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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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# Women's body notice to Indian Bank for discriminatory norms

## Pregnant women not allowed to join service immediately

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) on Monday issued notice to Indian Bank over media reports that it has framed new guidelines preventing women who were more than three months' pregnant from joining service after being selected through due process.

"The Commission has learnt that the Bank has allegedly framed rules which state that if a woman candidate is three months' preg-

nant, then she would be considered as 'temporarily unfit' and would not be given immediate joining upon her selection. This will lead to delay in their joining and subsequently they will lose their seniority," the notice said.

The DCW said the action appeared to be discriminatory and illegal as it was contrary to the maternity benefits provided under the Code of Social Security, 2020.

"Further, it discriminates on the basis of sex which is

against the fundamental rights guaranteed under the Constitution of India," the notice read.

The DCW asked the bank to provide its response by Thursday. The panel also wrote to the Reserve Bank of India on Monday asking RBI governor Shaktikanta Das to intervene. The DCW pointed out that this was the second bank to do so, after State Bank of India framed similar rules earlier this year but later withdrew after facing a backlash.

# Central Vista Avenue will be opened in a few days, says Puri

Closed from February 2021, the area is being thrown open after redevelopment

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

The Central Vista Avenue is set to open in the next few days after remaining closed to the public since February 2021 for redevelopment, Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Puri said on Monday.

At the launch of the National Initiative for Promoting Upskilling of Nirman workers (NIPUN) to train one lakh construction workers, he said: "In spite of heavy rain and all impediments, Central Vista Avenue will be opened in a few days."

The area, which is popular with Delhiites and visitors alike, was briefly unveiled for the Republic Day parade, but was barricaded again after January 26 as portions of the redevelopment project were yet to be completed. The project was to have been completed in November 2021.

Mr. Puri said the Pragati Maidan integrated transit



**Changing face:** Work in full swing on the new Parliament building complex under the Central Vista redevelopment project in New Delhi on June 9. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

corridor was an example of a project completed within a stipulated time.

Referring to a visit by Delhi's Deputy Chief Minister and Public Works Department Minister Manish Sisodia in March, Mr. Puri said: "We have a very senior leader in Delhi who somehow came to know a month ago that the project is complete

so he made a visit and got his photo clicked. In Punjab, in one month alone, he spent ₹18 crore or ₹20 crore on advertisements."

Mr. Puri said the ₹930 crore project was supposed to be funded 80% by the Centre and 20% by the Delhi government. He said he had asked Housing and Urban Affairs Secretary Manoj Joshi,

"Was that 20% forthcoming?", adding, "I don't need to answer it because you know." "We have world-class *mohalla* clinics which collapse in the pandemic... You have people going to the UN to talk about world-class health and education, but whereas those of us who live here know what this is all about," he said.

# First set of Agniveers will join service in June 2023, says Army

Registrations to start on July 1, job rallies in August

**DINAKAR PERI**  
NEW DELHI

The Army has issued the first notification for recruitment of Agniveers under the Agni-path scheme, with the process set to begin in July and the first set of Agniveers to join service in June 2023. The Army has already said it will recruit 40,000 Agniveers in two batches this year.

“The registration will open on July 1, and the first recruitment rally is expected to be held in mid-August,” an Army official said.

“Registration will be opened from July by the respective AROs [Army Recruiting Office] for Agniveer general duty, Agniveer technical, Agniveer technical (aviation/ammunition examiner), Agniveer clerk/store keeper technical, Agniveer tradesman 10th pass and Agniveer tradesman 8th pass,” the notification said.

The Army plans to conduct the rallies till November, with induction into training centres to be done



The police detaining activists of the Left parties to thwart their rally in Visakhapatnam on Monday. ■ K.R. DEEPAK

in two batches – a first batch of 25,000 Agniveers by the first half of December, with the remaining recruitments in the second batch by the first half of February 2023. The Army has planned 83 rallies across the country.

Candidates will be en-

rolled for four years, which includes a six-month training period. On discharge after completion of four years, Agniveers will be paid a “Seva Nidhi” package of approximately ₹11.71 lakh. They will not be entitled to any pension or gratuity.

# 'Unresolved national question impaired Sri Lanka's economic progress'

Addressing the long-pending demand of Tamils for self-determination will allow Sri Lanka to project a new image internationally, says the senior Tamil leader

MEERA SRINIVASAN  
COLOMBO

Addressing Sri Lanka's Tamil national question is imperative for the island nation's recovery from the crushing economic crisis it is facing, veteran Tamil leader R. Sampanthan said, contending that the unresolved issue had proved a major impediment for the country's economic progress since Independence.

Speaking to *The Hindu* recently, the 89-year-old Parliamentarian recounted the many historic opportunities that the Sri Lankan leadership missed, allowing the ethnic conflict to fester, and push the country into a protracted civil war. While corruption, misgovernance, and skewed priorities have led to Sri Lanka's current economic collapse, years of

strife amid unfulfilled demands of the Tamil people impaired the country's economic progress, he said, drawing links between the island nation's worsening economic crisis and its long-pending political question.

An economic crisis brewing over the last couple of years aggravated in 2022, with Sri Lanka's foreign reserves dwindling amid a balance of payments crisis. The island nation has opted for a pre-emptive default on its nearly \$50 billion foreign debt, while citizens struggle to access essentials amid crippling shortages and record food inflation – 57.4% in May. Protesting citizens have blamed the ruling Rajapaksa administration for failing to arrest the rapid decline of an economy that was already fragile.

Referring to a longer arc of the island's history, Mr. Sampanthan said: "The unresolved Tamil question was the ground for the war that went on for about 30 years... colossal sums were spent on it. If not for the war, the country's economy would not have got to this situation."

## United country

In his view, addressing the long-pending demand of Tamils for self-determination will allow Sri Lanka to project a new image internationally. "We can then show the world that we are a united country, where the Sinhalese, Tamils, Muslims – all communities can work together and build the country, through a Constitution that enables all the peoples of the country to exercise



R. Sampanthan

their sovereignty," Mr. Sampanthan said. "I don't see how our economy can improve without our conflict being resolved."

The civil war itself may have ended in 2009, but the conflict that led to it remains unresolved, he pointed out. "The reason for the war to

occur has not been resolved in all these years." In fact, there are new reasons for concern. "It is a matter of utmost concern that the Sri Lankan government has been able to change the demographics of the north and east by settling Sinhalese families in areas traditionally inhabited by the Tamils. The Tamils are being weakened," he said.

## Unkept promises

In March this year, a delegation of the Tamil National Alliance (TNA) that Mr. Sampanthan leads – it is the largest parliamentary group representing Tamils of the north and east – met President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to discuss Tamils' concerns and prospects of a political solution through a constitutional settlement. Mr. Sam-

panthan, in a detailed letter to the President ahead of the meeting, had emphasised the need for a political solution. But the President's meeting, twice postponed and held on March 25, focused on four other areas that he said would be promptly addressed. He promised to look into the release of long-term detainees under the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA), prevent land grabs in the north and east by different state agencies, probe cases of enforced disappearances and establish special development fund for the north and east. The TNA awaits action on all four areas.

"At that time, Foreign Minister G.L. Peiris told us that the draft [Constitution] would be ready in two weeks. I have serious doubts

if it will ever come," Mr. Sampanthan said.

Prior to that, the TNA submitted its proposals for a new Constitution.

Commenting on President Gotabaya's position on the issue, he said: "I don't think the President is unwilling to do the right thing. Even if he is willing to do the right thing, it appears that others are preventing him from doing it. Sometimes, I have asked myself if President Gotabaya is impeded by some sources close to him from moving forward... I have not come to a conclusion, but I wonder if the clergy and the Army could be involved [in that]." All the same, whether President Gotabaya and his government will come up with a new Constitution "remains a matter of great doubt", the

Tamil leader said, adding: "which means that the country's main problem that started over 70 years ago, continues."

In this context, India has a "special duty", Mr. Sampanthan noted. The Indo-Lanka Accord of 1987 was signed in July 1987, about 35 years ago and is "yet to be fully implemented". The Prime Minister of India offered India's good offices in 1983 and has been involved ever since then. In 2015, Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the Sri Lankan Parliament and spoke of his belief in "cooperative federalism". Mr. Sampanthan recalled.

"We should all come together and resolve the Tamil question. It will be in the best interests of Sri Lanka and India," he said.

# Australia seeks to revitalise Indo-Pacific ties

Deputy PM on a three-day visit, says New Delhi is one of Canberra's closest security partners

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

India is one of Australia's closest security partners and the government is focused on revitalising Australia's historically deep engagement with our partners across the Indo-Pacific, Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister of Australia Richard Marles said ahead of a visit to India. The visit is scheduled from June 20 to 23.

This is the first high-level visit from Australia after the formation of a new government under Prime Minister

**The rules-based international order that has brought peace and prosperity to the Indo-Pacific for decades is experiencing pressure, as we face shifts in the geostrategic order. Australia stands ready to work closer with India in support of an open, inclusive and resilient Indo-Pacific**

**RICHARD MARLES**  
Defence Minister of Australia



Anthony Albanese in May, just two days before the Quad leaders summit in Tokyo where he met Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Defence and security

cooperation between India and Australia has significantly expanded in the past few years both at bilateral and multilateral levels.

"The rules-based interna-

tional order that has brought peace and prosperity to the Indo-Pacific for decades is experiencing pressure, as we face shifts in the geostrategic order," Mr. Marles said in a statement issued by the Australian Defence Ministry. "Australia stands ready to work closer with India in support of an open, inclusive and resilient Indo-Pacific".

Noting that India and Australia are comprehensive strategic partners, Mr. Marles said he was committed to strengthening Australia's defence and security cooperation with India. "I am look-

ing forward to meeting with my counterpart, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, and holding our first bilateral Defence Ministers' meeting."

"Minister Singh has been instrumental in advancing India-Australia defence ties and I look forward to working with him to enhance the defence pillar of our comprehensive strategic partnership," he further added.

During the visit, Mr. Marles is also scheduled to meet External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and engage national security and defence policymakers.

# Resurrecting a dead law

Even if there is a backdoor attempt at legislation, bringing Section 66A back on the statute book will not be easy



PRABHASH RANJAN

Section 66A of the Information Technology Act, 2000, which the Supreme Court had declared unconstitutional in 2015 in *Shreya Singhal v. Union of India* for having a “chilling effect on free speech”, is back in the news. As part of the ongoing negotiations at the United Nations for a proposed international treaty on combating cybercrime, India made a formal submission for criminalising “offensive messages”. The language in the submission is similar to what was used in Section 66A. Many contend that this amounts to a ‘backdoor’ attempt at legislation – that is, if India’s submission becomes part of the proposed treaty, it would result in Section 66A springing back to life and being used by the state to curb free speech once again. However, it is not so simple.

## Is international treaty binding?

First, international treaty negotiations are complex. It is premature to believe that India’s suggestion of criminalising “offensive messages” will be readily accepted. The U.K. and many countries in the European Union have reportedly already contested India’s submission because they see this as an undue impediment to the freedom of speech.

But suppose we assume that India’s proposal is accepted, would that mean that the provision will have a direct effect on the Indian legal system? Arguably, India is a dualist state. Therefore, international law does not become a part of the domestic legal system unless it is specifically transformed into domestic law by Parliament, which will be required to enact legislation to implement the international law. This is different from the theory of monism, wherein international law is automatically incorporated into the domestic legal system of the country even without Parliament enacting an enabling legislation. However, over the years, the Supreme Court of India has moved away from this traditional dualist approach towards monism. In cases such as *Vishakha v. State of Rajasthan* (1997), *National Legal Services Authority v. Union of India* (2014), and *K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India* (2018), the court followed an approach of judicial incorporation by reading international law into domestic law in the absence of any specific prohibition in municipal law. In other words, the emerging principle is that courts will res-

pect international law unless it can be shown that it is inconsistent with municipal law.

If we do get an international treaty combating cybercrime with a provision similar to Section 66A, the Indian courts will not read this provision as part of domestic law because of the ratio in the *Shreya Singhal* case. It will be a classic case of an international law being in conflict with domestic law. Thus, the Indian courts will give primacy to the domestic law, not the international treaty provision criminalising “offensive speech”.

## Transforming international treaty

However, things may become convoluted if Parliament enacts legislation or amends existing legislation to implement the international treaty that criminalises “offensive messages”. The government may get a law passed in Parliament using Article 253 of the Constitution, which states that Parliament has the “power to make any law for the whole or any part of the territory of India for implementing any treaty, agreement or convention”, and place a provision similar to Section 66A back on the statute book. Legally, such a law can be justified as a necessary action to comply with India’s international law obligations. It will then give the executive the power to book people for alleged “offensive messages” as was the practice earlier.

But what if the constitutionality of the re-introduced version of Section 66A is challenged? The courts will then examine the constitutionality of the re-introduced version of Section 66A in light of the fact that it was enacted to comply with India’s international law obligations. But the constitutional court will still strike down the re-introduced version of Section 66A because the grounds on which this law was pronounced unconstitutional will still be valid in light of the fundamental right to free speech. In other words, just because Parliament enacts a law to give effect to an international treaty obligation, that does not mean that the law so enacted will not need to meet the test of constitutionality. Therefore, the possibility of Section 66A coming back on the statute book is bleak unless a bigger Supreme Court bench overrules *Shreya Singhal*.

But this issue is not just about legal technicalities. The alarming point is that the Indian government proposed the inclusion of a provision in an international treaty which was struck down by its own apex court for breaching fundamental rights. This mindset does not augur well for constitutionally protected fundamental freedoms in India.

*Prabhash Ranjan is Professor and Vice Dean, Jindal Global Law School, OP Jindal Global University. Views are personal*

# ‘Muslim girl above 15 years can marry’

High Court cites Muslim personal law

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHANDIGARH

The Punjab and Haryana High Court has held that a Muslim girl above 15 years of age is competent to enter into a contract of marriage with a person of her choice.

Justice Jasjit Singh Bedi’s assertion came during a petition filed by a Muslim couple, who fell in love and solemnised their marriage on June 6, 2022, as per Muslim rites and ceremonies. Both the petitioners in Punjab’s Pathankot had approached the High Court seeking protection of life and liberty from the respondents, including family members.

## Competent to marry

Pointing out that the marriage of a Muslim girl is governed by the Muslim personal law, Justice Singh stated, “...As per Article 195 from the book *Principles of Mohammedan Law* by Sir Dinshah Fardunji Mulla, the petitioner No. 2 (girl) being over 16 years of age was competent to enter into a contract of marriage with a person of her choice. Petitioner No. 1 (boy) is stated to be more than 21 years of age. Thus, both the petitioners are of marriageable age as envisaged by the Muslim Personal Law.”

In his order on June 13, Justice Singh, however, pointed out that the issue in the case was not with regard

Merely because the petitioners have got married against the wishes of their family members, they cannot possibly be deprived of the fundamental rights

PUNJAB AND HARYANA HC

to the validity of the marriage but to address the apprehension raised by the petitioners of danger to their life and liberty at the hands of the private respondents and to provide them protection. He directed the Senior Superintendent of Police, Pathankot, to decide the representation of the petitioners and take necessary action as per law.

## Address apprehension

“...The court cannot shut its eyes to the fact that the apprehension of the petitioners needs to be addressed. Merely because the petitioners have got married against the wishes of their family members, they cannot possibly be deprived of the fundamental rights,” Justice Singh said.

The petitioner’s counsel contended that in Muslim law, puberty and majority were one and the same and that there was a presumption that a person attained majority at the age of 15 years.

# A case of the court straying into the legislative sphere

The Allahabad High Court's directions in the context of marital discord, though noble in intent seem to be flawed



R.K. VIJ

Recently, the Allahabad High Court, while allowing two criminal revisions pertaining to a dowry case, took cognisance of the misuse of Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), proposed certain safeguards and directed the State authorities of Uttar Pradesh to take the necessary steps for their implementation in a given time period. The High Court expressed its concern over the growing tendency of dowry victims to rope in the husband and all his family members using general and sweeping allegations.

The directions, *inter alia*, include constitution of a family welfare committee in each district under the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), handing over the first information report to such a committee immediately after its registration, and no arrest to be made by the police during this "cooling period" of two months. As far as the High Court judgment reads, there were no allegations against the police that had dropped charges against two persons for lack of evidence and charge-sheeted only the husband and his parents based on available evidence.

Strangely enough, the High Court specifically mentioned in its judgment of taking guidance from the judgment of the Supreme Court of India in *Social Action Forum for Manav Adhikar vs Union of India* (2018), a case in which the Supreme Court overturned the judgment of its two-judge Bench and held constitution of similar committees and an embargo on arrest by the police for one month till the submission of report by the family welfare committee, impermissible under the scheme of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) (*Rajesh Sharma vs The State of U.P.*, 2017). Both Court judgments also dealt with the growing misuse of dowry provisions.

## Committee's role

Except for the minor difference in the composition of the family welfare committees (such as inclusion of a young mediator or an advocate or a senior law student) as directed by the High Court, the primary role of such committees remains the same, i.e., settling the matrimonial dispute between the two parties. Whereas, in the *Rajesh Sharma* (supra) case, directions did not apply to the offences involving tangible physical injuries, the High Court's directions shall apply to the cases involving Section 498A IPC, along with no injury - Section 307 (attempt to murder) and other sections in the IPC in which the imprisonment is less than 10 years. In other words, if a woman's bone is fractured or

GETTY IMAGES/STOCKPHOTO



permanent privation is caused to any eye or ear or a joint by her husband during the course of a matrimonial fight, the police shall not effect arrest, as the maximum imprisonment prescribed in such cases of grievous hurt is seven years. The police shall only do peripheral investigations such as collecting the injury report and recording the statements of witnesses, whose worth is unsure in further proceedings. The judgment is also silent about the role of the police if a repeat offence is committed during such a "cooling period" of two months, which was only one month in the overruled *Rajesh Sharma* (supra) case.

The moot question (without going into the nuances) is whether the High Court was well within its jurisdiction to issue such directions when the scheme of investigation under the CrPC was clearly laid down and there was no ambiguity about or gaps in the law on arrest, inviting such a fresh interpretation. In *Vishaka vs State of Rajasthan* (1997), the Supreme Court issued directions to enforce fundamental rights in the absence of law in certain cases of sexual harass-

ment at the workplace. However, in the case of *Social Action Forum for Manav Adhikar* (supra), the Court held that a third agency (i.e., the family welfare committee) had nothing to do with the CrPC, and more so in stalling arrest till a report is submitted by the committee. The directions to settle a case after it is registered is not a correct expression of law, the top court held.

It cannot be refuted that the directions issued by the High Court were inspired with noble intentions to curb the tendency of reporting cases with exaggerations and sweeping allegations in the heat of matrimonial discord. But these directions potentially fall in the sphere of legislature. The constitutionality of dowry provisions has already been established. Also, the misuse of Section 498A IPC by itself cannot be a ground to dilute it and issue directions which do not flow from any provision of the Code. Moreover, these directions might curtail the rights of a genuine victim of dowry harassment.

## Possible solutions

However, in order to check false cases of dowry and avoidable incarcerations, two solutions seem plausible. First, the police must strictly enforce the Supreme Court's directions issued in *Arnesh Kumar vs State of Bihar* (2014) and ensure that there is sufficient reason and credible material against the accused person to necessitate

arrest. The investigating officers must be imparted rigorous training with regard to the principles stated by the Court relating to arrest. At the same time, wrongdoers need to be punished departmentally.

Second, the legislature may deliberate upon and make Section 498A IPC bailable. Similarly, though the High Court (using its inherent powers under Section 482 CrPC) can quash a criminal proceeding which is not compoundable (after a settlement is reached between the opposing parties), the legislature can amend and make the offence under Section 498A IPC compoundable so that a compromise could be arrived at with or without the permission of the competent court. This will not only save cost to the parties in dispute but also the High Court's valuable time. Similarly, once the Mediation Bill, 2021 is enacted, the institutional mediation mechanism may also help in settling the matrimonial dispute through the civil route.

Till the time any such amendment is made or law is enacted, the law of the land needs to be enforced strictly by both the police and the courts, without any dilution. Any such directions which do not emanate from the provisions of law, are likely to be struck down by the Supreme Court again.

R.K. Vij is a former Special Director General of Police of Chhattisgarh. The views expressed are personal

# EC deletes 111 'non-existent' parties from list

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

NEW DELHI

The Election Commission on Monday ordered the deletion of 111 registered unrecognised political parties that it found to be “non-existent” and referred three of the parties to the Department of Revenue for legal action for “serious financial impropriety”, an EC statement said.

This was the second such action in the recent past against registered parties that have been found violating the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

On May 25, the EC deleted 87 non-existent registered unrecognised political parties.

## **Letters returned**

The EC said the 111 parties in question had violated sections of the Act that required them to submit their address of communication and any change in address to the EC. “CEOs have reported that these RUPPs either have been found to be non-existent on verification or the letters issued by them, in pursuance to the Commission’s order dated May 25, have returned undelivered by the postal department,” the EC said.

The EC said if any of the parties were aggrieved by its decision, they should approach the Chief Electoral Officer concerned or the EC within 30 days along with evidence of existence, year-wise annual audited accounts, contribution report, expenditure report and other required documents.

“Further, a reference has also been sent to the Department of Revenue for necessary legal and criminal action against three RUPPs involved in serious financial impropriety,” the EC said.

# At the centre of job creation

The government should re-establish its role as the principal employment generator



K.R. SHYAM SUNDAR

With his announcement that 10 lakh government jobs will be provided over the next 18 months on a “mission mode”, Prime Minister Narendra Modi sent four messages. One, the creation of employment is indeed a problem and can no longer be hidden from the public discourse. Two, the private sector, especially modern sectors such as the service and manufacturing sectors, which are dominated by multinational companies, have not created many jobs. Even if the Information Technology sector or the modern gig economy have created jobs, these are either very high-skilled jobs or low-skilled ones. Three, the government in the Nehruvian scheme of development occupied an important place in the labour market. The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government, whose ideology is different and which often attacks the Nehruvian model, is now ironically forced to step in as persistently rising inflation, unemployment and underemployment threaten to politically affect it. And four, the NDA government has blown the 2024 general election bugle.

## Employment trends

A populist announcement made by any government needs to be critically studied. Let's look at some employment data. First, the last year for which we have information on employment in the organised sector from the Directorate General of Employment and Training is 2012. The statistics were provided under the employment market information programme. The NDA government is at present relying on the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation/National Pension System/Employees' State Insurance Scheme registrations and exits as indicators of the formal labour market. This could be misleading as companies may be increasing registrations to cross the threshold to become eligible to fall under any of these. Hence, this might be more a case of formalisation rather than employment genera-



A MGNREGA site in Kalaburagi district. ■ ARUN KULKARNI

tion. Second, media reports show that more than 85% of those aspiring for those 10 lakh jobs could be consumed by existing vacancies in Central government departments (8,72,243). In that sense, the pronouncement possibly does not indicate 10 lakh new jobs. Third, 241 central public sector enterprises (CPSEs) have been shedding jobs in recent years – jobs declined from 10.84 lakh in 2017-18 to 10.71 lakh in 2018-19 and to 9.22 lakh in 2019-20. Mr. Modi did not speak of employment creation by the CPSEs though this downward trend is a cause for concern.

The 10 lakh jobs creation also needs to be seen in the context of the labour market. Even though the labour force and workforce participation rates have increased marginally, there is a decline in the quality of jobs, viz. there is a rise in the unpaid segment of the self-employed and a rise in the share of the agricultural sector in total employment over the last three Periodic Labour Force Surveys (43% to 47%). This is a historical retrogression. This huge mass of workers contributes, thanks to low productivity, to about one-sixth of our national income, which does not augur well for a healthy economy. On the other hand, the manufacturing sector's share in national income has declined in 2020-21 (10.9%) compared to that in 2018-19 (12.1%).

Again, even though the aggregate usual status unemployment rate has slightly declined by a few percentage points (4.8% in 2019-20 to 4.6% in 2020-21), the current daily status unemployment figure (internationally used statistic) is at 7.5% for all persons in 2020-21. The educated unemployment rate (secondary school and above) in general and youth unemployment (15-29 years) in particular in the urban areas have very marginally fallen from 2019-20 to 2020-21, but they still high enough to cause concern (in double digits). Employment shares in the informal enterprises have increased – for men (71% to 75%), women (55% to 57%) and all persons (68% to 71%) from 2017-18 to 2020-21. Even though the share of regular salaried workers who did not have a formal employment contract, paid leave and eligibility for any form social security have declined for both genders, the level is still high. The government could score a point or two by showing that there is a declining tendency in several labour market variables. But an honest government would concede that the levels of several variables remained discomfitingly high even after three decades of economic reforms.

## Role of private sector

Even as the Nehruvian model of development is attacked in the current

dominant political discourse, we cannot avoid placing the government at the centre of employment creation beyond a certain point. The private sector creates jobs in response to market forces and while taking into consideration radically altering technological developments. We cannot rely on the projections about employment generation by the gig economy. They are estimates computed by a trade body or by consulting agencies which have vested interests. As they are political economy agents influencing government policies, their predictions need to be read with many pinches of salt. The job recovery stories, which are published from time to time in the pink press, based on employment service providers such as Monster Employment Index, need to be seen in the context of a highly job-impooverished economy such as ours. Projects in the modern private sector consume a lot of capital to generate very few jobs. For instance, recently, there was a report that the Adani Group has invested ₹70,000 crore (or ₹700 million) in Uttar Pradesh to create merely 30,000 jobs. Foreign Direct Investment, which at any rate is highly capital-intensive, goes mostly into the non-manufacturing sectors.

## Quantity and quality of jobs

Employment is not merely about numbers and growth figures. We need to concentrate on enabling the creation of decent work and a sustainable labour market to which India is committed as a member of the United Nations and the International Labour Organization. Wittingly or otherwise, the government's role in employment generation has entered into popular discourse and discussions on policy formation. While even one job is a miracle, we need millions. The government should play a significant role soon. A lean and mean government, which is often prescribed by the neoliberal project, often results in governance deficit. The government should re-establish its role as the principal employment generator through jobs in its ministries and CPSEs and through assured employment generation programmes like MGNREGA.

K.R. Shyam Sundar is Visiting Professor, XLRI, Xavier School of Management, Jamshedpur

# IIT-Madras to set up 5G test bed for Army

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

**CHENNAI**

The Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, along with the Army Training Command (ARTRAC), will establish a 5G test bed at the Military College of Telecommunication Engineering in Indore to facilitate the use of 5G technology for the Army along the borders.

Lt.Gen. M.U. Commandant, MCTE, on behalf of the Army Training Command, Shimla, and Institute Director V. Kamakoti signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Monday.

Bhaskar Ramamurthi, Professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering, who is heading the programme, said, “The project would enable students and trainees at the college to be thoroughly familiar with the advanced technologies embedded in the 5G system. It is an example of how the 5G test bed developed with support from DoT to enable Indian companies and startups to test their products, can also be successfully leveraged for other productive purposes,” he said.

The collaboration would provide an impetus to the induction of systems, devices and equipment using niche technology and use of AI-based algorithms for enhancing capabilities of the Indian armed forces.

# Shah flags importance of data protection

Ready to thwart cyberattacks, he says

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Monday that forces inimical to India had constituted “cyber armies” to launch cyberattacks against India but the Home Ministry was ready to thwart any such attempt.

The Minister said data privacy and protection of critical infrastructure from cyberattacks were imminent challenges in the wake of the digital revolution in the country and it was a matter of happiness that 80 crore Indians had online presence.

Mr. Shah was speaking at the inauguration of the national conference on cyber-safety and national security. The conference was organised by the Home Ministry as part of the efforts to create mass awareness for the prevention of cyber-crimes in the country.

He said it was Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision that each Indian should be empowered with Internet and technology. “Today, 130 crore people are able to receive Direct Benefit Transfer. This was unthinkable before 2014 as 60 crore people did not have bank accounts due to corruption and other reasons,” he said. In the past few days, cyber awareness campaigns had been conducted in different parts of the country, including Jharkhand.

Mr. Shah said crimes such as malware attacks, phishing, attack on critical infrastructure and child pornography were not new and



Amit Shah

these were going to only increase in the future. The number of cybercrimes registered in 2012 was 3,377 and in 2020, it had increased to more than 50,000 cases and by 2025, the crime rate was projected to go up by 231%.

## **11 lakh complaints**

The cybercrime portal – [cybercrime.gov.in](http://cybercrime.gov.in) – launched three years ago had so far received 11 lakh complaints, out of which more than two lakh pertained to social media.

He said there had been a 96% reduction in the price of Internet data in the past seven years and the more the rate fell, the more users would be connected to the Internet. He said till now \$1 trillion worth of transactions had been made through BHIM-UPI and the interface was gaining global reach.

Ashutosh Agnihotri, Joint Secretary, Cyber and Information Security, said the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre had seven components, including a 24/7 cybercrime reporting portal.

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

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

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