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**VEDHIK**  
**DAILY NEWS ANALYSIS**

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## 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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# A check over of the U.S.'s much anticipated NSS

The United States has launched its much anticipated National Security Strategy (NSS). All U.S. Presidents are mandated by the Goldwater-Nichols Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1986 to bring out their NSS, to communicate the executive's vision of national security to the legislative. As a comprehensive document, the NSS reflects certainty about how the government of the day views the national security agenda. Alternatively, the NSS also gives the Congress an opportunity to assess the cost that the country will have to bear and the areas of investments to achieve the nation's security goals.

## Focus on leadership and alliances

The Biden administration's NSS primarily focuses on the current decade as a 'decisive' one in which the U.S. seeks to sustain U.S. leadership, improve the U.S. economy, build on a vast network of alliances and partnerships; counter China as its strategic competitor and Russia as a disruptor, and boost U.S. competitiveness and defend democracy. The document portrays the ambitious agenda of the Biden administration to cover a comprehensive set of transnational challenges tying the domestic with the international. These include climate change, food insecurity, pandemics, terrorism, energy shortages and inflation. Besides, the administration's NSS has considerable focus on outer space security and governance.

The NSS lays down three main fulcrums of U.S. strategy going forward: invest; build and modernise. It seeks to invest in the "tools of American power and influence" by strengthening the economy at home, improving critical infrastructure and investing in technologies such as microchips and semiconductors. Consistent with this approach, effective October 12, the Biden administration has imposed a slew of sanctions impacting the U.S. sale of semiconductors to China as well as the ability of U.S. citizens and residents to work in chip companies in China. Furthermore, the NSS seeks to build 'the strongest possible coalition of nations' – a recognition of both the U.S.'s ambitions as well as limitations in driving global



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The release of the National Defense Strategy, the Nuclear Posture Review and the Missile Defense Review reinforces the central message of the Biden administration's National Security Strategy, which focuses on the current decade as being a 'decisive' one

geopolitics unilaterally. Finally, the modernisation sought by the U.S. is intended to cater to the wide-ranging demands of internal and external security, simultaneously. These capability enhancements underscore the recognition by the U.S. of the unprecedented scale and scope of strategic competition with China. It names China as the 'only competitor' with the capability and intent to shape the international order in a fundamental way.

## Outcompeting China, restraining Russia

The NSS takes both a long-term and an immediate view of the China threat and the challenges emerging from Beijing. While it seeks to outline a joint strategy to tackle external challenges for the U.S. by out-competing China and constraining Russia, it is asymmetrically tilted in its focus on threats from China despite an active war in which Russia is involved. The Biden administration places competition with China at the centre of its decadal outlook, which is increasingly global in character and most pronounced in the Indo-Pacific region across a range of domains such as the economy, technology, development, security, global governance and diplomacy. The NSS is clear about the opposition to any unilateral change to Taiwan's status by China, portending a contested Indo-Pacific region between China on one hand and a host of democratic partners on the other. Therefore, forging collective capacity through international partnerships and creating new alliances for tackling shared challenges lie at the heart of the NSS. This also forms an essential strategy for the U.S. to synchronously compete with China, constrain Russia, tackle non-traditional threats and transnational challenges such as climate change, communicable diseases, food security and inflation. The NSS makes a serious case for downgraded Russian economy, military, soft power and influence globally, even as it identifies countries such as Japan and India to fill the emerging gaps. One such process at which the NSS hints is India's possible integration in important global forums such as the G7. Here, some of the expectations in the NSS reflect the

U.S. interests purely and may not be entirely in sync with those of its other Indo-Pacific partners.

## India as partner

The Biden administration's NSS identifies India as both a bilateral and multilateral partner in the Indo-Pacific, but, more importantly, its status as the largest democracy and a major defence partner. As India looks to diversify and indigenise its defence needs in the medium and long term, the NSS lays out the space for partnership between India and the U.S. India's partnership in the Indo-Pacific has been assessed as critical in building a "latticework of strong, resilient and mutually reinforcing relationships" through regional partnerships such as the Quad (India, Australia, Japan the U.S.) and the I2U2 (India, Israel, the United Arab Emirates, and the U.S.).

Mr. Biden's NSS serves three broad purposes. It completes the strategic vision embarked upon by the Interim National Security Strategic Guidance released in March 2021; it seeks to provide further clarity and direction on various policy verticals by the Biden administration; and, finally, it marks an end to one of the most important political expectations about presidential doctrines in the U.S. The NSS comes just before the mid-term elections in November this year and could prove useful in amassing political support for President Biden and the Democratic Party by way of policy clarity.

A critical part of the NSS is to inform the U.S. Department of Defense's strategy, especially in the two areas of the country's nuclear posture and missile defence. As such, the NSS's release – delayed by the Russia-Ukraine war – appears to be a timely assessment in the backdrop of the Russia-Ukraine war with one of the most potent possibilities for the use of a nuclear weapon since the Cuban Missile crisis (1962). The Biden administration also released the National Defense Strategy, the Nuclear Posture Review and the Missile Defense Review last week further reinforcing the central message of the NSS, thereby aligning the nation's ends, ways and means and rounding off the arc of the national security assessment.

# United against terror

India must continue to persuade others that terrorism is a threat to humanity

India's decision to host the United Nations Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) is an important marker of the Government's ongoing effort to highlight terrorism issues at a time the global body has been more focused on the Ukraine war. Held in Mumbai and Delhi, it brought UN officials, and ministers and diplomats from all members of the Security Council (UNSC), to discuss challenges to the global counter-terrorism architecture. In Mumbai, the spotlight was on the 26/11 attacks. Despite the global nature of the terror targets, India has had an uphill battle since 2008 in international cooperation to pursue the case, and in bringing the lone surviving attacker, Ajmal Kasab, through a full trial and execution. After a brief period of information sharing, Pakistan has dragged its feet on prosecuting even LeT commanders Hafiz Saeed, Zaki-ur-Rahman Lakhvi and others that its Federal Investigative Agency held responsible for the attacks. During the UNSC conference, the attendees heard not only from victims of the attacks but also voice samples of LeT recruiter Sajid Mir directing terrorists during the attacks; even so Mir, now in a Pakistani prison on terror financing charges, after Pakistan's grey-listing at the Financial Action Task Force mandated action, has not been tried. The U.S., which has cooperated in many other ways with India on terrorism, convicted conspirators David Headley and Tahawwur Rana for the attacks, but has refused to extradite them. Meanwhile, China continues to block designating LeT leaders on the UNSC 1267 terror list, a problem External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken specifically mentioned at the conference.

In Delhi, the CTC focus was on online radicalisation and terror recruitment, terror financing through crypto-currency and virtual assets, and unmanned aerial system use including drones for terror strikes, transporting drugs and arms. The deliberations led to the "Delhi Declaration on countering the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes". While India has only two months left in its current elected tenure at the UNSC, the Government appears to be making efforts to keep up the momentum from the CTC meet; it will host an international "No Money For Terror" conference (November 18-19), and a UNSC special briefing on challenges to global counter-terrorism efforts (December 15-16). As the Indian experience with 26/11 has shown, the global community has often been long on statements but short on cooperative action, and New Delhi will have to keep pressing the point that terrorism remains, in Mr. Jaishankar's words, amongst the "gravest threats to humanity".

# Are there anti-superstition laws in India?

Are killings and deaths due to superstitious beliefs, black magic and sorcery still prevalent in the country? Is there a pan-India law which deals exclusively with such occult-inspired activities?

## Sumeda

### The story so far:

The brutal murders of two women as part of “ritualistic human sacrifices” in the Pathanamthitta district of Kerala have left the country in shock. Chilling details of the killings have sparked a debate about the prevalence of superstitious beliefs, black magic and sorcery in Kerala. In the absence of a comprehensive law to counter such acts, the call for a strict anti-superstition law has grown louder.

### Are such killings common?

As per the 2021 report of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), six deaths were linked to human sacrifices, while witchcraft was the motive for 68 killings. The maximum number of witchcraft cases were reported from Chhattisgarh

(20), followed by Madhya Pradesh (18) and Telangana (11). Kerala saw two cases of human sacrifice. In 2020, India saw 88 deaths due to witchcraft and 11 died as part of ‘human sacrifices’, the NCRB report states.

### What are the laws in India?

In India, there is no central law that exclusively deals with crimes related to witchcraft, superstition, or occult-inspired activities. In the absence of a nationwide legislation, a few States have enacted laws to counter witchcraft and protect women from deadly ‘witch-hunting’.

Bihar was the first State to enact a law to prevent witchcraft, identification of a woman as a witch and “eliminate torture, humiliation and killing of women.” The Prevention of Witch (Daain) Practices Act came into force in October 1999. Anyone who identifies a person as a “witch” and

acts to aid this identification can face a jail term of up to three months, or a fine of ₹1,000, or both. A similar law was passed in Jharkhand in 2001 – the Prevention of Witch (Daain) Practices Act.

Even though Chhattisgarh is one of the worst-affected States in terms of witchcraft-related crimes, the State enacted the Chhattisgarh Tonahi (witch) Pratadna Nivaran Act only in 2005. As per the law, a person convicted for identifying someone as a witch can be sentenced to up to three years of rigorous imprisonment with a fine.

Following the directions of the Odisha High Court to frame a law to deal with rising cases of witch-hunting in the State, the Odisha Prevention of Witch-Hunting Bill was passed by the Assembly in 2013. The bill provides penalties for a witch doctor, or a person claiming to be a black magician.

In Maharashtra, the Maharashtra Prevention and Eradication of Human Sacrifice and other Inhuman, Evil and Aghori Practices and Black Magic Act, 2013 was passed after the murder of anti-superstition activist Dr. Narendra Dabholkar. Rajasthan enacted the Rajasthan Prevention of Witch-Hunting Act in 2015 to “provide for effective measures to tackle the menace of witch-hunting and prevent the practice of witchcraft.”

The Assam Witch Hunting (Prohibition, Prevention and Protection) Act, 2015, which received the President’s assent in 2018, prohibits witch hunting completely. “No person shall identify, call, stigmatise, defame or accuse any other person as witch by words, or by signs or indications or by conducts or actions or any other manner or instigate, aid or abet such an act or commit witch hunting,” the law states.

The latest law was passed in Karnataka where the Karnataka Prevention and Eradication of Inhuman Evil Practices and Black Magic Act, 2017 came into effect in January 2020 after it was notified by the BJP government – which initially opposed it when it was the Opposition party. The law bans several practices related to black magic and superstition, like forcing a person to walk on fire at religious festivals and the practice of piercing rods from one side of the jaw to the other.

## THE GIST

Chilling details of the killings of two women in Kerala have sparked a debate about the prevalence and power of superstitious beliefs in society.

As per the 2021 report of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), six deaths were linked to human sacrifices, while witchcraft was the motive for 68 killings in the country.

In the absence of a nationwide legislation, a few States have enacted laws to counter witchcraft and protect women from deadly ‘witch-hunting’.

# The extra-constitutional delusions of Raj Bhavan

**A** tweet put out recently by the office of the Kerala Governor evoked nationwide attention for all the wrong reasons. It said: "... the statements of individual Ministers that lower the dignity of the office of the Governor can invite action including withdrawal of pleasure". Raj Bhavan did not explicitly say that such Ministers would be expelled. But, going by the text of Article 164(1) of the Constitution – that the "Ministers shall hold office during the pleasure of the Governor" – the indication was clear. This was made even more apparent when the Governor sent a letter to the Kerala Chief Minister asking him to act against the State Finance Minister, who, according to the Governor, had "ceased to enjoy" the Governor's "pleasure". The Chief Minister declined to do so.

## There are political, constitutional facets

This unprecedented and curious gubernatorial gesture has political and constitutional facets. The Governor's other move, in the meantime, for ousting Vice-Chancellors of universities in the State, alleging deficits in their appointment process, is purported to be in exercise of his statutory power as Chancellor. As against the Ministers, he has no such special power. He can only act within the bounds of the Constitution.

The function of the appointed Governor is always subject to the policies of the elected government, and not vice-versa. This is a foundational theory of India's constitutional democracy. Constitutional provisions cannot be read in isolation. Article 163(1) says that the Council of Ministers must aid and advise the Governor. However, according to Article 163(2), the Governor can act in his discretion in certain matters as permitted by the Constitution. This would mean that the Governor is generally bound by the Cabinet decision except when he has a legitimate right to invoke his discretion, say, for example, in deciding on sanction to prosecute a Cabinet Minister or in his decisions as Administrator of a Union Territory, as per the orders of the President of India, etc. Article 164, which contains the provision relevant in the context of the Kerala Governor's tweet and letter is inseparable from Article 163. Therefore, it follows that unless the Cabinet or the Chief Minister advises the expulsion of a Minister, the Governor cannot cause the exit of a particular Minister by "withdrawing pleasure".

The jurist H.M. Seervai gave an explanation



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about the spirit of Article 163, which, in a way, is a prologue to Article 164(1) dealing with "pleasure". He said, "if Governors have discretion in all matters under Article 163(1), it would be unnecessary to confer on Governors an express power to act in their discretion in a few specified matters (by way of Article 163(2))" (*Constitutional Law of India*, Vol.2, Universal, 1993, page 2,037).

One finds a democratic reading of Article 164 in the Constitution Bench judgment of the Supreme Court of India in *Shamsher Singh vs State of Punjab* (1974). In *Shamsher Singh*, for the purpose of comparison, the Supreme Court extracted Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's introductory statement made on November 4, 1948 in the Constituent Assembly, which said: "The President of the United States is not bound to accept any advice tendered to him by any of his secretaries. The President of the Indian Union will be generally bound by the advice of his Ministers. He can do nothing contrary to their advice nor can he do anything without their advice. The President of the United States can dismiss any Secretary at any time. The President of the Indian Union has no power to do so, so long as his Ministers command a majority in Parliament".

The same principles apply to the Governors as well, since the Union Minister also holds the office "during the pleasure of the President" as in Article 75(2) of the Constitution. "Withdrawal of pleasure", without advice from the Council of Ministers, as indicated by Raj Bhavan is a misconception.

## A titular head

Understanding the constitutional meaning of Article 164(1), which is different from its literal meaning, requires a historical reading of the provision. The draft Constitution, prepared by the Constitutional Adviser in October 1947, contained Article 126, according to which, "Governor's Ministers shall be chosen and summoned by (the Governor) and shall hold office during his pleasure". This Article, which was made part of the draft of the erstwhile Article 144, was discussed at length in the Constituent Assembly. The general discretion with the Governor was taken away, and the Cabinet was given the authority to rule. Amendment to the draft Article 144 moved by B.R. Ambedkar resulted in the present constitutional scheme of Articles 163 and 164.

Referring to the speech of Ambedkar, scholar

Subhash C. Kashyap has put it pithily, "The words 'during pleasure' were, always understood to mean that the 'pleasure' should not continue when the Ministry had lost the confidence of the majority; and the moment the Ministry lost the confidence of the majority, the Governor would use his 'pleasure' in dismissing it" (*Constitutional Law of India*, Vol. 2., Universal, 2015, page 1,249). Therefore, the Article implies that the Governor is only a titular head of the State and that if the Cabinet has majority, the Governor cannot act against the Cabinet.

## Addressing a concern

The Governor's office has a colonial origin. The Government of India Act, 1858 situated the post of Governor under the supervision of the Governor General. The subsequently promulgated Government of India Act, 1935 was enforced with effect from April 1, 1937. Even as per this act, Governors were to act based on the advice of the provincial Government.

The potential danger that could be posed by continuation of the colonial institution was a matter of concern for the makers of the Constitution. During the deliberations, H.V. Kamath asked if there was any guarantee against abuse of power by the Governor. The immediate reaction by P.S. Deshmukh, another prominent member was: "the guarantee.... is the Governor's wisdom and the wisdom of the authority that will appoint the Governor" (Constituent Assembly Debates, June 2, 1949).

But this romanticism of the Constitution was to be translated to a level of judicial realism and pragmatism, which the Supreme Court did in *Shamsher Singh*. Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer, in that judgment, and in his characteristic style, has given the best possible response to the extra-constitutional delusions of the Raj Bhavans: "The omnipotence of the President and of the Governor at State level is.... with the obvious intent that even where express conferment of power or functions is written into the Articles, such business has to be disposed of decisively by the Ministry answerable to the Legislature and, through it, vicariously to the people, thus vindicating our democracy instead of surrendering it to a single summit soul, whose defecation is incompatible with the basics of our political architecture..."

So, the Constitution Bench has to prevail over the Governor's tweet and letter.

# Demand grows, but DNA tests fall under a grey area

**Krishnadas Rajagopal**  
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NEW DELHI

DNA tests occupy a grey area in the quest for justice, vacillating between the dangers of slipping into self-incrimination and encroachment on individual privacy and the “eminent need” to unearth the truth. They can be of help as evidence in a criminal case or in proving a claim of marital infidelity or paternity.

More and more complainants are seeking DNA tests – a senior official associated with a government laboratory estimates such requests increasing by around 20% each year.

DNA Forensics Laboratory Private Ltd., accredited with the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL), says it tests 300 to 400 samples a month on private requests and court orders.



The Supreme Court had said that forcing a person for a DNA test violated personal liberty.

The numbers were only 30 to 40 till five years ago.

The Supreme Court recently held – in a case concerning a woman known only as ‘XX’ to protect her identity – that compelling an unwilling person to undergo a DNA test would be a violation of personal liberty and right to privacy, turning the spotlight on a technology that aids the cause of justice but violates privacy.

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## DNA tests still fall under a grey area

But the issue is problematised by the varying stances of both the apex court and High Courts that tend to focus on the particularities of each case. Women's rights activists, however, hold that a DNA test is the only tool which can deliver justice in cases of abandonment of mothers and children. Take the example of Keerti (name changed) from Delhi, who asked for a DNA test to determine the paternity of her child after her husband deserted her making claims of infidelity. Left to fend for herself with a six-month-old child, she knocked on judicial doors after the husband's family denied the request; the case is pending before the family court.

"Is physical autonomy above justice to the child?" asks Brinda Adige of Global Concerns India. "The woman can establish the paternity of the child only if the DNA of the man matches." While determining paternity goes a long way towards securing financial support from an estranged partner, lawyer Sumithra Acharya says it is not so much about women's rights as child rights. "DNA may not be conclusive proof in cases of heinous crimes like rape but for paternity, protection has always been towards the children."

Precedents set by the Supreme Court through the years show that judges cannot order genetic tests as a "roving enquiry" (*Bhabani Prasad Jena, 2010*) and they must balance "the interests of the parties" (*Banarsi Dass, 2005*); DNA tests should also not be ordered if there was other material evidence at hand to prove the case. In its *Ashok Kumar* judgment, the court said judges, before ordering a genetic test, should examine "proportionality of the legitimate aims" being pursued. But seven years ago, the court heard a man's plea for a DNA test to prove his wife's infidelity and the parentage of their child and sought a test to be done on himself and the child. The court agreed reasoning there was no other way for him to know. It said the wife could refuse but would risk presumptions being drawn against her. Then again, as the 'XX' case demonstrates, there are no easy answers or legal certitudes.

While dealing with claims of infidelity, a request for DNA test also competes with the conclusiveness of Section 112 of the Indian Evidence Act, which presumes that a child born to a married woman is legitimate – the burden of proof is on the person claiming illegitimacy of the child. While the imperative of justice jostles with that of bodily autonomy, the Constitution Bench judgment in the *K.S. Puttaswamy* case recognising privacy as part of the fundamental right to life has only buttressed the privacy argument as the government's bid to pilot the DNA Technology Regulation Bill, 2019 through Parliament hangs fire.

# India now enables low-cost production, high output: PM

After laying the foundation stone for a C-295 transport aircraft manufacturing facility in Vadodara, Modi says defence and aerospace sectors will be two important pillars for a self-reliant India

**Dinakar Peri**  
VADODARA

India maintained its growth momentum despite the pandemic, war, and supply-chain disruptions, and the country is presenting opportunities for low-cost manufacturing and high output, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday after laying the foundation stone for a C-295 transport aircraft manufacturing facility to be set up by a consortium of Tata Advanced Systems Ltd. (TASL) and Airbus Defence and Space in Vadodara.

The event comes just before the announcement of the Assembly election in Gujarat.

“In the coming years, the defence and aerospace sectors will be two important pillars for making India *aatmanirbhar* (self-reliant). We have a goal of exceeding \$25 billion in defence manufacturing by



**Onwards and upwards:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the foundation stone laying ceremony in Vadodara on Sunday. PTI

2025. Besides, our defence exports would be more than \$5 billion,” Mr. Modi said.

In September 2021, the Defence Ministry signed a ₹21,935-crore deal with Airbus Defence and Space, Spain for the procurement of 56 C-295MW aircraft. This is the first project in which military aircraft will be manufactured in India by the private sector under technology transfer.

The Prime Minister termed the C-295 project a big step in the direction of

making India the manufacturing hub of the world.

“India is moving forward with the mantra of ‘Make in India, Make for the Globe’. Today our policies are stable, predictable and futuristic,” Mr. Modi said.

N. Chandrasekaran, chairman of Tata Sons, said, “With the set-up of the final assembly line in Vadodara, the Tata Group will now be able to take aluminium ingots at one end of the value stream and turn it into an Airbus

C295 aircraft for the Indian Air Force.”

Of the 56 aircraft, 16 will come in fly-away condition between September 2023 and August 2025. The first of 40 “Made in India” aircraft is expected in September 2026 and the project will be completed by 2031.

Guillaume Faury, chief executive officer of Airbus, said its teams were committed to supporting the IAF’s modernisation. The C-295 programme would contribute to the development of the private defence manufacturing sector.

The C-295 will replace the Avro transport aircraft of the IAF. The aircraft, which has achieved more than 5,00,000 flight hours in 34 countries, is used for tactical transport of up to 71 passengers or 50 paratroopers, and for logistic operations to locations inaccessible to heavier aircraft.

# OneWeb satellites will enhance rural connectivity: Modi

## The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

Describing the simultaneous placement of 36 OneWeb satellites into orbit a week ago as a major feat, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said the move would strengthen digital connectivity across the country.

In his *Mann Ki Baat* address, Mr. Modi said, “With the help of this, even the remotest areas will be more easily connected with the rest of the country.”

The Prime Minister said that after the opening up of the space sector, revolutionary changes had started coming into it. Domestic industries and start-ups were bringing innovations and new technologies. Non-governmental companies were getting the facility to launch their payloads and satellites through IN-SPaCe, he said.

Stating that today’s youth had been exhibiting immense problem-solving skills, Mr. Modi noted that

## The PM says that opening up space sector for the youth has brought in a revolution

on October 14 and 15, all 23 Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) came together to showcase their innovations and projects. Over 75 best projects on themes such as healthcare, agriculture, robotics and semiconductors to 5G communications were on display.

Mr. Modi spoke about a farmer from Kancheepuram who benefited from the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Yojana and had a solar pump set installed in his farm.

A team of tribal women in Anaikatti, Coimbatore, had crafted 10,000 eco-friendly terracotta teacups for export. “...some villages of Tripura have ascended to the level of Bio-Village 2. Bio-Village 2 emphasises how to minimise the damage caused by natural disasters,” Mr. Modi said.

# A bird in the hand

## Twitter under Elon Musk risks deterioration in content standards

**O**f all the social media behemoths today, Twitter, Inc. is a curious creature. It has nearly 240 million “daily access” users, which includes political and corporate leaders besides personalities who command an immense following. Twitter’s unique selling point is its provision to not only put up 280-character messages but also be a platform featuring the dissemination of information, as breaking news, debates, discussion and even for the mobilisation of people. Yet, financially, Twitter has posted losses in eight out of the last 10 years, with its market value never managing to reach the heights of peers such as Meta’s Facebook and Instagram or even Tiktok. By selling the company to the world’s richest man, Elon Musk, for a whopping \$44 billion after a few shenanigans, Twitter’s shareholders finally made a killing even as Mr. Musk, in his first post-acquisition actions, fired some top executives. But the question on everyone’s minds is about what might happen to the platform as a free speech vehicle under a truly maverick owner. Mr. Musk, who has made most of his money as the owner of electric vehicle company Tesla and spacecraft and exploration venture SpaceX, could provide business ideas that could secure the firm’s finances. Yet, as a Twitter user with the third highest number of followers, he has been prone to erratic outbursts, silly posturing and crass remarks, and frowning upon regulation by the company of its content in the past, begging the question whether the ownership change will lead to a deterioration in content standards.

Twitter, like other social media giants, has faced difficulties in ridding its platform of disinformation, harassment through trolling, hate speech and calls for violence. Recently, it blocked former U.S. President Trump, a popular yet incendiary user, and started flagging select posts for misleading content or propaganda. For Indian users, the aforementioned challenges have been exacerbated by the Government seeking ways to control content, a scarier proposition, through changes to Internet intermediary rules. While Mr. Musk has argued for a freer space with little regulation, he has, since his purchase, tempered those views in favour of better and cleaner moderation of content, ostensibly to not lose advertisers wary of lending their brand to problematic content. While it remains to be seen if this is merely yet another instance of Mr. Musk’s posturing, the larger question of whether Twitter will remain a relevant brand will be answered in the manner in which the world’s richest man will treat governments and establishments in keeping reasonable and free speech intact on the platform and not subsume it to his business interests.

## General Studies Paper I

A	History of Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of art forms, literature and architecture from ancient to modern times;
B	Modern Indian history from about the middle of the eighteenth century until the present-significant events, personalities, issues;
C	Freedom struggle-its various stages and important contributors / contributions from different parts of the country;
D	Post-independence consolidation and reorganization within the country;
E	History of the world will include events from 18 <sup>th</sup> century such as industrial revolution, world wars, re-drawing of national boundaries, colonization, decolonization,
F	Political philosophies like communism, capitalism, socialism etc.-their forms and effect on the society
G	Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India;
H	Effects of globalization on Indian society;
I	Role of women and women's organization;
J	Social empowerment, communalism, regionalism & secularism
K	Salient features of world's physical geography;
L	Geographical features and their location- changes in critical geographical features (including water bodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes;
M	Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone etc.
N	Distribution of key natural resources across the world (including South Asia and the Indian subcontinent);
O	Factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary, and tertiary sector industries in various parts of the world (including India);
P	Population and associated issues;
Q	Urbanization, their problems and their remedies

## General Studies Paper II

A	India and its neighbourhood- relations;
B	Important International institutions, agencies and fora- their structure, mandate;
C	Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests;
D	Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.
E	Indian Constitution, historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant 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
<b>General Studies Paper III</b>	
A	Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization of resources, growth, development and employment;
B	Effects of liberalization on the economy, changes in industrial policy and their effects on industrial growth;
C	Inclusive growth and issues arising from it;
D	Infrastructure Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc. Government budgeting;
E	Land reforms in India
F	Major crops, cropping patterns in various parts of the country, different types of irrigation and irrigation systems;
G	Storage, transport and marketing of agricultural produce and issues and related constraints;
H	e-technology in the aid of farmers; Technology Missions; Economics of Animal-Rearing.
I	Issues of buffer stocks and food security, Public Distribution System- objectives, functioning, limitations, revamping;
J	Food processing and related industries in India – scope and significance, location, upstream and downstream requirements, supply chain management;
K	Issues related to direct and indirect farm subsidies and minimum support prices
L	Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nano-technology, bio-technology;
M	Indigenization of technology and developing new technology;
N	Developments and their applications and effects in everyday life;
O	Issues relating to intellectual property rights
P	Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment
Q	Disaster and disaster management
R	Challenges to internal security through communication networks, role of media and social networking sites in internal security challenges, basics of cyber security;
S	Money-laundering and its prevention;
T	Various forces and their mandate;
U	Security challenges and their management in border areas;

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