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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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Imran Khan begins 'long march' for early Pak. election

This nation is ready to make every sacrifice but it will not accept thieves, said the former Prime Minister, referring to his political opponents

Agence France-Presse
LAHORE

Former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan launched a so-called "long march" on Friday on the capital Islamabad to demand early elections, piling pressure on a government already in crisis.

The former international cricket star was booted from office in April by a no-confidence vote after defections by some of his coalition partners, but he retains mass public support in the South Asian country.

Thousands of people gathered in the eastern city of Lahore, from where a convoy began the 380-km journey to the capital, expected to take around a week with rallies planned along the route.

Decisions by the people

"This nation is ready to make every sacrifice but it will not accept thieves. The objective of the march is that decisions should be taken by the people themselves," Mr. Khan told the



Long game: Imran Khan (third from right) gestures during an anti-government march towards Islamabad on Friday. AFP

crowd from the top of a shipping container.

Parts of his speech that addressed the heads of the military and intelligence services were censored by Pakistani television channels. Mr. Khan, who has dodged multiple legal challenges, has already staged a string of well-attended rallies demonstrating his popularity, and earlier this month won six out of eight by-elections.

On Thursday, the head of the country's main intelligence service and chief of military public relations held a press conference where they defended the institutions against Mr. Khan's accusations they were meddling in politics.

Pakistan has been ruled by the military for much of its 75-year history, and criticism of the security establishment has long been seen as a red line.

Defiant Iranians rally again in protests against crackdown

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

Iranians took to the streets around the country for a second successive night to protest against the killings of youth in a widely documented crackdown on demonstrations sparked by Mahsa Amini's death.

The clerical state has been gripped by six weeks of protests that erupted when Amini, 22, died in custody after her arrest for an alleged breach of Iran's strict dress rules for women based on Islamic Sharia law.

Security forces have struggled to contain the women-led protests that have evolved into a broader campaign to end the Islamic republic founded in 1979. The fresh rallies came as people gathered to mourn young demonstrators killed in the crackdown.

Security forces on Thursday shot dead at least three protesters in Mahabad and another two in Baneh, both near Iran's western border with Iraq, said Hengaw, a Norway-based human rights group.

Amnesty International said "unlawful killings" by Iran's security forces had claimed the lives of at least eight people in four provinces within 24 hours, in a statement late on Thurs-



Systemic violence: Iranians protest on Thursday against the killing of youth in crackdown on rallies against Mahsa Amini's death. AP

day. The deadly gunfire came after mourners paying tribute to Ismail Mauludi, a 35-year-old protester killed on Wednesday night, left his funeral and made their way towards the governor's office, it said.

Widespread killings

Other verified footage showed clashes near the grave of 16-year-old Nika Shahkarami, outside the western city of Khorramabad, where dozens of people were marking the end of the traditional 40-day mourning period since she was killed by security forces. Dozens of men were seen hurling projectiles under fire as they drove back security forces in riot gear on a bridge near Shahkarami's tomb.

The latest demonstrations came despite a crackdown that the Oslo-based Iran Human Rights (IHR)

group says has already killed at least 141 protesters, including more than two dozen children.

At least another 93 people were separately killed during protests that erupted in the southeastern city of Zahedan on September 30 over the reported rape of a teenage girl by a police commander, IHR says.

The protests were held in defiance of warnings from Khamenei and ultra-conservative President Ebrahim Raisi, who appeared to try to link the Amini protests to a mass shooting at a Shi'ite Muslim shrine in the southern city of Shiraz.



Explained | Mahsa Amini and the widespread protests in Iran
bit.ly/irankilling

The death penalty and humanising criminal justice

As a conservative agency of the state, the Supreme Court of India is ordinarily expected to tread the path laid out by the written text of law and the binding precedents. But there do come some exceptional moments when, either because of inspired leadership or the burden of anomalous operations of criminal justice, the agencies feel free to break the shackles that force it to the conservative frame. It must go to the credit of the Chief Justice of India (CJI), Justice U.U. Lalit that as the 49th CJI of India, he has ushered in that rare moment by taking several bold initiatives to correct certain grave anomalies that have persisted in operation of the death penalty law. Even before taking up the office of the CJI, Justice Lalit had displayed unique sensitivity to the plight of the condemned 'death-row prisoners' in *Anokhilal vs State of M.P.* (2019), *Irfan vs State of M.P.*, *Manoj and Ors vs State of M.P.* (May 2022), and impart corrections in the form of creative directions/guidelines. Such a corrective line of judicial decisions under the CJI's leadership has continued in the Prakash Vishwanath and review petition order in the Mohd. Firoz cases.

The empirical evidence and research findings contained in the *Death Penalty India Report* (2016) and the '*Deathworthy*' report (Project 39A of the National Law University Delhi) came in handy to buttress the exceptional sensitivities of Justice Lalit. It is a happy augury that the CJI had the unique opportunity of teaming up with like-minded judges such as Justices P.S. Narasimha, S. Ravindra Bhat, Bela M. Trivedi, and Sudhanshu Dhulia.

On policies and uniformity

The focus here is on reframing 'Framing Guidelines Regarding Potential Mitigating Circumstances to be Considered While Imposing Death Sentences', a decision authored by the three judge Bench (the current CJI and Justices Ravindra Bhat and Sudhanshu Dhulia, September 19, 2022).

The decision stands out because of the thrust on the trial court's death sentencing policies and the practice and desire to elicit, from a larger Bench, directions to ensure some kind of uniformity in the matter. Such a reference to a larger Bench would constitute yet another step in the direction of death penalty sentencing justice reform such as the legislative limitation flowing from Section 354(3) in the Code of Criminal Procedure; judicial limitation flowing from the



B.B. Pande

is former Professor of Law, University of Delhi

The goal will depend on the inclination of the judiciary to continue along its creative path and also the extent to which society is prepared to broaden the horizons of meaningful hearing

'rarest of rare' case; and 'oral hearing' after all the remedies to the condemned are exhausted.

Justice Ravindra Bhat's decision (concurring by the CJI and Justice Dhulia) has summed up the core issue that displays a special concern for the legislative mandate under Section 235(2) conferring a right to pre-sentence hearing after conviction and its endorsement by the full Bench ruling in *Bachan Singh*; the trial courts and the appellate court's display of a conflicting patterns of compliances. As an ardent follower of the theory of binding precedents for a cause, Justice Ravindra Bhat did not stop at paying lip service to 'rarest of rare' case limitation, but also required the sentencing court to take the trouble of balancing the aggravating factors and mitigating factors, as per the full Bench ruling.

Sentencing incongruities

With this foundational background and the context of the wide-spread discrepancies in the interpretation of the law, the following observations of the Court are significant: "It is also a fact that in all cases where imposition of capital sentence is a choice of sentence, aggravating circumstances would always be on record, and would be part of [the] prosecutor's evidence, leading to conviction, whereas the accused can scarcely be expected to place mitigating circumstances on the record, for the reason that the stage for doing so is after conviction. This places the convict at a *hopeless disadvantage*, tilting the scales heavily against him." (*emphasis supplied*). The three-judge Bench decision seems to have gone beyond sentencing incongruities when it observes: "This court is of the opinion that it is necessary to have clarity in the matter to ensure a uniform approach on the *question of granting real and meaningful opportunity*, as opposed to *formal hearing to the accused/convict* on the issue of sentence." (*emphasis supplied*).

How is a real and meaningful opportunity to be transformed into reality? What would be the implications of such a 'real hearing' limited only to the matters of sentence?

Such questions need answers that must be given by future society. It is significant that the sentencing lacunae pointed out by the three judge Bench have received a positive response from academics and the media. For instance, an editorial in this daily (September 20, 2022) said: "The Constitution Bench may come up with new guidelines under which the trial courts

themselves can hold a comprehensive investigation into factors related to upbringing, education and socio-economic conditions of an offender before deciding the punishment..." Another leading daily, elaborating further on the subjective factors identified in *Manoj and Ors vs State of M.P.*, said: "trial court must take into account the social milieu, the educational levels, whether the accused had faced trauma earlier in life, family circumstances, psychological evaluation of a convict and post-conviction conduct, were relevant factors at the time of considering whether the death penalty ought to be imposed upon the accused".

'Quality' of guilt

The euphoria and appreciation generated by the bold initiative of the three judge Bench under the leadership of the CJI might have made a positive mark, but the future shape of the mission to humanise criminal justice will ultimately depend upon two things. The first is the composition of the larger Bench and the inclination of the judiciary to continue in its onward creative path, as the CJI retires on November 8. Second, the extent to which society is prepared to broaden the horizons of meaningful hearing, even to the earlier guilt determination stage. Hitherto, criminal liability is a product of the component of culpability/guilt and sanction/punishment. The consideration of these two components in isolation leads to a disconnect between the wrongdoer and his punishment or sentence. Should the 'mitigating factors' influence only the sentence, and not alter the nature and quality of the guilty mind, or the 'guilt' that constitutes the stock justification for punishment? How long and at what cost should we continue to ignore the 'quality' of the guilty mind of the 'death row prisoners' who suffer from severe to mild psychiatric disorders before and after crime (according to empirical evidence in chapter IV of the *Deathworthy* report)?

Perhaps, there will be some answers from leads given by western critical criminal law scholars who have already begun making a distinction between 'early guilt' that is regressive, prosecutory and punitive, and 'mature guilt' that is developmental and progressive. A recent article by Professor Alan Norrie, "Taking Guilt Seriously - Towards a Mature Retributivism" (*On Crime, Society, and Responsibility in The Work of Nicola Lacey*) has covered the trajectory of criminal justice humanisation succinctly.

Anger in Himachal Pradesh over ST notification for Hattis

Gujjars, Scheduled Castes flay Centre's decision; say Hattis are upper caste and commit atrocities against Dalits. Political parties are attempting to capitalise on this ahead of the Assembly election

Abhinay Lakshman
SIRMAUR

In poll-bound Himachal Pradesh, the recent announcement by the Centre to bring the Hatti community under the Scheduled Tribes list in Sirmaur district is spreading resentment among some sections. The only ST community in the district – Gujjars – and Scheduled Caste groups have voiced concerns over the move.

The ruling BJP is faced with a delicate balancing act on the issue, while Opposition parties like the Congress and the Communist Party of India (Marxist) are hoping to capitalise on this resentment. The State is set to vote on November 12. Soon after Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda announced the Cabinet's decision to include the Hatti community in the ST list, the BJP's ST Morcha chief in Sirmaur, Hansraj Bhatia, from Gujjar community, quit his position along with six other members.

Mr. Bhatia's outfit, the Gujjar Kalyan Parishad, had also staged a road



Ashish Kumar of the Dalit Shoshan Mukti Manch in Sirmaur district.

blockade in Kala Amb – a key entry point to the State. The district has five Assembly seats – Pachhad, Nahan, Renukaji, Paonta Sahib and Shillai. Pachhad and Renukaji are reserved for SCs.

“Most people of our community live in the Nahan constituency area and in the entire district, our population is just 10,000-11,000, which includes both Hindus and Muslims. Now, if the government wants to bring 1.6 lakh Hatti members in the ST list, our share of job reservations will be wiped out,” Mr. Bhatia told *The Hindu*, as he prepared for a meet-

ing of Gujjar leaders in Kala Amb to decide which way they will vote in the upcoming Assembly election.

He added, “We are just saying our share of the benefits should not be diluted. Hatti people are generally better-off than us. A lot of our community members are still nomadic.”

Congress leaders have been saying they will make the resentment among Gujjars an issue in the Assembly polls.

However, in a Tuesday meeting of Gujjar leaders in Nahan, most had thrown their weight behind the saffron party, sources said. “The logic is

that the ST list is in the Centre's hands and a BJP MLA can take up the issue with the Centre as opposed to an MLA from Opposition,” a Gujjar leader said.

On the other hand, there is disquiet among the SC communities in villages of Pachhad and Renukaji, where many Dalit villagers are afraid of atrocities and discrimination against them increasing if the Hatti community is notified as an ST. Ashish Kumar of the Dalit Shoshan Mukti Manch said, “Most of those who are Hattis are actually Bhats, Khash, and Kanaits – traditionally considered as upper-caste. Atrocities against Dalits in Sirmaur is an issue and those committing the atrocities are from these communities.”

Parts of the Trans-Giri region, where most of the Hatti community lives, also come under the Assembly Constituencies of Renukaji, Shillai, and Pachhad. As per the most recent Census (2011), 5.71% of the State's population is ST and 25.19% of the population is classified as SC.

High inflation mainly result of 'exogenous' price shocks: Bhide

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI

The high inflation rate in the last three quarters was mainly a consequence of the 'exogenous' price shocks, and addressing the issue would require coordinated policy efforts, RBI Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) member Shashanka Bhide has said.

He added the inflationary pressures are high and it certainly is a test for India's inflation-targeting framework.

"The high inflation rate in Q2 FY2022-23 follows high inflation in the previous two quarters," Mr. Bhide said.

"High fuel and food prices and their spillover to other sectors have sustained the high inflation rate," he added.

Retail CPI inflation has remained above 6% since January 2022, and it was 7.41% in September.

"It is important to take measures to limit the spillover of the price shocks to the rest of the economy."

At COP27, move the needle on climate action

India and other developing economies are justifiably worried about the damage to growth from COVID-19, Russia's war in Ukraine, and the global economy's downturn. But these troubles pale in comparison with the climate catastrophe already resulting from the current trajectory of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, whose effects hit developing economies and the poor hardest. That is why it is imperative that COP27 – the United Nations' climate summit which opens in Egypt from November 6 – makes real advances to stave off the worst effects of global warming. This means going beyond COP21's important Paris agreement (2015) on national commitments to cut GHG emissions and COP26's notable Glasgow agreement (2021) to stem deforestation.

The core issues

Despite nervousness in making bold commitments in these uncertain times, a breakthrough must be made in rectifying decades of lopsided emissions by rich countries. They are still unwilling to offset past excesses by extending the massive financing that developing economies need for climate action. Just as problematic is the continuous and heavy burning of fossil fuels by the top five emitters – China, the United States, India, Russia, and Japan – as well as Southeast Asian countries taken together. What is worse, many of their plans are woefully inadequate for reaching carbon neutrality by 2050 to help keep temperatures rise below 2°C as envisaged in the Paris agreement. COP27 would be a success if progress is made on both these issues. One way would be for the summit to name the countries that are most out of line and ask them to do more.

On the other hand, rich countries have already shown that they can mobilise vast resources to tackle global emergencies. They did this in the



Vinod Thomas

is a former senior Vice-President, World Bank, and Director General, Asian Development Bank. He is currently Visiting Professor, National University of Singapore

The climate summit, in Egypt, should focus on the economic benefits of decarbonisation; India should stop being a hesitant climate actor

2008-09 global financial crisis and spectacularly so in the \$15 trillion committed in 2020 (by one estimate), by the major economies to fight COVID-19. But when it comes to climate change, rich countries are failing dismally in raising the UN-goal of at least \$100 billion annually in climate finance for developing countries. COP27 should move the needle on this vital area.

Reaching carbon neutrality by 2050 is the absolute minimum for all major emitters if unthinkable scenarios of global warming are to be averted. The reverberating message from COP27 should be that the price for achieving carbon neutrality is a fraction of the cost of having to adapt to an increasingly unliveable planet. Ahead of COP27, Singapore has announced that it will achieve net zero emissions by 2050, a powerful signal even if coming from a country with only 0.1% of the carbon footprint.

Advance the year for net zero

India's reliance on fossil fuels is extremely high. High GDP growth, India's biggest goal, just cannot be achieved in the face of runaway climate change. The country has set a target date of 2070 for net zero. China is the world's leader in renewable energy, but its share of coal and gas in energy production remains over 70%, with the country continuing to finance massive fossil fuel-based infrastructure. China has announced net zero for 2060. India and China awkwardly weakened the goal of COP26 from a "phase-out" of coal power to a "phase-down". This, however, is the moment to advance their date for net zero to 2050. Energy is responsible for about three-fourths of GHGs in the air, and low carbon energy needs to lead the decarbonisation of the global economy. India's plan for decarbonisation, even if very gradual at present, will nevertheless need to see a massive switch to renewable energy. Electric power has made progress in adopting

renewables in its energy mix, but a far bigger switch from fossil fuel is needed for domestic heating and cooling. Factors in the way of a more ambitious adoption of renewables such as solar and wind include the variability in their generation due to weather conditions, weak transmission grids, and poor financial conditions of power distribution companies.

Banks can scale up climate projects

COP27 should call for the extensive use of markets to help shift the global economy to a low-carbon path. The summit could back a radical shift in countries adopting carbon pricing, for example, via a significant carbon tax on the source of pollution. It should reiterate the need for all countries to eliminate fossil fuel subsidies. In terms of climate financing, something similar could be done to what was achieved during the COVID-19 pandemic, when rich countries raised vast amounts of financing. Climate projects can be vastly scaled up by multilateral development banks, such as the World Bank and Asian Development Bank, all of which have strong climate-action mandates.

Based on the mixed track record of past summits, expectations may not be high for what COP27 may bring. One way that it could advance the climate agenda is by choosing commitments to be backed by UN-member states that will be seen by governments to be benefiting them – in terms of health and cleaner cities, to name just two examples – and putting their economies on a more environmentally sustainable path that alone can deliver national interests in these tense economic times. India has historically been a hesitant climate actor, not unlike other big emitters. COP27, which will be held at Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt (November 6-18), is a chance for the country to strongly back environmentally sustainable development in its national interest.

Panel to hear complaints against social media platforms

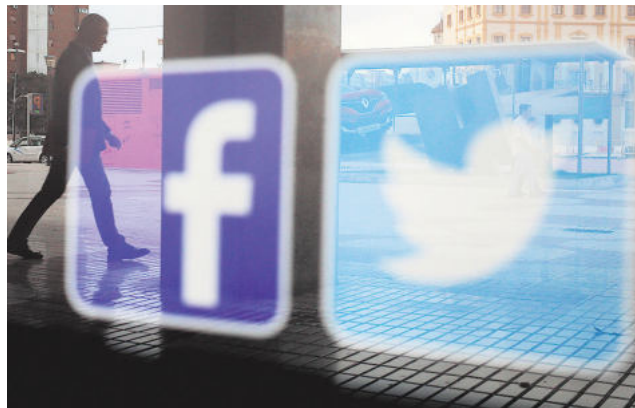
Any person unhappy with a decision of an intermediary's grievance officer may appeal to the Centre's Grievance Appellate Committee within 30 days of receipt of communication

Yuthika Bhargava
NEW DELHI

Social media users will now have the option to appeal against the grievance redressal process of the platforms such as Twitter, Facebook and YouTube, before an appellate panel to be formed by the government, with the Centre notifying the amendments to the IT intermediary rules on October 28.

“The central government shall, by notification, establish one or more Grievance Appellate Committees within three months,” according to the gazette notification.

Each committee, which



Legal standing: The norms follow several stand-off situations between the Centre and social media firms over content. REUTERS

will have the power to overturn content moderation decisions made by social media platforms, will consist of a chairperson and two whole-time members appointed by the

Centre, of which one will be a member ex-officio and two shall be independent members. The new law follows multiple stand-offs between the Centre and social media platforms ov-

er content moderation and pulling down of content. In July, Twitter had moved the Karnataka High Court seeking review and relief from “over-broad and arbitrary” content blocking orders from the government.

As per the notification, any person aggrieved by a decision of the intermediary's grievance officer may prefer an appeal to the Grievance Appellate Committee within 30 days from the date of receipt of communication from the intermediary.

The committee will “make an endeavour to resolve the appeal finally within thirty calendar days from the date of receipt of the appeal”.

Explosive affair

The Coimbatore blast calls for vigil on the law and order and political fronts

With investigators finding tell-tale signs of a terror plot having gone awry, post Sunday's predawn car blast near a temple in communally-fragile Coimbatore, the incident, unless tackled professionally with sensitivity, holds the potential of escalating existing tensions on the law and order and political fronts. Information that the car's driver and suspected mastermind, who was charred, Jameesha Mubin, was briefly under the National Investigation Agency (NIA) radar, would certainly call into question the capabilities of the intelligence apparatus in sensing and forestalling a terror plot. It is sheer providence that an LPG cylinder in the car exploded, as preliminary investigation suggests, before Mubin could strike terror. What cannot be overlooked is that the incident came against the backdrop of serial Molotov cocktail attacks last month, targeting properties of right-wing outfits and their office-bearers in the wake of the nationwide ban on the Popular Front of India. To the credit of the police force, the larger design was unravelled and the suspected plotters unmasked in less than 24 hours. That half a dozen suspects have been arrested bears testimony to their investigation skills. Despite the police's commendable post-blast action, realising the gravity and political ramifications of the issue at hand, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin did the right thing in recommending that the NIA take over the probe. Governor R.N. Ravi, a former IPS officer, has questioned the four-day delay in calling the NIA. However, that is a matter of perspective and individual assessment of the ground situation.

Politically, this has thrown up some challenges for Mr. Stalin. He has to delicately balance the duty of taking along the minorities and the administrative need to uncompromisingly deal with fundamentalists, who propagate violence as an answer to political problems. In this he would require the support of constituent parties of the DMK-led Secular Progressive Alliance, which should acknowledge the need for such balance. The DMK, as such, faces criticism of being soft on terror, due to the 1998 Coimbatore serial blasts, though Tamil Nadu has seen the fangs of terror during the AIADMK regime too (1993 RSS office blast). He also has to combat attempts trying to stoke communal passions and driving religious polarisation using this incident as a springboard. The BJP has seized upon the issue with a section of its leaders calling for a Coimbatore bandh on October 31 to put the heat on the government and consolidate itself politically. What is needed, though, is for the NIA and the government to deal with the plotters firmly while not providing scope for communalising and politicising terrorism.

Sustained efforts needed to fight terror: Jaishankar

The UN Security Council has regrettably been unable to act against some of those involved in the 26/11 attack in Mumbai because of political considerations, says External Affairs Minister

Kallol Bhattacharjee
Sonam Saigal
NEW DELHI/MUMBAI

The international community should rise above political differences and defeat the challenge of terrorism, said External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar on Friday at the Special Meeting of the Counter Terror Committee of the UN Security Council.

Paying homage to victims of the 26/11 terror strikes in Mumbai, Mr. Jaishankar reminded that the UNSC failed to proscribe some of the Pakistan-based organisations and individuals that were involved in the terror strikes in Mumbai.

“In another month, we will be observing the 14th anniversary of these ghastly attacks on Mumbai in November 2008. While one of the terrorists was captured alive, prosecuted and convicted, the key



Foreign Minister of Gabon Michael Moussa-Adamo and S. Jaishankar at the U.N. counter-terrorism meet in Mumbai. AP

conspirators and planners of the 26/11 attacks continue to remain protected and unpunished. When it comes to proscribing some of these terrorists, the Security Council has regrettably been unable to act in some cases because of political considerations,” said Mr. Jaishankar.

He avoided a direct mention of the repeated obstruction and technical holds that China has placed on India’s recent

campaign for black listing of multiple terror masterminds based out of Pakistan.

Mr. Jaishankar mentioned five points for the consideration of the Counter Terror Committee at the event. He listed “effective and sustained efforts to counter terror-financing; normative efforts of the UN need to be coordinated with collaborations with other fora like the Financial Action Task Force

(FATF); to make sure that the Security Council’s sanctions regime is not rendered ineffective because of political reasons; international cooperation and concerted actions against terrorists and their sponsors including the dismantlement of terrorist safe havens, etc. are critical imperatives; terrorism’s nexus with a transnational organised crime like arms and illicit drug trafficking is now established”.

Pakistan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Friday protested against the comments regarding “cross border” terrorism that India raised at the UN CTC in Mumbai.

“Contrary to Indian claims, it is India that has remained non-cooperative with Pakistan and has deliberately held back judicial proceedings of the Mumbai attack case,” the official statement from Pakistan declared.

UAPA gave an impetus to fight against terror: Modi

Police should be able to face Naxals who wield a pen and mislead the youth, besides those who hold a gun, Prime Minister says while addressing the State Home Ministers' meeting in Faridabad

Vijaita Singh

NEW DELHI

P rime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said that Central laws such as the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) had given an impetus to the system in a decisive fight against terrorism.

The Prime Minister said the police should be equipped to face not only those Naxals who hold a gun but also those who wield a pen and mislead the youth by exploiting their emotions. Such forces who get "international support" should not be allowed to take root as they were detrimental to the unity and integrity of the country, he said.

Mr. Modi's statement on the anti-terror legislation

UAPA comes at a time when the Supreme Court is examining a petition that has challenged the validity of the law. The Opposition on several occasions has accused the government of misusing the UAPA against political opponents. On

Friday, AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi tweeted that in 2018-20, as many as 4,690 people were arrested under the UAPA but only 3% were convicted. "PM is right, UAPA gives his govt power to jail anyone without accountability. UAPA is

an evil law, it does nothing to stop terrorism," Mr. Owaisi said.

'Verify information'

Addressing the two-day State Home Ministers' meet at Faridabad in virtual mode, Mr. Modi said one should not be limited to social media as the only source of information. He said a single piece of fake news had the capability to snowball into a matter of national concern. He expressed concern over the losses that India had to face due to fake news about job reservations in the past. He stressed the need to educate people about analysing and verifying information before forwarding it to people.

‘UAPA gave impetus to fight against terror’

“We have to come up with technological advancement to face a fake news-driven society,” he added. He said India’s progress at global stage had also posed many challenges. “First, attempts will be made to belittle your achievements, then the rivals will come in a competition mode.... many world powers will not want that India occupies the market. They think they have the expertise and certain markets are their fiefdom, when you challenge the arrangement, enmity creeps in. It is human nature, so we must be equipped to face such challenges,” the Prime Minister said.

He said law and order was not limited to any particular State and crime was now inter-State and even international.

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.