

Headoffice:
H.No-108 1st Floor, Opp Meghna's,
near Barowari Bus Stop,
Uzanbaazar Guwahati-01, Assam



Contact No: 88118 77068 91016 86625
93651 35375
csapasssam@gmail.com

CIVIL SERVICES ACHIEVERS' POINT

A ONE STOP SOLUTION FOR UPSC/APSC/SSC & BANKING

THE HINDU

EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

DATE – 3rd July, 2021

For Preliminary and Mains examination

(Also useful for APSC and other government examinations)

CSAP

CIVIL SERVICES ACHIEVER'S POINT

Leadership through knowledge...

CENTRES: BELTOLA, SILCHAR, KOKRAJHAR, COTTON UNIVERSITY, SONAPUR COLLEGE, MARGHERITA

Headoffice:
H.No-108 1st Floor, Opp Meghna's,
near Barowari Bus Stop,
Uzanbaazar Guwahati-01, Assam



Contact No: 88118 77068 91016 86625
93651 35375
csapasssam@gmail.com

CIVIL SERVICES ACHIEVERS' POINT

A ONE STOP SOLUTION FOR UPSC/APSC/SSC & BANKING

EDITORIALS

Unjust green (GS 2 - International Relations)

Context

- The European Union's decision to enforce a "Green Pass" to allow travel within the EU from July 1, and linked to specified vaccines, has set off a storm of protest from several quarters including India.
- According to the European Medicines Agency (EMA) that sets the guidelines, the vaccines given "conditional marketing authorisation" were Comirnaty, Vaccine Janssen (Johnson & Johnson), Spikevax (Moderna) and Vaxzevria (AstraZeneca), which makes it clear that neither of India's vaccines, Covishield and Covaxin, as well as Russia's and China's, would be eligible for the EU Digital COVID Certificate (EUDCC), as the Green Pass is formally called.
- External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar took up the exclusion strongly with EU authorities this week, particularly the case of Covishield, which is made under licensing and certification from AstraZeneca, and cleared by WHO.

Criticism against the move

- India has argued that the entire idea of "vaccine passports" would leave developing nations and the global south at a disadvantage, as they have restricted vaccine access.
- An unspoken but valid criticism is that there is a hint of racism in the action — the EMA list only includes vaccines already used by Europe and North America. A letter of protest on the EMA's decision was also issued by the African Union and the Africa CDC this week, which called Covishield the "backbone" of the COVAX alliance's programme, that has been administered in many African countries.

Headoffice:
H.No-108 1st Floor, Opp Meghna's,
near Barowari Bus Stop,
Uzanbaazar Guwahati-01, Assam



Contact No: 88118 77068 91016 86625
93651 35375
csapassam@gmail.com

CIVIL SERVICES ACHIEVERS' POINT

A ONE STOP SOLUTION FOR UPSC/APSC/SSC & BANKING

- The EMA list is not binding however, and countries can choose to include others individually. After India's vocal protests, and its subtle threat to impose reciprocal measures, at least a third of the EU has said they would recognise Covishield (Estonia has accepted Covishield and Covaxin).
- While the news that Austria, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Spain and Switzerland (not an EU member) have accommodated India's concerns is welcome, there are still some hurdles before Indian travellers.
- Most of these countries are not at present accepting Indian travellers at all, as no non-essential travel is allowed to EU countries, and the **spread of the Delta variant, first identified in India**, has meant further travel restrictions.
- In addition, Indians who have taken doses of Covaxin will need to wait even longer, until this vaccine receives WHO clearance.

Conclusion

- Finally, as more nations complete their vaccine programmes, they will seek to tighten their border controls with "vaccine passports" and longer quarantines in order to curtail the spread of new variants.
- While it is necessary for the Government to keep up with these actions worldwide, and battle discriminatory practices, the real imperative remains to vaccinate as many Indians as possible, given that more than six months after the Indian inoculation programme began, only 4.4% of those eligible have been fully vaccinated.

In centenary backdrop, this is no hand of peace (GS 2 - International Relations)

Context

- An atmosphere of unpredictability prevails as regards India-China relations, even as China embarks on its **100th anniversary celebrations of the foundation of the Communist Party of China (CPC)**.
- Memories of the bloodiest clash in recent decades that occurred in the Galwan Heights in June last year, are still vivid in India's memory. The situation in Eastern Ladakh currently remains tense. After some progress in talks over troop disengagement in the vicinity of Pangong Tso Lake and the Kailash ranges, matters have since reached a stalemate.

CENTRES: BELTOLA, SILCHAR, KOKRAJHAR, COTTON UNIVERSITY, SONAPUR COLLEGE, MARGHERITA

Headoffice:
H.No-108 1st Floor, Opp Meghna's,
near Barowari Bus Stop,
Uzanbaazar Guwahati-01, Assam



Contact No: 88118 77068 91016 86625
93651 35375
csapasssam@gmail.com

CIVIL SERVICES ACHIEVERS' POINT

A ONE STOP SOLUTION FOR UPSC/APSC/SSC & BANKING

- Meanwhile, there is new information on China's manoeuvres in the border regions across Ladakh. **China is reportedly raising new militia units comprising local Tibetan youth, to be deployed in Eastern Ladakh, for both high altitude warfare and surveillance.**
- India has, meanwhile, been **expressing its concern to China about the continuing 'close up deployments'**, which has only produced a strong verbal riposte from China. All this has left an indelible imprint on the state of relations between the two Asian giants, who share a several thousand kilometre land border.
- Answers to the question as to why China chose to attack Indian positions in Ladakh, without any provocation, causing the death of a platoon of soldiers belonging to the Bihar Regiment, are still not forthcoming. An answer needs to be found before a reset in India-China relations can take place.

Global concerns

- India's concerns about China are grounded in reality. Other nations today have, however, begun expressing concern about the **threat posed by China to the existing world order.**
- During the past month, both **the G-7 and North Atlantic Treaty Organization, have criticised China for its military ambitions and the threat it posed to world peace.**
- China is, however, unlikely to be deterred by any of this, and its mindset is best revealed by its actions in the South and East China Seas, its treatment of its Uighur Muslim minority, and its actions in Hong Kong.
- A lesser nation might be deterred by the kind of criticism that China faces today, but it does not seem to impact China.
- Moreover, and notwithstanding the hype surrounding **India's membership of the Quad and the role assigned to it by the United States and the other western powers in the Indo-Pacific, to think that this may have rattled China, compelling it to indulge in actions that verge on the erratic would be a mistake.** China could be expected to have fully catered for all such eventualities.

Going back into the past

- We may, hence, need to look elsewhere to find a proper explanation for China's behaviour vis-à-vis India, and also elsewhere. Delving into China's recent past, and examining periods when it possibly acted in a similar erratic manner, may provide some clues.
- In the late 1950s and 1960s, China's then Chairman, Mao Tse Tung/Mao Zedong, when finding himself in a difficult situation on account of his ill-conceived policies and programmes (history tells us that Mao confronted one of the worst famines in history on account of his misadventure of the Great Leap Forward

CENTRES: BELTOLA, SILCHAR, KOKRAJHAR, COTTON UNIVERSITY, SONAPUR COLLEGE, MARGHERITA



CIVIL SERVICES ACHIEVERS' POINT

A ONE STOP SOLUTION FOR UPSC/APSC/SSC & BANKING

Movement) rather than accepting his mistake and retracing his steps, embarked on his campaign to attack India, in spite of the close friendship that existed at the time between the two countries.

- Later, it was surmised, that Mao's actions were intended partly to divert attention from China's internal turmoils at the time, and possibly more important, to counter the dissidents who existed within the CPC, and who were critical of Mao's autocratic attitude and his ill-conceived policies.
- Other instances of this kind exist and can be quoted: Deng Xiaoping's behaviour following the Tiananmen Square movement in the 1980s, is an excellent example.

A leader in a hurry

- Xi Jinping is seen today as a Mao clone, someone who seeks to achieve the same kind of dominance over the CPC as the latter. Like Mao, he is a man in a hurry, **seeking to consolidate his power and achieve a pre-eminence of the kind enjoyed by Chinese Emperors in the past.** He has assiduously attempted to **accelerate the pace at which China expects to overtake the U.S. as the world's number one super power which, however, seems to be stalling for a variety of reasons.**
- China's attempt, under Mr. Xi, to become the **world's most powerful military is also nowhere in sight.**
- On the other hand, China's misadventure in the Ladakh heights in June last year, exposed certain shortfalls with regard to mechanisation of China's People's Liberation Army (PLA), diminishing the latter's hopes of becoming fully mechanised by the time the PLA celebrates its Centenary in 2027.
- Much of the blame for both situations is being attributed to Mr. Xi. Given the extent of concentration of power in his hands, this is leading many in the Party to question Mr. Xi's claims to omniscience. Apart from this, several of Mr. Xi's other ideas have run into difficulties. His plans to remake the global order on terms favourable to the CPC seem to have gone awry.
- The Chinese economy — though performing better than most other world economies — is showing signs of slowing down. Mr. Xi had been betting on technological prowess and economic heft to achieve the kind of geo-political transformation that he wished for, but this is clearly not happening at present.
- Most important, and despite having accumulated so much power, Mr. Xi seems to be finding it difficult to push through his 'new socialist ideology with Chinese characteristics' (through which he hoped to demarcate himself from his immediate predecessors like Hu Jintao) and is intended to be his lasting legacy.

Leadership through knowledge...

There are some clues

- Undoubtedly, therefore, Mr. Xi is finding himself in a difficult situation, including within the Party.

Headoffice:
H.No-108 1st Floor, Opp Meghna's,
near Barowari Bus Stop,
Uzanbaazar Guwahati-01, Assam



Contact No: 88118 77068 91016 86625
93651 35375
csapassam@gmail.com

CIVIL SERVICES ACHIEVERS' POINT

A ONE STOP SOLUTION FOR UPSC/APSC/SSC & BANKING

- There is an old Chinese proverb that says “the wind sweeping through the tower heralds a storm rising in the mountain” and this, perhaps, provides a clue to Mr. Xi’s, and Chinese, behaviour in the recent period.
- The extent of inner party tensions is little known to the world outside, given the opacity of Chinese society, but the existence of dissidence or dissension within the CPC is no secret, however.
- While it is generally believed that the CPC is a monolith entity, the reality is otherwise. In the 100 years of its existence, the CPC is known to have gone through several transformations, many of an ideational nature, leading to serious upheavals.
- Deep fissures have existed, and perhaps, still exist, within the party, though the extent may not be known outside. What is generally seen is that during such periods, China’s attitude often borders on the erratic. The question is whether something of this nature is occurring at present inside the CPC and China. It is tempting to think that history is again being repeated, and **China’s recent erratic behaviour is largely due to growing inner-party criticism of Mr. Xi’s policies and actions, rather than due to extraneous factors.**
- The Ladakh adventure (or misadventure) could well have been a misguided attempt by Mr. Xi to demonstrate to his opponents within the CPC that he is well and truly in command. One could also anticipate that this could well be a prelude to a limited purge of dissenters within the highest echelons of the CPC.
- An accumulation of problems does produce in closed societies (such as China) a ‘pressure cooker’ syndrome, where the safety valve is often in the hands of the leadership. If the latter is precariously poised, and out of sync with reality, it leads to erratic behaviour.
- What may be aggravating Chinese leadership concerns at this time also is that the world is seemingly tilting towards India at this juncture, regarding it as more sophisticated, diplomatically, and more flexible, ideologically, compared to an increasingly obdurate China.
- Within the CPC itself, there are reportedly quite a few who **prefer ‘peaceful coexistence’ to sustain peace, as compared to Mr. Xi’s more muscular approaches.**

India needs to be on guard

- A final thought. It is worth remembering that Mr. Xi is one of the few world leaders known to have made a study of Goethe’s works, including Faust. Not only that, some of Mr. Xi’s actions, such as modelling himself on Mao and a practising advocate of Maoism 2.0 — despite the humiliation both he and his father suffered at the hands of Mao prior to, and during the Cultural Revolution — tend to make him out to be something of a Faustian character.

CENTRES: BELTOLA, SILCHAR, KOKRAJHAR, COTTON UNIVERSITY, SONAPUR COLLEGE, MARGHERITA

Headoffice:
H.No-108 1st Floor, Opp Meghna's,
near Barowari Bus Stop,
Uzanbaazar Guwahati-01, Assam



Contact No: 88118 77068 91016 86625
93651 35375
csapasssam@gmail.com

CIVIL SERVICES ACHIEVERS' POINT

A ONE STOP SOLUTION FOR UPSC/APSC/SSC & BANKING

- Was Mr. Xi, through his aggressive behaviour in Ladakh, and notwithstanding the warm relations that he is known to have with India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi, preparing the ground for a 'Faustian Bargain'.
- If so, Mr. Xi has made yet another serious miscalculation, not only about the ground situation but also the mood of the nation and its leadership. This could cost him dear.
- What all this suggests is that 'peace is not at hand', and that India should expect, and prepare for, more situations of this kind, with many more provocations coming from China.

Net loss (GS 3 - Digital Divide)

- The **digital divide in India's school education system**, reflected by the absence of computers and Internet access on campus, emerges starkly from the Education Ministry's Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+), for the pre-pandemic year of 2019-20.
- **Physical infrastructure has traditionally meant good buildings, playgrounds, libraries and access to water and toilets, but the advent of hybrid learning even ahead of the coronavirus crisis has made essential online access and computers key adjuncts to make the learning process more engaging.**
- During 2020-21, it became painfully evident that most students had to **rely on remote learning**, but many **faced the double jeopardy of not possessing their own computing devices and smartphones at home**, and their schools remaining in the dark without such facilities.
- In remote areas, particularly in the Northeast, many had to **travel closer to mobile phone towers to access the Internet on shared phones to get their lessons.**
- The latest data confirm that a mere **22% of schools across the country on average had Internet access, while government institutions fared much worse at 11%.**
- On the second metric of functional computer access, the national average was **37% and for government schools, 28.5%.**
- Beyond the averages, the range of deficits reflects deep asymmetries: **87.84% of Kerala schools and 85.69% in Delhi had an Internet facility, compared to 6.46% in Odisha, 8.5% in Bihar, 10% in West Bengal and 13.62% in Uttar Pradesh.**

CENTRES: BELTOLA, SILCHAR, KOKRAJHAR, COTTON UNIVERSITY, SONAPUR COLLEGE, MARGHERITA

Headoffice:
H.No-108 1st Floor, Opp Meghna's,
near Barowari Bus Stop,
Uzanbaazar Guwahati-01, Assam



Contact No: 88118 77068 91016 86625
93651 35375
csapasssam@gmail.com

CIVIL SERVICES ACHIEVERS' POINT

A ONE STOP SOLUTION FOR UPSC/APSC/SSC & BANKING

- Students and teachers not being able to use computers and the Internet is acknowledged to be a form of deprivation, especially during the pandemic, just as the inability to attend in-person classes is another.
- Many scholars see the **teaching-learning process as multi-dimensional, helping to inculcate social skills.**
- COVID-19 has, however, compelled all countries to **evaluate hybrid education models, with a mix of lessons delivered virtually now and on campus later when the virus threat abates.**
- In such a multi-layered process, bringing computers and the Internet to all schools cannot be delayed any longer. The **Centre must explore all options, such as the National Broadband Mission, the BSNL network and other service providers, to connect schools, including all government institutions that are severely deprived; the upcoming 5G standard with the benefit of high wireless bandwidth may also be able to help bridge the gap quickly.**
- Getting computers to schools should also not be difficult because, apart from public funding, communities, corporates and hardware makers can use recycling and donation options. The UDISE+ shows that many schools have fallen through the net, and they need urgent help to get connected.



CSAP

CIVIL SERVICES ACHIEVER'S POINT

Leadership through knowledge...

CENTRES: BELTOLA, SILCHAR, KOKRAJHAR, COTTON UNIVERSITY, SONAPUR COLLEGE, MARGHERITA