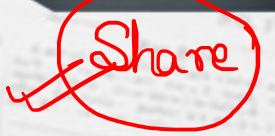




LIVE



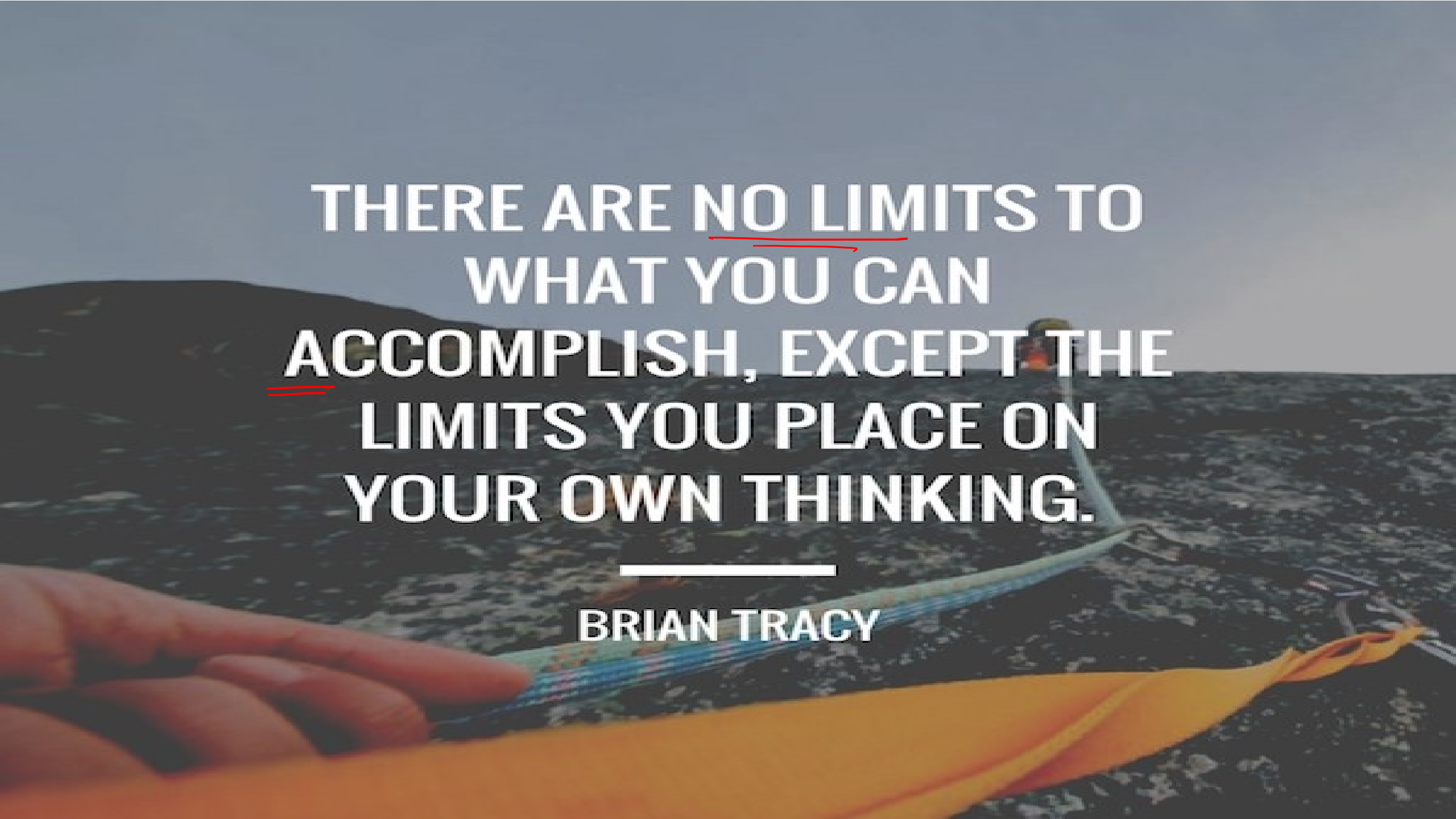
THE HINDU EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

- VOCAB
- GRAMMAR
- SPOKEN ENGLISH



1 MAY 2021 | 7:30 AM



A hand is shown in the lower-left foreground, holding a glowing fiber optic cable. The cable has a rainbow-like spectrum of colors (blue, green, yellow, orange, red) and is emitting a bright light. The background is a dark, moody scene of a sunset or sunrise over the ocean, with a dark, silhouetted hill or mountain in the distance. The sky is a mix of dark blue and grey, and the water is dark with some white foam from waves.

**THERE ARE NO LIMITS TO
WHAT YOU CAN
ACCOMPLISH, EXCEPT THE
LIMITS YOU PLACE ON
YOUR OWN THINKING.**

BRIAN TRACY

7-10 am

TOPICS WE WOULD COVER

- 
- Discussion of articles (daily).
 - Check your progress (from previous articles) ✓
 - **SATURDAY SPECIAL-DESCRIPTIVE**

1) accord – grant / permit

2) primacy – priority ✓ cook

3) crux – core / center

4) brass tacks –
essentials / basic ✓ linger

5) belligerence –
quarrelsome ✓

ARTICLE 1

The rising sun in India-Japan relations

developing positive situations

suggestive /
Analytical

progress.

New Delhi should be confident that Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga is willing to accord primacy to bilateral ties

having two
sides.

beginning

Right at the outset, it was clear that the crux of the discussions during this first in-person meeting between the newly anointed President of the United States, Joe Biden, and Mr. Suga would revolve around China. To begin with, Tokyo and Washington (drilled down to brass tacks) on their joint security partnership given the need to address China's recent (belligerence) in territorial disputes in the South and East China Seas as well as in the Taiwan Strait. Both sides affirmed the centrality of their treaty alliance, for long a source of stability in East Asia, and pledged to stand up to China in key regional flashpoints such as the disputed Senkaku Islands and Taiwan.

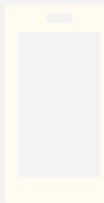
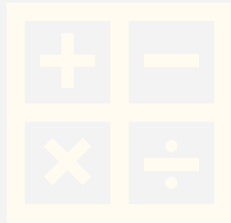
Important
highlights

agreeded / confirmed

(bond)

Tone
→ (?)

Task 1



The rising sun in India-Japan relations

New Delhi should be confident that Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga is willing to accord primacy to bilateral ties



HARSH V. PANT & SHASHANK MATTOO

Contrary to the expectations of many, Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga has turned out to be a true successor of his predecessor, Shinzo Abe, on the foreign policy front. His visit to the United States last month has set the agenda for the wider Indo-Pacific engagement of Tokyo and its evolving priorities.

Focus on China

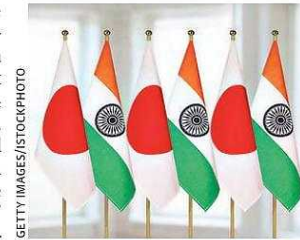
Right at the outset, it was clear that the crux of the discussions during this first in-person meeting between the newly anointed President of the United States, Joe Biden, and Mr. Suga would revolve around China. To begin with, Tokyo and Washington drilled down to brass tacks on their joint security partnership given the need to address China's recent belligerence in territorial disputes in the South and East China Seas as well as in the Taiwan Strait. Both sides affirmed the centrality of their treaty alliance, for long a source of stability in East Asia, and pledged to stand up to China in key regional flashpoints such as the disputed Senkaku Islands and Taiwan. Reflecting the changed nature of conflict, both sides acknowledged the importance of extended deterrence *vis-à-vis* China through cooperation on cybersecurity and space technology.

Discussions also touched upon

Chinese ambitions to dominate the development of new age technologies such as 5G and quantum computing. Given China's recent pledge to invest a mammoth \$1.4 trillion in emerging technologies, Washington and Tokyo scrambled to close the gap by announcing a Competitiveness and Resilience Partnership, or CoRe (<https://bit.ly/3eN6DIT>). The two allies earmarked billions in funding for the deployment of secure 5G networks, committed to building digital infrastructure in developing countries and promised to collaborate on setting global digital standards. Both sides have also signalled their intent to continue the Trump-era policy of pressure on China to reform economic practices such as "violations of intellectual property rights, forced technology transfer, excess capacity issues, and the use of trade distorting industrial subsidies" (<https://bit.ly/2Sbb8IH>).

Tokyo and Washington also rallied around the standard of shared values. Both powers repeatedly emphasised their vision of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific that respects the rule of law, freedom of navigation, democratic norms and the use of peaceful means to settle disputes. In the aftermath of the successful Quad Summit (<https://bit.ly/2Rfcp7n>), both parties expressed their continued support for the four-nation grouping of the United States, India, Australia and Japan. China's human rights violations in Xinjiang, its heavy-handed suppression of protests in Hong Kong and military aggression towards Taiwan came in for heavy criticism.

Given that the Japanese premier plans to visit India as soon as the



situation permits following the COVID-19 pandemic, his dealings with the U.S. are a preview of what New Delhi can expect from Tokyo.

A preview

First, one can expect a continuation of the balancing security policy against China that began with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Shinzo Abe in 2014. During a phone call with the Indian Prime Minister, Mr. Suga expressed concern over China's "unilateral" actions in the East and South China Seas, Xinjiang and Hong Kong. Crucially, India's clashes with China in Galwan have turned public opinion in favour of a more confrontational China policy.

In just a decade, New Delhi and Tokyo have expanded high-level ministerial and bureaucratic contacts, conducted joint military exercises and concluded military pacts such as the Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA) logistics agreement. Further, no meeting would be complete without an affirmation of New Delhi and Tokyo's support for a Free and Open Indo-Pacific and continued willingness to work with the Quad, which is fast emerging as a central pillar of the security strategies of both nations. A Modi-Suga meeting, accompanied by the planned 2+2 Ministerial meetings, will like-

ly aim to take stock of the state of play in the security relationship while also pushing the envelope on the still nascent cooperation on defence technology and exports.

Technology partnership

Second, the two powers will look to expand cooperation in sectors such as cybersecurity and emerging technologies. During the Shinzo Abe years, New Delhi and Tokyo put together a digital research and innovation partnership that ran the gamut of technologies from AI and 5G to the Internet of Things and space research. As with the U.S.-Japan summit, Mr. Suga and Mr. Modi may look to deepen cooperation between research institutes and expand funding in light of China's aforementioned technology investment programme. It is yet unclear whether Mr. Suga will attempt to stir the pot and bring up the disagreements over India's insistence on data localisation and continued reluctance to accede to global cybersecurity agreements such as the Budapest Convention.

Third, economic ties and infrastructure development are likely to be top drawer items on the agendas of New Delhi and Tokyo. While Japan has poured in around \$34 billion in investments into the Indian economy over the course of the last two decades, Japan is only India's 12th largest trading partner (<https://bit.ly/3xENISD>), and trade volumes between the two stand at just a fifth of the value of India-China bilateral trade. A Modi-Suga summit will likely reaffirm Japan's support for key manufacturing initiatives such as 'Make in India' and the Japan Industrial Townships. Further, India will be keen

to secure continued infrastructure investments in the strategically vital connectivity projects currently under way in the Northeast and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Third country outlook

Finally, a Suga-Modi Summit would undoubtedly devote much attention to evolving a joint strategy towards key third countries and multilateral bodies. In years past, New Delhi and Tokyo have collaborated to build infrastructure in Iran and Africa, provide vital aid to Myanmar and Sri Lanka and hammer out a common Association of Southeast Asian Nations outreach policy in an attempt to counter China's growing influence in these corners of the globe. However, unlike previous summits, the time has come for India and Japan to take a hard look at reports suggesting that joint infrastructure projects in Africa and Iran have stalled with substantial cost overruns. Tokyo will also likely continue its charm offensive on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership in an attempt to get New Delhi to reverse its decision not to join the massive trade compact.

Writing in 2006, Shinzo Abe, in his book, *Utsukushii Kuni E* (Toward a Beautiful Country), expressed his hope that "it would not be a surprise if in another 10 years, Japan-India relations overtake Japan-U.S. and Japan-China relations". Thus far, New Delhi has every reason to believe that Japan's Yoshihide Suga is willing to make that dream a reality.

Harsh V. Pant is Director, Studies, at the Observer Research Foundation (ORF), New Delhi. Shashank Mattoo is a research intern at the ORF

6) Felled –cut down ✓

7) competently – skillfully ✓

8) hubris –arrogance. ✓

9) ebb –(move back) recede/retreat. ✓

10) vigilantes –an informal group performing legal actions ✓

ARTICLE 2

Felled by insensitivity, incompetence ✓

A catastrophe has hit India and there is no sign that the ferocious second wave is being dealt with competently ✓

to handle.

A catastrophe has hit India, caused in the main by a combination of arrogance and incompetence at the highest levels of the government and political leadership. Yet, the hubris has not ebbed and there is no sign that the competent have replaced the incompetent in dealing with the ferocious second wave of the pandemic. ✓

act of moving restlessly

Since public health services cannot deal with the catastrophe, citizens have been left to their devices to, literally, survive. When they seek each other's help to care for the sick in their families, the vigilantes who now prowl our virtual and physical streets, threaten violence as they defend the reputation of their political heroes. ✓

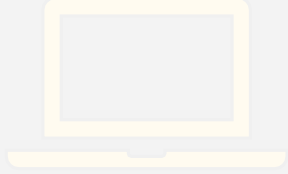
→ post ✓ ←

→ disastrous.

7:30

Task 2

Tone = ?



Felled by insensitivity, incompetence

A catastrophe has hit India and there is no sign that the ferocious second wave is being dealt with competently



C. RAMMANOHAR REDDY

Earlier this week, a young woman in Uttar Pradesh tweeted a cry for help. Her grandmother's oxygen level had fallen to 40. "Pls help us in getting one bed in hospital in Bareilly," she wrote in desperation. Soon a handle that called itself "Team Hindu Unlimited" was on her: "Stop trying to defame UP government and Yogi Ji. Delete this tweet or you will face consequences." This ugly tweet has since been deleted, but the plaintive response of the young woman is still there. "I'm just asking for help," she had to say.

The storm troopers were the advance guard. Now, the State itself has decided it will step in. The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh has threatened hospitals with punitive action if they dare to publicly speak about low supplies of oxygen. How could they when there is no shortage? *Nineteen Eighty-Four* has arrived four decades late, the Ministry of Truth has at last been established in India.

This is where we are today.

India floundering

A catastrophe has hit India, caused in the main by a combination of arrogance and incompetence at the highest levels of the government and political leadership. Yet, the hubris has not ebbed and there is no sign that the competent have replaced the incompetent in dealing with the ferocious second wave of the pandemic.

Since public health services cannot deal with the catastrophe, citizens have been left to their devices to, literally, survive. When they seek each other's help to care for the sick in their families, the vigilantes who now prowl our virtual and physical streets, threaten violence as they defend the reputation of their political heroes.

Power in one office

We may claim otherwise, but with all its extreme economic and caste-driven inequalities, Indian society was never known for its compassion. What we have become today though is something else. We have a government that has no moral compass to guide it; its only compass is to remake India into one where all are not equal and where it must be "mukt" of all diversity. In carrying out this agenda over more than five years, it has transformed the purpose and capacity of the state. To govern is not the main purpose; to create a Hindu Rashtra is the aim. To do so, it has bribed, threatened, or brow-beaten all independent institutions and deprived them of an independent voice. It has made a mockery of federalism and reduced State governments to near vassals. It has centralised power in one office, the ominous sounding "PMO". It has weakened the bureaucracy to an extent that civil servants are too terrified to do anything other than what their political masters want. To achieve its objective, it is focused entirely on winning every single election, from the municipal to the national, or failing that, engineering defections by hook or by crook so that it can wield untrammelled power.

Is it any wonder then that when



the storm clouds gather, there is no one to tell the Emperor he is not wearing any clothes? There was no institution, no group and no individual in the circles of power to say that India was no Vishwaguru, that India was not special and that the pandemic was not in retreat. There was no one to tell a Chief Minister that holy as the Ganga's waters are, this round at least will be won by the evil of SARS-CoV-2 if devotees gather every day in tens of thousands on the banks of the river.

The Election Commission of India has become such a shell of its former self that it dare not do anything that will reduce huge "road shows", that new hallmark of Indian democracy that the ruling party specialises in. And there is no one to tell the Prime Minister that to say with pride (without wearing a mask), "I have never seen such a large crowd" at an election meeting, as he did in Asansol in mid-April when daily new cases of COVID-19 were over 200,000, is an invitation to create a public health disaster. The hubris of our political leadership has indeed turned the Government of India into a "Vishwaguru" of a certain kind – one that catalyses, not

prevents, a humanitarian disaster.

A government that has lost its sense of purpose in governance will not have a machinery that can cope with a public health catastrophe. Its incompetence has descended to such levels that it cannot match numbers on supply with demand when it draws up a vaccination drive. It is so eager to shirk responsibility that it abandons a decades-long policy of free universal vaccination and then places half the burden of vaccination on the financially crippled States. It does not seek cooperation and support from the Opposition. It instead thinks it is more important to abuse former Prime Ministers who offer suggestions. And it is so obsessed with managing the narrative that it sends anonymous WhatsApp messages to the media with talking points about how to criticise the Opposition. It has created such an immoral universe that as people lie on pavements outside hospitals seeking medical help, the market feels free to engage in price gouging of the desperate.

No compassion

This is a government that is incapable of showing any compassion for those who are suffering. The DNA of the state has changed so much that it does not even think it should reach out with messages of comfort to those who are bewildered with what has overwhelmed them. The political leadership is so much in love with showing its 'strength' that it thinks compassion is another word for weakness. A strong government is not one that uses every occasion to ask its citizens to demonstrate their sense of nationalism. It is instead one that can admit it is wrong,

seek forgiveness for its actions that have created harm and show compassion for those who are struggling to stay alive.

When it does so, it can surely draw everyone into a collective effort to deal with this catastrophe. It is not just a question of competence, this is a mammoth crisis that no government can handle on its own. The Government of India needs the support of citizen groups, of the Opposition, of the courts, of the medical profession, of industry – of everyone who is willing to help get the better of this nightmare. It was in a similar situation this time last year that it had the opportunity to form a national government (<https://bit.ly/3h3B6yT>). It instead chose the first wave of the pandemic to further centralise power, push State governments aside, use the infamous Delhi police to throw young people into jail on false charges, issue a slew of ordinances and then railroad unpopular legislation through Parliament. It used the pandemic in 2020 not to build a healthier society but for short-term political gain to further centralise power in one office.

It may be against the nature of this government to accommodate differences of opinion and seek everyone's help. But Indians are now struggling for something as basic as oxygen as this vast country finds itself felled not by the virus but by a government's insensitivity and incompetence. There is much more at stake than the self-interest of one political party and one individual. Hubris and compassion sit on two mountains. Which one are we going to climb?

11) deter – discourage ✓

12) clamp down – suppress ✓

13) besetting – attacking ✓

14) despotic – authoritarian ✓

15) disrepute – disgrace ✓

ARTICLE 3

→ Subscribe (Like) (Share)
→ Caution against
= warning. 14th April

A timely warning

SC's caution against harassing those needing help will
deter ill-advised action

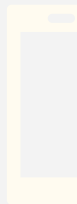
The Supreme Court has issued a timely warning to the States against any attempt to clamp down on the dissemination of information about the serious health crisis besetting the country, or calls for help through social media from citizens affected by COVID-19. The comment, obviously in response to the utterly despotic threat issued by U.P. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath that those "spreading misinformation" or "rumour" would be detained under the National Security Act (NSA) and their property seized, will surely help prevent ill-advised action by the police and the administration to treat appeals concerning shortage of hospital beds, medical oxygen and vital drugs as attempts to bring the government into disrepute.

publish/distribute

→ bed ✓

Task 3

Tone - ?



A timely warning

SC's caution against harassing those needing help will deter ill-advised action

The Supreme Court has issued a timely warning to the States against any attempt to clamp down on the dissemination of information about the serious health crisis besetting the country, or calls for help through social media from citizens affected by COVID-19. The comment, obviously in response to the utterly despotic threat issued by U.P. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath that those “spreading misinformation” or “rumour” would be detained under the National Security Act (NSA) and their property seized, will surely help prevent ill-advised action by the police and the administration to treat appeals concerning shortage of hospital beds, medical oxygen and vital drugs as attempts to bring the government into disrepute. The police in Amethi registered an FIR against a man who appealed on Twitter for an oxygen cylinder for a family member for allegedly circulating a rumour and seeking to cause fear and alarm. Mr. Adityanath appears quite convinced that complaints about oxygen shortage in his State are either imaginary or, worse, malicious, and wants to treat them as attempts to “spoil the atmosphere”. While it is entirely in order that the government has directed the police to crack down on the profiteering on medicines in the black market, it is quite a different matter if the administration starts seeing all appeals for help in a grave crisis as nothing more than activities aimed at tarnishing the government’s image.

Given the propensity of such leaders to treat the voicing of grievances by citizens as a personal affront to their administrative capabilities, the Court’s warning that any attempt to stifle the people’s voices would attract action for contempt of court is quite timely and necessary. As Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, who heads the Bench, remarked, any clampdown on information is contrary to basic precepts. He underscored the significance and necessity for the free flow of information during a grave crisis by recalling the role it played in containing a famine in 1970. The Court was apparently drawing inspiration from the theory, articulated by economist Amartya Sen, that the fundamental attributes of democracy – such as a free press and the need to face the people at elections and respond to political criticism – help prevent famines. However, how far the present regime feels itself accountable to the people at large is now unclear. It faces criticism both within the country and from the international media that a major cause of the crisis is its reluctance to acknowledge its own failure to prepare for a calamitous second wave. Questions fired at it by High Courts are also on these lines. Any move to stifle such criticism or believe that this is a problem of managing perceptions will be of no avail if the infections and body count keep rising alarmingly and the health system draws close to a collapse.

16) grim – depressing ✓

17) wrenching– twisting ✓

18) dents – weakens ✓

19) obfuscate – confuse ✓

ARTICLE 4

Facts and figures →

① US
② Mexico
③ Brazil
④ India
Actual ✓

India must be transparent about COVID-19 deaths to be able to deal better with the crisis → avoid

With India's official death toll from the coronavirus crossing 200,000, it is now placed fourth, after the United States, Mexico and Brazil. This is just another of the grim milestones in India's wrenching journey through the pandemic, but it dents the government's year-long endeavour to obfuscate and dodge unpleasant reality. At Health Ministry press briefings, officials have long sought to convey that India's death toll as a fraction of its population was lower than that of several countries. This is fact and continues to be so. ✓

asked 180

20) **Slackening** – loosening/
reducing

21) **deliberate** – intentional

The three countries with a higher death toll have, per million, 1,600-1,800 deaths between them. India's is only about 150. This low count is meant to impress that India has done a better job in protecting its people. These numbers and the slackening of the coronavirus curve in winter even prompted respected scientists to hypothesise if genetic or peculiar social circumstances had combined to confer a certain broad immunity to the vast heterogeneous population.

On the other hand, a spectrum of independent experts have pointed out the problems in the system of death-reporting in India. Though undercounting deaths in a pandemic is expected, the concern in India has been that of deliberate omission.

22) threshold – gateway

23) specious – absurd/
unreasonable

24) unpalatable –
difficult to put up with
or accept/ upsetting.

24

However, the ferocity of the second wave has brought COVID-19 deaths into renewed focus. Visuals of bodies and of people on the threshold of death from a lack of access to basic medical facilities such as oxygen have made it harder for the government to convince people that the coronavirus is better controlled in India than anywhere else. The aged continue to be the most vulnerable to the infection but that India on average being younger than the West is less vulnerable to death is a specious argument. The absolute number of the aged — coupled with the fact that they lack the kind of access to health care their counterparts in developed countries have, means that the coronavirus, left unchecked, would wreak havoc. Even now, less than 4% Indians above 60 have been fully vaccinated. This when over 15 crore vaccine doses have been administered so far. India must redouble its efforts at being honest and transparent with its numbers, however unpalatable they may be.

Facts and figures

India must be transparent about COVID-19 deaths to be able to deal better with the crisis

With India's official death toll from the coronavirus crossing 200,000, it is now placed fourth, after the United States, Mexico and Brazil. This is just another of the grim milestones in India's wrenching journey through the pandemic, but it dents the government's year-long endeavour to obfuscate and dodge unpleasant reality. At Health Ministry press briefings, officials have long sought to convey that India's death toll as a fraction of its population was lower than that of several countries. This is fact and continues to be so. The three countries with a higher death toll have, per million, 1,600-1,800 deaths between them. India's is only about 150. This low count is meant to impress that India has done a better job in protecting its people. These numbers and the slackening of the coronavirus curve in winter even prompted respected scientists to hypothesise if genetic or peculiar social circumstances had combined to confer a certain broad immunity to the vast heterogeneous population.

On the other hand, a spectrum of independent experts have pointed out the problems in the system of death-reporting in India. Though undercounting deaths in a pandemic is expected, the concern in India has been that of deliberate omission. As this paper pointed out, on April 16, as per Gujarat's health bulletin, there were 78 official deaths. But 689 bodies were either cremated or buried following COVID-19 protocol. Last year, Tamil Nadu, Delhi and West Bengal did not count deaths in those who had co-morbidities as COVID-19 deaths. However, these backlogs were corrected over time. Two in three deaths in India occur at home and 14% of deaths are not registered. There are wide discrepancies within States on how many deaths are actually recorded and among these, how many are attributable to COVID-19. However, the ferocity of the second wave has brought COVID-19 deaths into renewed focus. Visuals of bodies and of people on the threshold of death from a lack of access to basic medical facilities such as oxygen have made it harder for the government to convince people that the coronavirus is better controlled in India than anywhere else. The aged continue to be the most vulnerable to the infection but that India on average being younger than the West is less vulnerable to death is a specious argument. The absolute number of the aged – coupled with the fact that they lack the kind of access to health care their counterparts in developed countries have, means that the coronavirus, left unchecked, would wreak havoc. Even now, less than 4% Indians above 60 have been fully vaccinated. This when over 15 crore vaccine doses have been administered so far. India must redouble its efforts at being honest and transparent with its numbers, however unpalatable they may be.

Task 4

Tone = ?

TEST SERIES

Bilingual

Selection 2021

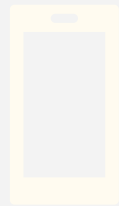
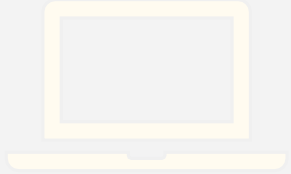
SBI CLERK 2021

Course Highlights

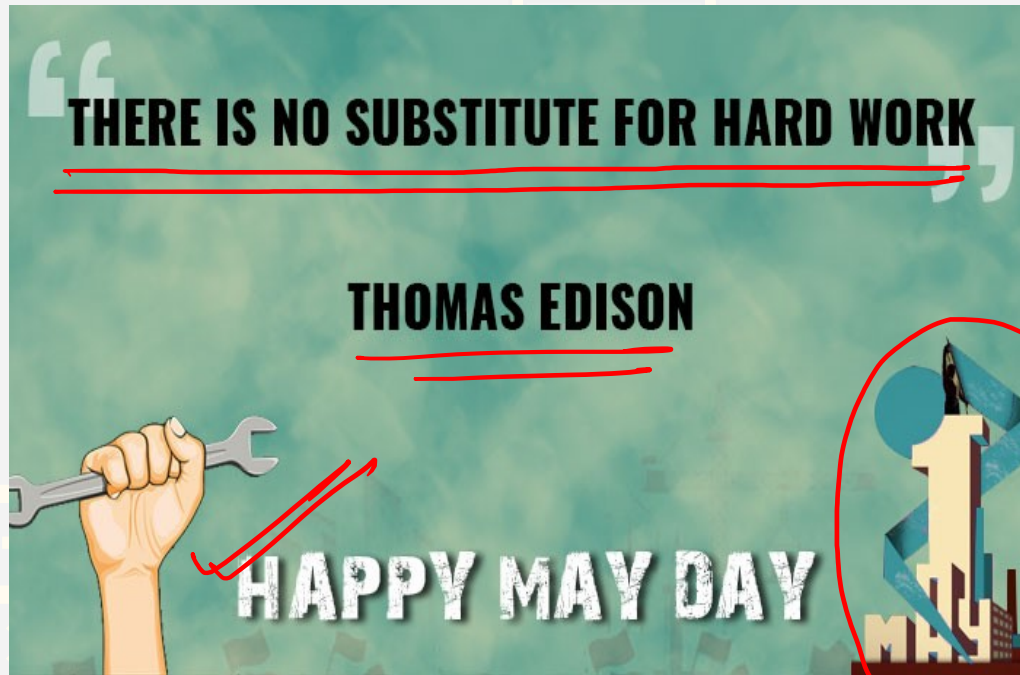
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SATURDAY SPECIAL- DESCRIPTIVE



TOPIC

→ Today Evening - 6pm

Write a paragraph with not more than 150 words on "international labour day"

pdf

- Different names ✓
- origin ✓
- How do people celebrate ✓
- significance ✓



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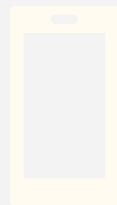
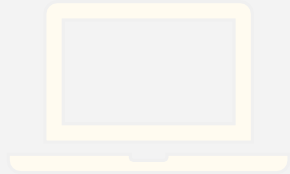


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Max
Discount

05 May 2021

08:00 AM to 10:00 AM

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(CGL & CHSL)

03:00 PM to 05:00 PM

**LIVE PREMIUM
GREEN CARD**
(IBPS PO & CLERK)

BILINGUAL

For Your Any Type of English
Related Queries Join
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Or
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For detailed discussion and answers click
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