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DAILY NEWS ANALYSIS

09 - JULY - 2022

FOREWORD

We, at Team Vedhik is happy to introduce a new initiative - "Daily Current Affairs_The Hindu" compilations to help you with UPSC Civil Services Examination preparation. We believe this initiative - "Daily Current Affairs_The Hindu" would help students, especially beginners save time and streamline their preparations with regard to Current Affairs. A content page and an Appendix has been added segregating and mapping the content to the syllabus.

It is an appreciable efforts by Vedhik IAS Academy helping aspirants of UPSC Civil Services Examinations. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Dr. Babu Sebastian, former VC - MG University in extending all support to this endeavour. Finally I also extend my thanks to thank Ms. Shilpa Sasidharan and Mr. Shahul Hameed for their assistance in the preparing the compilations.

We welcome your valuable comments so that further improvement may be made in the forthcoming material. We look forward to feedback, comments and suggestions on how to improve and add value for students. Every care has been taken to avoid typing errors and if any reader comes across any such error, the authors shall feel obliged if they are informed at their Email ID.

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Former Japan PM Abe assassinated

Suspect said he had a grudge against Abe over his links with a particular organisation, say police

REUTERS
AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
NARA

Former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Japan's longest-serving leader, died on Friday after being shot while campaigning for a parliamentary election.

A man opened fire on Mr. Abe, 67, from behind with an apparently home-made gun as he spoke at a drab traffic island in the western city of Nara, Japanese media showed earlier.

It was the first assassination of a sitting or former Japanese Premier since the days of pre-war militarism in the 1930s.

Speaking before Mr. Abe's death was announced, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida condemned the shooting in the "strongest terms". Japanese people and world leaders expressed shock at the violence in a country in which political violence is rare and guns are tightly controlled.

'Act of brutality'

"This attack is an act of brutality that happened during the elections – the very foundation of our democracy – and is absolutely unforgivable," said Mr. Kishida, struggling to keep his emotions in check.

A fire department official had said Mr. Abe appeared to be in a state of cardiac arrest when airlifted to hospital.

Senior police officers in Nara named the suspect as



World rattled: Former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe lies on the ground after he was shot during an election campaign in Nara, western Japan, on Friday. (Right) The shooter Tetsuya Yamagami being detained. ■ REUTERS & AP

unemployed 41-year-old Tetsuya Yamagami, who said he had used a handmade gun.

"That's the suspect's assertion, and we have determined that (the gun) is clearly handmade in appearance, although our analysis is currently ongoing," an officer told reporters. "The suspect stated that he held a grudge

against a particular organisation, and that he committed the crime because he believed former Prime Minister Abe had a connection to it," the officer said.

The police declined to give details of the "particular organisation", saying investigations were ongoing, but several Japanese media

outlets described it as a religious group.

Officers in protective gear began searching the suspect's home and confiscated "several handmade gun-like items".

The suspect, who addressed police in a "matter-of-fact way", told officers he had worked for the Maritime

Self-Defence Force – Japan's Navy – for three years from 2002, but these details are also under investigation.

Yamagami also told the police he had learned about Mr. Abe's visit online, the officers said.

On campaign trail

Mr. Abe was making a campaign speech outside a train station when two shots rang out around 11.30 a.m. local time. Security officials were then seen tackling a man in a grey T-shirt and beige trousers.

Earlier, Kyodo news service published a photograph of Mr. Abe lying face-up on the street. People were crowded around him, one administering heart massage.

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Former Japan PM Shinzo Abe assassinated

Nara emergency services said he had been wounded on the right side of his neck and left clavicle. His brother, Defence Minister Nobuo Kishi, had said Mr. Abe was getting blood transfusions.

NHK showed live footage of Mr. Abe's wife, Akie, on her way by train to the hospital where he was being treated.

Mr. Kishida, Abe's protégé, had been hoping to use the election to emerge from Abe's shadow and define his premiership, analysts have said. Mr. Kishida suspended his election campaign after the shooting. All main political parties con-

demned the attack.

Senior Japanese politicians are accompanied by armed security agents but often get close to the public, especially during political campaigns when they make roadside speeches and shake hands with passers-by.

In 2007, the mayor of Nagasaki was shot and killed by a yakuza gangster. The head of the Japan Socialist Party was assassinated during a speech in 1960 by a right-wing youth with a samurai short sword. A few other prominent post-war politicians were attacked but not injured.

The shadow war between Israel and Iran

Tel Aviv was once ready to supply nuclear missiles to Tehran, but its objective today is to stop Iran's nuclear capability



STANLY JOHNY

In July 1977, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, the Shah of Iran, sent Lieutenant General Hassan Toufanian, his Deputy Minister of War and Armaments, to Israel to hold secret talks with the newly formed Likud government of Menachem Begin. In April that year, the Shah had signed six 'oil for arms' contracts with Shimon Peres, the Defence Minister in the previous Labor government. One of the contracts, code named 'Flower', sought Israel to modify its advanced surface-to-surface missiles and sell them to Iran. Gen. Toufanian's mission was to ensure that the change of government in Israel would not affect the deal. He met Major General Ezer Weizman, Defence Minister in the Begin government, and both of them agreed to build a military co-production line – Israel was to provide the technical know-how and Iran the finances and test sites. As part of it, Israel promised to supply Iran ballistic surface-to-surface missiles with a range of 700 kilometres that could carry a nuclear warhead, writes journalist Ronen Bergman in his book, *The Secret War with Iran*.

A shift in West Asia

Counterfactually speaking, had the Islamic Revolution not taken place, Iran would have had Israel-supplied nuclear missiles in the 1980s that could strike deep inside the Sunni kingdoms across the Persian Gulf. But the 1979 revolution that brought down the Shah's monarchy and turned the country into a theocratic republic radically altered not just Iran but the whole region as well. West Asia would never be the same again. The revolution moved Iran, one of the natural powers in the region in terms of

resources, geography and population, from an American ally to its top enemy. For the Sunni Gulf monarchies, a Shia theocratic republic across the Gulf waters not only posed geopolitical challenges but also existential and ideological threats. For Israel, the region's only nuclear power, its most prominent rival was just born. But despite their shared concerns, these three pillars could not come together immediately as there were pre-existing contradictions between Israel and the Arab world. Four decades later, as Iran's regional profile keeps rising despite American sanctions, Israel and the Arab world, under the aegis of the United States, are coming together to counter their common foe. If Israel was ready to supply nuclear missiles to Tehran in the 1970s, its primary foreign policy objective today is to stop Iran from getting nuclear capability.

Octopus doctrine

There is already a shadow war going on between Israel and Iran. Israel has carried out covert operations inside Iran targeting its nuclear and missile programmes, in what former Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett called the "Octopus doctrine" – hit the octopus at its head, not just at its tentacles. Iran has responded with drone attacks, targeting what it claimed was a compound used by Israeli operatives in northern Iraq. Israel has carried out hundreds of air strikes inside Syria in recent years, targeting Iranian supplies and proxies, while a naval conflict between the countries, where ships linked to them have come under attacks in the Gulf, Arabian and the Mediterranean waters, is escalating.

There is a consensus among West Asia's anti-Iran axis (the U.S., Israel and the Gulf kingdoms) that Iran's nuclear programme should be scuttled. If Iran achieves nuclear capabilities (even if it does not make a bomb), it could alter the regional balance of power, which is now in favour of Israel.



GETTY IMAGES/STOCKPHOTO

But there is no consensus on how to address this challenge. The Obama administration signed the 2015 nuclear agreement with Iran, which practically cut off its path towards nuclear capability. But Israel and the Gulf kingdoms were not happy with the JCPOA (or the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, as the deal is known) because in return for limiting Iran's nuclear programme, the agreement promised economic rewards to the Islamic Republic, which could transform Iran into a non-nuclear conventional, mainstream power in West Asia. Israel wants not just Iran's nuclear programme to be scuttled but also its rise to be contained. Israel saw its concerns being heard in Washington when the Trump administration decided to unilaterally pull the U.S. out of the nuclear deal and reimpose sanctions on Iran in 2018.

Pressure and resistance

U.S. President Donald Trump thought the administration's 'maximum pressure' approach would force Iran to flinch and return to the table to renegotiate the deal. Mr. Trump wanted concessions from Iran on its weapons programmes and regional activism (support for non-state actors). But Iran took a 'maximum resistance' policy to Mr. Trump's maximum pressure – it carried out attacks in Saudi Arabia and in the Gulf waters, stepped up support for its proxies, especially the Houthis in Yemen who now pose a direct security challenge to Saudi Arabia

and the United Arab Emirates and started enriching large amounts of uranium to a higher purity and developing advanced centrifuges. The situation now is more complicated than it was in 2015. Iran is facing domestic pressure over its economic woes, but the regime, all branches of which are now controlled by hardliners, is highly unlikely to compromise on its weapons programme or regional policy. The U.S. wants to address the nuclear programme but it wants to do so through talks as it does not want to get stuck in another conflict in West Asia – certainly not now when its priorities are in Europe and Indo-Pacific.

In late February, a few days after Russia's Ukraine invasion began, a senior Iranian official told this writer at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Tehran's National Garden that "we are very close" to agree on reviving of the deal ("the U.S. returning to the agreement which, legally speaking, is still alive but in reality on life support", according to him) "while at the same time very far". It is close because Iran and world powers had broadly agreed on bringing the agreement back to life. But it was also far because Iran wanted "objective guarantees" from the U.S. that it would not renege on its promises once again. Iran would continue to resist any attempt by the U.S. to bring non-nuclear programme-related issues (read weapons programme) under the ambit of the nuclear deal, he said. Four months later, a deal is still elusive.

Multi-directional strategy

Different stakeholders in this geopolitical vortex have different views on how it should be resolved. Iran wants the sanctions to be lifted in return for going back to its 2015 commitments. But it also wants to emerge from the crisis economically stronger. The U.S. wants to scuttle Iran's nuclear programme *through talks*, but it wants a "stronger and longer" deal that would address not just Iran's nuclear programme but also its "des-

tabilising" activities in the region. One of the reasons for the collapse of the Vienna talks was the Biden administration's refusal to undo the Trump decision of designating the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) as a terrorist group. Israel's goals (and that of its Gulf partners) are way more ambitious; it wants to scuttle Iran's nuclear programme, debilitate its military programme, build stronger region-wide defences against its proxies, and contain its rise. And it does not necessarily believe that Iran should be stopped through talks. Israel has come up with a multi-directional approach driven by a common goal – escalate the shadow war with Iran and forge a stronger security partnership with the Gulf kingdoms which could prepare them both for any full-scale war in the future, while the U.S. and Europe continue to hold talks with Iran. This strategy elevates Israel's role as a new security provider in the Gulf at a time when the U.S. is preoccupied with its priorities elsewhere.

But the Israeli strategy is laden with risks. It is true that the rise of a more cohesive anti-Iran axis is a significant challenge to the Islamic Republic. Iran is clearly under pressure after the Israeli attacks, which was evident when it recently fired the powerful IRGC spy chief. The assassination of Qassem Soleimani, the elite Quds Force chief, by the U.S. in January 2020 seems to have blunted Iran's clandestine operations abroad. Yet, Israel's repeated attempts at sabotage have not stopped Iran from enriching uranium, which is now a step away from weapons grade level or building advanced centrifuges. Besides occasional setbacks, the attacks have not derailed Iran's ballistic missiles or armed drones programme either. So if the nuclear talks collapse, Israel would be left with not many options. It would have to escalate its shadow war further to meet its goals. It is a very dangerous slope.

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Differences over Russia dominate G-20 meeting

Divisions among the countries were visible as the U.S. and Russia blamed each other for the crisis

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Friday met with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in Bali on the sidelines of the G-20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting. The meetings indicated the emerging differences within the G-20 grouping as Russia accused the United States of forcing Europe and the rest of the world to abandon cheap energy sources while the U.S. blamed Moscow for "global food insecurity".

"Continued the conversation with Secretary Blinken on global and regional issues, this time in Bali G-20 Foreign Ministers Meeting. Our relationship today allows us to approach a range of challenges with greater understanding and openness," said Mr. Jaishankar said after the meeting.

The interaction was held against the backdrop of increasing supply of Russian



Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar with Sergey Lavrov during G-20 Foreign Ministers' Summit in Indonesia on Friday. ■ AP

crude to India disregarding American pressure to reduce India's dependence on Russian petroleum supply.

In the June 26-27 G-7 summit in Munich, where both India and Indonesia were special guests, the leaders of the G-7 countries floated the idea of capping Russian petroleum prices that India has not supported so far.

The Indian Minister's inte-

reactions are indicative of the dynamics within the G-20, which will meet in India in 2023.

The G-20 – as many as 20 of the world's biggest economic powers such as the U.S., Russia, the European Union, India, Indonesia and Japan – has a mandate to discuss global economic matters, but the Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Bali was

dominated by criticism of Russia by the western members.

The Ukraine war and its economic fallouts are hinting at a division within the ranks of the global grouping, with the U.S., EU, Japan, Canada, Australia and France forming one anti-Russia block while the rest of the countries prefer a cautious approach asking for peaceful resolution of the war in Ukraine.

Following his meeting with Mr. Jaishankar, Mr. Blinken said "bilateral partnership as well as collective efforts to address the implications of Russia's war against Ukraine" were discussed. In his remarks at the main event, Mr. Blinken blamed Russia for the global food crisis, and said, "During the G-20, I had productive discussions on the global food security crisis. The US will continue to work with other partners and allies to respond to the challenges facing the global economy."

The Russian arguments were placed forcefully by Mr. Lavrov, who said that the language of the Western countries has made negotiations futile.

"If western countries want to defeat Russia on the battlefield in Ukraine, then there is nothing to talk with them. The U.S. is forcing Europe and the rest of the world to abandon cheap energy resources and to switch to much more expensive ones. Their approach is all about ideology and not about the welfare of Ukrainians." He reiterated Russia's argument on food scarcity, and said the responsibility for supplying grains from Ukraine's storage lies with Kyiv as it has to de-mine its ports to enable the supply. "The western counterparts avoided discussion on global economy matters as per the G-20 mandate and lapsed into an indiscriminate criticism of the Russian federation regarding the situation in Ukraine," said Mr. Lavrov.

KHADC to invite talks on Instrument of Accession

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

A tribal council in Meghalaya has called for a meeting of traditional heads to revisit the Instrument of Accession, that made the Khasi domain a part of the Indian Union seven decades ago.

Meghalaya is divided into three regions dominated by as many matrilineal communities – the Khasis, Garos and Jaintias. The Khasi hills straddle 25 Himas or States that formed the Federation of Khasi States.

Titosstarwell Chyne, the chief executive member of the Khasi Hills Autonomous

District Council (KHADC) agreed that the Instrument of Accession and Annexed Agreement signed with the Dominion of India between December 15, 1947 and March 19, 1948, should be studied. The treaty was signed by Governor General of India, Chakravarti Rajagopalachari, on August 17, 1948.

“Understanding the paragraphs of the agreement is important as many provisions are missing from the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution,” Pynshngain N. Syiem, Congress leader in the KHADC, said.

A plan that is much more than just planting trees

The focus now is on 'forest landscape restoration', to regain ecological functionality and improve human welfare



VISHAL CHOWLA &
VENKATESH RAGHAVENDRA

Last month, about 100 women, employed under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), were seen digging pits, planting trees and watering them in Nangal Khurd village, in Mansa district in Punjab, just in time for World Environment Day that is observed every year on June 5. Working alongside them were over 50 young people from a local club. The district administration was involved too. It was an example of community effort.

Let us move to this month. It is also time for Van Mahotsav, which literally means "celebrate the forest". The history of Van Mahotsav Day goes back to July 1947, when it was first organised by the Punjabi botanist, M.S. Randhawa. Subsequently, in 1950, Kanaiyalal Maneklal Munshi, an environmentalist and Union Minister of Agriculture and Food, expanded its reach and national scope. In today's world, forests need to be celebrated more than ever before. Simultaneously, more forests need to be created and restored. However, there is much debate about the efforts around tree planting. Is there a right way to do it? Are there dos and don'ts when it comes to mass tree-planting? Let us step back for the bigger picture.

According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature

(IUCN), deforestation and forest degradation contribute around 12% of global greenhouse gas emissions. The total area occupied by primary forests in India has decreased by 3.6%.

The aim now

Typically, governments have relied on afforestation and reforestation as a means of establishing trees on non-treed land. These strategies have now evolved. The focus is now on forest landscape restoration – the process of regaining ecological functionality and improving human welfare across deforested or degraded forest landscapes.

This approach keeps in mind multiple land uses and people's needs in the short and long terms. Forest landscape restoration seeks to involve communities in the process of designing and executing mutually advantageous interventions for the upgradation of landscapes. Nearly two billion hectares of degraded land in the world (and 140 million hectares in India) have scope for potential restoration as forest land.

A crucial aspect of this process is to ensure the diversity of the species while planting trees. Natural forests with diverse native tree species are more efficient in sequestering carbon than monoculture tree plantations. Planting diverse species is also healthier for local communities and their livelihoods. An international study published earlier this year in the journal, *Science*, found that diversifying species in forest plantations has a positive impact on the quality of the forests.

In Punjab, for instance, the community is proactively planting

GETTY IMAGES



native species such as Jhand (*Prosopis cineraria*), Desi Kikar (*Acacia nilotica*) and Pharwan (*Tamarix aphylla*), which are resilient and acclimatised. And most of these saplings have a high survival rate of 90%, a vital requirement for sustainable reforestation activities.

A pivotal role

Tree planting comes with varied environmental and ecological benefits. Forests are integral in regulating ecosystems, influencing the carbon cycle and mitigating the effects of climate change. Annually, forests absorb roughly 2.6 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide. This absorption includes nearly 33% of the carbon dioxide released from burning fossil fuels.

But beyond the environmental benefits, there is the human dimension that is at the front and centre. Millions of lives and livelihoods are intertwined with our forests. Forests are a boon for local communities and their livelihoods by functioning as a resource base for goods and services. India is an agrarian economy. According to academics from the World Resources Institute, forest ecosystems enrich soil fertility and water availability, enhancing agricultural productivity, and in turn the rural economy. Tree planting pre-

vents erosion and stems flooding. Sustainable forest crops reduce food insecurity and empower women, allowing them to gain access to more nutritional diets and new income streams. Agroforestry lessens rural-to-urban migration and contributes to an increase in resources and household income. Planting trees is deeply linked to the 'wholistic' well-being of all individuals, the community, and the planet.

India and programmes

The span 2021-2030 is the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, emphasising efforts to restore degraded terrestrial ecosystems including forests. In 2011, the Bonn Challenge was launched with a global goal to restore 150 million hectares of degraded and deforested landscapes by 2020 and 350 million hectares by 2030. India joined the Bonn Challenge in 2015, pledging to restore 26 million hectares of degraded and deforested land by 2030. An additional carbon sink of 2.5 billion-3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent through forest and tree cover is to be created by 2030.

There are a myriad government programmes such as Compensatory Afforestation, the National Afforestation Programme, the National Mission for a Green India (Green India Mission), the Nagar Van scheme and the Forest Fire Prevention and Management Scheme to name a few. There is a spotlight on youth via the Green Skill Development Programme for youth who aspire to attain employment in the environment and forest sectors. State governments are not far behind either, a case in point being Telangana, which has

initiated a large-scale tree planting programme called 'Telanganaku Haritha Haram'.

However, forest restoration in India faces hurdles in terms of the identification of areas for restoration, a lack of importance accorded to research and scientific strategies in tree planting, stakeholders' conflicts of interest, and financing.

Planting a sapling

So, what is the right way to undertake tree plantation drives? To be successful, forest landscape restoration must be implemented proactively, bolstering landscapes and forest ecosystems to be durable and adjustable in the face of future challenges and societal needs. It also needs the involvement and the alignment of a host of stakeholders including the community, champions, government and landowners. The restoration of natural forest ecosystems can be strengthened through participatory governance by engaging stakeholders – as in the Punjab example. Vulnerable forest-dependent communities should be factored in, and any effort should be tailored to the local socio-economic context and landscape history of a region.

The women and youth of Mansa district are securing the future of their communities and their well-being while maximising the rewards of tree-planting. Let us pledge to truly celebrate the forests by doing it the right way. That is the maha utsav our forests need.

Vishal Chowla is Leader, RoundGlass Foundation. Venkatesh Raghavendra is Strategic Adviser, RoundGlass Foundation. Special inputs by Sruthakeerthy Sriram

‘Growth with inclusivity is the main principle of government’

Narendra Modi speaks at the inaugural Arun Jaitley Memorial Lecture

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Growth with inclusivity is the driving principle behind the government’s approach to policy making, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday, stressing that a road map is being readied to pursue ‘reforms by conviction’ over the coming 25 years, unlike the ‘reforms by compulsion’ undertaken in the past.

Addressing the inaugural Arun Jaitley Memorial Lecture in New Delhi, the PM said his experience as a head of government for 20 years had taught him that growth is not possible without inclusion and inclusion is also not possible without growth.

Citing the improvements in bringing basic amenities to people over the past eight years, be it in provision of housing, cooking gas, elec-



Point of view: Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the first ‘Arun Jaitley Memorial Lecture’ in New Delhi. ■PTI

tricity or water supply, Mr. Modi said, “Over the past eight years, the speed and scale at which India has worked on inclusion, you will not find an example anywhere else in the world.”

Under the Ayushman Bharat scheme, not only have over 50 crore poor got access to good hospitals for free treatment of up to ₹5 lakh, the phenomenon has paved

the way for growth as a third of the population that was excluded from access to healthcare have now been added to the development mainstream.

“This has had a direct impact as the healthcare capacity had to become stronger. Before 2014, India set up an average of 50 medical colleges every 10 years. In the last eight years, 209 new medi-

cal colleges have been set up. In the coming ten years, that number will reach 400,” he pointed out.

Arguing that the government heard the view of most people, the PM said decisions are taken based on the people’s pulse rather than populism. “You can see the difference between the recovery in India and the rest of the world today,” he emphasised.

Referring to the challenges flagged by Singapore’s senior Minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam, who stressed that India must grow at least 8% to 10% over the next 25 years, the PM said, “I agree there are challenges, but if there are challenges, there are 130 crore solutions as well. This is my faith and we are walking ahead with an approach to challenge the challenges.”

U.S. job growth strong despite cloudy outlook

Unemployment rate steady at 3.6%

REUTERS

WASHINGTON

U.S. employers hired far more workers than expected in June and continued to raise wages at a steady clip, signs of persistent labor market strength that give the Federal Reserve ammunition to deliver another 75-basis-point interest rate increase this month.

The Labor Department's employment report on Friday also showed no indication that companies were reducing hours for workers. Also, the number of people working part time for economic reasons fell sharply, dropping below its pre-pandemic level. This should allay fears of an imminent recession that had mounted in recent days following a raft of tepid economic data, ranging from consumer spending to manufacturing.



“Today’s job number should soothe fears of an imminent recession, but it does nothing to relieve fears of considerable further Fed tightening,” said Seema Shah, chief global strategist at Principal Global Investors. “The job market remains severely tight.”

Nonfarm payrolls rose by 3,72,000 jobs. Employment is now 5,24,000 jobs below its February 2020 level.

June’s unemployment rate was unchanged at 3.6%.

Defence exports touch ₹13,000 cr.: official

75 Artificial Intelligence products having applications in the sector will be launched, Defence Ministry

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

India's defence exports for 2021-22 were estimated at ₹13,000 crore, the highest ever, Sanjay Jaju, Additional Secretary in the Defence Ministry, said here on Friday. The U.S. was a major buyer, as also nations in Southeast Asia, West Asia and Africa.

"The private sector accounted for 70% of the exports, while public sector firms accounted for the rest," Mr. Jaju said. Earlier, the private sector used to account for 90% but now the share of defence public sector units had gone up, he added.

While India's defence imports from the U.S. have gone up significantly in re-



India signed a \$374.96-million deal with the Philippines for the supply of three batteries for BrahMos missile. ■PTI

cent years, Indian companies have been increasingly becoming part of the supply chains of U.S. defence companies.

Explaining the methodology of accounting the defence exports, Mr. Jaju said

only components which needed defence authorisation were accounted, listed under the SCOMET 6 category. So, several aviation components and dual-use items, which did not come under the list, were not counted.

In January, India signed a \$374.96-million deal with the Philippines, its single biggest defence export order, for the supply of three batteries of shore-based anti-ship variant of the BrahMos super-sonic cruise missile.

On July 11, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will inaugurate a symposium and exhibition on "Artificial Intelligence in defence", organised by the Department of Defence Production.

Talking to presspersons, Defence Secretary Dr. Ajay Kumar said 75 newly developed AI products and technologies, having applications in defence, would be launched.

"Nature of modern warfare is changing. AI will play

a significant role in all forms of modern warfare," he said.

In 2018, the Defence Ministry had created a task force to work out an action plan to prepare the armed forces for AI and the challenges, he said and based on the feedback of the task force, "lot of work was done."

"These are products that are tried and tested, and have been deployed or in the process of being deployed," Dr. Kumar said.

A high-powered council chaired by Defence Minister, and Defence AI council is spearheading the initiative. In addition to the 75 products to be launched, over 100 products are in process of being developed, he said.

Beating the heat

India must include financial incentives for adoption of effective cooling plans

The steady rise in the planet's temperature as a consequence of humanity's unfettered use of fossil fuel forms the backdrop to altered weather patterns everywhere. India too has been registering instances of anomalous weather with alarming frequency with an erratic monsoon and coastal erosion. However, some recent changes are seemingly paradoxical. An analysis of public weather data over the last half a century by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), suggests that the all-India average temperature during the monsoon months (June-September) is higher than the summer months (March-May). Monsoon temperatures are 0.3°C higher than average summer temperatures when compared from 1951-80. In 2012-2021, this anomaly rose to 0.4°C. The India Meteorological Department has said that India's average temperature has risen 0.62°C from 1901-2020 but the CSE analysis says – supporting similar studies on these lines – that this has not meant a uniform rise in temperatures across seasons. It is the winter (January and February) and post-monsoon (October-December) average all-India temperatures that have risen faster than even the monsoon and summer temperatures. Average daily maximum temperature for north-western States in March was 30.7°C, whereas the all-India average was 33.1°C or 2.4°C hotter. The average daily minimum temperature showed an even larger (4.9°C) difference. Central India's normal maximum was 2°-7°C higher, while south peninsular India's normal minimum was 4°-10°C higher than temperatures in northwest India.

The shattering of temperature records is only one part of the changes; there is also evidence of the toll on lives. From 2015-2020, 2,137 people had reportedly died due to heat stroke in northwest India but southern India had reported 2,444 deaths due to excess environmental heat, with Andhra Pradesh accounting for over half the reported casualties. The urban heat island effect – whereby cities because of concrete surfaces and dense populations tend to on average be hotter than rural habitations – also contributed to heat stress. Indian authorities are cognisant of these trends with some States, led by Gujarat, having Heat Action Plans (HAP). The National Disaster Management Authority is working with 23 out of 28 heat-prone States to develop HAPs that stress changes in the built environment: using material that keeps the indoors cooler, having an early warning system about heatwaves and improving health infrastructure to treat heat stroke patients. However, much remains in terms of reaching out to rural India as well as governments taking steps to plan infrastructure and housing in ways that recognise the dangers from a warming environment. It is time that India includes financial incentives, preferably via Budget outlays, for effective cooling plans. Adapting to and mitigating this most visceral challenge is the need of the hour.

ED slaps penalties on Amnesty, Aakar

₹61.72 crore fine for FEMA violation

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

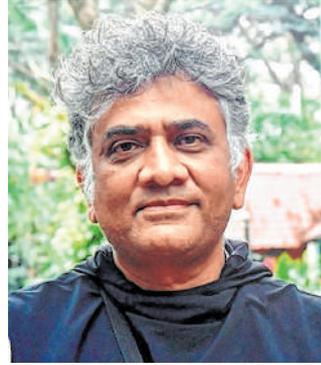
The Adjudicating Authority of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has imposed a penalty of ₹51.72 crore on Amnesty India International Private Ltd. (AIPL) and ₹10 crore on its former chief executive officer Aakar Patel in connection with alleged violation of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) in 2019.

The ED's inquiry was initiated on the basis of information that Amnesty International, U.K., had been remitting "huge amounts of foreign contribution" through its Indian entities not registered under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) through the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) route.

It was allegedly done to expand its non-government organisation (NGO) activities in India despite the denial of prior registration or permissions to the Amnesty International India Foundation Trust (AIIFT) and other trusts under the FCRA by the Union Home Ministry.

The show-cause notice issued by the ED had said that between November 2013 and June 2018, the remittance which was received by the AIPL – and claimed as receipt for business/management consultancy and public relation services for export of services to foreign beneficiary – was nothing but the amount borrowed from the overseas sender, thereby violating the FEMA provisions.

"After getting a detailed



Aakar Patel, former CEO of Amnesty International India

reply from the AIPL and following the principle of natural justice, the Adjudicating Authority of ED has held that the AIPL is an umbrella entity under Amnesty International Ltd., U.K., which was declared to be set up for the cause of social activities in India," said the agency.

However, the agency alleged, the AIPL was involved in many activities that were not relevant to its declared commercial business, and a circumventing model had been used to route the foreign funds under the guise of business activities to escape the FCRA scrutiny.

"All contentions and submission from the AIPL regarding the claim of the remittance towards the export of services to Amnesty International have been dismissed, in the absence of concrete evidence," it said.

More than ₹51.72 crore received by the AIPL through inward remittances was "nothing but the fund lent by the Amnesty International to the AIPL to ensure its objectives in the territorial jurisdiction of India".

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.