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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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Power roller-coaster

The Maoists, UML are back to sharing power despite not winning the mandate

There seems to be no limit to the opportunism in Nepal's top polity. Newly minted Prime Minister Pushpa Kumar Dahal's Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist-Centre) was part of a six-party alliance led by the Nepali Congress that collectively finished just above the absolute majority mark in the parliamentary elections held in November. The CPN(M-C) won just 11.13% of the votes, getting 32 seats in the 275-member House of Representatives. The party's poor performance was hardly any disincentive for Mr. Dahal to claim the post of prime minister from his party's senior partner, the NC. After being denied this, legitimately, in his blatant hunger for power, he immediately took the expedient route of aligning with the leading Opposition party, the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) led by Khadga Prasad Oli, securing the Prime Minister's post, for a period of half of the term of the new government. The new coalition led by the UML and the Maoists includes the newcomer Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) and five smaller parties. The RSP promised a break in the political wheeling-dealing that has characterised Nepali politics but the fact that it jumped at the first chance to join an opportunist alliance – its leader Rabi Lamichhane is now Deputy Prime Minister and a Home Minister in the government – would have belied the hopes of its adherents.

The renewal of the alliance between the two "leftist" parties – barely years after the falling out between the UML faction led by Mr. Oli and the Maoists led to a change of government with the NC aligning with the Maoists and a smaller UML faction led by Madhav Kumar Nepal besides other parties – suggests that the loaves of power, rather than ideology or principle, are what are more tempting for Mr. Oli and Mr. Dahal. The "Left" alliance had after all broken up due to legitimate grievances with Mr. Oli's authoritarian attitude and his manoeuvres to hold on to power. For Mr. Dahal to repeat his habit of performing political volte-faces and to join hands with Mr. Oli despite a clear mandate for the pre-election coalition that he was a part of, suggests yet another period of opportunistic political wrangling that would hamper governance in Nepal. Mr. Oli has managed to make the best out of an unfavourable situation for his party by securing nominations to the post of President and Speaker from his party, reportedly as part of the arrangement with Mr. Dahal, besides gaining plum ministerial posts to help with the usual politics of patronage. But by subverting mandates for short-term gains, the Maoists and the UML are only perpetuating instability and lowering the trust of the people in the democratic system in a country that endured two upheavals to become a constitutional republic.

Prachanda sworn in as Nepal PM, faces tough task of running alliance

By appearing in *durbari* dress, the PM is probably stating that he is not as ideologically moored to his Maoist past as in 2008-09 or 2016 but it remains to be seen how he will deal with Oli

NEWS ANALYSIS

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Pushpa Kamal Dahal "Prachanda" was sworn in as the Prime Minister of Nepal at a ceremony on Monday in capital Kathmandu. As the event got under way, the image that came out strongly was that both Mr. Prachanda, a former Maoist rebel leader, and outgoing Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba were dressed in *daura-suruwal*, the attire of the traditional power elite.

Mr. Prachanda had in the past avoided it and preferred a western jacket. Speculation has begun over if the choice of *daura-suruwal* indicates an evolution in Mr. Prachanda's ideological journey.

The presence of Mr. Deuba gave the impression of a cordial handover of power, but in reality it is the sudden re-emergence of friendship between former Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli and Mr. Prachanda that has surprised even the Nepali Congress.

It is being said the Nepali Congress was negotiating with Mr. Prachanda for sharing of power in the firm belief that ties between Mr. Oli and Mr. Pra-

Change of guard: Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' taking oath as the new Prime Minister of Nepal in Kathmandu on Monday. REUTERS

chanda were bitter beyond repair. Mr. Oli and Mr. Prachanda had teamed up to win the election in 2017, the first one conducted according to the 2015 Constitution. After the election, the CPN-UML of Mr. Oli and the CPN (Maoist Centre) merged and formed the Nepal Communist Party. The unity in party however did not translate in consultative decision-making by Mr. Oli. Angered by this, Mr. Prachanda began to agitate and mobilised the Standing Committee of the Nepal Communist Party, which ultimately forced Mr. Oli to dissolve the Cabinet in December 2020.

Mr. Prachanda, however, did join hands with Mr. Oli earlier that year to put up a joint front on the Kala-

pani dispute that erupted between Nepal and India after the latter published a new political map that showed the region of Kalapani-Lipulekh-Limpiyadhura as part of sovereign Indian territory.

Tension between duo
Ground reports suggest that the Nepali Congress was led to believe that Mr. Prachanda was unable to forgive Mr. Oli for his excesses during the last time the two came together in 2017-19. He, however, proved that in 2022, he does not have any of the scruples that made him pick up fights in 2008.

That year, Mr. Prachanda had emerged as the Prime Minister after months of negotiations with the Girija Prasad Koi-

rala-led Nepali Congress. It was a dramatic entry by the former Maoist rebel who was better known by his nom de guerre "Prachanda", the fierce one. He chose Beijing for his first official foreign trip, sending shockwaves in the "southern neighbour".

But India had old ties with Mr. Prachanda as he had spent most of his career prior to 2007-08 underground or in exile in India as he fought the forces of the King.

Mr. Prachanda's real test lies ahead, as the seven-party coalition that dramatically announced him as the Prime Minister consists of new parties such as the Rashtriya Swatantra Party led by Ravi Lamichhane who had promised to take on corrupt Leftist leaders. By appearing in Nepal's *durbari* dress and by joining hands with the pro-monarchy Rashtriya Prajatantra Party, Mr. Prachanda is probably sending a message that he is not as ideologically moored to his Maoist past as in 2008-09 or 2016 but it remains to be seen how he will deal with Mr. Oli. With the Nepali Congress out of the way, his real challenge will be now to ensure peaceful coexistence with the alliance partners that includes former secessionist leader C.K. Raut.

Zelensky speaks to Modi about G-20, thanks India for aid and UN support

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on Monday to discuss India's ongoing G-20 Presidency. During the conversation, the Ukrainian President sought support for his "10-point Peace Plan". The call marks the fourth telephone conversation between the two leaders this year, and comes days after Mr. Zelensky's visit to Washington, his first trip abroad since the war in Ukraine began in February.

Apart from the G-20, Mr. Zelensky thanked India for its help during the war. Mr. Modi also asked the Ukrainian President to help "facilitate arrangements for the continued education of Indian students" who had to return from Ukraine earlier this year.

"I had a phone call with PM Narendra Modi and wished [India] a successful G20 Presidency. It was on this platform that I announced the peace formula and now I count on India's participation in its implementation. I also thanked for humanitarian aid and support in the UN," Mr. Zelensky tweeted.

10 steps to peace
Mr. Zelensky's reference to the peace formula entails a plan he had discussed at the G-20 summit in Bali, where he listed 10 steps to peace: ensuring "radiation and nuclear safety; food security; energy security; release of all prisoners and deported persons; implementation of the UN Charter and restoration of Ukraine's territorial integrity and the world order; withdrawal of Russian troops and cessation of hostilities; restoration of justice; countering ecocide (economic suppression); preventing escalation; and finally – confirmation of the end of the war".

In a statement, the government said Mr. Modi "strongly reiterated his call for an immediate cessation of hostilities, and said that both sides should revert to dialogue and diplomacy to find a lasting solution to their differences", while also offering India's support for any peace efforts.

The Modi-Zelensky conversation is significant as India's G-20 Presidency has already begun with a number of meetings to finalise the agenda for the summit expected in September 2023. The External Affairs Ministry did not comment on whether Mr. Modi invited President Zelensky to the summit. Russian President Vladimir Putin has been invited to attend both the G-20 and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summits in India.

While India's position at the UN has been to abstain on all resolutions critical of Russia's actions, the government has repeatedly called for "dialogue and diplomacy" to end the conflict in which thousands have died and eight million people have fled the violence. In August, India's Ambassador to the UN, Ruchira Kamboj, said that India had dispatched 11 consignments of approximately 97.5 tonnes of humanitarian aid to Ukraine and neighbouring countries.

Criticism against India
The phone call also followed an outburst by Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba, who criticised India for "benefiting from Ukrainian suffering" as it continued to ramp up imports of Russian oil.

"We are waiting for the moment when Indian foreign policy will call a spade a spade, and name the conflict – not 'war in Ukraine', but what it is, a 'Russian aggression against Ukraine'," Mr. Kuleba had said earlier this month.

In an interview on Sunday, Mr. Putin blamed the Ukrainian leadership for refusing to come to the table for talks, but did not offer a ceasefire or explain what the "acceptable solutions" he was offering would be.

Narendra Modi

NCPCR warns NGOs over depiction of vulnerable children for fundraising

SPECIAL

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

The practice of civil society organisations using representative visuals for fundraising activities concerning development issues such as malnutrition now faces new scrutiny, with the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) issuing a directive to non-governmental organisations (NGO) not to depict vulnerable children.

A 2013 campaign by a U.K.-based NGO, Save the Children, titled "Khushi", featured a 20-month-old baby lying on a hospital bed at a malnutrition treatment centre in Tonk, Rajasthan. The baby was videographed as a helpless and needy child, with the camera zooming into a close-up of her face and eyes as she looks morosely into it.

The narrator describes her as a malnourished child in need of help and makes an ardent appeal: "Please, will you help? Please, donate ₹500 a month and make a difference."

The campaign, which aimed to raise money for the NGO's initiative against malnutrition, came under scrutiny from several corners over the use of the images of a vulnerable child.

The campaign ran for several years even as some within the NGO were shocked that their organisation did not know the latest on the well-being and whereabouts of the child featured in its campaign.

Now, another campaign by the same NGO, titled "Anand", depicting an emaciated infant whose ribs can be seen sticking out under his skin, is at the centre of a fresh controversy that has sparked a debate on the imagery among child rights organisations.

On December 2, the NCPCR wrote to NGOs across the country on the practice of "raising funding, domestic as well as international, for their NGOs through advertisement while showing vulnerable minor children in deplorable conditions".

The letter asked NGOs to refrain from such depiction as it amounted to a violation of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015.

This missive was preceded by another letter from the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) on November 2 to all States and Union Territories.

The letter named Save the Children and its campaign to tackle malnutrition in tribal children by raising ₹800 from the general public, and called it misleading on the ground that the issue of malnutrition was being "vigorously pursued" by the government through its Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 scheme.

It also asked States to "report" similar incidents involving NGOs, take "appropriate measures to expose the false information" and "alert beneficiaries

Ensuring welfare: The rights body said that such depictions amount to violation of the Juvenile Justice Act. FILE PHOTO

about false claims made by them". Both the letters were based on a detailed complaint by a Rajya Sabha member.

Sudharshan Suchi, CEO of Save the Children, did not respond to a questionnaire e-mailed to him, seeking details of his organisation's policy on the use of imagery involving children, and the whereabouts of the child "Khushi".

Images taken down

The images from the "Anand" campaign have since been pulled down and the NGO's website is now replete with images of happy children.

Save the Children's "statement of principles" regarding the use of imagery, specifically the portrayal of children in a 2017 document – it updated its media policy following widespread criticism – available on its website states its "clear priority is to generate the response that will help fund our work" which requires that "we create and publish challenging, hard-hitting imagery".

However, efforts are made to ensure it does not objectify, belittle or dehumanise children, the NGO says. Informed consent of the subject or their family is obtained for photos and it is ensured that they understand the use to which their images may be put as well as the possible consequences, the NGO says. It adds that rigorous procedures are also undertaken to minimise any risk to the children, and no more than two of the following pieces of information are given out: a child's full name, image and location.

The Ethical Image Policy of another NGO, WaterAid, also pays attention to what is allowed or not allowed in post-production, and how long images can be used. In order to ensure visual representation is more egalitarian and participatory, it has also started hiring and training local people to work as "photo, film and story gatherers", and trains children and young adults in Pakistan and Nepal to use cameras to communicate issues that affect them.

The UNICEF's "Eight quick steps to ethical imagery" suggests asking the question – "If she/he were my child, how would I want her/him portrayed?" It also warns against the other extreme of using happy and cute images of children as they "tend to objectify children into an idealised and sentimentalised happiness that negates the complexity of their real life".

Many in the civil society have welcomed the government's directive.

"We ensure that we don't present children in their vulnerability, though those representations appeal most to the people. Instead we present strength and dignity. The poorest of children do laugh and have managed to live with dignity. Therefore, the government's position is the right one," Kavita Ratna, director, advocacy and fundraising, The Concerned for Working Children, said.

But the agency of the subjects involved is crucial and if it is the decision of the community to be depicted in a difficult situation, then that is also taken into account, she added.

Ms. Ratna, however, points out that there is also a need for a mind shift as the donor community appears to need or respond to evocative pictures in fund-raising.

The government's concern over visual representation of children comes at a time when it has doggedly challenged global reports on rising levels of malnutrition in India.

In 2020, a warning on how COVID-19's impact on access to healthcare services and food systems could result in a rise in malnourished children led to Smriti Irani, the Minister for Women and Child Development, calling up the UN headquarters.

The Union government has also repeatedly rejected India's performance in the Global Hunger Index and questioned the methodology. India was ranked 107 among 121 countries in 2022 on the index.

Expedite classification of nomadic tribes in quota lists, panel tells Centre

Parliamentary panel on Social Justice and Empowerment notes the process has been 'very slow'; says the delay will increase communities' suffering and deprive them of welfare scheme benefits

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

The parliamentary panel on Social Justice and Empowerment has pulled up the Union government over the "very slow" process to categorise over 260 denotified, nomadic and semi-nomadic tribes under the SC/ST/OBC lists. Government officials have pointed out that this has delayed the approval of benefits under the SEED (Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs) launched in February this year.

The scheme was launched by Union Social Justice Minister Virendra Kumar, with the aim of providing free competitive exam coaching, health insurance, housing assistance, and livelihood initiatives. An amount of ₹200 crore has been allocated for this scheme – to be spent over five years from 2021-22 to 2025-26.

As of December 26 evening, a total of over

In red tape: Over 5,400 applications had been received under the Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs. FILE PHOTO

5,400 applications had been received under the SEED, none of which have been approved and no amount has been sanctioned.

The panel, in a report tabled in Parliament this Winter Session, noted that it had earlier too flagged the "inability of the department to take necessary action" on the speedy and accurate categorisation of these communities.

After the government said that the work was proceeding and would be finished by 2022, the panel said the process was still very slow. It added, "Delay in locating them would increase their suffering and they would not be able to get benefit of the prevailing schemes meant for the welfare of SC/STs."

The panel further said it expects the government to expedite this exercise and finish it in a time-bound manner and sought detailed timelines for the same.

Department's response

In response to the panel's concerns, the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment had submitted that the Anthropological Survey of India had submitted reports on categorisation of 48 DNT communities so far. In addition, of the 267 communities not categorised so far, the AnSI has finished studies on 24 communities, with Tribal Research Institutes studying 12 of the communities.

Further, the AnSI is finalising studies on 161 communities and is expected to finish studying the remaining communities (about 70) by the end of 2022.

More than 10 crore Indians from over 1,400 communities are either denotified, nomadic or semi-nomadic. Of this, the Idate Commission had categorised 1,262 communities under SC/ST/OBC lists and 267 communities were left uncategorised. Even the communities categorised by the Idate Commission are not accurate with many communities appearing in SC lists in one State or district and on the ST list in another.

Centre mandates universal digital capturing of MGNREGS attendance

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Digital capture of the attendance of workers employed under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) has been made universal by the Centre from January 1.

The Union government, arguing for transparency and accountability in May 2021, had started a pilot project to capture attendance via a mobile application, the National Mobile Monitoring System (NMMS).

From May 16, 2022 capturing attendance via the app was made compulsory for all worksites with 20 or more workers. This required uploading two time-stamped and geo-tagged photographs of the workers.

The job fell on the mates/supervisors, who are paid only marginally more than the unskilled workers. There were widespread complaints over the lack of technical support, the necessity to own a smartphone, paying for

Bugs detected : The directive comes even as many loopholes pointed out earlier by users were not plugged yet. G.N. RAO

an Internet connection, and issues with erratic Internet connectivity.

In the latest order, dated December 23, the Ministry has ordered that digitally capturing attendance is now mandatory for all worksites, regardless of the number of workers engaged, and will be applicable from January 1, 2023.

This directive comes even as many complaints and loopholes pointed out earlier by users have not been plugged yet. Siraj

Dutta, who is associated with the NREGA Sangharsh Morcha in Jharkhand, points out three major problems with the new system. The app-based attendance system carries forward the problem with electronic muster rolls, which replaced the paper muster rolls and was in use before the NMMS was introduced. Here, the muster roll has to be generated based on demand and therefore, no worker can come and join at the work-

site. And if out of the 10 workers on the electronic muster roll, only two turn up, usually the worksite is not opened, therefore, in a way, denying them work too.

"The second big problem is the two-time stamped photographs. Often, the workers may finish their work but are forced to return to the worksite for the second photograph," Mr. Dutta said.

The endless conditions placed on MGNREGS workers themselves, many activists feel, is enough to dissuade them from relying on the scheme, thus failing its basic purpose. "Every time they [the government] have brought in a technology-based solution, they claim it will remove corruption. Are they saying now that they are capturing attendance via a mobile application, there will be no corruption? These are blatant methods to reduce the spread and effectiveness of the programme," Nikhil Dey, founder member of the Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan, said.

President inaugurates 'PRASAD' project to create a slew of facilities at Srisailam

The Hindu Bureau
NANDYAL

President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the 'PRASAD' project at the tourism facilitation centre in the pilgrim town of Srisailam in Andhra Pradesh on Monday.

She was accompanied by Telangana Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan.

The hill town will get a pilgrim complex, amenities centres at Hatakeswaram and Sikhareswaram, a renovated Pushkarini, aesthetic illumination at the temple, laying of Krishnaveni Road from the bus station to Pathalaganga, an amphitheatre, a sound-and-light show, digital intervention, parking areas,

President Droupadi Murmu visiting a photo gallery during the launch of PRASAD project at Srisailam on Monday. PTI

a toilet complex, souvenir shops, food courts, ATM and banking services with a total outlay of ₹48.03 crore under the Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASAD).

Ms. Murmu also visited Shri Chhatrapati Shivaji Spoorthi Kendram, where she was accorded a ceremonial reception with a Chenchu tribal dance.

Ms. Murmu later had an interactive session with the tribal women and learnt about their issues.

India's agriculture and allied commodities export up by 12%

11.97 The percentage by which India's export of agriculture and allied commodities rose to $30.21 billion during the April-October period, the Agriculture Ministry said. The exports stood at $26.98 billion in the same period of 2021-22. Wheat, basmati, cotton, castor oil, and fresh fruits were major commodities exported from India. PTI

Interest in G-sec market rising: FinMin

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

Trading volumes in government securities (g-secs) hit a two-year high of ₹27.67 lakh crore in the July to September quarter (Q2 of 2022-23), rising 8.64% from Q1, with the Finance Ministry terming this a sign of growing market interest in such bonds.

"The higher trading volume in Q2 of 2022-23 in comparison to previous quarter shows the growing interest of market players/traders in government security market," the Budget Division of the Department of Economic Affairs in the Ministry emphasised in the July-September Public Debt Management report.

The share of Central government securities' in

The share of Central govt. securities' in traded volumes climbed to 82% in Q2 from 76% in Q1

traded volumes jumped to 82% in Q2 from 76% in Q1, while transactions in State bonds dipped from 8% in Q1 to just 5% between July and September, marking their lowest share in at least five quarters.

Amounting to little more than ₹22.67 lakh crore, Central government securities transactions were close to levels last seen in the July-September 2020 period. In terms of ownership, Government of India bonds owned by the RBI fell to a two-year low of 15.3% in Q2.

PLI scheme for textiles attracts ₹1,536 crore in investments

1536 In rupees crore, the investments attracted by production-linked incentive scheme for India's textiles sector. The Centre launched the PLI Scheme with an approved outlay of ₹10,683 crore to promote the production of MMF apparel, MMF fabrics and Products of Technical Textiles to enable the textiles industry to become competitive. PTI

Unfunded pension scheme is a tax on future generations, says Sanyal

Revival of old pension scheme by some States reverses recent pension reforms says member of PM's EAC; economist sees 2023 as a difficult period given current stress in global economy, urges vigilance over prospect of resurgence of COVID-19

PressTrust of India
NEW DELHI

Concerned over revival of the Old Pension Scheme by certain Opposition-ruled States, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) member Sanjeev Sanyal on Monday said unfunded pension schemes are ultimately a tax on future generations.

Mr. Sanyal further said given the current stress in the global economy and the repeated downgrades done to world GDP growth numbers by international agencies, it was quite obvious that 2023 would also be a difficult period.

Word of caution

Some Opposition-ruled States have opted to revert to the Old Pension Scheme spurring concern about the fiscal implications

- The OPS, under which entire pension amount was given by government, was discontinued by the NDA government from April 1, 2004

- Under the New Pension Scheme, employees contribute 10% of their basic salary while State government contributes 14%

- India needs to continuously monitor inflation, current account given global challenges

"It should be very clear that unfunded pension schemes are ultimately tax on future generations. Therefore, one should be very, very careful to reverse pension reforms that have been done with great difficulty over the last couple of decades," he told PTI.

Mr. Sanyal was responding to a question on some Opposition-ruled States' decision to switch to the Old Pension Scheme (OPS).

The OPS, under which the entire pension amount was given by the government, was discontinued by the NDA government in 2003 from April 1, 2004.

On overall macroeconomic situation, he opined that apart from the problems in eastern Europe, a sharp surge in COVID cases in China will possibly have spillovers on rest of the world's economic growth.

According to him, India needs to be vigilant about the prospect of resurgence of COVID-19.

"There are macroeconomic stability issues that we need to be continuously monitoring particularly in the area of inflation and also in the case of current account given that our export markets are all slowing down," he opined.

A warship programme that must go full steam ahead

Early this month, the Indian Navy chief, Admiral Hari Kumar, at the annual press conference on the eve of Navy Day (December 4) had said that the Indian Navy had put on hold its plans to build a second indigenous aircraft carrier (IAC-2) that is larger than IAC-1 (INS *Vikrant*). Instead, he said, it is considering the option of a repeat order of the IAC-1. The Navy chief added that this decision had been taken as INS *Vikrant* had performed well during its trials and would also help capitalise on the expertise now available in the country.

Classification of carriers

In terms of size, aircraft carriers can be classified as light, medium and large/super-carriers. Light carriers can carry up to 25 aircraft, the medium-sized ones around 30 to 50 aircraft, while the large/super-carriers can carry over 90 aircraft. In terms of role, they can be categorised as fleet, escort, air defence, amphibious assault and anti-submarine warfare (helicopter) carriers. In terms of the methodology used to launch and recover aircraft, they can be categorised as Catapult Assisted Take-Off But Arrested Recovery (CATOBAR), Short Take-off But Arrested Recovery (STOBAR), and vertical/short take-off and landing (V/STOL) carriers.

India's first aircraft carrier, INS *Vikrant* (British-built), predecessor to INS *Vikrant* (IAC-1), was a 19,000-tonne CATOBAR-type light carrier designed for fleet air defence. It could carry between 21 to 23 aircraft (including helicopters). Its replacement, INS *Viraat* (British-built), at 28,000 tonnes, was a V/STOL-type light fleet air defence carrier, with an air wing of 26 to 30 aircraft and helicopters. Notably, its Sea Harrier aircraft also possessed dedicated land attack capability. INS *Vikramaditya* (Russian-built), at

A.K. Chawla

is a retired Vice-Admiral who last served as the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Southern Naval Command

With an inimical China planning a large carrier force, India can ill-afford to fall behind in its sea control and maritime deterrence capability

45,000 tonnes, is a medium-sized STOBAR-type aircraft carrier, capable of both fleet air defence and land attack, carrying up to 30 aircraft and helicopters. INS *Vikrant* IAC-1) is almost similar in size, classification, role and capability to INS *Vikramaditya*.

The commissioning of INS *Vikrant* in September this year demonstrated India's capability to design and build the largest and most complex of warships, a capability held only by few countries. The planning for IAC-I, as it was called before commissioning, began in the mid-1980s. There were several iterations by the Indian Navy's Design Directorate before the plan was finalised and government approval obtained for construction in 2002. Built with indigenous steel developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation, its keel was laid in 2009 and the ship launched in 2013. Sea trials began in August 2021 and the ship was commissioned on September 2, 2022.

The elaboration of this timeline is to show the time and the effort that went into the design, construction and trials of India's first indigenous aircraft carrier. This time period can, of course, be shortened considerably if the next carrier is a repeat order. The expertise gained from the design and the construction of IAC-I will also enable faster development if a new and larger ship design is approved by the Government.

Due to the smaller and relatively less capable air wing carried on its first four carriers, as compared to other carrier-capable navies, the Indian Navy envisaged a medium-sized CATOBAR aircraft carrier in the region of 50,000 tonnes-65,000 tonnes, as a follow-up to INS *Vikrant*.

This is the tonnage of aircraft carriers operated by advanced navies such as the United Kingdom,

Russia, China and France – with only the U.S. Navy operating nuclear-powered super-carriers of tonnage greater than 1,00,000 tonnes. Various constraints, principally financial in nature, seem to have curbed India's ambitions. However, the fall-back plan for a repeat order would ensure that valuable infrastructure, design capability, ship-building expertise and the indigenous industrial ecosystem, built through extensive investment and effort over two decades, are not lost.

It would also ensure that India finally achieves the goal of having three aircraft carriers – a target that has remained elusive since the first Naval Plan Papers in 1948 stipulated the need for three aircraft carriers for the Indian Navy. Having two aircraft carriers of similar design and configuration would also make their operation/maintenance easier.

China's ambitions

However, in the long term, India should not lose sight of the fact that China's first two aircraft carriers displace over 65,000 tonnes, and its third indigenously designed and built carrier, *Fujian*, displaces 85,000 tonnes, with a possible air wing of 60-odd aircraft. China's future plans for a seven-ship carrier force include ambitions to build nuclear-powered super-carriers of over 1,00,000 tonnes displacement, with construction reportedly having commenced in 2017.

As a major emerging global power, with an inimical China at its doorstep, India can ill-afford to fall behind in its sea control and maritime deterrence capability, exemplified by an aircraft carrier-centric navy. While aircraft carriers are designed for 'arrested recovery' of aircraft, India should not allow the development of its aircraft carrier programme itself to be 'arrested'.

What is the Delhi HC verdict on 'Rooh Afza' trademark?

What constitutes a strong trademark? What were the reasons listed by the court while deciding to halt the manufacture and sale of beverages under the trademark 'Dil Afza'?

Kartikey Singh

The story so far:

On December 21, the Delhi High Court, in the case of Hamdard National Foundation (India) vs Sadar Laboratories Pvt. Ltd., restrained Sadar Laboratories from manufacturing and selling beverages under the impugned trademark 'Dil Afza'. The court observed that the trademark 'Rooh Afza' is *prima facie* a strong mark requiring a high degree of protection as it has acquired immense goodwill.

What is a trademark?
A trademark is a distinctive sign or indicator used by a business organisation to distinguish its products or services from those of other entities. It serves as a badge of origin exclusively identifying a particular business as a source of goods or services. Trademark infringement is the unauthorised usage of a sign that is identical or deceptively similar to a registered trademark.

What is the dispute?
The manufacturers of 'Rooh Afza' moved an appeal against the rejection of its application seeking an interim injunction against Sadar Laboratories Pvt. Ltd. for their product 'Dil Afza'. The appellant stated before the court that the trademark 'Rooh Afza' is a highly reputed mark in the market with regard to sharbat (sweet beverage). Furthermore, it was claimed that the design of the product 'Dil Afza' is deceptively similar to the get-up and trade dress of the appellant's product.

What was the court's verdict?
A Division Bench of the Delhi High Court restrained the respondent (Sadar Laboratories Pvt. Ltd.) from manufacturing and selling any product under the trademark 'Dil Afza' till the final disposal of the trademark infringement suit. The court held that "it is not difficult to conceive that a person who looks at the label of 'Dil Afza' may recall the label of 'Rooh Afza' as the word 'Afza' is common and the meaning of the words 'Rooh' and 'Dil', when translated in English, are commonly used in conjunction. In the case of M/s Kirorimal Kashiram Marketing & Agencies Pvt. Ltd. vs M/s Shree Sita Chawal Udyog Mil, the Delhi High Court observed that "it is not permissible to copy a prominent part of the registered trademark of another person" and restrained the respondent from using the trademark 'Golden Deer' as it was deceptively similar to the plaintiff's registered trademark 'Double Deer' with regards to rice.

What is a strong trademark?
A mark is said to be strong when it is well-known and has acquired a high degree of goodwill. The degree of the protection of any trademark changes with the strength of the mark; the stronger the mark, the higher the requirement to protect it. "Rooh Afza requires more protection as it is more likely to be subjected to piracy by those who seek to draw an undue advantage of its goodwill", the judgment said.

What were the Court's rationales?
Firstly, the impugned trademark 'Dil Afza' has a phonetic similarity with 'Rooh Afza'. Secondly, "if recall from memory is triggered by the English meaning of the words 'ROOH' and 'DIL', the fact that heart and soul is a commonly used phrase, provides a common conceptual background". Thirdly, the trade dress of the impugned trade mark, which consists of the bottle's shape, design, the placement of the house mark, colourfully busy design of the label, are the material contributors to the commercial impression of the competing trademark. Lastly, the value of the product was taken into consideration as well. The court held that as the product is a low-priced consumable item, "the average customer would not deliberate on the details of the product as one would do while taking a high-value investment decision".

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THE GIST

▼ The manufacturers of the beverage 'Rooh Afza' moved an appeal in the Delhi High Court seeking an interim injunction against Sadar Laboratories Pvt. Ltd. for their product 'Dil Afza'

▼ A Division Bench cited common words in the labels and similar words that can be used in conjunctionas it ruled in favour of Hamdard National Foundation (India), the makers of 'Rooh Afza'

▼ The court also said that as the product is a low-priced consumable item, "the average customer would not deliberate on the details of the product as one would do while taking a high-value investment decision".

	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 18th century such as industrial revolution, world wars, re-drawal 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.

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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.
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I	Emotional intelligence-concepts, and their utilities and application in administration and governance.
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M	Laws, rules, regulations and conscience as
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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.