bill, subsequently passed, Opposition lawmaker Nalin Bandara flagged concerns

that competitive bidding was being done away with "to make way" for projects such as the Adani Group's, according to the Colombo-based *Sunday Times*.

This is not the first time that Sri Lankans have questioned the Adani Group's entry into the island's energy sector, or brought up Mr. Modi's name in this regard. Following an agreement between the Group and the CEB, to execute renewable energy projects in the northern Mannar and Pooneryn districts, Sri Lanka's main Opposition party, Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB), said the Indian businessman was making a "backdoor entry", and accused Mr. Gotabaya of "pampering" Mr. Modi's "notorious friends".

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Adani power project sparks row in Sri Lanka

The energy project is the second major venture in Sri Lanka involving the Adani Group, after it bagged a strategic port terminal deal in Colombo. The Group was brought in to execute the West Container Terminal project at the Colombo Port, with majority stakes, after Colombo unilaterally cancelled a trilateral agreement among the governments of Sri Lanka and India and Japan to jointly build the East Container Terminal at the same port.

The Adani Group, Sri Lankan Ministers have said, was the Indian government's "nominee" in both cases, indicating there was no competitive bidding process. Similarly, there is no information of a tendering

process having preceded the energy agreement signed by the Group and the CEB. Even the agreement was not officially publicised by either side, and came to light only after Sri Lankan media reported on the development.

Further, India is also executing hybrid energy projects in three islands off Jaffna Peninsula, after displacing a Chinese energy project.

Though China had won the contract for the project through an Asian Development Bank-backed international competitive bid, Sri Lanka opted for the Indian grant project, following New Delhi's "concerns" with a Chinese project close to India's southern coast.

EXPLAINER

Understanding the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation

Why was the OIC established? What has been its role in the international arena?

SAPTAPARNO GHOSH

The story so far: On June 5, the General Secretariat of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) “condemned and denounced” the comments on Prophet Muhammed made by two erstwhile national spokespersons of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Referring to it as part of “growing spate of hatred and defamation of Islam in India”, it sought that the perpetrators are brought to justice and held accountable. In response, Arindam Bagchi, spokesperson at the Ministry of External Affairs, stated that India rejected the OIC Secretariat’s “unwarranted” and “narrow-minded” comments. He said that the views expressed by the two individuals did not reflect the views of the Indian government and that relevant authorities had already initiated strong actions against them.

What is the OIC?

The OIC claims to be the “collective voice of the Muslim world”. It was established at a 1969 summit in Rabat (Morocco) after what it describes as the ‘criminal arson’ of Al-Aqsa Mosque in the disputed city of Jerusalem. The OIC endeavours to establish solidarity among member states, support restoration of complete sovereignty and territorial integrity of any member state under occupation; protect, defend and combat defamation of Islam, prevent growing dissension in Muslim societies and work to ensure that member states take a united stand on the international stage.

The OIC has consultative and cooperative relations with the UN and other inter-governmental organisations to protect the interest of Muslims, and settle conflicts and disputes involving member states, among them being the territorial conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan and the status of Jammu & Kashmir. Presently based in Jeddah, the organisation plans to permanently move its headquarters to East Jerusalem once the disputed city is ‘liberated’. Moreover, it aspires to hold Israel accountable for ‘war crimes’ and violations of international law.

The organisation adheres to a charter that lays out its objectives, principles and operating mechanism. First adopted in 1972,

the charter has been revised multiple times in line with emerging conditions in the developing world. The present charter was adopted in March 2008 at Dakar in Senegal. It enshrines that all members be guided and inspired by the noble Islamic teachings and values alongside committing themselves to the purposes and principles of the UN charter. Member states are expected to uphold and promote good governance, democracy, human rights, fundamental freedom and the rule of law – settling disputes through peaceful means and refraining from the use of threat or force.

In addition, the OIC carves out a 10-year Programme of Action (PoA). Last instituted for the decade ending 2025, the PoA calls for measures to combat all aspects of terrorism globally. It also talks of implementing social schemes to eliminate two-thirds of extreme poverty and spurring industrialisation, investment, trade and overall economic and social growth among member states.

How does the OIC function?

The Islamic Summit, composed of Kings and heads of state, is the supreme authority of the organisation. Convening every two years, it deliberates, takes policy decisions, provides guidance on issues relevant to the organisation and considers issues of concern to the member states. The Council of Foreign Ministers is the chief decision-making body and meets annually to decide on how to implement the OIC’s general policies. In addition, this council also appoints, for a period of five years, the Secretary General, who is the chief administrative officer of the grouping. The Secretary General follows up on implementation of the decisions, directs attention to competent organs’ specific issues of concern, creates a channel for coordination among the varied organs and submits annual reports on the work undertaken. Former Foreign Affairs Minister of Chad, Hissein Brahim Taha, is the current Secretary General, taking up the role in November 2021.

UN members with a Muslim majority can join the organisation. The membership is to be ratified with full consensus at the OIC’s Council of Foreign Ministers. The same provisions apply for acquiring an observer status. All decision-making in the forum

requires a quorum defined by the presence of two-thirds of the member states and complete consensus. In case a consensus cannot be reached, decisions shall be made by a two-thirds majority of members present and voting.

The OIC is financed by the member states proportionate to their national incomes. Should a member fail to meet their obligations such that the amount of arrears equals or exceeds the amount of contributions due from it for the preceding two years, their voting rights are suspended. The member is only allowed to vote if the Council of Foreign Ministers is satisfied that the failure is due to conditions beyond the member’s control. The OIC also has standing committees for cooperation on information and cultural affairs, economic and commercial matters, scientific and technological initiatives and for Jerusalem.

What has been the nature of India’s relationship with the OIC?

India’s association with the 57-nation grouping has not been easy. Even though the country has good relations with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Saudi Arabia, its membership and engagement has been constantly challenged by Pakistan. In 1969, Islamabad’s opposition to Indian participation at the first OIC Plenary resulted in the Indian delegation being turned back from the venue at the last minute.

About 50 years later, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj addressed the OIC Plenary of Foreign Ministers in Abu Dhabi as a guest of honour. The invitation was extended by the UAE’s Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan. In 2018, Bangladesh had proposed India be given the observer status at the OIC considering its sizeable Muslim population - a move which received support from Turkey but was opposed by Pakistan. Political analyst Ketan Mehta of the Observer Research Foundation wrote in 2019 that Islamabad’s apprehension stems from the fear that India’s involvement in the grouping could influence the opinion of other Muslim states – not boding well for its influence.

What have been the criticisms against the OIC grouping?

Brookings Institution analyst Turan Kayaoglu



wrote in 2020 that the OIC had become a premise for ‘window dressing’, more interested in the rights of Muslim minorities in places such as Palestine or Myanmar than the human rights violations of its member states. The author noted that the body lacks power and resources to investigate human rights violations or enforce its decisions through signed treaties and declarations.

Experts have also pointed to the fact that the organisation is largely restricted to arbitrating in conflicts where both parties are Muslims. This is because the organisation is centred around Quranic values, which, it believes, makes it a qualified arbitrator. The accord of observer status at the UN to the Palestine Liberation Organisation is considered among its major successes.

Al Sharq Forum analyst Abdullah al-Ahsan, in an article in 2019 – the 50th anniversary of the organisation – noted that the OIC has failed to establish a cooperative venture among its members, who were either capital-rich and labour-scarce countries or manpower-rich and capital scarce. “...the organization has not evolved to become a significant player either in international politics or in the area of economic cooperation,” Mr. Al-Ahsan wrote.

Former External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj addresses as ‘Guest of Honour’ at the 46th Foreign Ministers’ meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation in Abu Dhabi in 2019. •P11

THE GIST

■ The OIC was established at a 1969 summit in Rabat (Morocco). It endeavours to establish solidarity among member states, support restoration of complete sovereignty and territorial integrity of any member state under occupation; protect, defend and combat defamation of Islam, prevent growing dissension in Muslim societies and work to ensure that member states take a united stand on the international stage.

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Modern Times: watches keep an eye on workers

Sonu Vinod Kumar, 25, said his blood pressure fluctuated whenever he wore the watch. “When I complained about this, the authorities said I have to keep wearing it while working; else, my salary will get deducted,” he said.

Krishan Kumar Chadha, the former president of the Chandigarh Sanitation Workers’ Union, said, “This [GPS watches] is a sword hanging above us. They are after our *safai karamchari* community. We want this to stop.”

Several times, the GPS watches showed locations wrong, Mr. Chadha said, citing instances when sanitation workers working at Sector 20, Chandigarh were shown to be located in Ludhiana, Badrinath, Ambala and elsewhere. “This has made us a slave. We are not free,” Mr. Chadha said.

Bhuvaneshwar Kewat, a workers’ union leader in Ranchi, said the civic body in the city had bought 900 GPS-enabled watches. “They have not yet been forced upon the workers,” Mr. Kewat said adding that most of them belonged to the Dalit community.

“There was a time when the people from the Dalit community were made to attach a broom around their waist, just to indicate that they are from a particular community. These GPS watches are a new form of suppression,” Mr. Kewat said.

Recently, the All India Lawyers’ Association for Justice (AILAJ) and the Internet Freedom Foundation wrote a joint letter to the National Commission for *Safai Karamcharis* (NCSK) over the increasing surveillance of these workers in the country. The two organisations expressed concern over the effect of these actions on the privacy, dignity and auto-



A sanitation worker wearing the GPS-enabled watch.

▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

my of the workers.

“We have not seen any notification or order on the basis of which they are doing it. They are definitely violating the fundamental right to privacy of these workers,” Anushka Jain of the foundation, told *The Hindu*.

“The sanitation workers are being made to work more as a result of this tracking device. We don’t know how they [Corporation] are ensuring that work is being done just by tracking the workers’ location. A worker might go to his or her place of work and just loiter,” Ms. Jain argued.

“While there is no law specifically which talks about these issues in India, the Supreme Court’s landmark judgment on the right to privacy is being violated in this situation,” she said.

AILAJ national convener Clifton D’Rozario, said: “While privacy is not an absolute right, any State intrusion into privacy has to satisfy the thresholds of legality, necessity, and proportionality, laid down by the Supreme Court in the Right to Privacy decision. However, the use of tracking devices on *safai karamcharis* fails to satisfy these thresholds as there is no anchoring legislation or legal framework.”

Mr. Clifton said sanitation workers continue to suffer under the contract system. “Instead of addressing basic issues, new forms of surveillance are introduced.”

Modern Times: watches keep an eye on workers

GPS tracking a privacy invasion, say experts

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH
NEW DELHI

Tied not only to their hands but also to their daily wages, GPS-enabled watches have kept *safai karamcharis* (sanitation workers) in Chandigarh under constant anxiety ever since the gadgets were introduced by the Municipal Corporation in 2020. With no laws or regulations yet to be formalised to check mis-

use of such monitoring devices, many legal experts feel that this “constant and dehumanising” surveillance must be stopped immediately.

The Corporation introduced the watches to glean attendance of these workers and check the misuse of the manual attendance system.

The sanitation workers, however, complain that the device has made them a modern-day slave.

Sheila, a sweeper attached with the Corporation, said she had been forced to wear the watch all

day and even forced to take care of its maintenance.

“Most of the time, I don’t know if it is working or not. As per instructions given to us, it works automatically. We just have to wear it. But I get dizzy whenever I wear it,” the 48-year-old, whose shift starts at 6.30 a.m. and ends at 11 a.m., said.

“I live in constant fear, as any fault with the watch could result in my salary getting cut. There have been several instances where my salary has been cut, without even giving a proper rea-

son,” said Ms. Sheila, who has faced deductions up to ₹2,000 on her monthly salary of ₹14,000.

Darshna, 48, another sweeper, said there was the fear of wages being cut even while taking breaks. “It takes an hour and a half to charge the watch. Sometimes, it stops working. There have also been instances where it showed a location different from where I was working,” she said, adding her salary was cut by ₹1,500 a month.

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'Can't enforce RTE unconditionally on pvt. schools'

HC says petitioner, whose name was struck off the rolls for non-payment of fees, is free to take admission in a government school

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The provisions of the Right To Education (RTE) Act cannot be unconditionally enforced on a private unaided school, the Delhi High Court has observed.

A Bench of Acting Chief Justice Vipin Sanghi and Justice Sachin Datta made the remarks while rejecting a plea challenging certain provisions of the Delhi School Education Rules, 1973.

Divyam Bhateja, a Class VI student in Bhai Parmanand Vidya Mandir here, was on February 11, 2022, told by the school that her name had been struck off the rolls over non-payment of fees since June 2021.

'Father lost job'

Bhateja, in her plea through advocate Khagesh B. Jha, had stated that she was paying



The RTE Act was enacted to impart free and compulsory education to all children aged 6-14 years. ■ FILE PHOTO

the school fees regularly until her father, working with a private firm as an accountant, lost his job during the COVID-19 pandemic.

She had challenged Rules 35 and 167 of Delhi School Education Rules, 1973 against the right of children to free and compulsory education under the RTE Act.

Rule 35 provides for strik-

ing a student off the rolls on account of non-payment of fees and other dues for 20 days after the last day for payment. Rule 167 permits a school to strike off the name of a student for non-payment of fees and contributions.

The High Court noted that the Delhi School Education Rules were enacted for better organisation and deve-

○ If the claim were to be allowed, it would mean even private unaided schools would be unable to charge any fee even though they have to meet all their expenses of their own. This is completely untenable

DELHI HIGH COURT BENCH

lopment of school education in the Capital. The very purpose of this enactment is to improve the standard and management of school education, it said.

Right to education

The RTE Act was enacted in 2009 to provide for free and compulsory education to all children between the ages of

6-14 years.

"Given the independent and distinct framework of Delhi School Education Act and the Rules framed thereunder, and the RTE Act and the rules framed thereunder, there can be no question of Rules 35 and 167 of Delhi School Education Rules impinging upon the operation of the RTE Act," the High Court observed.

"The RTE Act guarantees the right to education. However, it nowhere provides that the said right can be unconditionally enforced against a private unaided school," the court also said.

"The petitioner (minor Bhateja) is free to take admission in a government school if he cannot afford to pay the fee of the private unaided school. If he is entitled to admission in the EWS category, he may apply under that ca-

tegory to seek a waiver of the school fee," the court observed.

The Delhi High Court also remarked, "If the claim of the petitioner were to be allowed, it would mean that even private unaided schools would not be able to charge any fee even though they have to meet all their expenses from their own resources and accretions. This is completely untenable."

"In the light of the aforesaid position, we reject the challenge to the vires of Rules 35 and 167 of the Delhi School Education Rules, 1973," the High Court ordered.

It, further, clarified that the other prayers made by Bhateja, such as her challenge to her school striking off her name from the rolls, would be decided by another bench of the High Court.

After protest, gig workers find work drying up

They say they are facing ‘targeted’ action with their accounts ‘shadow-blocked’ or deactivated

ABHINAV LAKSHMAN
NEW DELHI

Women working with Urban Company (UC) who led a weeks-long protest against the firm last year, now say they are facing “targeted” action by either having their accounts “shadow-blocked” or deactivated. This has led to work drying up for them over the past two or three months.

Last December, UC’s subscription policy (Flexi scheme) asking service providers to pay a fee for job leads through their app had backfired, leading to over 300 women beauticians and salon service providers launching a sit-in at its Gurugram office.

The company offers a platform connecting service professionals (repair technicians, cleaning and other household service providers) to customers – much like an app-based cab service connects drivers to passengers. And like the ride-hailing apps, UC too refuses to recognise its service professionals as employees.

Reacting to the protests, UC sued the workers in a civil court to stop their agitation.

The Gurugram court

found the company’s filings “devoid of merits”, following which UC withdrew the suit on March 29 this year. But this has not stopped the company from acting against those who protested last year and anyone who continued their association with the women who led the protests, service partners allege.

“March 12 was when I got my last job from the app. Since then, nothing,” Seema*, 35, said, adding that she had raised a complaint about this issue at least nine times on the app since then – the last one on May 17. Each of these complaints was marked “resolved”

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within a day, but she got no new jobs.

When she repeatedly asked the company to tell why her account was blocked, “they would say I had poor performance”. Seema’s latest rating on the app was at 4.6 out of 5 and she had this year received a Silver Plus certificate of achievement from UC signed by Chief Executive Officer and co-founder Abhiraj Bhal himself.

Seema said that after the



Standing up: Urban Company’s employees sitting on a protest in Gurugram in December 2021. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

jobs stopped, she was called for a meeting at the UC office on March 16. “I met my category manager who said I had been blocked for attending the protest last year,” she said.

“I told them I was there only for one night. I pleaded with them but they said you are admitting to protesting, we can’t do anything more,” Seema said.

Court notice

Now, Seema has decided to take the company to court and has served a legal notice on it over her “effective termination”.

In her legal notice, Seema has named two UC officials who told her that she was blocked from getting jobs

because of the protest.

Gunjan (35), who was one of the women initially named by UC in its suit, said she too is facing a similar “shadow-block” – meaning her account is open on the app but she is not getting any jobs.

Seven months pregnant, Gunjan told *The Hindu* that she is desperately looking for work to be able to raise her soon-to-be-born child. She claimed that at least 50-60 women workers, who had protested last year with her, had now been “blocked” from getting any job leads through the application.

Rikta Krishnaswamy of the All India Gig Workers’ Union, which has been

working with UC workers, said such “targeted action” was being taken against anyone who had been part of the protests last year.

The company had initially named four of the protesting women along with several “unnamed” women in its suit, seeking an injunction to stop the strike outside the office.

The Gurugram court had granted the company’s plea and restrained the women from protesting. However, UC then went on to name 10 more women in an annexure, with an application to sue all protesting workers (including the unnamed ones), through the 14 women it had named, in a representative capacity.

Civil Judge (Junior Division) Harsh Kumar Singh found this plea “devoid of merits”, noting that “it was incumbent upon the plaintiff to submit/annex the list of all the defendants against whom the suit had been preferred in the representative capacity but it is not so in the appearing circumstances”.

Urban Company has not yet responded to multiple requests for a comment.

(*Name changed)

Starting afresh: how women at Tihar jail are upskilling, breaking stereotypes

Jail number 6 is helping women inmates fight trauma and prepare for a better future through vocational courses and counselling sessions

ARNABJIT SUR
SAMRIDHI TEWARI
NEW DELHI

Tihar's jail number 6 is home to over 400 women prisoners who engage themselves in running a full-time kitchen and an in-house beauty parlour while also attending tailoring and embroidery classes. It has helped them shed their apprehensions and hope for a future in which they can earn and gain recognition using the skills they are learning here.

Unlike the men's section of the jail, which often grabs headlines for being a hub of extortion rackets, hit-jobs and frequent inmate scuffles, jail number 6 has an "environment of sisterhood and harmony" and has not witnessed any major offence in the past eight months, officers said.

An undertrial in a kidnapping case, 37-year-old Payal*, has been lodged in Tihar for a year now.

"The tailoring classes which taught me screen printing to applique work have kept me occupied; otherwise, I always kept worrying about

my 11-year-old son and eight-year-old daughter who now live with my cousin," Ms. Payal told *The Hindu*.

"The jail Superintendent and the staff encourage me to pursue tailoring professionally in the future if I am granted bail or acquitted," she added.

Maria*, 33, a Nigerian under trial in a drugs related case, said she stitches her dresses and is passionate about designing clothes not just as a hobby but as a life skill to help herself.

"I've been working on women's clothing for four months and can now differentiate between fabrics, the sizes and the different types of womenswear," said Maria, who has been in jail since last September.

For Mozambique's Gloria*, 30, painting classes have helped her from slipping into depression in the last three years.

Swirling her brush over a black and white painting of a flower, Gloria said she is hoping to be cleared of all charges soon. When that happens she plans to take up a job and pursue painting



as a part-time profession.

Cooking for prisoners
Inside the full-time kitchen, the inmates, mostly convicts, cook three meals a day for fellow male and female prisoners.

"Their day starts at 6 a.m. The women inmates receive training before they become full-time kitchen employees. The food is also served to the undertrials," said Head

Matron Geeta.

Kiran, Deputy Superintendent of the jail, said that at the jail's in-house beauty parlour, inmates are taught everything from threading and pedicure to skin care treatment. "We have all the equipment and beauty accessories available at the parlour," she added.

When the women



(Left) Women inmates busy in tailoring work and making pickles inside Tihar's Jail number 6, Superintendent Krishna Sharma interacting with subordinates at her office at Tihar Jail in Delhi • SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

prisoners are busy in their daily activities, the staff takes care of the inmates' 20 children in the jail's crèche, where children aged over three years are imparted basic education.

Counselling prisoners
Speaking about the diligent work of the women staff in the jail, Sandeep Goel, Director General (Prisons) said, "The women staff is working very dedicatedly. They understand the

problem of women inmates and are empathetic towards them.

"The staff also takes a keen interest in the reformation and other welfare activities for the inmates. They also counsel the inmates who require counselling," he added.

Many women prisoners who are staying away from their families and children suffer from anxiety. They are put through counselling sessions for their mental well-being.

Superintendent Krishna Sharma, 49, who worked as a Social Welfare Officer with the Delhi government before being posted here in November last year, said, "We have a lot of mothers who have been separated from their children. We provide all the necessary monetary assistance to such mothers."

'Risk-prone job'

Jail 6 is looked after by around 75 women staff, most of who have faced their fair share of challenges, both personally and professionally, on the jobs. Heading an infamous jail

in the country's capital is, for 50-year-old Ms. Kiran, a means of breaking the proverbial glass ceiling.

"A job in a jail is always frowned upon. But here it doesn't feel like we are working among criminals. Most prisoners here have started life afresh and are working hard to make their stay productive... There are hardly any complaints of inmate violence now," Ms. Kiran added.

Deputy Superintendent Raman Sharma, 56, who joined as an Assistant Superintendent at the jail 26 years ago, recalled how her family supported her in pursuing what people considered a "risk-prone job".

"Even though minor incidents and scuffles break out once in a while, there is a feeling of sisterhood. This jail dispels many of the preconceived notions of a prison. It is an example of how women inmates, headed by a female staff, can function independently," Ms. Raman Sharma said.

(Names changed to protect identity)

New advisory on Type-1 diabetes

India has highest number of patients

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

From never wearing brand new shoes for a trip, to travelling with flash cards to navigate language barrier, managing meals when crossing time zones, storage of insulin and how to minimise glucose fluctuation – all of these are part of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) pre-travel advice for children and adolescents living with Type-1 diabetes. This is the country's first-ever list of basic dos and don'ts to ensure the safety of Type-1 patients during travel.

India has the highest number of incident and prevalent cases of Type-1 diabetes in the world as per recent estimates from the International Diabetes Federation, and the Council has now published a comprehensive document providing advice on care of diabetes in children, adolescents and adults with Type-1 diabetes.

Type-1 diabetes is a chronic condition in which the pancreas produces little or no insulin. It typically appears in adolescence and symptoms include increased thirst, frequent uri-

nation, hunger, fatigue and blurred vision.

The new 173-page ICMR guideline document states that individuals with Type-1 diabetes need support to survive, using insulin and other therapies, and to live their entire life without stigma, restrictions, or disabling complications due to their illness.

The Council has suggested that patients should inform the physician in advance, preferably four to six weeks before the planned travel, and should have medications and blood testing materials for the whole trip plus reserve supplies for at least two to four weeks if unforeseen circumstances extend the travel.

They also advise carrying comfortable shoes and socks to avoid straining the feet while on travel. "Alternating between two pairs of shoes can decrease the risk of blisters and calluses. New shoes, if purchased, should be used for at least two to three weeks before travel. Patients with a medical identification bracelet should have information on the disease, use of insulin, and disclose any allergies," the council said.

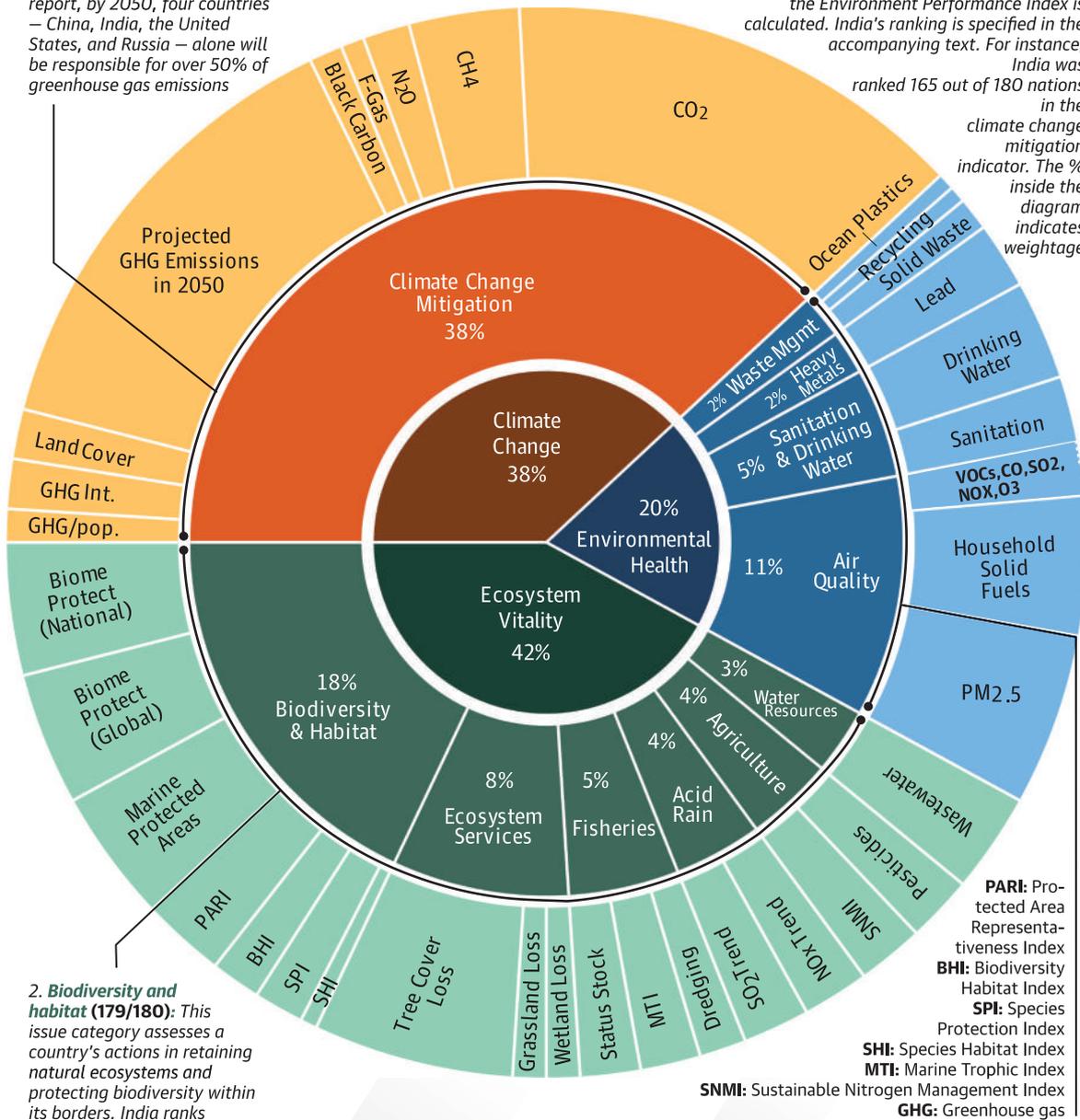
DATA POINT

Environment index: India ranked last

India scored the lowest among 180 countries in the Environment Performance Index (EPI) 2022, published by researchers from Yale and Columbia Universities. Denmark ranked first with an overall score of 77.90, while India scored 18.90. The report assesses countries on 40 performance indicators which are further grouped into 11 issue categories. At the core of the report lie three policy objectives: environmental health, ecosystem vitality and climate change. The index scores countries between 0 and 100, from worst to best performance. A perfect 100 score indicates that the country has achieved an internationally recognised sustainability target or the expert consensus of good performance. Among the 11 issue categories, India's performance was poorest in air quality (179), exposure to heavy metals (174), quality of bio-diversity and habitat (179) and climate change mitigation (165)

1. Climate change mitigation (165/180): According to the report, by 2050, four countries – China, India, the United States, and Russia – alone will be responsible for over 50% of greenhouse gas emissions

The sun-burst diagram shows the indicators and sub-categories based on which the Environment Performance Index is calculated. India's ranking is specified in the accompanying text. For instance, India was ranked 165 out of 180 nations in the climate change mitigation indicator. The % inside the diagram indicates weightage



2. Biodiversity and habitat (179/180): This issue category assesses a country's actions in retaining natural ecosystems and protecting biodiversity within its borders. India ranks second last in this category, just above Micronesia (180).

3. Ecosystem services: (97/180)

4. Fisheries: (42/136)

5. Acid rain: (132/180)

6. Agriculture: (70/180)

7. Water resources: (112/141)

8. Air quality (179/180): Several countries that have low overall scores feature at the bottom in the ranking for this indicator. India ranked 179, just below Nepal (178) and above Pakistan (180). Iceland was the best performer

9. Sanitation and drinking water: (139/179) | 10. Heavy metals: (174/180)

11. Waste management: (151/180)

PARI: Protected Area Representativeness Index
BHI: Biodiversity Habitat Index
SPI: Species Protection Index
SHI: Species Habitat Index
MTI: Marine Tropic Index
SNMI: Sustainable Nitrogen Management Index
GHG: Greenhouse gas

SOURCE: ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE INDEX, YALE UNIVERSITY

EXPLAINER

The FATF and Pakistan's position on its 'grey list'

How is Pakistan aiming to get itself removed from the Financial Action Task Force's grey list?

DIKSHA MUNJAL

The story so far: Ahead of the plenary session of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the global financial crime watchdog, from June 14 to 17 in Berlin, Pakistan which continues to face an economic crunch, is hoping for some respite in the form of its removal from the FATF's 'grey list' or the list of countries presenting a risk to the global financial system.

In its last plenary meeting in March, the FATF had retained Pakistan's listing, asking it to expeditiously address the remaining deficiencies in its financial system.

What is the FATF?

The Financial Action Task Force is an international watchdog for financial crimes such as money laundering and terror financing. It was established at the G7 Summit of 1989 in Paris to address loopholes in the global financial system after member countries raised concerns about growing money laundering activities. In the aftermath of the 9/11 terror attack on the U.S., FATF also added terror financing as a main focus area. This was later broadened to include restricting the funding of weapons of mass destruction.

The FATF currently has 39 members.



*REUTERS

The decision-making body of the FATF, known as its plenary, meets thrice a year. Its meetings are attended by 206 countries of the global network, including members, and observer organisations, such as the World Bank, some offices of the United Nations, and regional development banks.

The FATF sets standards or recommendations for countries to achieve in order to plug the holes in their financial systems and make them less vulnerable to illegal financial activities. It conducts regular peer-reviewed evaluations called Mutual Evaluations (ME) of countries to check their performance on standards prescribed by it. The reviews are carried out by FATF and FATF-Style Regional Bodies (FSRBs), which then release Mutual Evaluation Reports (MERs). For the countries that don't perform well on certain standards, time-bound action plans are drawn up.

Recommendations for countries range from assessing risks of crimes to setting up legislative, investigative and judicial mechanisms to pursue cases of money laundering and terror funding.

What are FATF's 'grey' and 'black' lists?

While the words 'grey' and 'black' list do not exist in the official FATF lexicon, they designate countries that need to work on complying with FATF directives and those who are non-compliant, respectively.

At the end of every plenary meeting, FATF comes out with two lists of countries. The grey countries are designated as "jurisdictions under increased monitoring", working with the FATF to counter criminal financial activities. For such countries, the watchdog does not tell other members to carry out due-diligence measures vis-a-vis the listed country but does tell them to consider the risks such countries possess. Currently, 23 countries including Pakistan are on the grey list.

As for the black list, it means countries designated as 'high-risk jurisdictions subject to call for action'. In this case, the countries have considerable deficiencies in their AML/CFT (anti-money laundering and counter terrorist financing) regimens and the body calls on members and

non-members to apply enhanced due diligence. In the most serious cases, members are told to apply counter-measures such as sanctions on the listed countries. Currently, North Korea and Iran are on the black list.

Being listed under the FATF's lists makes it hard for countries to get aid from organisations like the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Asian Development Bank (ADB), and the European Union. It may also affect capital inflows, foreign direct investments, and portfolio flows.

Why is Pakistan on the grey list?

Pakistan was retained on the grey list in March as it was yet to address concerns on the front of terror financing investigations and prosecutions targeting senior leaders and commanders of UN designated terrorist groups. Diplomatic sources in Pakistan told *The Hindu* that steps had been taken in this direction such as the sentencing of terror outfit chief Hafiz Saeed, prosecution of Masood Azhar, arrest of about 300 other designated terrorists, and the seizure of more than 1,100 properties owned by terror groups. India meanwhile, a member of FATF, suspects the efficacy and permanence of Pakistani actions.

Pakistan is currently banking on its potential exclusion from the grey list to

help improve the status of tough negotiations with the International Monetary Fund to get bailout money.

Pakistan has found itself on the grey list frequently since 2008, for weaknesses in fighting terror financing and money laundering. In 2009, the country began to cooperate with the FATF-like regional body, Asia Pacific Group (APG), for a ME process.

On completion of the ME in June 2010, Pakistan made a "high-level political commitment" to the FATF and APG to address its strategic AML/CFT deficiencies. It was given an action plan which required demonstrating adequate criminalisation of money laundering and terrorist financing as well as showing adequate measures to identify, freeze and confiscate terrorist assets.

It was taken off the list in 2015 owing to its progress but was put back on it in 2018. It was given a 27-point action plan to restrict terror financing activities. After warnings and two deadline extensions on the first plan, Pakistan was prescribed another seven-point action plan by the APG in 2021, focused specifically on combating money laundering. In March, Pakistan informed FATF that it had completed 32 of the total 34 action items in the two plans but was retained on the list. The FATF gave it time till January 2023 to complete the 2021 plan.

THE GIST

■ Ahead of the plenary session of the Financial Action Task Force from June 14 to 17, Pakistan is hoping to get its name removed from the FATF's 'grey list'.

■ The grey countries are designated as "jurisdictions under increased monitoring", working with the FATF to counter criminal financial activities. Black list countries are "high-risk jurisdictions subject to call for action". These nations have huge deficiencies in their anti-money laundering and counter terrorist financing regimens.

■ Pakistan was retained on the grey list in March as it was yet to address concerns on the front of terror financing investigations and prosecutions targeting senior leaders and commanders of UN designated terrorist groups.

'India in talks for more Apache, Chinook choppers'

F/A-18 E/F Super Hornet fighter has distinct advantages over Rafale-M, says Boeing official

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

The F/A-18 E/F Super Hornet fighter jet has distinct advantages in terms of capability over the competitor French Rafale-M jet to operate from the Indian Navy's aircraft carriers, says a senior official from aircraft manufacturer Boeing. India is also negotiating the purchase of additional Chinook CH-47F(I) Chinook heavy-lift helicopters and AH-64E Apache attack helicopters, according to Torbjorn (Turbo) Sjogren, vice-president, International Government and Defence, Boeing.

"One thing we are very confident about is the capability that readiness and the proficiency of the product.

The F/A-18 and F/A-18F can operate off Indian aircraft carriers. That's a clear discriminator we've got over the French," Mr. Turbo said in a virtual interview to *The Hindu*, pointing that the twin seater trainer variant of the Rafale-M cannot operate from carriers and would be sitting on the ground. The number of trainer aircraft within the deal is not an insignificant number, he noted.

Elaborating, he said the size of the carrier, the logistics of the aircraft, in terms of how many aircraft and how to move the aircraft around the carrier, there are challenges. "We have solved that problem. Our team down in Bangalore solved



Chinook CH-47 helicopter used by IAF. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

the problem, and we have a solution for that... So there is some tailoring needed, more so in terms of the logistics on board," Mr. Turbo said.

The Navy had originally projected a requirement of 57 aircraft under the deal,

but the number is likely to be revised to 26 within the backdrop of a new indigenous twin engine carrier-based deck fighter being designed and developed indigenously. "We are eager to see when they define what the need is going to be and then how to do it," he said.

With the indigenous carrier *Vikrant* set to be commissioned in August, the Navy is in urgent need of carrier based jets to operate from both the carriers.

Last month, two Boeing F/A-18s were in Goa to demonstrate their compatibility and suitability to operate from Indian aircraft carriers by conducting trials from the Indian Navy's Shore Based Test Facility (SBTF). Ra-

fale-M had carried out similar demonstration earlier this year.

The Indian Air Force operates 22 Apache attack helicopters and 15 Chinook heavy-lift helicopters procured from Boeing through the Foreign Military Sales programme of the U.S. government under a \$3 billion deal in September 2015. Further, during the visit of U.S. President Donald Trump in February 2020, India signed a deal for six more Apaches to cost around \$800 million.

Talking of the large portfolio of products with the Indian armed forces, Mr. Turbo said, "The performance of our products is instrumental in terms of those campaigns going forward."



Big find: The site from where the eggs were dug up at Bagh in Dhar district of Madhya Pradesh. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

‘Abnormal’ dinosaur egg found in India

Discovery of ‘egg-in-egg’ leads to new link of reptilian and avian evolution

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

A team of researchers from the University of Delhi has discovered a unique set of fossilised dinosaur eggs, with one egg nesting within the other.

While eggs-within-eggs are a rare phenomenon, they are so far known to occur only in birds and never known in reptiles. This discovery brings out newer connections between reptilian and avian evolution.

The findings, published in the journal *Scientific Reports*, talk about the “egg-in-egg” phenomenon in a titanosaurid dinosaur egg found at Bagh in Madhya Pradesh’s Dhar district.

Dinosaurs of the Sauropod family were among the largest land animals that ever lived and widespread millions of years ago in the territory that is now India. Fossils of these animals have been found in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Meghalaya.

52 nests documented

The Upper Cretaceous Lameta Formation of Central India is long known for its dinosaur fossils (both skeletal and egg remains), and scientists, some of whom

were involved in the team reporting the latest findings, documented 52 titanosaurid sauropod nests near Padlya village close to Bagh town in Madhya Pradesh. One of these nests had 10 eggs, one of which was the “abnormal” egg.

The egg has two continuous and circular eggshell layers separated by a wide gap like that observed in birds. Until this discovery, no egg-in-egg fossil egg was found in dinosaurs and other reptiles such as turtles, lizards and crocodiles.

It was believed that dinosaurs had a reproductive function similar to that of turtles and other reptiles (unsegmented oviduct) in contrast to segmented reproductive tract of crocodiles and birds with separate regions of membrane and shell deposition.

Sequential laying of eggs

Though crocodiles have separate regions of shell membrane and mineralised shell deposition, they ovulate and release all the eggs simultaneously like turtles and other reptiles. In birds, ovulation is sequenced and eggs are laid one at a time.

“The new discovery of an ovum-in-ovo egg, which is characteristic of birds, in titanosaurids argues for a segmented oviduct like in crocodiles and birds, and possible sequential laying of eggs like in birds,” the authors note.

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.