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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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CPC set to amend Constitution with Xi Jinping eyeing the status of Mao

Ananth Krishnan

BEIJING

Ahead of China's ruling Communist Party amending its Constitution on Saturday, China's President Xi Jinping has been hailed by the State media as a "people's leader", an honorific not used since the days of Mao Zedong.

While Chairman Mao was called the "great helmsman" or great leader (*weida lingxiu*), Mr. Xi has been referred to in some Party media outlets as the "people's leader" (*renmin lingxiu*).

State broadcaster *China Central Television* on Thursday, during the ongoing Party Congress, described Mr. Xi as "the core of the party, the people's

leader, and the commander-in-chief of the army" as well as "a great Marxist statesman". Mr. Xi was on Thursday and Friday also described using the same phrase "Marxist statesman with a global vision" by the Vice Foreign Minister Ma Zhaoxu and Vice Environment Minister Zhai Qing.

New honorifics

The flood of new honorifics for Mr. Xi has brought focus to Saturday's Constitutional amendment, which is expected to reflect a further centralisation of Mr. Xi's "core" status – which was, along with his eponymous ideology called "Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era", added to the consti-

While Mao was called the 'great helmsman', Xi has been referred to as the 'people's leader'

tution at the previous 19th Congress in 2017.

"The amendment to the Constitution will incorporate the major theoretical views and strategic thinking," Congress spokesperson Sun Yeli said. "The amendment will fully embody the latest achievements in adapting Marxism to the Chinese context and to the needs of the times. It will also enshrine the new ideas, thoughts and strategies on national governance that the CPC Central Commit-

tee has set forth since the 19th CPC National Congress."

Mr. Xi in 2018 abolished the two-term limit for the post of President, and is set to begin an unprecedented third-term once the Congress concludes on Saturday and chooses the new Central Committee, which will meet on Sunday and announce the new members likely to join Mr. Xi on the next Politburo Standing Committee.

The next Politburo Standing Committee is likely to include at least three new allies of Mr. Xi, while the new Central Military Commission, which Mr. Xi heads, will also induct younger Generals and likely reaffirm his control over the military.

From the Great Hall, a focus on the PLA

The People's Republic of China's (PRC) President Xi Jinping delivered a wide-ranging work report laying out the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) agenda for China over the next five years. The speech covered everything – from the economy, to the environment and technology, to Taiwan. One of the most awaited sections of his report was on the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA). Here are four important takeaways from Mr. Xi's speech for the PLA.

Policy alteration and nuclear expansion

One, the most noticeable aspect of his speech was his use of the phrase “powerful strong strategic deterrent capabilities system” (*qiangda zhanlue weishe lilian tixi*). This was missing from his previous speeches and work reports. This emphasises a slight shift in Chinese policy thinking on nuclear deterrence. As Tong Zhao, a China nuclear strategy scholar, highlights, the traditional policy of a “lean and effective nuclear force” (*jinggan youxiao*), which was only completely explained in a defence white paper in 2006, was altered in 2021 to “an advanced/high-level strategic deterrent system” (*gao shuiping zhanlue weishe tixi*).

The recent policy alteration explains the ongoing nuclear expansion in the past two years, where China has built at least 250 missile silos in three missile silo fields in Yumen, Gansu province, near Hami in Xinjiang province and Hanggin Banner, Ordos City, Inner Mongolia. An educated guess is that China is attempting to move towards a launch-on-warning (LOW) nuclear posture, meaning to launch at an adversary on detecting an incoming missile.

More importantly, the change in language along with a building of silos more conclusively establishes that China aims to increase its nuclear warhead stockpile. Currently, it has around 350 nuclear warheads, which could double in the



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One of the most awaited sections of Chinese leader Xi Jinping's wide-ranging work report was on the Chinese People's Liberation Army; there are far-reaching implications

next five to 10 years. Second, on the sections on the PLA's modernisation and China's military reforms, unlike the previous work report, the focus is more on reforming military academies, improving military logistics and resource management. The 2017 work report was published after Mr. Xi flagged off military reforms in 2015.

Logically, the first phase of reforms focused on structural and bureaucratic changes along with speeding up the modernisation (acquisition process), which was started under the Hu Jintao administration. It looks like structural reforms are completed, modernisation which is the first step to achieve mechanisation, one of the three stated goals by Mr. Xi – others being informatisation and achieving world-class status, is delayed by a couple of years but is still in process. It appears that the PLA has shifted its attention towards improving personnel policies and military education. Although this had already started in the first phase of reforms, the report indicates that it would be the focus for the next five years.

PLA training and loyalty

The report also briefly touched upon improving the PLA's military training and operations. On November 13, 2020, the Central Military Commission (CMC) issued guidelines on “Joint Operations of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (Trial)” focusing on providing guidance to the PLA on how it will conduct “integrated joint operations” with new structures, news services, and a continuously changing threat environment under emerging technologies and new battle space domains. The report reinforces this and highlights the importance for the PLA to adapt and train for “integrated joint operations”.

Third, like in previous work reports, there is an added emphasis on the PLA's loyalty to the CCP. Mao Zedong, the founding father of Communist China, once famously said, “Political power grows

out of the barrel of a gun.” The PLA's absolute loyalty is extremely crucial for the CCP and the General Secretary to rule by force. The recent work report emphasises that the PLA improves mechanisms to carry out the party's military-political work with the armed forces and to enforce party discipline within the cadre.

Earlier, following the 19th Party Congress, the CMC composition was restructured and the head of the PLA's discipline inspection commission was included over service chiefs. His inclusion in the CMC was indicative of the efforts to deepen political loyalty within the armed forces and the enduring concern about ideological weakness and corruption. This time, it is likely that the discipline inspection commissioner will retain the seat, and China will continue purging officers who could emerge as a threat to Mr. Xi or his faction in the future.

A regional focus

Finally, as Joel Wuthnow, a China security scholar, points out, this report mentions “winning the local wars” (*da ying jubu zhanzheng*). This was missing in the previous work report. The previous report only mentioned “fighting and winning wars”. This indicates that the PLA, despite slowly moving towards long-ranged capabilities such as mid-air and mid-sea refuelling and commissioning vessels and aircraft that could venture into the Indian and South Pacific Oceans, still primarily focuses on regional contingencies such as Taiwan, the South China Sea and the border dispute with India.

Besides these four major takeaways, there are other minor ones such as an emphasis on the role of technology, improving force mobilisation and border defence capabilities and transfer for scientific advances to combat capabilities. These goals will not only impact the PLA's warfighting capabilities but also will alter the landscape of the Indo-Pacific region in the future.

Take immediate action against hate speech: SC

Don't wait for a complaint to be filed, says Bench and warns that any 'hesitation' to comply with the direction will attract contempt of court proceedings against erring officers

Krishnadas Rajagopal

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday said it is "tragic what we have reduced religion to" in the 21st century and a "climate of hate prevails in the country", while directing the police and authorities to immediately and *suo motu* register cases against hate speech makers without waiting for a complaint to be filed.

A Bench of Justices K.M. Joseph and Hrishikesh Roy ordered that any "hesitation" to comply with the direction would attract the proceedings for contempt of the Supreme Court against the erring officers.

The court directed that first information reports (FIRs) should be registered and criminal proceedings



Where have we reached? What have we reduced religion to? It is tragic... and we speak of scientific temper

JUSTICE K.M. JOSEPH
Supreme Court



Very shocking statements have been made in a country that has to be religion-neutral

JUSTICE HRISHIKESH ROY
Supreme Court

initiated against the makers of hate speech "irrespective of their religion so that the secular character of the country is preserved".

The interim directions were primarily for the benefit of the police of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarak-

hand. The court issued notices to the three States and asked their police chiefs to submit reports on action taken on hate speech cases.

"We are deeply, deeply obliged," senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for petitioner Shaheen Abdul-

la, reacted to the order.

"We are doing far too little," Justice Joseph replied.

"At least somebody has listened," Mr. Sibal said.

Loud and clear

"We have to... it is our duty. If we don't, it is plain abdication of duty, nothing else to that... Otherwise, what will happen after sometime," Justice Joseph told Mr. Sibal.

The Bench heard the case beyond court hours and ensured that the order was ready and read out loudly in open court.

The petitioner, also represented by advocate Nizam Pasha, had highlighted the rising incidents of hate speeches targeting the Muslim community.

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Take immediate action against hate speech: SC

The petitioner said the “total inaction” on the part of the police in the three States had given rise to “despondency and angst” within the Muslim community. The petitioner alleged that events organised in Delhi and Haridwar in 2021 hosted hate speeches by leaders who made open calls for the genocide of Muslims.

The order even highlighted some of the specific provisions of the penal law under which hate speech offenders ought to be booked. These include Sections 153A (promoting enmity between different groups on the ground of religion), 153B (imputations, assertions prejudicial to national integration), 505 (public mischief), 295A (deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings) of the Indian Penal Code.

“Where have we reached? What have we reduced religion to? It is tragic... and we speak of scientific temper...” Justice Joseph said after reading out instances of hate speeches and what was said by the speakers. “Very shocking statements have been made in a country that has to be religion-neutral,” Justice Roy noted.

State governments cannot enter into broadcasting on their own: I&B Ministry

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Information and Broadcasting Ministry on Friday issued an advisory stating that no Ministry or department of the governments at the Centre, States and Union Territories and their associated entities should enter into broadcasting or distribution of broadcasting activities in future.

Those already broadcasting their content have been told to get it done through the public broadcaster, Prasar Bharati, and the entities distributing the broadcasting content have been asked to “extract themselves” from it by December 31, 2023.

The Ministry said the



Central route: Any broadcasting by government departments should be via Prasar Bharati, the advisory said. FILE PHOTO

advisory had been issued in view of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India's (TRAI) recommendation, the Supreme Court judgment in the Cricket Association of Bengal case and the Law Ministry's legal opinion. The move may have political implications as among those could be impacted by the advisory

are Tamil Nadu's Kalvi TV and Arasu Cable, besides the Andhra Pradesh government's IPTV.

Stating that the I&B Ministry was the nodal agency for all the matters related to broadcasting, the advisory said the power of legislation on issues of “posts and telegraphs, telephones, wireless, broad-

casting and other like forms of communication” and exclusive privilege to grant licences in respect of “telegraphs and power” rested with the Centre.

In 2012, the TRAI had suggested that the Central and State governments, their companies, undertakings, joint ventures with the private sector and the entities funded by the governments should not be allowed to enter the business of broadcasting. It relied upon the Sarkaria Commission's recommendation and the Cricket Association case verdict.

“The importance of Prasar Bharati, which is an independent statutory body, should also not be lost sight of. The TRAI has suggested that the body

should fulfil the legitimate aspirations of government entities as regards broadcasting activities, while at the same time recommending the ‘arm's length’ relationship between Prasar Bharati and the government be further strengthened to enhance its autonomy and functional independence,” said the advisory.

To implement the decision, the entry of Central/State/Union Territory governments into broadcast activity for educational purposes would be allowed through Prasar Bharati route. Till then, uninterrupted broadcast of the ongoing education channels and other scheduled programmes would be allowed.

Do not ignore food insecurity in country, activists tell Centre

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

Activists of the Right to Food Campaign have accused the Centre here on Friday of diverting the issue of hunger away from the real situation on the ground and the food and nutritional insecurity in the country. Countering the Centre's stand on the Global Hunger Index that it overlooked Central schemes and that the sample size of the survey was too small, the activists argued that the survey was validated by the national data on unemployment and stagnant wages.

They said there had been a worsening in food security both in quantity and quality compared to the pre-COVID period for about 41% of the population. The activists urged the Centre to stop inadequate policy response to address the problem and to hold the census at the earliest to find the number of people without ration cards. They said about 12 crore people in the country had not been enrolled in the ration cards.

Talking to reporters, activists Anjali Bhardwaj, Dipa Sinha, Harsh Mander,



The Global Hunger Index had flagged malnutrition in India.

Nikhil Dey and Vandana Prasad said that since 2006 India has ranked poorly in the index and it highlighted the fact that hunger and malnutrition remained serious concerns in the country.

The activists said high levels of child malnutrition were a reflection of food insecurity in households, poor dietary diversity, lack of maternal and child care services, low status of women and inadequate access to health and sanitation. "While the results from these surveys may not be representative of the district, state or country, they do tell a story of deprivation of lakhs of households in similar situations as the survey respondents," Ms. Sinha said.

Paddy pellet scheme does not account for production cost, say entrepreneurs

SPECIAL

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Days after the Union Environment Ministry announced a scheme to incentivise entrepreneurs to manufacture pellets from paddy stubble, beneficiaries say that the scheme does not account for the actual costs of manufacturing and is unlikely to help with reducing pollution from stubble burning.

Pellets, which are manufactured out of agriculture biomass, when properly made would provide much more heat, emit fewer than 50% of the particulate matter and only a fraction of the ash from burning an equivalent amount of coal, according to Gurugram-based Amitabh Malaviya, who is in the business of pellet manufacturing.

“Also they constitute a



The scheme was introduced to reduce stubble burning.

reliable source of income for farmers who can sell their agriculture byproducts – I won't call it waste – instead of merely burning it and causing pollution,” he said.

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy estimates about 270 million tonnes of such agricultural waste is annually available in India that can produce 28,000 MW of power. By comparison, about 818 mil-

lion tonnes of coal was consumed by thermal power plants for producing electricity in 2021-22, according to figures from Coal India Ltd. “About 800 kg of pellets can replace a tonne [1,000 kg] of coal,” Mr. Malaviya added.

However, establishing a plant with a single pellet-making machine that produces a tonne of pellet an hour would cost ₹1 -1.5 crore, he estimates.

To assist, not subsidise

A senior official in the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), which manages the scheme, told *The Hindu* that the intent of the scheme was not to entirely subsidise every plant but assist an aspirant entrepreneur.

“This is a start. There may be changes in technology and widely different estimates on the cost of a pellet plant in the future. and the intention is to in-

centivise – not fully fund an entrepreneur. Any serious entrepreneur will surely welcome the opportunity,” he told *The Hindu* but declined to be identified. The entire outlay of the government project, described as a “one-time” scheme was ₹50 crore of which ₹40 crore was for pellet plants and ₹10 crore for torrefaction plants.

Meerut-based Ajay Mittal, who runs a pellet manufacturing plant, said that narrowing the scheme down only for those who convert paddy stubble to pellets was restrictive. Sugarcane biomass from western Uttar Pradesh and mustard residue from Rajasthan too could be useful but neither of them was eligible for the government grant. “To solve the problem of air pollution it is not enough to reduce it to rice paddy. The benefit of the scheme must come to all,” he told *The Hindu*.

Smarter Army posts to improve living conditions of troops

The Hindu Bureau

GUWAHATI

A pilot project in the Eastern Himalayas is set to usher in smarter facilities for raising the living standards of troops posted along the border with China.

Army engineers used a mix of materials, including bamboo and other locally available resources, to give shape to a “first-of-its-kind integrated” post beyond 10,000 ft above mean sea level in the Tawang sector of western Arunachal Pradesh in November 2021.

The model post is ready for the soldiers to move in. Two more such posts in the Northern Sector (Arunachal Pradesh is a part of it) are expected to be completed by December.

“The plan was to create a model post for troops on the frontline as an integrated project keeping in mind the space, essential troop

Two more such posts in the Northern Sector are expected to be completed by December

comfort, weather protection, amenities like running water, power requirements, safety and connectivity. The selected location for the model post was winter cut-off at high altitude,” a Defence statement said.

“There were major shortcomings with respect to living standards, protection against weather, space available to men, hygiene facilities and the ad-hoc power arrangements. This is now fast changing,” the statement said, and added that there are plans to evolve the design and concept of the model post and replicate it all among the frontline across regions.

Tejas to be integrated with BrahMos-NG missile in a few years

Dinakar Peri

GANDHINAGAR

In the next few years, the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA), Tejas, will be able to carry and launch the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile. This will be possible once the lighter version of the supersonic cruise missile, BrahMos-NG (next generation), is ready, according to the company officials.

“The BrahMos-NG development is expected to make first flight in two years and will be ready for production in 2-3 years after that. The focus of the development as of now is on the air-launched version,” a BrahMos official said on the sidelines of DefExpo 2022.

The NG will weigh almost half as much as the current air-launched version, making it possible to be mounted on the LCA in

The NG will weigh only half as much as the current air-launched version

future, the official said. Stating that during the development phase it is being integrated on the Su-30MKI, the official said it would later be integrated on the LCA and also other fighters of the Air Force.

The current air-launched missile weighs 2.65 tonne, which will come down to 1.33 tonne with the NG. With this, a SU-30MKI will be able to carry up to four BrahMos-NG missiles, while the LCA can carry two missiles, the official added.

The missile can be launched from land, sea, sub-sea and air against surface and sea-based targets and has been long inducted by Indian armed forces.

IN BRIEF



India tests medium-range ballistic missile Agni Prime

India on Friday successfully test-fired indigenously-developed new generation medium-range ballistic missile Agni Prime from the Odisha coast, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) sources said. The sleek missile was test-fired from a mobile launcher from the APJ Abdul Kalam Island around 9:45 a.m, they said. The solid-fuelled missile met all mission parameter during the test, sources added. All its navigation was tracked and monitored by radars and telemetry equipment positioned along various points. The missile's strike range is between 1,000 km and 2,000 km. The last trial of the missile was conducted on December 18 last year from the same base, which was also successful. PTI

Are critically endangered Great Indian Bustards now migrating to Pakistan?

SPECIAL

Mohammed Iqbal
JAIPUR

The recent sighting of three Great Indian Bustards (GIBs) deep in Pakistan's Cholistan desert has given rise to speculation that the endangered birds might have flown across the international border from India's Desert National Park (DNP). GIBs are critically endangered in Pakistan because of lack of protection and rampant hunting.

An Islamabad-based wildlife photographer, Syed



Beyond borders: A Great Indian Bustard clicked in Pakistan's Cholistan reserve by Syed Rizwan Mehboob.

Rizwan Mehboob, released pictures and a video of the GIBs after spotting them in southern Punjab province's Cholistan game reserve

earlier this month. Though he did not claim that the GIBs had arrived from India, environmental activists in Jaisalmer district say the birds might have migrated due to their shrinking habitat.

Conservation project

The GIB – the State bird of Rajasthan – is considered India's most critically endangered bird and is protected under the Wildlife Protection Act. Its population of about 150 in Rajasthan accounts for 95% of its total world population.

The captive breeding of GIBs was taken up in the DNP through a project exe-

cuted by the Dehradun-based Wildlife Institute of India in 2019. As many as 24 GIB chicks are being reared in DNP by a team supported by the International Fund for Houbara Conservation of United Arab Emirates.

As Rajasthan shares the international border with Pakistan's Sindh and Punjab provinces, it is suspected that the GIBs might have flown across to the neighbouring country's desert amid fears that they could become easy prey for the poachers there.

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Are Indian Bustards migrating to Pakistan?

DNP Deputy Conservator of Forests Ashish Vyas told *The Hindu* that several GIBs had been tagged for behavioural studies and monitoring of their movements. “They forage in the Thar desert area, which is their natural habitat, and no GIB from the Indian side has migrated to Pakistan,” he said.

Tourism & Wildlife Society of India (TWSI) secretary Harsh Vardhan said the GIBs reaching Cholistan was a possibility if one considers the likelihood of their stoppage at several places to consume feed and replenish their energy lost in flying. “They would fly to that region only if there was no feed within and outside the DNP or if they felt there was less space for movement and raising their family,” he said.

China makes a push for global green dominance

Ananth Krishnan
BEIJING

A pledge to “advance the energy revolution” at China’s ongoing Communist Party Congress (CPC) has underlined Beijing’s growing global ambitions to position itself as a dominant player in emerging renewable industries.

“China is now the world’s largest producer and consumer of renewable energy and new energy vehicles,” Vice Minister for Environment Zhai Qing told reporters on Friday, on the sidelines of the Congress.

‘Energy revolution’

At the opening on Sunday where Party General Secretary and President Xi Jinping outlined China’s plans for the



Future forward: Chinese domestic brands occupy four of the top five positions in EV sales and are now eyeing global markets. AFP

next five years, Mr. Xi said the country “will thoroughly advance the energy revolution”.

Mr. Xi earlier announced that China would reach carbon neutrality in 2060 while emissions would peak by

2030. He said initiatives would be advanced to reach peak emissions “in a well-planned and phased way in line with the principle of building the new before discarding the old” and with

“better control over the amount and intensity of energy consumption, particularly of fossil fuels”.

The move away from coal has, however, taken a recent hit on account of energy shortages in China, although experts expect the broad longer-term trend to continue. Mr. Zhai said installed capacity of wind, solar, water and biomass also ranked first in the world, as did the size of the carbon trading market.

Growth of EV market

Since 2005, he noted, proportion of coal in energy consumption had dropped from 72.4% in 2005 to 56% last year, when the proportion of non-fossil fuel energy consumption reached 16.6%.

The rapid growth of Chi-

na’s electric vehicle market, now the world’s biggest, has perhaps been the clearest indicator of its green ambitions, with domestic brands now occupying four of the top five positions in sales and eyeing global markets. The only foreign brand in the top five in domestic sales is Tesla, while home-grown BYD is the biggest.

Last year, according to the International Energy Agency, electric car sales in China tripled to 3.3 million, accounting for half the global total, a rise that the agency attributed to the median price of an electric car in China being only 10% more than that of conventional offerings compared with 45% to 50% in other markets, mostly due to state policy support.

An online fight where children need to be saved

Last month, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) conducted searches across States and Union Territories as part of a pan-India operation, “Megh Chakra”. The operation, against the online circulation and sharing of Child Sexual Abusive Material (CSAM) using cloud-based storage, was supposedly based on inputs received from Interpol’s Singapore special unit, in turn based on the information received from New Zealand. In November 2021, a similar exercise code-named “Operation Carbon” was launched by the CBI, with many being booked under the IT Act, 2000.

In India, though viewing adult pornography in private is not an offence; seeking, browsing, downloading or exchanging child pornography is an offence punishable under the IT Act. However, Internet Service Providers (ISPs) are exempted from liability for any third-party data if they do not initiate the transmission. As the public reporting of circulation of online CSAM is very low and there is no system of automatic electronic monitoring, India’s enforcement agencies are largely dependent on foreign agencies for the requisite information.

American and British models

The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC), a non-profit organisation in the United States, operates a programme called CyberTipline, for public and electronic service providers (ESPs) to report instances of suspected child sexual exploitation. ISPs are mandated to report the identity and the location of individuals suspected of violating the law. Also, NCMEC may notify ISPs to block transmission of online CSAM. In 2021, the CyberTipline received more than 29.3 million reports (99% from ESPs) of U.S. hosted and suspected CSAM.

In the United Kingdom, the mission of the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF), a non-profit organisation established by the United Kingdom’s Internet industry to ensure a safe online environment for users with a particular focus on CSAM, includes disrupting the availability of CSAM and deleting such content hosted in the U.K. The IWF engages the analysts to actively search for criminal content and not just rely on reports from external sources. Though the U.K. does not explicitly mandate the reporting of suspected CSAM, ISPs may be held responsible for third party content if they hosts or caches such content on their servers. In 2021, the IWF assessed 3,61,062 reports, (about 70% reports had CSAM) and seven in 10 reports contained “self-generated” CSAM.

INHOPE, a global network of 50 hotlines (46



R.K. Vij

is a former Special Director General of Police of Chhattisgarh

member countries), provides the public with a way to anonymously report CSAM. It provides secure IT infrastructure, ICCAM (I- “See” (c)-Child-Abuse-Material) hosted by Interpol, and facilitates the exchange of CSAM reports between hotlines and law enforcement agencies. ICCAM is a tool to facilitate image/video hashing/fingerprinting and reduce the number of duplicate investigations.

In 2021, the number of exchanged content URLs stood at 9,28,278, of which 4,43,705 contained illegal content. About 72% of all illegal content URLs were removed from the Internet within three days of a notice and takedown order.

India’s efforts so far

In India, the Supreme Court of India, in *Shreya Singhal* (2015), read down Section 79(3)(b) of the IT Act to mean that the ISP, only upon receiving actual knowledge of the court order or on being notified by the appropriate government, shall remove or disable access to illegal contents. Thus, ISPs are exempted from the liability of any third-party information.

In the Kamlesh Vaswani (WP(C) 177/2013) case, the petitioner sought a complete ban on pornography. After the Court’s intervention, the advisory committee (constituted under Section 88 of the IT Act) issued orders in March 2015 to ISPs to disable nine (domain) URLs which hosted contents in violation of the morality and decency clause of Article 19(2) of the Constitution. The petition is still pending in the Supreme Court.

‘Aarambh India’, a Mumbai-based non-governmental organisation, partnered with the IWF, and launched India’s first online reporting portal in September 2016 to report images and videos of child abuse. These reports are assessed by the expert team of IWF analysts and offending URLs are added to its blocking list. Till 2018, out of 1,182 reports received at the portal, only 122 were found to contain CSAM.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) launched a national cybercrime reporting portal in September 2018 for filing online complaints pertaining to child pornography and rape-gang rape. This facility was developed in compliance with Supreme Court directions with regard to a public interest litigation filed by Prajwala, a Hyderabad-based NGO that rescues and rehabilitates sex trafficking survivors. As not many cases of child porn and rape were reported, the portal was later extended to all types of cybercrime. Further, the National Crime Records Bureau (MHA) signed a memorandum of understanding with the NCMEC in April 2019 to receive CyberTipline reports to facilitate action

against those who upload or share CSAM in India. The NCRB has received more than two million CyberTipline reports which have been forwarded to the States for legal action.

The ad hoc Committee of the Rajya Sabha, headed by Jairam Ramesh, in its report of January 2020, made wide-ranging recommendations on ‘the alarming issue of pornography on social media and its effect on children and society as whole’. On the legislative front, the committee not only recommended the widening of the definition of ‘child pornography’ but also proactive monitoring, mandatory reporting and taking down or blocking CSAM by ISPs.

On the technical front, the committee recommended permitting the breaking of end-to-end encryption, building partnership with industry to develop tools using artificial intelligence for dark-web investigations, tracing identity of users engaged in crypto currency transactions to purchase child pornography online and liaisoning with financial service companies to prevent online payments for purchasing child pornography.

What needs to be done

According to the ninth edition (2018) report of the International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children on “Child Sexual Abusive Material: Model Legislation & Global Review”, more than 30 countries now require mandatory reporting of CSAM by ISPs. Surprisingly, India also figures in this list, though, the law does not provide for such mandatory reporting.

The Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child that addresses child sexual exploitation encourages state parties to establish liability of legal persons. Similarly, the Council of Europe’s Convention on Cybercrime and Convention on The Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse also requires member states to address the issue of corporate liability.

It is time India joins INHOPE and establishes its hotline to utilise Interpol’s secure IT infrastructure or collaborate with ISPs and financial companies by establishing an independent facility such as the IWF or NCMEC. The Jairam Ramesh committee’s recommendations must be followed up in earnest and the Prajwala case brought to a logical end. India needs to explore all options and adopt an appropriate strategy to fight the production and the spread of online CSAM. Children need to be saved.

The views expressed are personal

India needs an appropriate strategy to fight the production, the spread and the sharing of online Child Sexual Abusive Material (CSAM)

Pakistan is out of FATF 'grey list' on terror funding

Suhasini Haidar

NEW DELHI

Four years after it was placed on the 'grey list' and penalised with severe financial strictures by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), Pakistan won a major reprieve on Friday, as the international watchdog on terror financing and money laundering agreed to remove Pakistan's name from the list of countries under 'increased monitoring'.

Reacting to the decision, the Ministry of External Affairs said that Pakistan must continue to take "credible, verifiable, irreversible and sustainable" action against terror groups on its soil.

FATF said Pakistan had completed two action plans comprising a 34-point tasklist since 2018.

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After 4 years, Pakistan is out of FATF 'grey list'

In a statement, FATF said that it “welcomes Pakistan’s significant progress” in its AML/CFT mechanisms.

India has protested Pakistan’s lack of action against cross-border terror groups responsible for attacks on India, but sources said went along with the final decision, as there was consensus in the room, and Pakistan had submitted “documentary evidence” of its actions against designated terrorists. “As a result of FATF scrutiny, Pakistan has been forced to take some action against well known terrorists, including those involved in attacks against the entire international community in Mumbai on 26/11 attack” MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said, referring to the 2008 attacks in which 166 people were killed, and 294 injured.

“It is in global interest that the world remains clear that Pakistan must continue to take credible, verifiable, irreversible and sustained action against terrorism and terrorist financing emanating from territories under its control,” he added.

‘Terrorism is the worst form of human rights violation’

Home Minister Amit Shah makes recommendation to Interpol on setting up a global network connecting counter-terror and anti-narcotics agencies with real-time information exchange

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday recommended to the Interpol that setting up permanent counter-terrorism and anti-narcotics real-time information exchange platforms would further strengthen the fight against the global menaces, underlining that the spread of terrorist ideologies via online radicalisation should not be viewed as a political problem.

Speaking at the concluding session of the Interpol’s 90th General Assembly, Mr. Shah said India was committed to extending all possible technical and manpower assistance to the global police organisation in this regard.

Describing terrorism as the worst form of human



Working together: Amit Shah being welcomed by Interpol President Ahmed Naser Al Raisi at the summit in New Delhi. R.V. MOORTHY

rights violation, the Home Minister said a general consensus would have to be developed on the definitions of “terrorism” and “terrorist”. The narratives of “good” and “bad” terrorism and “small” and “big” terrorism would weaken the fight against the threat which was high on Interpol’s priority list. “We also

need to achieve a consensus on the cross-border propagation of terrorist ideologies through online radicalisation. We cannot consider this a political problem,” he said.

“We should ensure that the fight against terrorism is sustained, comprehensive and continuous, for which India is committed

to working with the Interpol,” said Mr. Shah, adding that the Interpol was the best platform to achieve the objective of countering cross-border terrorism through “across the border cooperation”.

Mr. Shah said that in several countries, Interpol’s nodal agencies and counter-terror organisations were different. For a united response, he suggested that there should be a permanent real-time information exchange line between the counter-terror agencies across the world.

“I would suggest that Interpol should prepare a plan for the next 50 years on the basis of its experience and achievements over the past 100 years,” he said, adding that a study team should be formed for the purpose and the plan should be reviewed and updated every five years.

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.