

VEDHIK

DAILY NEWS ANALYSIS

13 - OCT - 2022



VEDHIK
IAS ACADEMY

The New Learning Mantra

FOREWORD

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

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

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

CONTENTS

- GSP 01 A Editorials - The grandeur of the Chola Empire, one of the longest ruling dynasties in South India
- GSP 02 A News - India, China hold consultations in Beijing days ahead of Communist Party Congress
- GSP 02 C Editorials - China's "wolf warrior" era
- GSP 02 C News - Biden's security strategy focuses on China, Russia
- GSP 02 C News - Putin says Russia can provide gas via Nord Stream 2
- GSP 02 C News - U.S. Treasury's Yellen to visit in Nov. for bilateral talks on economies
- GSP 02 E News - No more indictment under Section 66A of IT Act Supreme Court
- GSP 02 K Editorials - The Court and the problem with its collegium
- GSP 02 M News - Cooperative Act amendments cleared
- GSP 03 A Editorials - The war against illegal goods as India's fight
- GSP 03 A Editorials - Winter is coming
- GSP 03 A News - August industrial production shrinks 0.8%, inflation drags
- GSP 03 A News - Cacophony of factors to roil sovereign credit metrics S&P



The Brihadeeswara Temple in Thanjavur. FILE PHOTO

The grandeur of the Chola Empire, one of the longest ruling dynasties in South India

When monumental eras like the Cholas are missing from the pages of history, books and novels about the period amassed through archaeological discoveries and interpretations from classic literature, art, architecture and sculptures, change the way one sees the past

Soma Basu

Our history books offer little to read about ancient Tamil kingdoms such as the Cholas which are much in discussion now. With Mani Ratnam's *Ponniyin Selvan I*, based on Kalki's wonderful creation of a world of the Cholas, mesmerising audiences, there is a renewed interest in knowing more about one of the oldest and longest ruling dynasties in the history of Southern India spreading over four centuries. When monumental eras like the Cholas are missing from the pages of history, the best option to know more about the ancient civilisation is to read from the available literature that talk of the valour and conquests of these kings of yore, their trade links and wealth, styles of administration, art and architecture, and cuisine and skills of the period. The monumental relics left behind; the majestic bronzes and 1,00,000 inscriptions and temples which are characteristic of the times, are for the eyes to feast on. All recent archaeological discoveries and interpretations are also a great way to explore.

Exhaustive collection

There is an interesting mix of Tamil and English books and novels by scholars and modern writers on the Dravidian kingdom. A unanimous choice of historians is *The Cholas* (spelt The Colas) by Prof K. A. Nilakanta Sastri. This account of the social, political and cultural history of the Chola dynasty from 850 to 1279 AD from Vijalaya Aditya I to Rajendra III, up to the end of the dynasty, is considered a pioneering work in South Indian History.

The first edition of the book was published in two volumes, in 1935 and 1937 and even after decades the book remains in demand given the fabulous

narrative of the Chozhan Empire. The author relies on references made to the Chola kings in Tamil Sangam literature such as *Pattinappalai* and *Puranaanooru*, brought to print by U.V. Swaminatha Ayyar. He bases his research on inscriptions from the Archaeological Survey of India, the *Mahavamsa* (which tells the history of Sri Lanka), *Periplus of the Erythraean Sea* and other notes by Chinese and Arabian travellers to India.

Volume I contains the history of the Cholas from Karikalan to Kulothunga III in detail and Volume II describes the attributes of the Chola dynasty – how it became a military, economic and cultural power in South and South-East Asia under Rajaraja Chola I and his son Rajendra Chola I, the tax and land revenue collection techniques and ways of measuring grains and metals, the importance of education imparted to the citizens, the development of Tamil literature (such as *Kalingathu Parani* by Jayam kondar, *Kamba Ramayanam* by Kambhar, *Periya Puranam* by Sekkizhar that were written during the reign of Kulothunga I and II) and the varied architectural achievements (construction of the Brihadeeswara Temple in Thanjavur by Raja Raja I, Gangai konda Chozhapuram by Rajendra I, and the Airavateswara Temple at Dharasuram by Rajaraja III).

The might and power

Nagapattinam to Suvarnadwipa, compiled by Hermann Kulke in 2009 has a lot of historical research on naval power and expeditions of the Chola kings. Art historian C. Sivaramamurti has chronicled the architecture of the period in *The Chola Temples: Thanjavur, Gangaikondacholapuram & Darasuram*. Japanese historian Noboru Karashima has written insightful volumes on the Cholas' economic, social and administrative

proceeds.

Early Cholas: History, Art and Culture by Dr. S. Swaminathan, gives a good account of the period from 850 AD to 970 AD that forms an important epoch in the history of Tamil Nadu. The book is about how the early Chola rulers started from scratch and went on to establish a vast empire by their conquests and are best remembered for their contribution to rules relating to the mode of local administration and imprints on art, architecture and sculpture.

S. R. Balasubrahmanyam, published a series of books – *Early Chola Art* (1966); *Early Chola Temples* (1971); *Middle Chola Temples* (1977); *Later Chola Temples* (1979), two of which were co-authored by his son B. Venkataraman, who like his father had a passion for Chola art, history and architecture and was the first historian to compile information on the Rajarajeswaram and the Brihadeeswara temples at Thanjavur from the epigraphs available there.

In *South India Under The Cholas* (published in 2012), Y. Subbarayalu provides a round-up of the known history and features of the Chola dynasty. The comprehensive account of the Empire's administration, society and economy is done in two parts – Epigraphy and History, State and Society. The first part is an in-depth analysis of Tamil epigraphy and inscriptions, how to study them and analyse socio-economic milieu, merchant guilds, and other sociological aspects. The second section traces the evolution of the medieval state, economy, and society while discussing land surveys, Chola revenue system and sale deeds, and property rights.

The book is a value-addition as it also scrutinises the evolution of organisations like Urar, Nattar, and Periyannattar, social classes like the left- and right-hand divisions, and the merchant militia and

for the first time attempts to quantify the revenue of a pre-Mughal Indian state.

The search is still on

Last year, Leadstart published Raghavan Srinivasan's *Raja Raja Chola - An Interplay between an Imperial Regime and Productive forces of Society* that appealed to the academia and public. The author rivetingly weaves together the lives and times of one of the most enigmatic medieval personalities, Rajaraja Chola. He elucidates the king and his stupendous legacy from the eyes of a commoner to help readers see history in ways they wouldn't imagine.

While he writes about Rajaraja Chola as an important figure who played a crucial role in establishing peace, carrying out development and infrastructure as well as ingraining values of social and cultural significance among the people, Srinivasan also talks of the tumultuous development of the times. He presents a critique of history to acknowledge that the rise and fall of kingdoms are not the result of the strengths and weaknesses of kings and queens alone but an inevitable outcome of the greater rhythm of world events.

Juggernaut published *Empire* by Devi Yesodharan, who got drawn to the enormous Chola Empire stretching from the south to the Ganges, and an emperor who commanded an impressive Army and Navy that was the envy of the world. She looks at his strategic conquest of territories to protect the economy and ensure his continuing control of the naval trade in the Indian Ocean. The author says, a king who restrains himself from pursuing unnecessary wars and preserves his strength to defend his Empire, is a unique administrator. In her book, Devi projects the Chola kingdom as one of the world's most cosmopolitan places to live in with a vibrant art scene and gorgeous writings.

India, China hold consultations in Beijing days ahead of Communist Party Congress

Both sides held 'candid' talks on bilateral ties, international and regional issues, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said in a statement; continuity is expected on the bilateral front with President Xi Jinping continuing to determine policy, while sweeping changes are likely in the party

Ananth Krishnan
BEIJING

India and China on Tuesday held consultations on bilateral relations in Beijing, days ahead of the Chinese leadership convening for a once-in-five-years Communist Party Congress that will set policies for the coming decade.

India's Ambassador to China Pradeep Kumar Rawat held talks with Liu Jinsong, Director-General of the Department of Asian Affairs at the Foreign Ministry, who is Beijing's point-man on India.

Both sides held "can-

did" talks on bilateral ties, international and regional issues, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

The consultation on ties, which have remained strained in the wake of the still ongoing Line of Actual Control (LAC) crisis beginning in April 2020, came ahead of Sunday's all-important Party Congress in Beijing, following which President Xi Jinping is expected to begin a third five-year term.

Continuity, rather than significant change, is expected on the bilateral front with Mr. Xi continuing to determine policy.



Vital meeting: Pradeep Kumar Rawat with China's Director-General of the Department of Asian Affairs Liu Jinsong. PTI

Sweeping changes are expected in the party as well as military leadership, with the Central Military Com-

mission, headed by Mr. Xi, likely to induct new members. A new foreign policy czar in the Politburo is ex-

pected to replace the retiring Yang Jiechi.

The Foreign Ministry will continue to be headed by the current Foreign Minister Wang Yi at least until the annual parliament session next March, when new Ministers will be inducted and government Ministries will see new appointments.

Travel issues

Both sides on Tuesday also discussed issues relating to travel with China's zero-COVID rules still limiting flights. Around 1,300 Indian students had recently obtained visas, while two batches of 300 businesspe-

ople had taken charter flights from India to the trading hub of Yiwu, the statement noted.

However, direct flights are unlikely to resume in the immediate future, officials said. While Beijing has made a proposal for the resumption of a direct flight, New Delhi's view is that China's current travel rules that impose "circuit breaker" bans on flights where passengers test positive, are not conducive to resumption, bringing uncertainty and arbitrary flight cancellations. Flying to the mainland through Hong Kong has been seen as a more reliable option.

China's "wolf warrior" era

Xi Jinping's worldview carries with it an inherent contradiction — that of a world that is simultaneously China's to lead and one that is apparently full of external threats. This paradox, more than any other factor, has shaped China's diplomacy in the past decade

WORLD INSIGHT

Ananth Krishnan

“Defend every inch of our land!”, reads a sign in Beijing's Military Museum, which, to mark the Chinese military's 95th anniversary, opened a sprawling exhibit earlier this year. Divided into four sections, the exhibition went deep into the past of the People's Liberation Army (PLA), unique among militaries in serving not a state but a single political party. The largest sections were devoted to the contributions of Mao in building a revolutionary army, and to the current leader, Xi Jinping, for building a “strong country” (“qiang guo”).

The corner of the exhibition where the sign has been displayed showcases stones from the Karakoram mountains along the India-China border as well as images from the June 2020 Galwan Valley clash, declaring that the Chinese military will do everything “to protect sovereignty”.

To the centre of the world

As Mr. Xi completes a decade in office and begins an unprecedented third term at the Communist Party's 20th Party Congress which begins on October 16, “qiang guo” has become the short but sharp phrase of choice that sums up his view of China's place in the world. Past maxims of China's “peaceful rise” and “biding time, hiding brightness” have been given a quiet burial. The thrust of Mr. Xi's argument is that China's time has come. At the party's previous congress in 2017, he declared China was “moving to the centre stage of the world”. His other favourite maxim is to declare that “the West was declining and the East was rising” in what he has repeatedly called a world witnessing “changes unseen in a century”. At this turning point, Mr. Xi has emphasised not only opportunities for China — taking the “centre stage” — but peril that lurks in every corner in a global order, that he has often described as being in turmoil, even chaos. Mr. Xi presents the Communist Party under his leadership as China's defence against this “chaos” and as leading what he calls the country's “great rejuvenation”. This inherent contradiction in Mr. Xi's worldview — of a world that is simultaneously China's to lead and one that is apparently full of external threats — has arguably, more than any other factor, shaped China's diplomacy in the past decade. China's foreign policy appears to be caught between, on the one hand, presenting itself as the saviour of the UN-centred world order and globalisation — building, as Mr. Xi has christened, “a community of shared destiny” — and on the other, pursuing China's core interests ever more aggressively, (dubbed the ‘wolf warrior’ approach after a Chinese action hero) regardless of the consequences, from the mountains of Ladakh and the South China Sea to most recently, the waters around Taiwan.

The inevitable rise

The launch of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in 2013 was Mr. Xi's signature foreign policy initiative and a platform to stake China's claim to global leadership. According to the estimates of the Green Finance and Development Centre at Shanghai's Fudan University, over the past decade, the total value of projects and investments through the BRI stands at over \$930 billion. But more than the infrastructure projects and investments in connectivity, the biggest success of the BRI — which ten years later remains an amorphous and hard-to-define initiative, more an idea



Sending a message: The Rocket Force under the PLA conducts conventional missile tests into the waters off the eastern coast of Taiwan on August 4. REUTERS

than an actual project — has been in furthering a narrative of the inevitability of China's rise.

The BRI, much like China's global ambitions, stands at an inflection point. Beijing today is facing criticism for rising debt levels in many partner countries and for unsustainability in some of its projects. Criticism aside, the fact that indebted partners have only returned to Beijing for more assistance underlines the reality of China's economic muscle, as well as an apparent push to evolve the BRI away from a hard-infrastructure focus to a wider array of financial assistance. Consider Pakistan and Sri Lanka, which have received more than \$26 billion from China in the past five years, and dealing with financial crises, are turning not only to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) but again, to Beijing.

Great power rivalry

Beyond the BRI, rising China-U.S. rivalry and deepening China-Russia ties have been perhaps the clearest markers of the direction of China's foreign policy in the Xi era. As relations with Washington torpedoed during the Donald Trump administration, Beijing has increasingly sought to present itself as the defender of a world order that in its view the U.S. was seeking to wreck. Mr. Xi, in recent speeches, has repeatedly referred to a world facing two paths — one of disorder caused by “small cliques”, as China refers to the U.S. and its

allies, and the other his “community of shared destiny”.

Worsening relations with the U.S. have been accompanied by warming ties with Russia, described by the Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov recently as being “the best in history”, as well as a declaration in February this year, on the eve of Russia's invasion of Ukraine which Beijing is yet to condemn, of a relationship with “no limits”. Fixated on its problems with Washington, Beijing has sought to shore up relations with its Southeast Asian neighbours — it has, with its deep economic ties in the region, managed to blunt criticism over its militarisation of the South China Sea, which during the Xi era has come under greater Chinese control. Yet Beijing's renewed emphasis on protecting China's “sovereignty” and core interests has rubbed up against its broader geopolitical ambitions, even undercutting them. India is a clear case in point, which Beijing's mandarins have long viewed as a key “swing power”, but a country with which ties have deteriorated thanks to the PLA's actions since April 2020.

Relationship with India

The see-sawing India-China relationship during the Xi decade, from the highs of two “informal summits” in Wuhan in 2018 and Mamallapuram in 2019, to the still on-going border crisis triggered by the Chinese military's multiple transgressions

that plunged relations to the lowest level since the normalisation of ties in the 1980s, have reflected the tensions in China's diplomacy in the Xi period.

Under Mr. Xi, China has come to view territorial problems with neighbours not as “disputes” to be mutually resolved but as threats to China's “sovereignty”, thus reducing the space for resolution. Relations with India have also been shaped increasingly by the all-consuming focus of Chinese diplomacy on its great rivalry with the U.S., which has become the lens through which Beijing has come to view relations with much of the world, including India. The coming five years under Mr. Xi are likely to bring an ever-sharper period of tensions with the West.

Beijing recently slammed the U.S. for its criticism over China's military response to U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's Taiwan visit. “They clearly believe they live in the time of 120 years ago,” the Chinese Foreign Ministry said, adding that “today's China is not the old China of 100 years ago that was humiliated and bullied”. The ministry even compared the G7 group of developed nations to the eight-nation alliance that invaded China in 1900 and marked a “century of humiliation”, the memories of which Mr. Xi has promised to bury with his project of “rejuvenation”.

This is the last article of a three-part series examining China's politics, economy and diplomacy in the Xi decade.



A new order: Sri Lankan workers hold a Chinese flag to welcome Chinese ship Yuan Wang 5 as it arrives at the Hambantota Port in Sri Lanka in August. AP

THE GIST

China's foreign policy appears to be caught between, on the one hand, presenting itself as the saviour of the UN-centred world order and globalisation — building, as Mr. Xi has christened, “a community of shared destiny” — and on the other, pursuing China's core interests ever more aggressively, regardless of the consequences.

The launch of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in 2013 was Mr. Xi's signature foreign policy initiative and a platform to stake China's claim to global leadership. But Beijing today is facing criticism for rising debt levels in many partner countries and for unsustainability in some of its projects.

The see-sawing India-China relationship during the Xi decade, from the highs of two “informal summits” in Wuhan in 2018 and Mamallapuram in 2019, to the still on-going border crisis triggered by the Chinese military's multiple transgressions has plunged relations to the lowest level since the normalisation of ties in the 1980s.

Biden's security strategy focuses on China, Russia

Sriram Lakshman

WASHINGTON

The Biden administration has said that maintaining a competitive edge over China and constraining Russia are priorities for the U.S. strategy, as it released the administration's first National Security Strategy on Wednesday.

The document – which every administration is required to release, by law – was delayed due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. It lists great power competition and transnational challenges as the two premises on which the strategy is built. The strategy is based on “building strength at home” as well as building coalitions abroad to deal with the challenges.

China and Russia are increasingly aligned with each other, the document notes, but the challenges they pose are different. “We will prioritize maintaining an enduring competitive edge over the PRC while constraining a still profoundly dangerous Russia,” it says.

However, the U.S. did not want to see the world just through the prism of strategic competition, nor have that competition become a Cold War or confrontation with others, such as China, which remains America's “most consequential geopolitical



Jake Sullivan

challenge”, U.S. National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan told reporters, during a Wednesday morning briefing call.

Mr. Sullivan said the U.S. had entered a “decisive decade” with respect to the “two fundamental strategic challenges” as he highlighted major power competition and issues like climate change, food insecurity, communicable diseases, terrorism, the energy transition and inflation.

These challenges are “not secondary to geopolitics, but they operate on a plane alongside the competition, the geopolitical competition with major powers,” Mr. Sullivan said.

Indo Pacific

On the Indo-Pacific, the document says as India is the world's largest democracy and a Major Defense Partner (of the U.S.), the two countries “will work together, bilaterally and multilaterally, to support

our shared vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific.”

With its allies and partners, the U.S. is, as per the document, assisting in making Russia's war on Ukraine a “strategic failure”. It cites the example of NATO, as well as Finland and Sweden (which have applied to become members of the alliance). It says that “Putin's war” has “profoundly diminished” Russia's status with Asian powers like India, China and Japan - with Moscow's soft power and diplomatic influence waning.

On U.S. alliances, the strategy says they have played a critical role and calls for a deepening and modernisation of these associations, a range of which are listed, including the Quad. It says the “revitalised Quad” which includes the U.S., India, Australia and Japan, had addressed regional challenges and “demonstrated its ability to deliver” for the Indo Pacific on fighting COVID-19, cybersecurity and “promoting high standards for infrastructure and health security”.

It says the Quad and AUKUS – a security relationship between Australia, the U.K. and the U.S. – will be crucial in addressing global challenges as well as encouraging tighter linkages between America's Asian and European allies.

Putin says Russia can provide gas via Nord Stream 2

Reuters
Agence France-Presse
MOSCOW

President Vladimir Putin said on Wednesday that Russian gas could still be supplied to Europe through one remaining intact part of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline but the ball was now in the EU's court on whether it wanted that to happen.

An international investigation is under way into explosions last month that ruptured the Russian-built Nord Stream 1 and Nord Stream 2 pipelines on the bed of the Baltic Sea.

Mr. Putin said it was possible to repair the pipelines but that Russia and Europe should decide their fate. Three of the Nord Stream pipelines are damaged. That leaves only one line of

Nord Stream 2, which has an annual capacity of 27.5 billion cubic metres, functional. "If they [EU] want to, then the taps can be turned on and that's it," Mr. Putin said.

The pipelines, which have become a flashpoint in the Ukraine crisis, have been leaking gas into the Baltic Sea. He also said the leaks were the result of "international terrorism" that would benefit the U.S., Poland and Ukraine.

Ahead of the winter, European leaders have rushed to come up with a plan to tackle rising energy costs while maintaining sanctions on Russia. More than half of the bloc's members have pushed for a price cap. But Mr. Putin said Russia "would not supply energy to the countries that limit prices".

U.S. Treasury's Yellen to visit in Nov. for bilateral talks on economies

Sriram Lakshman

WASHINGTON

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman held bilateral talks with her American counterpart, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, during which Ms. Yellen announced that she would visit India in November.

“I am glad to announce today that in November ahead of the G20 meetings, I will take my first trip to India as Treasury Secretary, to attend the U.S.-India Economic and Financial Partnership, our ninth Partnership meeting,” Ms. Yellen said, as the two delegations sat across the table from each other at the U.S. Treasury on Tuesday evening. Ms. Sitharaman confirmed the dialogue would take place on November 11 in New Delhi.

“The agenda is, of course, wide and varied,” she said about next month's meetings, highlighting a few key areas up for discussion.

This included taking stock of the world economy; financial, regulatory and technical collaboration; cooperation during the G20 Presidency of India; how municipal bonds can be of help to India; and attracting infrastructure investments.

Ms. Sitharaman, who is in Washington D.C. for the IMF World Bank Group Annual Meetings, was accompanied by six delegates for Tuesday's talks, including India's U.S. Ambassador Taranjit Singh Sandhu.

No more indictment under Section 66A of IT Act: Supreme Court

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday ordered States and their police forces to stop prosecuting free speech on social media under Section 66A of the Information Technology Act which was declared unconstitutional by the court in a judgment seven years ago.

The court found it both “distressing” and “terrible” that the police had continued to pick out people and prosecute them under the draconian Section regardless of the fact that the highest court in the country had struck down the law as “vague” and “chilling”.

A Bench led by Chief Justice of India U.U. Lalit directed “all Directors General of Police as well as Home Secretaries of the States and competent officers in Union Territories to instruct their entire police force in their respective States/Union Territories not to register any complaint of crime with respect to alleged violation of Section 66A”.

However, the court clar-

In 2015, it found the police powers of Section 66A too wide with scant respect for individual liberty

ified that this direction would apply only to a charge under Section 66A and not extend to other offences in a case.

Police powers

In March 2015, the Supreme Court had found the police powers of Section 66A too wide with scant respect for individual liberty and free expression on the Internet. The order had come on the basis of a petition filed by law student Shreya Singhal, who had highlighted cases of young people being arrested and charged under the ambiguous provision for their social media posts.

Section 66A had prescribed three years’ imprisonment if a social media message caused “annoyance” or was found “grossly offensive”. The court had concluded the provision to be vague and worded arbitrarily.

The Court and the problem with its collegium

Once again the collegium of the Supreme Court of India is in the news, and once again for the wrong reasons. This time, it is because of the difficulty that its five judges have in getting together for one meeting. The Chief Justice of India, Justice U.U. Lalit, assumed office on August 27, 2022. He has a short tenure and demits office on November 8, 2022. Nevertheless, he tries to set a scorching pace. He constitutes as many as five Constitution Benches to hear extremely important matters which his predecessors put on the back burner. The CJI also takes it upon himself to fill six vacancies in the apex court. He sets in motion the procedure contemplated for the collegium of the Supreme Court which is enshrined in the Memorandum of Procedure of 1999.

A meeting was held on September 26 at which all the five members of the collegium were present. They decided affirmatively on one candidate, Justice Dipankar Datta, now Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court. There are several other names under consideration for the remaining slots, and these include four Chief Justices of High Courts and one lawyer practising in the Supreme Court. This is deferred to September 30. However, the meeting on September 30 is not held because Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, the seniormost puisne judge and in line to be the next CJI, sits in court till 9.30 p.m. Since the meeting cannot be held as



Sriram Panchu
is Senior Advocate,
Madras High Court

There needs to be a better, broad-based and transparent method of appointing senior judges to the High Courts and the Supreme Court

scheduled, the CJI tries to obtain approval by circulation. Two judges accord approval but Justice Chandrachud and Justice Nazeer withhold approval. Apparently they do not object to the names but object to the procedure of circulation. In the meantime there is a letter from the Law Minister asking the CJI's view on the appointment of his successor. With that the curtain is brought down on the proposed appointments. For some reason no one can fathom, the CJI's collegium becomes a lame duck during his last month, while his court retains every power till the last minute of his last day in office.

Relevant questions

If this was any other body conducting business for selecting the highest officers for the organisation, those in charge would face both questions and flak. Simply put, since the matter is of obvious importance, why could not five people who work in the same building meet the next day, or the day after, to conclude the business? If meeting in person was so difficult, surely we are all used to online conduct of business. The court itself has been quite proficient in conducting judicial work online for many months after COVID-19 struck us. If any of the names are not good enough, why not say so in circulation? If they were good enough, then why not just make the appointments by following any procedure feasible, whether personal meeting, circulation or online meeting? If business has to be done, then there appears to be no good reason why it did not get done.

The problem, as has been the problem with the collegium, is that there is nobody in it to ask these questions. Time and again, it has been widely commented that this is an extra-constitutional or non-constitutional body brought in force by judgments of the Supreme Court virtually wresting the power of appointment of judges. The Constitution of India gave the last word to the President of India but mandated consultation with the Court. These judgments give the last word to the Court mandating consultation with the government. Not only that, what makes the problem even worse is that there is no seat in the collegium for any non judge – neither from the executive, the Bar or anywhere else. In other words, there is no one to offer suggestions or raise questions or

even to observe what is going on.

In 2014, Parliament by unanimity – mark the word unanimity – backed by State legislatures enacted the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC); it comprised three judges, the Law Minister and two eminent persons to handle the task of appointing judges. By a 4:1 majority, the Supreme Court struck that down, setting at naught the entire legislative will of the country which was trying to reverse a constitutional coup. If the Court was concerned about being overruled in appointments, it could have just tinkered with and read down the Act, deleted the second eminent person and thus secured a situation where the judges were in the majority. This would have secured judicial primacy, provided for some executive involvement as well as had one person representing a larger public constituency. The point is that this will at least provide a place at the table for the question *why* and the question *why not* to be asked. There can be accountability and perceived performance only when these questions can be asked and have to be answered. Otherwise there will be insularity and opacity.

On judicial appointments

In recent times, the Government seems to have given up on pursuing the commission for judicial appointments. One wonders why. Perhaps the answer partly lies in successive collegiums not putting forth names anathema to the Government, notably that of Justice Akil Kureshi (he retired in March as the Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court). This is hardly a satisfactory solution. It is time to revisit this question and secure a better, broad-based and transparent method of appointing senior judges to the High Courts and the Supreme Court. While doing so, we may also ask why there have been no appointments from the category of distinguished jurists which Article 124 of the Constitution contemplates. Appointments to the top court seem to be the preserve of judges from the High Courts with a handful of appointments from the Bar. Surely some nodding acknowledgement should be given to a specific provision made by the founding fathers in the Constitution. Or is it the view that in all these years we have produced no distinguished jurist worth the name?



Cooperative Act amendments cleared

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved an amendment to the cooperative societies law aimed at making the governance of multi-State cooperative societies more democratic, transparent and accountable.

The Multi-State Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2022, incorpo-

rates the provisions of the 97th Constitution Amendment which gave Constitutional status and protection to cooperative societies and made the right to form cooperative societies a fundamental right (Article 19).

The amendments ensure provisions for setting up a cooperative election authority, an information officer and an ombudsman, sources said.

The war against illegal goods as India's fight

India's wholesale inflation rate has been declining since July this year but has remained in double digits since April 2021. Last month, the inflation rate was recorded at 12.41%, from 13.93% in July. Consistently high inflation leads to people deferring purchases, purchasing less, going in for reuse and recycling, or just switching to cheaper alternatives. The search for cheaper alternatives kicks up a storm – markets are flooded with cheap inferior goods or spurious and fake brands, giving a dream run to the parallel economy players.

This is where the China angle comes in. The parallel economy dealers need access to seemingly similar functioning cheaper goods which are aptly served by factories humming in China. As we get closer to the festive season, we will see, yet again, bazaars full of Chinese goods – from Deepavali lights, pooja idols, electronic items and bicycles to everything that the consumer needs. Clearly, the Government's response to this situation is centered around its self-reliance or 'Atmanirbharta' agenda, which should place added focus on producing goods in bulk at the lowest possible cost. The Government's intent is certainly taking shape, as was echoed by Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs and Food and Public Distribution and Textiles, in a tweet recently. He said: "Our toy manufacturing sector is booming, with Indian toys rapidly filling up shelves in the country and abroad." Such wins would be possible only if India can bring down the cost of manufacturing by addressing anomalies at each stage in the value chain.

A thriving market

The consumer's search for cheaper alternatives gives birth to another menace which hurts even more – a booming, smuggled and illegal goods market. This hurts more because it is done at the cost of taxes to the government, depriving the country of the fuel required to drive social transformation. In this economic activity, the target is not the cheaper category of goods, but rather the more expensive class of goods. According to the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry's Committee Against



Ranganath Tannir

is Secretary-General, Think Change Forum, a think-tank based in New Delhi

Apart from boosting 'Atmanirbharta', fast collective action rooted in smart taxation, restrictions on profit repatriation and stricter law enforcement are some of the necessary steps the Government needs to take

Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADE) – one of the best-known data sources for information on smuggling – the illicit market is thriving in five key Indian industries. This includes mobile phones, fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) – household and personal goods, FMCG-packaged foods, tobacco products, and alcoholic beverages. The size of the illicit market in these industries was valued at ₹2,60,094 crore in 2019-20.

According to a report by the Economist Intelligence Unit, in 2018 India ranked low in the Global Illicit Trade Environment Index and needed quantifiable actions to bring down the risks of illicit trade on the economy. In relation to three of the four elements, i.e., government policy, supply and demand, and customs environment, India ranks in the third quartile of the 82 countries covered in the index. It ranks 35 in terms of transparency and trade.

The CASCADE report estimates that unlawful trade in the industries mentioned above results in a total estimated legitimate employment loss of 15.96 lakh. The combined FMCG industry (household and personal goods, and packaged foods), due to its illicit market size, accounts for about 68% of job losses. The estimated tax loss to the Government due to illicit goods in these industries has been estimated to be ₹58,521 crore. The report further reveals that two highly regulated and taxed industries, tobacco products and alcoholic beverages, account for 49% of the overall tax loss to the Government.

Rationalise taxes, promote local brands

A lesser-known fact is that the more evolved manufacturing markets subtly support smuggling by only doing lip service and not taking strong action against their exporters and international traders as it does not harm their local economy but helps their manufacturing sector. Therefore, there have been fewer supporters in the developed world and in countries such as China for the war against smuggling. This is India's fight as it is one of the largest consuming countries with porous borders and a weak enforcement machinery to stop smuggling.

The only practical measure to stop smuggling

and illicit trade is if the Government keeps taxes rationalised in the categories where smuggling is high, so as to give lesser cost arbitrage incentive to smugglers as well as aggressively promote local industry to build world-class brands and products. This would reduce the dependence on international manufacturers. There is a common thread in both cases – the need to support local industry by rationalising taxes and providing incentives to local manufacturers so they can make world-class goods that can compete with global brands in India as well as in global markets. Allowing global brands to manufacture in India also remains relevant provided they can offer India-specific pricing and are not allowed to remit royalties and profits out of the country earned from goods being consumed by Indians. China has a very successful policy wherein multinational corporations (MNC) reinvest profits earned by subsidiaries in China. India can make a concession by allowing MNCs to repatriate profits earned from the goods they sell outside India. This will propel India as a global manufacturing destination and MNCs will be able to hit their topline goals. Today, with India's growing left and attraction as a fast-growing economy, it is time to strike a better bargain.

Use of technology in enforcement

Fast collective action using a mix of strategies that are rooted in smart taxation, restrictions on profit repatriation and stricter law enforcement are steps that will stop the inflow of smuggled, illicit and cheap, low-quality goods into the country. According to CASCADE, enforcement can be improved by using cutting-edge technology such as artificial intelligence, blockchain, and location technology. This will help in increasing the seizure of illegal goods. The Government must also increase consumer awareness so that people boycott smuggled, counterfeit and poor quality goods. The supply of cheap, counterfeit and smuggled goods is only nurturing crime syndicates and a parallel economy, and where the Government and the consumer are the losers. There is no better time than now to give 'Atmanirbharta' yet another dimension to accelerate its progress.

Winter is coming

India's growth impulses slowing;
the IMF warns 'worst yet to come'

The International Monetary Fund (IMF), in its latest World Economic Outlook report, has retained global growth hopes for 2022 at 3.2%, and lowered next year's projection to 2.7% from 2.9%. The year 2023 will feel like a recession for many people in the world, the Fund has cautioned, as 'the worst is yet to come' amid tighter monetary policies to curb stubbornly high inflation and a spiralling energy and food crisis. While it retained India's 2023-24 growth estimate at 6.1%, the IMF slashed this year's forecast to 6.8%, from 7.4% in July. This is the second significant estimate after the World Bank's 6.5% assessment that pegs India's GDP rise below 7%, which the Reserve Bank of India and North Block mandarins are expecting this year. The downgrade is attributed to 'weaker than expected outturn' in the second quarter and subdued external demand. The slowing growth in tax collections, industrial output and exports, back this prognosis. The road ahead – rendered tortuous by the lingering Russia-Ukraine conflict, a slowdown in China and what the IMF has eloquently termed a 'cost of living crisis' – is not much travelled on. The risk of monetary, fiscal or financial policy miscalibration has risen sharply amid high uncertainty and growing fragilities, the Fund has emphasised.

After likely losing the tag to Saudi Arabia this year, the IMF expects India to become the fastest growing major economy in the world again next year. But private forecasters such as Nomura believe policy makers' optimism about 2023-24 prospects may be misplaced as the global downturns' ripple effects may be underestimated, and growth could well slip to 5.2%. Either way, relative prosperity compared to the world alone will not suffice. India needs to not only grow significantly faster than its faltering pre-pandemic trajectory but also deliver better quality growth that is inclusive and meets the aspirations of millions of its youth who constitute its demographic dividend. The country has only a small window now to cash in on this sweet spot. Moreover, given India's low per capita income, the sustained surge in prices has hit most households' spending capacity, and could even cramp their ability to invest in the next generation's education. Ministers' assertions that India had managed to rein in inflation and it is not a priority concern may have been premature as August and September witnessed a resurgence in price rise from July's minor relief of 6.71% after staying above 7% in the first quarter. The Government has begun work on Budget 2023-24, but the second half of this year still needs to be navigated deftly.

August industrial production shrinks 0.8%, inflation drags

Manufacturing, mining sector output contract; power generation only sector to show growth; analyst warns of growth impact if festival season does not help IIP rise in September, October

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

India's industrial output contracted 0.8% in August, following the 2.2% growth recorded in the preceding month, with both manufacturing and mining sectors reporting lower output than a year earlier, while overall factory production shrank 2.3% from July 2022.

While the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) had jumped 13% in August 2021, base effect only played a marginal role in the contraction with the provisional IIP estimate at 131.3, the lowest level since November 2021, when it



Weighed down: Main drag was the decline in the production of both durables and non-durables, says BoB's Sabnavis. AFP

was at 128.

Manufacturing output shrank 0.7% from August 2021 and was 1.48% lower than July, while the mining sector contracted 3.9% from a year earlier and was

0.95% below July levels.

Electricity generation was the only sector to clock an uptick, with a 1.4% year-on-year growth and a 1.3% expansion over July. However, August's electric-

ity output index is the second lowest since March 2022.

While there was 'all round disappointment' in the IIP print, Bank of Baroda chief economist Madan Sabnavis said the 'main drag was from the consumer end with both durables and non-durables production contracting by 2.5% and 9.9%, respectively'.

"Inflation has come in the way of demand for sure and the critical part will be how demand turns out in the festival time... unless IIP growth touches 5% in September and October, there will be an adverse impact on growth prospects," Mr. Sabnavis reckoned.

Cacophony of factors to roil sovereign credit metrics: S&P

Reuters

NEW DELHI

India is facing various factors that may shake its sovereign-credit metrics but strong economic growth rate and external balance sheet are expected to neutralise the risks inherent in the global environment, S&P Global Ratings said.

In a credit FAQ titled 'Can India Sovereign Ratings Withstand The Global Sputter,' S&P said despite India's strong external ba-

lance sheet, it has not been able to escape the difficult landscape the rest of its emerging market peers have faced over the course of the year and 'more severe conditions,' could apply downward pressure on sovereign credit ratings.

Lowest rating

S&P has the lowest investment grade rating of 'BBB-' on India with a stable outlook.

"India is facing a mixture of factors that may

shake its sovereign credit metrics. Amid external turbulence, its foreign exchange reserves are falling, and its current account deficit is rising," S&P Global Ratings sovereign analyst Andrew Wood said. "Meanwhile, the economy is battling faster inflation and tightening financial conditions."

India is, however, likely to continue benefiting from the active use of its currency in international transactions, it said.

Inflation accelerates to 7.41%, highest since April

September food inflation quickens sharply to 8.41%, the steepest level in 22 months; economists warn that the negative surprise could spur more interest rate increases from the RBI

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

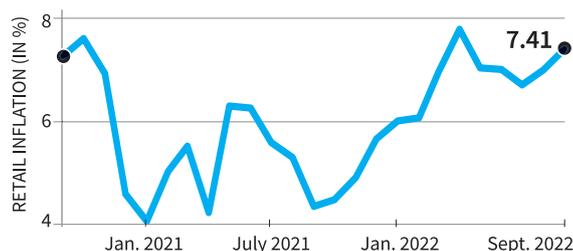
Retail inflation accelerated to a five-month high of 7.41% in September, from 7% in August, as food inflation surged sharply to 8.41% last month – the steepest level in 22 months.

September's retail inflation was the highest since April, when price rise quickened to an almost eight-year high of 7.79%, and economists warned that the latest negative surprise could force the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to opt for further interest rate increases beyond the widely expected 0.5 percentage point increase in the December monetary policy.

This is the ninth month in a row that inflation has

Getting costlier

India's retail inflation accelerated to 7.41% in September from 7% in August. Retail inflation stayed above the RBI's upper threshold of 6% for the ninth consecutive month



exceeded the 6% upper tolerance threshold mandated for the RBI and would require it to send an explanation to the government on its inability to achieve the price stability target.

Rural inflation picked up further steam, from 7.15% in August, to touch 7.56% in September, while urban consumers also ex-

perienced a resurgence in price rise at 7.27%, from 6.72% a month earlier, data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on Wednesday show.

Vegetable prices surge

Inflation in cereals quickened to 11.5%, with rural India facing almost 12% price gains, up sharply

from 9.6% in August and almost doubling from July's 6.9% pace. Similarly, vegetables' inflation almost virtually doubled over two months, from 10.9% in July to 18.1% in September, with urban consumers facing a sharper 20.1% rise.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

Inflation accelerates to 7.41%, highest since April

The Consumer Food Price Index rose 8.6%, up from 7.6% in August, with urban consumers facing a higher surge at 8.65% from 7.55% a month earlier. For rural India, the uptick was only slightly less pronounced with food prices rising 8.53%, compared with 7.6% in August.

“The acceleration in food inflation was broad-based as prices rose across cereals, vegetables, pulses, and milk, with tomatoes and potatoes driving up vegetables’ inflation,” said CRISIL chief economist Dharmakirti Joshi.

Bank of Baroda chief economist Madan Sabnavis said inflation was not likely to come down any time soon as food prices would remain under pressure due to a lower Kharif output expected for rice, pulses and oilseeds. While high food prices and the low base of last September, when retail inflation was 4.35%, were expected to push up the headline number, Mr. Joshi noted that non-food inflation also continued to remain high.

Six major States reported inflation that exceeded 8% – West Bengal (9.44%), Telangana (8.67%), Madhya Pradesh (8.65%), Andhra Pradesh and Odisha (8.05%) and Maharashtra (8.03%) – with Gujarat and Haryana coming close at 7.95%.

Were objectives of demonetisation achieved, SC Bench asks Centre, RBI

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

A Constitution Bench on Wednesday questioned whether the government and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) realised their stated objectives of choking black money, terror financing and fake currency through the policy to demonetise ₹500 and ₹1,000 notes in 2016.

“What about black money and terror funding?” Justice S. Abdul Nazeer, heading the five-judge Bench of the Supreme Court, asked while hearing 58 petitions challenging demonetisation.

The court’s question came despite the government urging the Bench not to “waste” judicial time on the issue. Attorney-General R. Venkataramani termed the case “academic” in nature as things had long settled.

“You may not be able to undo something that has happened, but whether in the future such power can be exercised or not can be



looked into,” Justice A.S. Bopanna said.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta questioned the very maintainability of the case which concerned a purely economic policy of the government.

Senior advocates P. Chidambaram and Shyam Divan, for petitioners, said the issue was “very much alive”. Demonetisation in 1946 and 1978 were implemented through separate Acts debated by Parliament. In 2016, it was done through a mere notification issued under provisions of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. He said the court should declare the law or nothing would stop the government from

 You may not be able to undo something that has happened, but whether in the future such power can be exercised or not can be looked into

JUSTICE A.S. BOPANNA
Member of SC Bench

repeating the exercise which had seen “horrendous consequences”.

Mr. Chidambaram, citing the RBI’s annual report, submitted that ₹15.44 lakh crore worth of currency was demonetised. The withdrawn money amounted to 86.4% of the currency in circulation at the time. Only ₹16,000 crore out of the ₹15.44 lakh crore was not returned. He said only .0027% fake currency was “captured” following demonetisation.

But Justice V. Ramasubramanian, on the Bench, said may be all fake currency holders had not dared to come forward to try and exchange their counterfeit currency for the new

ones... Their currency out there might have been rendered useless by demonetisation.

Mr. Chidambaram said crucial documents leading to the massive exercise were not in the public domain – he asked the court to call for them. The Cabinet took an “instantaneous decision” to clear the withdrawal and the Prime Minister announced it on TV on November 8.

“Is it a reasonable and prudent decision-making process that you withdraw 86.4% of currency in 24 hours and do not place the documents in the public domain?” Mr. Chidambaram asked in court.

The court wondered whether the government had thought about the consequences before going ahead with the withdrawal of the banknotes. It scheduled the next hearing on November 9 and directed the government and the RBI to file comprehensive affidavits in response to Mr. Chidambaram’s submissions.

After inspection, govt. stops Maiden Pharma unit from making drugs

According to tentative results, four of the 23 samples of the medicines tested in the Gambia had been found to contain diethylene glycol or ethylene glycol, WHO had informed India

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) and the Haryana State Drugs Controller have ordered that all manufacturing activity at Maiden Pharmaceuticals in Sonapat be stopped on grounds of deficiencies found following an inspection of the company's facilities, a senior Health Ministry official has confirmed.

The World Health Organization (WHO) on September 29 informed India's national drug regulator that it was providing technical assistance and advice to the Gambia, where children had died after suspected to use of the medicines manufactured by Maiden Pharmaceuticals contaminated with diethylene glycol or ethylene glycol.

The Health Ministry, on Wednesday, constituted a four-member expert com-



Problem drugs: The cough syrups from Maiden Pharma are reported to have been contaminated with diethylene glycol. AFP

mittee comprising Dr. Y.K Gupta, Vice-Chairperson, Standing National Committee on Medicines (Chair); Dr. Pragya D. Yadav, National Institute of Virology, Indian Council of Medical Research, Pune; Dr. Arti Bahl, Division of Epidemiology, National Centre for Disease Control, Delhi; and A.K. Pradhan of the CDSCO.

“The committee will, after examining and analys-

ing adverse event reports, causal relationship and all related details shared by the WHO, suitably advise and recommend government regulatory authorities about the further course of action. The committee may co-opt any other technical expert as deemed necessary,” a Health Ministry official said.

India was also informed by the WHO that according

to tentative results received by it, out of the 23 samples of the products under reference which were tested, four samples had been found to contain diethylene glycol/ ethylene glycol.

“The WHO has not yet made available the certificate of analysis. It has informed that the same will be made available in near future. The exact one-to-one causal relation of death has not yet been provided by the WHO to the CDSCO, though the CDSCO has requested the WHO twice in this regard,” the Health Ministry maintained on Wednesday.

The CDSCO has said that it would examine the response from Maiden Pharma to allegations of violations of norms set for the production of drugs by the Haryana State Drugs Controller, which has issued a show cause notice. The company's response is expected by the end of the week.

We need a forest-led COP27

In September, a study published in the journal *Science* said earth may have already passed through five dangerous tipping points due to the 1.1°C of global heating caused by humanity to date.

Calls for developing and transferring technologies to support action on climate change have become louder worldwide. Technology has become a survival strategy for our species, but the degree of techno-determinism that exists in the strategy to reverse climate change is alarming. Technology alone is unprepared to deal with the challenge, which requires a societal overhaul and a zero emission strategy.

History is on the side of technological innovation. Norman Borlaug, for instance, ushered in the Green Revolution, which fed billions of people and increased yields. But we may need a few million climate Borlaugs to tackle the problems staring at us.

Technological optimism

COP26 at Glasgow also fuelled technological optimism. There was an observation that every technological solution discussed at COP26 depends on just three resources: nelectricity (non-emitting electricity generated by hydropower, renewables or nuclear fission), carbon capture and storage (CCS) or biomass. The total demand for those resources required by the plans discussed at COP26 cannot be met by 2050.

We currently have 4kWh/day of nelectricity per person. But the COP26 plans require 32 (range 16-48). We currently have 6kg of CCS per person per year, but the COP26 plans require 3,600 (range 1,400-5,700). We eat 100kg plant-based food per person each year, but producing enough bio-kerosene to fly at today's levels requires 200kg of additional harvest. There is no possibility that our supplies of these will be near the levels required by the plans discussed at COP26.

In 2003, Ken Caldeira at the Carnegie Institution found that the



James Sangma

is Minister of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, and Forests & Environment, Government of Meghalaya



Iram Mirza

is Advisor to the Government on impact programming and management

Technology, at best, can assist us, not lead us, on the pathway to a sustainable, regenerative and equitable world

world would need a nuclear plant's worth of clean-energy capacity every day between 2000 and 2050 to avoid catastrophic climate change. In 2018, MIT Technology Review reported that at the given rate, the world will take nearly 400 years to transform the energy system.

Tech-centric mitigation conversations leave forest economies and subjects such as conservation and forests, which are the best carbon removal instruments, to the ideological fringes of climate conversation. Climate action requires the same amount of investment in conservation as we see in shiny new technology transfers.

While there was the deforestation-ending climate commitment at COP26, the nature of the pledge was vague. Countries may easily attempt to achieve their 'net zero deforestation goals' through monoculture farming. But this won't be of much help: scientists, in a commentary in *Nature*, have stated that naturally preserved forests are 40% more effective than planted ones.

Our climate crisis is intertwined with other complex issues. This means that we must insist on multi-pronged, interconnected climate solutions. Forests shine here too. Nothing exemplifies this more than the intersection of the climate change crisis and the biodiversity crisis. Forests, which are home to 80% of terrestrial wildlife, are at this intersection.

Forests absorb a net 7.6 billion metric tonnes of CO₂ a year. A

new study has found that their biophysical aspects have a tendency to cool the earth by an additional 0.5%. The conservation of forests, along with other nature-based solutions, can provide up to 37% of the emissions reductions needed to tackle climate change. The Dasgupta Review-Independent Review on the Economics of Biodiversity reports that green infrastructure (salt marshes and mangroves) are 2-5 times cheaper than grey infrastructure (breakwaters).

Another study estimated that the annual gross carbon emissions from tropical tree cover loss between 2015 and 2017 was equivalent to 4.8 billion tonnes. This causes more emissions each year than 85 million cars do in their lifetime. In 2019, approximately 34% of total net anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions came from the energy supply sector, 24% from industry, 22% from agriculture, forestry and other land use, 15% from transport and 6% from buildings.

Conserving natural sinks

The IPCC Land Report estimates that land serves as a large CO₂ sink. There is a growing body of evidence that a large proportion of the required removals could be achieved by conserving natural sinks, improving biodiversity protection, and restoring ecosystems. Preserving earth's cyclical processes by protecting terrestrial ecosystems and natural sinks and transformative agricultural practices under the leadership of indigenous people and local communities is a far more equitable and cost-effective way of tackling the climate crisis than it is being done now.

We need to realise that the climate crisis is just a symptom; our real problem is that human consumption and activity have exceeded the regenerative capacity of our planet. Technology, at best, can assist us, not lead us, on the pathway to a sustainable, regenerative and equitable world.



RITU RAJ KONWAR

Home Minister to launch Hindi version of first-year MBBS books on Oct. 16

Shubhomoy Sikdar

RAIPUR

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will launch the Hindi versions of first-year MBBS textbooks in Bhopal on October 16. With this, Madhya Pradesh will inch closer to becoming the first State to provide medical education in Hindi.

The scheduled launch comes at a time when the Chief Ministers of two southern States have voiced their reservations against the move of the Parliamentary Committee on Official Language, headed by Mr. Shah, to employ Hindi as a medium of instruction in key institutions in the Hindi-speaking States, and regional languages elsewhere.

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, however, said the initiative would change mindsets and prove that



The books have been prepared by a committee of 97 doctors.

one could progress in life even after being educated in the Hindi medium. He said the move would make students feel proud of their mother tongue.

The translated versions, says Medical Education Minister Vishvas Sarang, of books on medical biochemistry, medical physiology, and anatomy, have been prepared by a panel of 97 doctors over the past eight to nine months. He said not everyone warmed

to the idea initially. “There was resistance from the experts. Some said it was not possible, while others said students might lose the competitive advantage but we persisted taking into account all these reservations,” Mr. Sarang said.

There are, however, some fears about a Hindi-centric approach robbing students of crucial opportunities, and about the practical difficulties involved. Aakash Soni, former president of the Madhya Pradesh Junior Doctors’ Association (Undergraduate wing), said if such a move was made compulsory, then people may only be able to work in Hindi-speaking States.

One UG medical student from Bhopal said medical education involved going through a lot of reference books that are in English, and a mix of languages could cause confusion.

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.