



VEDHIK

DAILY NEWS ANALYSIS

28 - OCT - 2022

भारत सरकार

चिंतन शिविर

27 - 28 अक्टूबर 2022

सूरजकुंड, हरियाणा



FOREWORD

We, at Team Vedhik is happy to introduce a new initiative - "Vedhik - Daily News Analysis (DNA)_The Hindu" compilations to help you with UPSC Civil Services Examination preparation. We believe this initiative - "Vedhik - Daily News Analysis (DNA)_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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‘Mission to end when Gilgit-Baltistan, PoK reunite with India’

Peerzada Ashiq

SRINAGAR

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Thursday that the mission of full integration of Jammu & Kashmir that started on August 5, 2019 “will be complete when Gilgit-Baltistan and areas of the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK)” will reunite with India.

“We feel the pain of residents of PoK, facing atrocities and violation of their rights at the hands of Pakistan. On this side, Kashmir and Ladakh are set on a new path of development and prosperity (post August 5, 2019). This is just the beginning. The mission will complete only when Gilgit-Baltistan and areas of PoK reunite with India. Also, when justice is delivered to the refugees of 1947 and they get their land and homes back. The day is not far away,” Mr. Singh said while referring



Rajnath Singh in Srinagar on Thursday. NISSAR AHMAD

to the resolution passed by Parliament on retrieving PoK in 1994.

Mr. Singh was speaking during the ‘Shaurya Diwas’ in Budgam district to commemorate the Indian Army’s successes after the landing of soldiers in J&K on October 27, 1947, a day after India signed the Instrument of Accession with then J&K ruler Maharaja Hari Singh.

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'Mission to end when PoK reunites with India'

Mr. Singh accused Pakistan of committing excesses in PoK. "I want to ask Pakistan, which sheds crocodile's tears over human rights, about how the residents of PoK are being treated, their rights are violated and denied. Pakistan is illegally occupying these areas and sowing seeds of hatred. Time is not far when Pakistan will have to pay for the suppression and atrocities unleashed on the residents of PoK," Mr. Singh said.

He also questioned the role played by human rights groups in J&K. "Where are human rights groups when security forces and civilians are attacked? Human rights groups and the so-called intellectuals have been supporting terrorists and their supporters when the security forces would take action against them. India is a country which is even sensitive towards trees and plants not to talk about human beings," Mr. Singh said.

"The situation Kashmir was in, the silence of these so-called intellectuals was also responsible for it. Kashmir saw ethnic cleansing of Kashmiri Pandits and their forced migration too," he added.

He said terrorism was unacceptable to India. "When a terrorist comes to kill, he does not differentiate between a Hindu and Muslim. He kills a human being and an Indian," he said.

The Defence Minister said Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 5, 2019 ended special provisions of Article 370 and walked the talk, a dream nursed for more than 70 years.

"August 5 was the realisation of the dreams of leaders Syama Prasad Mookerjee and Prem Nath Dogra. This region had suffered because of '*dou pradhan, vidhan, nishan*'. The Central schemes on development would stop at the borders of Punjab and Himachal. Leave aside special status, people were denied even the basic rights (prior to August 5, 2019)," he said.

He said Dogras and the Dogra rulers had played an important role in J&K's history and contributed to the region's development in the past.

The old but relevant script of the Cuban Missile crisis

“Tell me how it ends,” is the common refrain of generals and leaders when in the middle of a war. The Ukraine war is no exception. Neither President Volodymyr Zelensky or his western partners, nor his Russian adversary, President Vladimir Putin, can predict how the war will end.

Earlier assumptions have been upended – Russia’s short ‘special military operation’ to ‘de-Nazify and de-militarise’ Ukraine is already a nine-month-war, and likely to extend into 2023; trans-Atlantic North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) unity under U.S. leadership despite visible internal differences has not collapsed; Mr. Zelensky’s emergence as a wartime leader is surprising; and, poor Russian military planning and performance, a shock. For the present, Russia is too strong to lose and Ukraine, despite NATO support, too weak to win; so, the war grinds on with no ceasefire in sight.

Yet, there is one outcome that must be prevented – a breakdown of nuclear deterrence. Nuclear weapons have not been used since 1945 and a global conscience has sustained the nuclear taboo for over 75 years. None of the three principals in Ukraine would want the taboo breached. However, escalation creates its own dynamic.

Lessons from Cuba

It is time to revisit the sobering lessons of the Cuban Missile crisis (October 1962) that brought the world to the edge of nuclear Armageddon, as the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. engaged in an eyeball-to-eyeball confrontation. On October 16, 1962, U.S. President John F. Kennedy was informed that the U.S.S.R. was preparing to deploy medium and intermediate range nuclear missiles in Cuba. After deliberating with his core group of advisers, he rejected the idea of an invasion or a nuclear strike against Moscow, and on October 22, declared a naval ‘quarantine’ of Cuba. Simultaneously, he authorised his brother Robert Kennedy to open a back-channel with Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin.

The crisis defused on October 28; based on assurances conveyed through the back-channel, Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev announced that Soviet nuclear missiles and aircraft would be withdrawn in view of U.S. assurances to respect Cuba’s territorial integrity and sovereignty. What was kept a secret by both leaders was the fact that reciprocally, the U.S. also agreed to withdraw the Jupiter nuclear missiles from Turkey.

Yet, there were plenty of unforeseen events. On October 27, a U.S. surveillance flight strayed over Cuban airspace and was targeted by Soviet air defence forces. Major Rudolf Anderson was



Rakesh Sood

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With the risks for escalation and miscalculations growing in the Ukraine war, it is time to revisit the sobering lessons of 1962

shot down, the only casualty. This happened despite Kennedy having counselled desisting from provocative surveillance and Khrushchev not having authorised the engagement. Both sides kept the news under wraps till the crisis defused when Major Anderson’s sacrifice was recognised and honoured.

A day earlier, a Soviet nuclear armed submarine B-59 found itself trapped by U.S. depth charges, off Cuban waters. The U.S. was unaware that the submarine was nuclear armed and Captain Valentin Savitsky did not know that a quarantine was in operation. He decided to go down fighting but his decision to launch a nuclear bomb was vetoed by Capt. Vasily Arkhipov. The Soviets followed a two-person-authorisation-rule and unknown to Kennedy and Khrushchev, a potential Armageddon was averted.

The most shocking revelation emerged decades later when the U.S. learnt that unbeknownst to them, over 150 warheads for the FKR-1 Meteor missile, short range FROG missile, and gravity bombs were already present in Cuba. These were intended for defence in case the U.S. launched a repeat of the 1961 failed Bay of Pigs invasion. Despite Cuban leader Fidel Castro’s opposition, Premier Khrushchev insisted on withdrawing these too, conscious that these could provide the spark for a future escalation.

The key lesson learnt was that the two nuclear superpowers should steer clear of any direct confrontation even as their rivalry played out in other regions, thereby keeping it below the nuclear threshold. Deterrence theorists called it ‘the stability-instability-paradox’. With their assured-second-strike-capability guaranteeing mutually-assured-destruction, both the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. were obliged to limit the instability to proxy wars. Nuclear war games over decades remained unable to address the challenge of keeping a nuclear war limited once a nuclear weapon was introduced in battle.

Russia’s nuclear signalling

The Ukraine war is testing the old lessons of nuclear deterrence. Russia sees itself at war, not with non-nuclear Ukraine, but with a nuclear armed NATO. Mr. Putin has therefore engaged in repeated nuclear signalling – from being personally present in mid-February at large-scale exercises involving ‘strategic forces’, to placing nuclear forces on ‘special combat alert’ on February 27.

He raised the stakes again on September 21 when he ordered a ‘partial mobilisation’, announced referendums in the four regions of Luhansk, Donetsk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia, accused the West of engaging in nuclear blackmail and warned that Russia has ‘more

modern weapons’ and ‘will certainly make use of all weapon systems available; this is not a bluff’. He cited U.S. bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 as a precedent.

In recent days, Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu has spoken to his counterparts in a number of countries including Defence Minister Rajnath Singh that Ukraine may be preparing to use a ‘dirty bomb’. India’s response was that any use of such weapons would be against “the basic tenets of humanity”.

However, Russian nuclear use makes little operational sense. In 1945, Japan was on the verge of surrender and only the U.S. possessed nuclear weapons. Use of a tactical nuclear weapon will only strengthen Ukrainian national resolve; NATO response is unlikely to be nuclear but will be sharp. International political backlash would be significant and Mr. Putin may find himself increasingly isolated. Many countries in East and Central Asia could reconsider nuclear weapons as a security necessity.

Role for global diplomacy

During the next few weeks, the fighting in Ukraine will intensify, before winter sets in and the weather freezes military operations till spring. This raises the risks for escalation and miscalculations. Right now, the goal of a ceasefire seems too distant, though eminently desirable. The United Nations appears paralysed given the involvement of permanent members of the Security Council. Therefore, it is for other global leaders who have access and influence, to convince Mr. Putin that nuclear escalation would be a disastrous move.

Indonesia is the G-20 chair and President Joko Widodo will be hosting the summit meeting next month. India is the incoming chair; Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be attending the summit. Both Indonesia and India have refrained from condemning Russia, keeping communication channels open. In a bilateral meeting with Mr. Putin in Samarkand last month, Mr. Modi emphasised that “now is not the era of war”. In the run-up to the G-20 summit, Mr. Widodo and Mr. Modi are well placed to take a diplomatic initiative to persuade Mr. Putin to step away from the nuclear rhetoric. This means emphasising the deterrent role of nuclear weapons and not expanding it; to reiterating Russia’s official declaratory position that restricts nuclear use for “an existential threat”.

Such a statement would help reduce growing fears of escalation and may also provide a channel for communication and open the door for a dialogue that can lead to a ceasefire. The lessons of the Cuban Missile crisis remain valid 60 years later.

Should governments sell liquor and run lotteries?

PARLEY

Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan recently criticised the State government for relying heavily on liquor and lottery to generate revenue. He said the State government was making poor people spend their earnings on lottery tickets and getting them addicted to alcohol. Should governments sell liquor and run lotteries? Nimai Mehta and Jayan Jose Thomas discuss the question in a conversation moderated by Prashanth Perumal J. Edited excerpts:

Should the government sell sin goods?

Nimai Mehta: I don't believe the government should be in sin business or in any business. But there are specific reasons why the government should not be involved in providing goods like alcohol. First, the role of the state is to provide public goods. The consumption of sin goods is instead linked with 'public bad'. The negative effects of these sin goods disproportionately impact the weaker sections of society.

Second, the role of the state needs to be considered not just from the supply side, but from the demand side as well, because the rising demand for alcohol is a public health concern. The Indian state, at least since Independence, has regulated all aspects of alcohol on the supply side. Despite that, there is a rapidly growing demand for alcohol. This needs to be brought into the picture when you want to assess the proper role of the state.

Finally, historically, the state's involvement in sin goods has been motivated by the desire to raise revenue. So, we've got this problem where the revenue-maximising objective takes precedence over public interest. Many States are heavily dependent on alcohol-based revenues. It's not a healthy position for any state to be so dependent on a single commodity.

Jayan Jose Thomas: I have a slightly different view. The state can play a positive role in regulating the sale and consumption of sin goods. An important instrument is taxes. Studies have shown that raising the tax rates on, and thereby the prices of, sin goods will discourage people from consuming them, at least in the long run. At the same time, the taxes collected form a significant source of financial resources for the state, which can be used for development programmes. So, some argue that such sin taxes create a win-win situation.

Taxes on the sale of alcohol do form a considerable part of the revenues in several States. But this situation must be viewed against the larger context of Centre-State financial resources and responsibilities. In 2019-20, own tax revenues, collected by the States, accounted for only 43.5% of the total revenues of all States



People wait in queue to buy liquor from an outlet in Thiruvananthapuram. PTI

and Union Territories combined. State governments are heavily dependent on the financial devolutions from the Centre. At the same time, they have a greater responsibility for expenditure on social sectors. With the introduction of GST, there are only a limited number of goods and services – mainly alcohol and petroleum products – on which the State governments can independently set tax rates. So, if State finances are increasingly dependent on taxes from alcohol, it has mainly to do with the limited autonomy that the States enjoy in raising financial resources.

Can government monopoly in liquor and lottery lead to adverse consequences in terms of the product's quality and price?

NM: There is a lot of variation in the structure of state control over the alcohol industry in India. There are forms of direct and indirect control. These vary across States and from year to year, especially in the way excise and license fees are being set. But, yes, in principle, when you have a monopoly and the intention is to restrict supply, you should expect an increase in prices. You should also expect to see new entrants in the market, who could compete on quality, being discouraged. In the U.S., some 15 out of the 50 States have some form of direct control in the supply of spirits. If you look at the price of alcohol in those States, it is higher than in States with no controls. In States where the liquor trade was privatised, prices have come down, but they have not come down by much because price also depends on other factors such as indirect controls (for example, licensing policies and taxes) and/or consumer demand.

Does government intervention increase the risk of capture of sin goods industries by special interest groups? For instance, some have argued that special interest groups in India have discouraged the consumption of low-alcohol beverages like toddy.

NM: Among economists, there is a consensus



Taxing these goods alone will not help us win this fight. There have to be public education programmes to wean people away from, and thereby reduce the demand for, sin goods.

JAYAN JOSE THOMAS

that public goods such as health ought to be a primary concern of the state. But when it comes to practice, we should be taking into account the role of special interest groups. Legislators, politicians, bureaucrats, regulators, experts in the enforcement side... each of them has their own interests. Once we recognise that these special interest groups exist, the net effect is uncertain. Like in the case of toddy, you could have special interest groups coming together in a way that goes against true public interest. In the U.S., the FDA (Federal Drug Administration) decided to ban the sale of e-cigarettes by Juul, a multinational company. Many in the scientific community recognise that as a regressive step because vaping is less harmful than smoking tobacco. In this case, there was a mix of internal interests (in the form of the preferences of FDA regulators) and external interests (in the form of the interests of advocacy groups which were against e-cigarettes).

JJT: I agree that the concerns of all stakeholders must be looked into while formulating policy interventions to restrict the consumption of sin goods. Consider, for instance, the tobacco industry. In 2017-18, it provided employment to 3.4 million Indians, 3 million of whom were women. Measures to limit the consumption of tobacco should go hand in hand with steps for providing alternative livelihood opportunities for those engaged in tobacco farming and processing.

What is the specific impact of governments selling sin goods on the poor compared to other classes?

JJT: There are limitations to using taxes or high prices as the only instrument to restrict the consumption of sin goods. If a person addicted to alcohol is unable to let go of that habit despite high prices, his household will suffer. So, it is important to deploy other instruments too, such as public campaigns against the abuse of intoxicants. In any case, there is some reason for cheer. The proportion of men who drink alcohol in India decreased from 29% in 2015-16 to 22% in 2019-21 (NFHS data).

NM: If you go back in time, you can see how the Temperance movement that began in the 1880s later transformed itself and fuelled the Independence movement. The concern has always been about drinking habits and the

impact they had on the vulnerable sections in society. During the Temperance movement, it was the lower castes and tribes that ended up joining the movement in large numbers. All those movements were directed against the role of the British Imperial state in encouraging the sale of alcohol. So, the poor have always had to bear a disproportionate burden of alcohol consumption. Now fast forward to 2016, when Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar introduced a draconian prohibition law. He too was responding to the poor housewives in Bihar who had suffered as a result of excessive drinking by their husbands. India still has a large share of abstainers, but the drinking habits among the poor stand out. The poor tend to drink liquor that has higher alcohol content relative to upper- and middle-class individuals.

Sin taxes can discourage consumption, but there is a regressive effect on the poor. This is because such taxes don't work directly through a price effect, but rather through an income effect on the poor. So, while the middle and upper-middle classes may continue to consume their favourite alcohol, the poor may tend to switch to the consumption of illicit, lower quality alcohol that is cheaper but dangerous to health. Also, over the last two decades, there is a rise in demand for alcohol, as preferences are shifting. So, irrespective of what the sin tax is, if the demand itself is shifting outwards, there is a limit to which we can control demand simply through sin taxes. So, we need to take lessons from the Temperance movement.

Is the real problem then that alcohol consumption is becoming more socially acceptable?

NM: Yes. The increase in consumption is on the part of women, and the middle and upper-middle classes. A rising aspirational demand is fuelling the rise in alcohol consumption. Also, norms of abstinence have been falling. Cultural and religious norms are no longer as effective as they may have been earlier. We have to rethink how this rising demand can be influenced by some form of intervention on the demand side by the state, but also in terms of individuals taking more responsibility for the social impact of their drinking.

JJT: The fight against alcohol abuse, gambling, and so on must be long-term and multi-pronged. Taxing these goods alone will not help us win this fight. There have to be public education programmes to wean people away from, and thereby reduce the demand for, sin goods.



To listen to the full interview
Scan the code or go to the link
www.thehindu.com

RBI policy panel to discuss inflation report on Nov. 3

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has called for an additional meeting of its Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) on November 3 to discuss its response to the Centre for missing the mandated target of 2% to 6% retail inflation for three quarters in a row.

“An additional meeting of the MPC is being scheduled on November 3,” the RBI said in a statement.

RBI must explain to Centre why inflation exceeded 2-6% band 3 quarters in a row

The MPC would deliberate on the report to be sent by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das explaining why the target was missed and what measures the RBI would take to bring inflation back within the range.

This will be the first time such a report is prepared

since the MPC framework took effect in 2016. This will also be the second time an off-schedule meeting has been called for this year. In May, the panel had met to raise rates in a bid to rein in inflation.

With the pandemic squeezing supply chains, combined with the Russian war, inflation in India has remained above 6% for more than three quarters, making it mandatory for the RBI to explain remedial actions to the government.

Rupee gains as dollar slips against major currencies

Weak U.S. housing data spurs hope that the Federal Reserve would go slow on raising rates; but renewed strength in crude oil prices will keep pressure on the domestic currency, says an analyst

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The rupee on Thursday strengthened by 48 paise against the dollar on account of the U.S. currency softening against major currencies.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the Indian unit closed at 82.33 compared with its previous close of 82.81.

“The rupee edged higher amid the decline seen in the dollar index towards a one-month low and improved risk sentiments,” said Sugandha Sachdeva, VP, Commodities and Currency Research, Religare Broking. “The greenback



Cost of funds: Discouraging U.S. housing data is indicative of the damage caused by the rise in borrowing costs, says an analyst. AFP

has slipped lower by around 1.5% this week on the back of wagers that the Fed might adopt a slightly less aggressive policy stance post the November meeting owing to the dis-

couraging U.S. housing market data.”

‘Borrowing costs rise’
“Weak data is indicative of the damage caused by the rising borrowing costs

which might push the U.S. central bank to turn less hawkish than previously anticipated. Furthermore, renewed strength in crude oil prices is also likely to weigh on the domestic currency,” she added.

Gaurang Somaiya, Forex & Bullion Analyst, Motilal Oswal Financial Services, said, “Expectation is that the Federal Reserve will slow the pace of its rate hiking cycle. This sent the Euro back above parity with the greenback for the first time in a month.”

“Pound extended gains on optimism that Rishi Sunak and his team will restore stability and credibility in the U.K.,” he added.

U.S. growth rebounds, but demand stalling

Reuters

WASHINGTON

U.S. economic growth rebounded strongly in the third quarter at 2.6% amid a shrinking trade deficit, but that overstates the economy's health as domestic demand was the weakest in two years because of the Federal Reserve's aggressive interest rate increases.

The Commerce Department's advance third-quarter gross domestic product report on Thursday also

Housing investment contracted for sixth straight quarter as market buckled under surging rates

showed residential investment contracting for a sixth straight quarter as the housing market buckles under the weight of surging mortgage rates. Inflation slowed substantially from Q2, but price pressures continued to bubble.

Goyal urges textile sector to begin procuring cotton

The Hindu Bureau
COIMBATORE

Textile manufacturers should start securing cotton to meet their requirement, Union Textile Minister Piyush Goyal has said.

According to a statement, Mr. Goyal also urged the cotton-sector stakeholders to discuss strategies to ensure traceability of cotton and get better value for cotton products.

Industry sources said cotton prices were currently ruling at ₹68,000 a candy. Though mills were buying cotton now, there were uncertainties over prices



and hence, mills were reluctant to buy in large quantities. The mills were hopeful of a further slide in prices.

J. Thulasidharan, president, Indian Cotton Federation, said Indian cotton prices were slightly higher than global cotton prices.

Though the new cotton season started on October 1, arrivals were low with just 60,000- 70,000 bales arriving daily at the market against 1 lakh bales usually seen at this time of year.

The crop is delayed this year and as prices are falling, it looks like farmers are not bringing the kappas to the market. "Arrivals are expected to pick up next week," he said.

Meanwhile, at a meeting with exporters, Mr. Goyal said textile exports in 2021-2022 stood at about \$42 billion and the target was to achieve \$100 billion in the next five to six years.

Limits of pleasure

Governor Khan should not conflate role as Chancellor with constitutional duties

Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan has declared that he is withdrawing his pleasure as far as Finance Minister K.N. Balagopal is concerned. He expects constitutionally appropriate action by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. In other words, Mr. Khan wants Mr. Balagopal dismissed for remarks that he sees as seditious, undermining national unity and stoking regionalism. However, Mr. Vijayan has rejected the demand. It is difficult to agree with the Governor's assessment that an observation that those who had seen only universities in Uttar Pradesh would not understand universities in Kerala is seditious or goes against national unity. In normal circumstances, when the Governor conveys his displeasure with a Minister's conduct, it will have considerable persuasive value. However, in the backdrop of the unrelenting acrimony between Raj Bhavan and the Cabinet, it may have not evoked any serious response. Needless to say, the polite phrase in the Constitution that applies the doctrine of pleasure to a Minister's tenure is nothing more than a reference to the will of the Chief Minister on the continuance or dismissal of a member of his ministerial Council.

This constitutional position, however, does not mean that the underlying controversy over the appointment of V-Cs to universities in Kerala can be brushed aside. After the Supreme Court set aside the appointment made in the A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Technological University, Thiruvananthapuram, Mr. Khan directed nine other V-Cs to resign, flagging what he felt were similar legal infirmities in their appointment. His point was that just as it was in the case before the apex court, these V-Cs too were either appointed by the submission of a single name by Search Committees (instead of a panel of three to five names, as required under UGC regulations), or were chosen by committees that included the State's Chief Secretary. The Governor/Chancellor was obviously wrong in fixing a short deadline for their resignation, and he subsequently converted the communication into show-cause notices to them, asking them to explain why their appointments should not be deemed illegal. It is a separate legal question whether the judgment in the case of one V-C is automatically applicable to all others. However, given its potential for litigation, the sooner the university statutes in Kerala are brought in line with the UGC regulations, the better. However, there is no doubt that Governor-Chancellors should not conflate their statutory powers to handle university matters with their constitutional role in Raj Bhavan. The tussle makes a good case for why Governors, whose overtly political functioning is an uneasy fact of political life, should not be tasked with being Chancellors.

GM mustard will be ready for cultivation in 3 crop seasons: IARI director

Ashok Kumar Singh says the environmental nod will lead to finding a science-based solution to the challenge of importing edible oils, and allow the development of more high-yielding hybrids

A.M. Jigesh
NEW DELHI

Welcoming the decision of the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) to provide environmental clearance for genetically modified mustard, Ashok Kumar Singh, director, Indian Agriculture Research Institute (IARI), said it will lead to finding a science-based solution for a major challenge – the import of edible oil. Dr. Singh said the clearance would also allow the development of more high-yielding hybrids in the sector.

Talking to *The Hindu*, Dr. Singh said the environmental release of GM mustard would provide an opportunity for mustard breeders to develop diverse and high-yielding hybrids. He added that there was no need to go for the clearance of the Environment Ministry as the hybrid was environmentally



Field test: With the GEAC approval, the ICAR will now test the hybrid for its yield before commercial cultivation. REUTERS

released by the GEAC. “In BT cotton too, a similar process was followed. Now the responsibility is on the Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) for testing the hybrid. Now, the hybrid can be commercially cultivated after producing large quantity of its seeds. In this season, as there are not much seeds available, the available male line and female line of the hybrid have to be multiplied. In the second season, we have to go for large quantity of hybrid

seed production by crossing female with male. In the third season, it will be available for commercial cultivation,” Dr. Singh said.

The ICAR has an established system to coordinate research projects, known as the All India Coordinated Research Project, in which scientists test the hybrid and varieties developed by different institutions. “Now, the GEAC has given environmental clearance for Dhara Mustard Hybrid (DMH -11). Therefore, this hybrid can now

be tested in the all-India coordinated trial of AICRP for its yield advantage. If it is found for higher yielding, then it will be released for commercial cultivation,” Dr. Singh said explaining the next process.

The most important aspect of the technology, Dr. Singh said, was that it had used barnase and bar genes system for creating diverse parent and the chances of yield enhancement was more. The Environment Ministry had earlier sought studies on the impact of the genes on soil microbes. “This data was there in the application and the GEAC accepted the data,” Dr. Singh said.

Regarding the effect of GM mustard on honey bees and other pollinators, Dr. Singh said, “Barnase and bar genes are protein and honey is basically sugar without any protein content. So the question of honey being affected by this does not arise. These genes are safe.”

PM to lay foundation stone for C-295 aircraft plant in Gujarat on October 30

Dinakar Peri

NEW DELHI

A manufacturing facility for C-295 transport aircraft will be set up at Vadodra in Gujarat by Tata Advanced Systems Ltd. (TASL) in partnership with European aviation major Airbus. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone for the plant on October 30.

Of the 56 C-295 aircraft to be procured by India as per a ₹21,935-crore deal, 40 will be built at this facility. These will replace the legacy Avro aircraft in service with the Indian Air Force (IAF).

The C-295 is an aircraft of 5-10 tonne capacity used for tactical transport of up to 71 passengers or 50 paratroopers, and for logistic operations to locations



New launch: A replica of the C-295 transport aircraft put up by Tata Advanced Systems Ltd. at an exhibition in Gandhinagar. PTI

that are not accessible by current heavier aircraft. It can operate from short or unprepared airstrips.

“This is the start of an entire ecosystem for aviation sector. This facility will act as the regional maintenance, repair and overhaul hub for all C-295, said Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar. “The first 16 fly-away aircraft are sche-

duled to be received between September 2023 and August 2025. The first made-in-India aircraft is expected from September 2026 and completed by 2031 at the rate of eight aircraft per year.”

Mr. Kumar said that in future this facility would also manufacture additional aircraft as per the requirements of the IAF.

Going green

T.N.'s conservation, climate change
announcements are avante-garde

Ensuring sustainable development requires more than good intentions and verbal commitments. And yet, commitment is that crucial first step. Tamil Nadu has struck out clearly for a future that would be climate conscious, greener, with a series of announcements this year – in the form of government orders and via the Budget. Apart from getting the Ramsar Site declaration for a record number of ecological zones as a well-planned and implemented initiative, it has also declared its intention to create green parks in 100 villages, that would cater to local requirements too. Also proposed are an elephant reserve at Agasthiyarmalai in the south, a dugong conservation park in the Palk Bay, a new bird sanctuary at Tiruppur, and establishing India's first-ever wildlife sanctuary for the slender loris in Dindigul and Karur district. While these and similar incremental efforts made possible with political will, if implemented well, will lend themselves to a visibly greener landscape, the bolder initiatives have been conceptualised within the challenging field of climate change, where conviction is the driver. The recently appointed governing council on Climate Change, which has experts including Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Nandan Nilekani and Erik Solheim, for instance, is an example of good intent followed by a solid tool to aid implementation. It will provide policy directives to the Climate Change Mission, advise on climate adaptation and mitigation activities, provide guidance to the State Action Plan on Climate Change and provide strategies for implementation. The setting up of a Green Climate Fund corpus is a further indication of commitment. Additionally, a special purpose vehicle, Tamil Nadu Green Climate Company, has been set up to advise on managing three important missions – Climate Change, Tamil Nadu Green and Wetlands.

But pursuing climate change has not been easy, not now, not ever. As per UN data, only 26 of 193 countries that agreed to enhance climate change action last year have followed up with concrete plans. For, indeed, the challenges are daunting. Environmental evangelism will have to drive these projects, so that the passion, urgency and seriousness that the parent institution (Environment and Climate Change department), brings to the table are absorbed by other departments. All modern states are beset by challenges in the sectors of energy transition, mobility transition and agricultural transition. It is crucial to build capacity capable of fashioning local solutions, and ensure that the announcements are all implemented, in a time-bound manner.

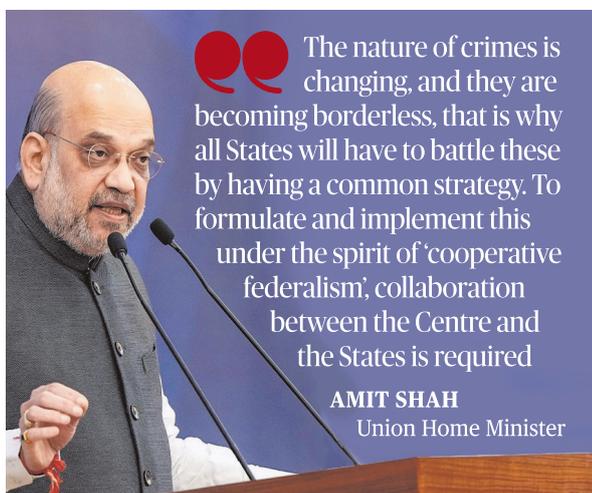
States should have a uniform policy on law and order: Shah

Home Minister calls for centralisation of data on terror and other crimes; each State to have a National Investigation Agency office by 2024 with powers to confiscate property in terror cases

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Thursday that States should have a uniform law and order policy as certain crimes such as cross-border terrorism and cybercrimes transcend regional and international boundaries.

Mr. Shah said that by 2024, to counter terror activities, each State would have a National Investigation Agency (NIA) office as the agency had been given “extra territorial jurisdiction” and additional powers to confiscate property in terror-related cases. He called for centralisation of data on terror and other crimes and said that following the principle of “one data, one entry,” the NIA had been entrusted



with the task of maintaining a national terror database, the Enforcement Directorate a dataset on financial crimes and the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on narco crimes.

The Minister urged the States to utilise the National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) that was operational now. The NATGRID brings

datasets of 11 agencies on a common platform.

Mr. Shah said, “The nature of crimes is changing, and they are becoming borderless, that is why all States will have to battle these by having a common strategy. To formulate and implement this under the spirit of ‘cooperative federalism’, cooperation, coor-

dination and collaboration between the Centre and the States is required.”

Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla said though law and order was a State subject, the Constitution provided that the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) could intervene in matters concerning national security and the Ministry from time to time sent advisories to States.

Mr. Shah was addressing State Home Ministers, Home Secretaries and Directors-General of Police and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) at the two-day *Chintan Shivir* (brainstorming session) on various internal security issues in Haryana’s Faridabad on the outskirts of Delhi.

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Shah espouses uniform law and order policy

Among the Opposition-ruled States, the conference was attended by Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and his Punjab counterpart Bhagwant Mann. West Bengal was the only State to be represented by an Additional Director General of Police rank officer, while Bihar sent DGP S.K Singhal to attend the meet. Tamil Nadu's Law Minister S. Reghupathy and Chhattisgarh's Home Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu were also present. Jharkhand was represented by its Finance Minister Rameshwar Oraon.

Mr. Shah said some NGOs were involved in anti-national activities, religious conversion, political opposition to development projects or propaganda against policies of the government. He said the amendments to the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) in 2020 successfully prevented the misuse of foreign funding and effective monitoring became possible. The FCRA was a mandatory requirement to receive foreign funds.

He said he had received thousands of suggestions on revamping the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) and soon the amendments would be presented in Parliament.

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 provision 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 & privilege and issues arising out of these;

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.