



# **PLUTUS IAS Weekly**

## **CURRENT AFFAIRS**



**PLUTUS IAS WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS 04-10-2021 to 10-10-2021**

Basement C59 Noida, Opposite to Priyagold Building Gate, Sector 2, Pocket 1, Noida, Contact No.: 8448440231

[www.plutusias.com](http://www.plutusias.com)



# CURRENT AFFAIRS

## OCTOBER 2021

### Food System Summit and its expectations, with lessons from India [GS II(Social justice), GS III (Socio-economic Developments)]



#### CONTEXT:

The first and historic United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) 2021 was held in September, to find solutions and ‘catalyse momentum’ to transform the path the world produces, consumes food and help address rise in hunger.

As a larger goal, this transformation in food systems is considered as essential in achieving the sustainable development agenda 2030. And 11 out of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are directly related to the food system.

The Network of Global food systems are needed to produce and transform food, and ensure that food travels from farm to plate — are in a crisis type state in many countries affecting the poor and the vulnerable.

The shortcomings in food systems are badly disturbing around 811 million people globally, sleeping without having food daily.

The debate focused on five action tracks namely:-

- Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all

- Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
- Boost nature-positive production
- Advance equitable livelihoods
- Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks, and stress

The summit created a mechanism for serious debates engaging:-

- UN member states
- Civil Society
- Non-governmental organisations (NGOs)
- Academicians and Research-Scholars
- Individual-Citizens
- Private sector
- Stakeholders

The summit provided a chance to entitle the people to take the advantage of the power of food systems, to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and at the same time getting on track to achieve 17 SDGs by 2030.

**Outcome of the Summit**– The Statement of Action (from the summit) present :-

A set of ambitious, high principles and areas for action to support the global call to “Build back better” after the corona pandemic.

### **WHAT INDIA DID?**

India constituted an inter-departmental group, with representatives from the Ministries of Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare, Rural Development, and others including FAO, WFP, IFAD etc.

The National dialogues with various stakeholders of agri-food systems were conducted to inspect the national course towards creating sustainable and equitable food systems in India.

**LESSONS FROM INDIA:** (India’s tryst with food insecurity)

India’s journey from shortage of food to surplus food production, offers several interesting lessons for other developing countries throughout the world in general and developing countries in particular.

These lessons can be drawn out in different fields like:-

- Land reforms
- Public Investments
- Institutional Infrastructure
- Regulatory Frameworks and Mechanisms
- Public Support System
- Intervention in agricultural markets and prices
- Agricultural research, innovation and extension

The period between 1991 to 2015, witnessed the diversification of agriculture beyond field crops. The target was shifted towards the horticulture, dairy, animal husbandry, and fishery sectors.

The learnings encircle the nutritional health, food safety and standards, sustainability, deployment of space technology, etc.

### **INDIA’S SAFETY NET:**

India passed the **National Food Security Act 2013** announcing the Targeted Public Distribution System

(TPDS), the Mid-Day meals (MDM), and the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), covering over a crore people today.

Currently, India's food safety nets and inclusion are linked with public procurement and buffer stock policy, which helped immensely during 2008-2012 global food crisis as well as covid-19 pandemic (helping vulnerable and marginalised people)- by its TPDS and buffer stock of food grains.

### **CHALLENGES AND THE WAY FORWARD TOWARDS 2050:**

- Climate change
- Unsustainable use of land and water resources
- Dietary diversity
- Nutrition
- Related Health Outcomes
- Nutritional Challenges
- Undernutrition and Malnutrition

India has taken a bold decision to fortify rice with iron (supplied through the PDS)..

### **INDIA HAS SURPLUS, STILL LOW NUTRITION?**

Despite being a net exporter and an agrarian country, As compared to the world average, India has 50% more undernutrition.

But during 2018-20, the proportion of the undernourished population declined from 21.6% (2004-06) to 15.4%.

The high undernutrition in India was not due to food shortage or its low availability.

Food wastage in India exceeds 1-lakh crore.

To address the challenge of undernutrition and malnutrition, Steps by GOI:-

- Supply of fortified rice in PDS
- Poshan Abhiyan

*Why to eliminate hunger?*

- Consequences of COVID-19 Pandemic
- A/c 'The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World' report, around 1/10th of the global population was undernourished last year.

Hunger and food insecurity are key drivers of conflict and instability across the world. 'Food is peace', is a catchphrase often used to highlight how hunger and conflict feed on each other.

The Nobel Peace Prize 2020 conferred on the United Nations WFP underlines the importance of addressing hunger to prevent conflicts and create stability.

**TO CONCLUDE:** With the target to make the world free of hunger by 2030 and deliver promises for SDGs, with strong cooperation and partnership between governments, citizens, civil society organisations, and the private sector. We all must collaborate to invest, innovate, and create lasting solutions in sustainable agriculture and contribute to equitable livelihood, food security, and nutrition.

India can help the world immensely, with its experience in the same with the goal of balancing growth and sustainability, mitigating climate change, ensuring healthy, safe, quality, and affordable food, maintaining biodiversity, improving resilience, and offering an attractive income and work environment to smallholders and youth. The goal can be achieved by anchoring around small- and medium-scale production, family

farmers, indigenous peoples, women, and workers in food value chains. Thus, with the participation of all stakeholders, this can be achieved within the stipulated time period. This is the high time for the authorities to take required steps in the right direction with each others' cooperation.

BY RAJEEV YADAV

FACULTY of G.S. and HISTORY-OPTIONAL, PLUTUS IAS

## Archaeological relevance of pre-Hispanic artifacts (GS Paper 1 : Art and Culture)

### CONTEXT

Mexico recovered various artifacts related to pre-Hispanic culture from abroad.

Now Two Mexican museums are displaying the various artefacts related from pre-Hispanic culture and other artefacts which are related with historical period also. *NATIONAL HISPANIC CULTURAL CENTER* is dedicated institution of Mexico which does research on Hspanic Culture

### HISPANIC CULTURE

- Even Though there is a long debate regarding Hispanic people but general view is that Hispanic people were original habitat of Spain or of Latin America and then this culture migrated to Mexico
- In fact, Mexico was colonised by Spain. Therefore it was quite possibility of the migration of Spanish people on large scale and they brought their culture with them
- The present ethnic groups of Mexico are having their roots in Hisponic people who had migrated from Spain and Latin America
- Hispanic culture has several traditions for which this culture is known. The culture of Mexico is similar to the Hispanic culture. In fact new maxi is still preserving and following its traditional culture
- Curanderismo is also related to the Hispanic culture and it is the art and practice of traditional medicine which means to heal or to culture. It is a type of therapy related to various types of body pain. With the change of time this traditional medical practice is now disappearing. Although Government and other culture institutions are trying to protect it
- It had been popular throughout the 1800s when the curandero practiced holistic medicine, they would have been considered a family's counselor, midwife and pharmacist.

### OTHER TRADITIONS

- Day of the Dead, Mariachi, Pilgrimage to Chimayo, Tamales, The lighting of luminarias or farolitos and storytelling. Among which storytelling had been a popular tradition of Mexico. In their tradition. In this tradition, the folks were formed and are told to the public to glorify the culture of Mexico
- Día de Los Muertos/Day of the Dead was also a popular tradition that started hundreds of years ago. It originated in Mexico itself. Before colonization it was celebrated in summer but after colonisation it was associated with Christianity and gradually it became associated with the Catholic celebrations of All Saints' Eve, All Saints' Day, and All Souls' Day.

- Mariachi is a celebration related to marriage. On the occasion of marriage this was celebrated. The traditional mariachi group consists of as many as eight violins, two trumpets and at least one guitar, including a high-pitched vihuela and an acoustic bass guitar called a guitarron.
- Pilgrimage to Chimayo is a celebration related to pilgrimage. thousands of people make their tours to Chimayo, a village of Northern New Mexico. They generally offer prayer for their wellness. Tamales is a traditional dish made of corn-cased masa, steamed in a corn husk. It can be filled with various types of meats, cheeses, fruits, green vegetables, and chilli

Definitely Mexico had also witnessed the Hispanic culture and it had its original culture evolved before Haspanci culture. This culture was little deprived to Hispanic culture. This the appreciable works of Maxico 's museums that those are providing such promotion and patronization to the culture of Mexico

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

## **“Portrait of a Lady : Work of Gustav Klimt, A renowned Austrian Painter (GS Paper1 : Art & Culture)**

### **CONTEXT**

*Portrait of a Lady*, the important work of a great Austrian painter, was lost. After 23 years this work was again put out to the public in an exhibition in Rome this month. This portrait was in fact had been stolen from an Indian Museum

### **ABOUT THIS PAINTING**

- This painting was discovered in January 2020. This painting was hidden inside a Piacenza art gallery's outer walls
- Gustav Klimt was not only known for his painting but also for sculptures and drawings. These works of the Klimt would be displayed by Oct. 27 in an exhibition. this exhibition will be organised in the Museum of Rome(Italy)
- His legendary work of The painting will be displayed in Piacenza in April in another exhibition.
- In fact this painting 's discovery was the result of fortune when a gardener at the Piacenza gallery was clearing away ivy. In the beginning he could not understand the things but when he opened a panel door which was in a wall, he saw the painting but could not do any more with this painting. In fact he had found a plastic bag also in which this painting was there. But later on, when the expert of the paintings saw it then could understand it was the work of Klimt. Then they authenticate that this work was related to Klimt
- In this painting, the picture of a lady was painted. Lady was very young and beautiful and sensually glancing over her shoulder against a dreamy, moss green background. As per the view of experts, This work may have been completed in 1917 and after his death Ricci Oddi Gallery got its entire rights in 1925
- How this painting was stolen and why the thief had stolen it, these questions are still answered. Whether this work has been stolen or not it is also unclear. One theory holds that whoever stole it might have hidden it there waiting for the news of the sensational theft to quiet down, but for some reason never retrieved it.

## ABOUT GUSTAV KLIMT

- A renowned Austrian Symbolist painter who had been politician also Gustav Klimt took birth on (July 14, 1862 at Baumgarten, near Vienna,
- He had 7 brothers and sisters. He was second elder among all children. All three sons displayed artistic talent early on paintings only
- In his early life he had to face many difficulties and he lived in very poor condition
- His father was a gold engraver.
- His contribution could be observed in the versatile field of art. He was an expert of paintings, murals, sketches, and other art objects.
- Klimt was expert at exposing the beauty and sensuality of women through his painting. His works have been recognised as the work of eroticism. he painted some nude picture of female
- He was died in February 6, 1918
- nowhere is this more apparent than in his numerous drawings in pencil.

## WORK OF GUSTAV KLIMT

The Kiss, Portrait Of Adele Bloch Bauer I, The Tree of Life, Apple Tree I, Mother and Child, Lady With Fan, Beech Forest Buchenwald I, The Dancer, Water Serpents II, Water Serpents I, Judith I 1901, Garden Path With Chicken

By DR ANSHUL BAJPAI

## Prime Minister POSHAN scheme GS-2 ISSUES RELATED TO CHILDREN, GOVERNMENT POLICIES & INTERVENTION, HEALTH

### CONTEXT:

The Union Cabinet has approved the Prime Minister POSHAN scheme or PM-POSHAN for providing one hot cooked meal in Government and Government-aided schools. The scheme will replace the existing national programme for mid-day meal in schools or Mid-day Meal Scheme. It has been launched for an initial period of five years (2021-22 to 2025-26).

### ABOUT MID-DAY MEAL:

The Mid-day Meal Scheme (under the Ministry of Education) is a centrally sponsored scheme which was launched in 1995. It is considered as the world's largest school meal programme aimed to attain the goal of universalization of primary education.

Provides cooked meals to every child within the age group of six to fourteen years studying in classes I to VIII who enrolls and attends the school. If the Mid-Day Meal is not provided in school on any school day due to non-availability of food grains or any other reason, the State Government shall pay food security allowance by 15th of the succeeding month.

### ABOUT POSHAN SCHEME:

**Coverage:** The scheme will cover 11.8 crore students enrolled in classes 1 to 8 in over 11.2 lakh schools across

the country. Primary (1-5) and upper primary (6-8) schoolchildren are currently entitled to 100 grams and 150 grams of food grains per working day each, to ensure a minimum of 700 calories.

The scheme will be extended to students studying in pre-primary or Bal Vikas running in government and government aided primary schools. Balvatika is the pre-school that was started in government schools last year to include children aged younger than six years in the formal education system.

**Nutritional Gardens:** The government will promote nutritional gardens in schools. The gardens are being provided to offer additional micro-nutrients to students.

The new scheme has a provision for supplementary nutrition for children in aspirational districts and those with high prevalence of anaemia. It does away with the restriction on the part of the Centre to provide funds only for wheat, rice, pulses and vegetables. Currently, if a state decides to add any component like milk or eggs to the menu, the Centre does not bear the additional cost. Now that restriction has been lifted.

**Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT):** The central government will ensure Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) from states to schools, which will use it to cover cooking costs. Earlier money was allocated to the states, which then included their share of the money before sending it to a nodal midday meal scheme authority at district and tehsil levels. This is to ensure no leakages at the level of district administration and other authorities.

**Nutrition Expert:** A nutrition expert is to be appointed in each school whose responsibility is to ensure that health aspects such as Body Mass Index (BMI), weight and haemoglobin levels are addressed.

**Social Audit of the Scheme:** A social audit of the scheme has also been mandated for each school in each state to study the implementation of the scheme, which was so far not being done by all states. The Ministry of Education will also engage college and university students to monitor the scheme at a local level.

**Fund Sharing:** The Centre will bear Rs. 54,061 crore of the total estimated cost of Rs 1.3 lakh crore, with the states paying Rs 31,733 crore (Rs 45,000 crore will be released by the Centre as subsidies for food grains).

**Vocal for Local for Atma Nirbhar Bharat:** Involvement of Farmers Producer Organizations (FPO) and Women Self Help Groups in implementation of the scheme will be encouraged. Use of locally grown traditional food items for a fillip to local economic growth will be encouraged.

## CHALLENGES TO SCHEME

**Meeting Nutrition Targets:** As per the Global Nutrition Report 2020, India is among 88 countries that are likely to miss global nutrition targets by 2025.

**Serious 'Hunger' Level:** India has been ranked at 94 among 107 countries in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2020. India has a level of hunger that is "serious".

**Menace of Malnutrition:** According to the National Family Health Survey-5, several states across the country have reversed course and recorded worsening levels of child malnutrition. India is home to about 30% of the world's stunted children and nearly 50% of severely wasted children under the age of five.

## WAYFORWARD

As India is the home to over 2 million malnourished children, PM Poshan scheme can act as a ray of hope. It just needs a proper execution so that the scheme can be accessed by the poorest of the poor thereby taking care of their not just nutritional needs but also educational needs.

BY ANSHUM VERMA

FACULTY (POLITY, GEOGRAPHY & ENVIRONMENT)

## It is Pandora after Panama: Hidden riches of world leaders and billionaires 'exposed' in 'unprecedented' leak (GS 3, Economics, The Hindu, Indian Express)



**News/Context:** In one of the biggest leaks of financial documents, the Pandora papers exposed the secret wealth and dealings of many world leaders, politicians, and billionaires. Around 12 million leaked files have been discovered, from the Investigation of 14 Global corporate services firms, showing the financial transactions. These transactions are done through the setup of thousands of shell companies and private trusts. It is not just to obscure tax jurisdiction but also to attract clients across the countries like United States, Singapore, and New Zealand. More than 300 public officials and some 35 current and former leaders around the world are featured in the files.

**What it reveals:** These documents reveal the ultimate ownership of overseas settled/placed assets and the investments including cash, shareholding, and real estate properties held by the offshore entities. There are at least 380 persons of Indian nationality in the Pandora Papers. Pandora papers revealing set up complex multilayer trust structures for asset planning by the famous notorious and rich people in the tax haven countries characterized by air-tight secrecy law. It reveals how businesses and individuals are pushing the structure to evade detection, using loopholes in the law at home and the negligent jurisdiction of tax havens. Scrutiny of the papers shows that the objective of setting up private Offshore trusts is twofold. One that owners could hide their real identity and distance themselves from the trusts so that tax authorities could never reach them. The second is to safeguard investments like cash, shareholding, real-estate, yachts, and aircraft from creditors and Law enforcement agencies.

**What is an offshore trust?** It is a kind of overseas fiduciary arrangement where a third party, referred to as the trustee, holds assets on behalf of resident organizations or individuals that are to benefit from it.

It is generally used for purposes of planning the estate and succession. It helps large business families to consolidate their assets like shareholding, financial investments, and real estate property.

A trust like this comprises **three key parties**: one who sets up, creates, or authors a trust, referred to as “**Settlor**”; the Second one who holds the assets for the benefit of a set of people named by the ‘settlor’ referred to as ‘trustee’; and the third one to whom the benefits of the assets are bequeathed, referred as **beneficiaries**’.

The legal nature of this kind of trust comes from the ‘trustee’, but it is not a separate legal entity. The Protector (appointed by the Settlor) has the powers to manage and supervise the trustee, and even remove the trustee and appoint a new one.

**Distinct patterns emerged:** In the Post-Panama scenario several Offshore entity owners found ways to hide their foreign assets and started the reorganization of their foreign assets when several countries including India tightened regulations. Indians started setting up of offshore trusts to distance themselves from their offshore wealth and to insulate their assets from creditors. They insured their near ones to live abroad as the caretaker of the created offshore trusts.

Many alleged Indians accused of economic offenses and are under scrutiny, have created an offshore network in tax havens like the Cook Islands, Samoa, or Belize besides larger tax havens like Panama and the British Virgin Islands. There is a fairly long list of Indian offenders who are currently under the scanner of agencies like the Enforcement Directorate, the Central Bureau of Investigation, and the Serious Fraud Investigation Office.

Indians with huge debts to Indian banks diverted sizable assets into a network of offshore companies. Those in debt of thousands of crores of rupees to Indian banks have, as the Pandora Papers show, diverted a sizable section of their assets into a maze of offshore companies. Many promoters, as the paper reveals, parked their assets in offshore trusts, effectively protecting themselves from personal guarantees to loans being defaulted by their businesses. Politically Exposed Persons who have held public office in India, were engaged in sensitive and risky trades. For instance the confidential data of the 14 offshore service providers shows a former Revenue Service officer, a former tax commissioner, a former senior Army officer, a former top law officer set up offshore entities. Actually there have been fear among Indian industries and business families of a return of the estate duty which till its abolition in 1985, was as high as 85 percent. Former finance minister Arun Jaitley in view of reducing the inequality, hiked the surcharge on the super-rich with income more than Rs 1 crore to 12%, while doing away with the 1% wealth tax in the Budget for 2015-16.

In popular imagination, the offshore system is often seen as a far-flung scattering of palm-shaded islands. The Pandora Papers show that the offshore money machine operates in every corner of the world, including financial capitals of the richest and most powerful economies including the United States of America.

Although India with various countries, has signed information exchange agreements. It seems that they exist only on paper. It is still difficult to pierce the corporate veil.

**MD. Layeeque Azam**

## **IS PLETHORA OF ALLIANCES AND GROUPINGS REALLY REQUIRED ?? [GS II, International Relation]**

**CONTEXT:** The recent upheaval over AUKUS — the trilateral security pact between Australia, UK and USA, announced on September 15, 2021 — has disclosed the problems of group diplomacy.

### **THE SAARC- DILEMMA FOR INDIA BEFORE JOINING IT:**

1. That not joining the forum would appear as if India was against regional cooperation

2. If joined, they may face their neighbours grouping up and using the SAARC to pressure India on various regional issues
3. Such proposers may be suspected of aspiring to be regional leaders.

SAARC has become almost like a liability for India as the region was not mature enough to have a regional intermediary.

### **TODAY, THE WORLD HAS A NUMBER OF GROUPINGS INCLUDING:**

- European Union
- African Union
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
- The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
- From G-2 to a real G-77, number of such groupings

### **WHY SUCH GROUPINGS ARE NOT USEFUL AND PRODUCTIVE?**

- The time, money and energy spent on summoning the summits and a whole paraphernalia of ministerial, official and expert level meetings do not seem justified.
- Many among them do not have regional, ideological or thematic homogeneity to lend them a reason for forming a group.
- Bureaucracies, with United Nations salaries and perks, grow around these bodies, developing vested interests to perpetuate them.
- Such groups which do not have “sunset” clauses continue even after losing their importance
- Finding the agenda for such organisations and groups is again a difficult exercise.

For Example- The growing agenda of the United Nations includes everything from peace on earth to celestial bodies and even UFOs.

The rationale of some of the other new groups was unclear even when they were formed.

BRICS- it was feared that it would be an anti-American group -As expected. China established a bank, with the possibility of credit for its members. This development undermined the relevance of group of India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA), having several common interests like UN reforms, South-South cooperation etc.

### **DIFFERENT STANDS IN RECENT SUMMITS:-**

On Afghanistan, in recent BRICS Summit– Russia and China were more sympathetic to the Taliban than the others.

AT SCO SUMMIT:- At the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit, the SCO started off as a friendly group of China and some of the former Republics of the Soviet Union, but with India, Pakistan and Iran, it became a diverse group and no agreement could be reached.

### **INDIA AND OTHER GROUPINGS**

- ▶ The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC): Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Thailand. The group remained **dormant** for many years till it was **revived** a few years ago as an alternative to SAARC.
- ▶ Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)- It also drags on without any significant progress.
- ▶ Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG)- NO great success

so far

- QUAD and AUKUS– no great achievement so far
- In the process of working with the U.S. on Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), NSG, the Wassenaar Arrangement and the Australia Group, It ended up with membership of Wassenaar and the Australia Group, in which India was not interested.

India did not take Quad seriously till the Chinese threat became real in 2020, but New Delhi's Ignorance led U.S. to form new alliances like a **second Quad** and then **AUKUS** to fortify itself with allies against China.

The reaction of France to AUKUS has raised the issue of loyalty among allies even after making it clear that it was meant only to enable the U.S. to transfer nuclear propelled submarine technology to Australia.

The multiplications of many alliances and groupings should be a matter of close inspection and research by many countries as per the latest trend initiated by the U.S.

India should also reconsider the abundance of groupings it has and rationalise them after a reality check, to get fruitful results and the required goals.

**Rajeev Yadav**

## **A recognised work of Naga artist Temsüyanger Longkumer**

### **CONTEXT :**

Recently London based Naga artist Temsüyanger Longkumer

Participated in an international webinar hosted by Sao Chang College (SCC), Tuensang. This online seminar was organised by the department of history and the department of English. Temsuyanger Longkümer participated in this seminar as a resource person

### **ABOUT NAGA ARTIST TEMSÜYANGER LONGKUMER**

- He is a London based artist from northeast India who was born in Nagaland
- His main theme of the work is related to the concepts of history, memory, spirituality and ecology in relation to his Naga roots.
- In his work we the connection between culture and nature courses
- In his work the decline of sensuality towards the environment and the lack of spiritual connection to nature today could be observed
- In his terracotta sculptures we find a series on *Parallel Communes*
- Here, the artist conceives the human body as a microcosm of events in the universe by creating earthenware that takes an abstract shape, evoking human organs, flora or fauna.
- The most beautiful and recognised work of Longkumer is *Gods Summit*. In this work an imaginary concept of the council of God has been described. Here, a selection of images are distinguished by the numerous forms and tongues in which they have been conceived of, and imagined, over the course of civilisational history.
- The objective of his work is to present various philosophical views by showing different philosophical positions of these gods
- The work of Longkumer generally reflects socio-cultural issues related to his ethnic societies, and the correlation between communities in the microbial world and our own.

- Through his work he showed military rule in his regions of Nagaland. In fact he wanted to explain to his viewers glimpses of military occupation of the region.
- In his artwork growing global capitalism and political upheaval could also be seen
- Through his art The connection between culture and nature can also be easily observed
- *His important works are Gods Summit, Catch a Rainbow II, and Aye, Aye My Suntanned Lullaby*
- His main concern was to show the pathetic conditions of Nagaland under the Military rule/ASPA.
- Since he had to face amny social economic problems in his early life therefore, in his work these social issues could also be observed in his work
- This artist is now residing in London. Now he has left India. perhaps because of fear of the government he had to leave India

Artisans should also take the responsibilities of raising the issue related to socio economic descriminations. The works of our Artisan would definitely be influenceable for the public and by raising these socio economic issues the government would also take appropriate action. For the development of the nation, there should be a minimum gap in the society. The work of the artisans like Temsüyanger Longkumer are appreciable. Besides many poets and other artists, they are also raising socio economic issues. through sculptures, painting, music and architecture, the raising socio economic issue is more influenceable manner to spread the matter among the people not only inside the country but also outside of the country also.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

## Gond Artist Durgabai and Shubha : A work on mythical tale

### CONTEXT

Recently in the Kochi Biennale Gond artists Durgabai and Subhash Vyam presented their work on mythical tales. This pair is residing in Bhopal MP. but this pair has shown its work in various exhibitions before Kochi. In Kochi exhibition Vyams' infra-project has added to the interactive spirit envisioned

These artists used walls as space for drawings and paintings in the interior villages of central India as Their ancestors traditionally used several years ago.

- This type of painting is called *Gondi Bhatti Chitrakala*, a conventional fresco.
- In this type of fresco, image should be installed on wall based or on marine plywood
- This type of art generally reflects their tribal folklore. These tribal folklore are sung during various tribal festivals

### ABOUT DURGABHAI

- She belongs to the Gond tribe of Madhya Pradesh and was born in 1972.
- She is a first-generation Gond artist.
- Her main theme of the performance is related to story-telling performances. In her starting career she did her performances from village level mainly in her own village Barbaspur (near Patan in Madhya Pradesh)
- She learned *bhatti chitra from her ancestors*. Bhatti Chitra is a type of art of wall painting which is generally painted in mud houses. Gradually she decided to start creating her own paintings.
- The *kahani parampara* or story-telling tradition was the cultural tradition of her village. Many stories, mainly old stories were painted on the walls like the *purani kahani* such as *junglee janwar, nana-nani*,

*devi-devta*. These stories were related to village folkere and associated with the life of Jungle

- She used cow dung or *lal mitti*/Indian red soil and *kala mitti*//black soil
- for painting purpose
- First she paints wall through cow dung and then decorated with these colours
- She also used *ramraj mitti* which is yellow and *chuna* or white clay.
- Her wall paintings are called *chowka and floor pattern or floor painting is called dhigna*.
- *He wall paintings are* are geometric, four-directional patterns
- Generally colours are not used in such paintings
- Some time at the village the paintings are made of a typical Mahua tree with its coveted fruit which fermented into alcohol, since villagers identified with the theme.
- When she learnt wall painting she used various painting materials. In every size and colour he made paintings
- She married to a Gond painter Subhash Vyam in 1989
- Now both of them are associated with the tradition of Gond Art.
- Now they are associated with other folk artists within the museum space of Bharat Bhavan
- She started painting on paper and canvas for a contemporary urban art market.
- The subjects of her painting include elements from her elaborate landscape scenery composed within a smaller canvas and therefore narrowed down to a few animals and trees.
- Generally she used various themes for painting. These themes are rivers, trees, the bamboo plant, Diwali festival being celebrated, rituals such as *kanyadan* (giving away the bride in a wedding ceremony), houses and children, animals like the tiger, deer, stag or antler, peacock, bull, garden lizard, pig, birds sitting on the tops of trees while animals sit below.
- Another significant theme *Basin Kanya* is her legendary work

**Dr. Anshul Bajpai**

## Loopholes in Aadhaar enabled Payment System putting poor people at risk

**AADHAAR ENABLED PAYMENT SYSTEM**

अपने बैंक से नरेंगा, पेंशन, सस्सिडी का पैसा निकालने की सुविधा

1. Balance Enquiry
2. Cash Withdrawal
3. Cash Deposit

मेरा अंगूठा ... मेरा बैंक

**MINI ATM/SWIPE Machine लगवाए ZERO रुपए**  
**मासिक RENTAL के साथ**

आम आदमी का अधिकार

For Internal Circulation Only

Read/Get all the information/documents carefully before joining or utilizing products/services of Digna Group. Use your own conscious while taking such decisions. Information/Images shown herein are properties of their respective brands/companies and may be different from original/incomplete. For info/T&C, please visit [www.dignagroup.com](http://www.dignagroup.com). If further inquiry needed contact us at our head office. T&C Apply.

**What is Aadhaar enabled Payment System (AePS)-** AePS is an online payment system through which people can carry out financial transactions basically send money or receive money From one bank account to another, on a micro-ATM or Point-on-Sale (POS) machine by furnishing their Aadhaar number and verifying it with the help of their fingerprint or Iris scan. AePS adds another level of security and it is less risky as bank details are not required to be furnished while carrying out fund transfers. AePS is developed by the National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) to achieve the goal of Financial Inclusion.

One of the main objectives of AePS was to facilitate disbursements of Government entitlements like Social Security pension, NREGA, Handicapped Old Age Pension, etc. of any Central or State Government bodies, using Aadhaar and authentication thereof as supported by UIDAI.

**The Issue:** These days we are witnessing scams that are exposing the vulnerabilities of AePS. Under AePS, any person can withdraw money from her bank account using a local business correspondent (BC). A Banking Correspondent is an informal Bank agent with having a micro-ATM or point-of-sale (PoS) machine. Supposedly a bank account holder A wants to withdraw 1000 cash then she will ask the Banking Correspondent For the same and will furnish Aadhaar and biometric details. The BC will use the Aadhaar and biometric details of A, and will transfer 1000 from the account of A to his own account. Account of a will be debited and account of BC will be credited. The BC will give 1000 cash from his own pocket to A.

But what if BC took 1500 from the account of A and gave only 1000 cash to A and does not provide him the transfer receipt. This is fraud and more prevalent in case A is poor and uneducated. BCs deny receipts to poor people even if they demand. As a safeguard, some PoS machines have a voice-over, but the voice-over is easy to disable. There lies one major vulnerability of AePS.

Even a BC can take money from any poor account holder, without giving her a single rupee, on the pretext of helping them to get a government scheme. What BC requires is the fingerprint that can be taken on the POS machine in the name of any government scheme. Aadhaar can be easily known. This is what happened to Nagina Bibi, an elderly woman who lives in Vishunbandh village of Latehar district in Jharkhand. A roaming BC came to her house one day, from a neighbouring district. Claiming that he was helping her to get a gas

subsidy, he persuaded her to put her finger eight times in the PoS machine and withdrew Rs 24,000 from her bank account without her knowledge. Most of this money consisted of her meagre pension and hard-earned wages, saved for her daughter's marriage.

We are witnessing a number of such cases. Even if the fraudulent BC is caught, he can claim easily that he disbursed cash as per the bank account holder's request. In this way these BCs operating with virtual impunity. It is just a trailer. Many bigger scams are in making using the loopholes of AePS. Briefly, the scam works as follows. Correct disease or middle man dried principles and take the list of minority children and other information. They apply for the scholarship on the behalf of children After opening Aadhar link bank accounts. Children would be given a small amount And the rest would be siphoned off without their knowledge.

APS is a valuable facility for people who don't have access to banks. The risk gets huge when banks refuse to disburse the small amount to the customers and send them to BCs instead. The vulnerabilities of AePS are putting countless people in danger of being robbed of their hard-earned savings.

**Way Forward:** There should be a provision of customers' passbooks and at least manual entries if not digital entries in the passbook. The entry would act as a variable receipt and will ensure the identification of BCs. There could be SMS alerts for the customers having mobile numbers. Roaming BCs should be banned from the area of low literacy levels. A better grievance redressal mechanism backed by RBI should be developed for the safeguard of victims.

MD. Layeeque Azam

## THE S-W MONSOON- REPORT CARD and the need for IMD to improve its forecasting Models [GS I, Geography]

**SOUTH-WEST MONSOON**– A monsoon is a seasonal reversal of winds accompanied by corresponding changes in rainfall and its pattern. Generally these winds enter India through its South-West direction, hence the name. The South-West Monsoon covers the time period from June to September in India.

### REPORT CARD OF CURRENT MONSOON IN INDIA:-

- Officially, the S-W monsoon has ended in India with 87.4 cm of rainfall between June and September, which is just 0.7% short of the of 88 cm of average rainfall.
- Till August end, India had an all India monsoon rainfall deficit of 9% approx, as the monsoon rainfall was short by 24% in August month.

### IMD FORECASTING:

- India Meteorological Department (IMD) had earlier forecasted NORMAL rains but the *August failure* caused a little shortfall.
- IMD forecasted strong rains in September with overall monsoon rainfall still NORMAL towards the lower end.
- While September rainfall which was 35% more than the monthly normal covered the rain deficit and this result was well beyond the IMD's expectations(i.e. From 17 cm to 22.9 cm).
- In 2020, India received 109% of the long period average (LPA)
- In 2019, 110% of the LPA

## **RAINFALL PATTERN THIS YEAR-**

- Much of the rain was focused on southern India
- N-E and Eastern India received below normal rainfall

But on the positive side- the base level of monsoon rains is higher in N-E India than the rest. Although its source of rain was retreating Monsoon there(October ).

- Good rains in the last 2-3 years have resulted in a good buffer stock in Indian godowns and reservoirs. The monsoon failed during sowing of the kharif crop in July and August and over this the excess rainfall in September rains damaged the existing crops also.

## **EXPECTATIONS:-**

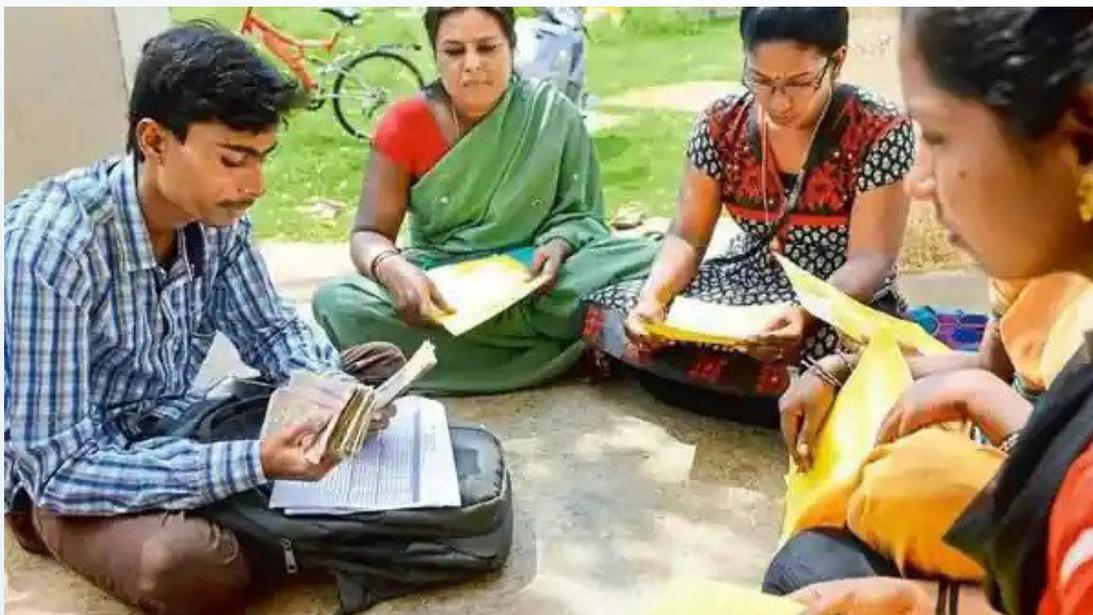
- The Government's Expectations:- 150.5 million tonnes until June 2022, slightly higher than the 149.56 million tonnes last year.
- EXPECTATIONS OF SURPLUS PRODUCTION IN OILSEEDS, RICE, PULSES are there.
- DEMAND BY FARMERS FOR A BETTER REMUNERATION may follow.
- THE SURPLUS PRODUCTION MAY LEAD TO BOOST IN THE EXPORTS.

## **TO CONCLUDE:-**

The IMD should continue to work on its models and patterns to increase the accuracy level in its predictions, it may also take some help from the west and their expertise among others. Furthermore, as Indian Agriculture is majorly dependent on S-W Monsoon, IMD should analyse how it can improve its models to forecast shortfall as well as excess in rains, alongwith the other atmosphere related phonomemons.

**Rajeev Yadav**

## **RBI's Proposals for Microfinance Institutions(MFIs) (GS 3, Economics, The Hindu, Indian Express)**



**Background:** During 1990s it was many scheduled commercial banks either directly or via Non-governmental organisations, used to give micro-loans to rural poor especially women self-help groups. But with time several for-profit financial agencies such as MFIs and other NBFCs emerged given the fact that there was lack of regulation and scope of high profit. There were widespread malpractices of mfi is for example Bandhan and SKS by the middle of the 2000s. We witnessed a crisis in some states like Andhra Pradesh arising out of the unregulated rapid expansion of microlending for-profit agencies. This crises led the RBI to review the matter. A new regulatory framework of NBFCMFIs, based on the recommendations of the Malegam Committee, was introduced in December 2011. A few years later RBI permitted in a new type of private bank, known as self-finance banks (SFBs) with the goal of taking banking activities To the answer and underserved sections population.

**Story:** RBI, in June 2021 published a consultative document on the regulation of microfinance. The declared objective of this regulation is to promote financial inclusion and create better competition among banks. In this document, RBI has proposed to lift the cap on the interest rate on loans given by microfinance institutions. Other proposals are to consider micro-loans as Collateral free to households with an annual household income of Rs 1.25L to Rs. 2.0L.

The capping on interest rate is seen as biased against one lender NBFC-MFI among many others like commercial bank small finance banks and other NBFCs. RBI has proposed that the governing Board of each agency shall determine the rate of interest on the presumption that competitive forces will bring down the interest rates. Does RBI has basically Proposed to deregulate the the interest rate charged by private microfinance agencies. These micro-loans largely goes to rural poor especially rural women Groups.

The 'maximum rate of interest rate, according to current guidelines, charged by an NBFC-MFI shall be the lower of the following: the average base rate of the five largest commercial banks multiplied by 2.75'; or the cost of funds plus a margin of 10% for larger MFIs (a loan portfolio of over 100 crore) and 12% for others.

RBI in June 2021 announced that the average base rate was 7.98%. The average interest rate charged on microfinance by Small Finance Banks (SFBs) and NBFC-MFIs was between 22% and 26%, as per their official record on their website, roughly around three times the base rate.

Microfinance is becoming increasingly crucial for poor households in rural India, especially among rural women groups as these micro-loans are collateral-free or unsecured. It means no collateral is to be kept with lenders. It is of significant important importance for poor peasants and wage workers. But this microfinance loans are generally used to meet personal and day to day consumption needs like marriage, house repairing etc. and never for productive activity.

**Concern:** The interest rate charged on micro-loans by private microfinance agencies Is reported at 22% to 26% year. This is very high in comparison to Interest rate of public sector bank cooperative or primary agricultural credit societies. Primary agricultural credit societies give crop loans at zero interest rate if payment is done in 8 months. Kisan credit card loans from banks charge 4% per annum (Interest rate of 9% with interest subvention of 5%) if we paid in 12 months. Scheduled commercial banks give loans at a at an interest rate of 9% to 12% year. RBI has already recognised that the interest rate charged by private Agencies on microfinance is the maximum permissible, which Cannot be considered as cheap loan from any parameter. The justification of the high-interest rate by MFIs is given as high actual cost of funds.

While recovering these loans, the bank agents regularly visit the borrower's residence and collect the EMIs at their doorstep. It is again violating the RBI guideline which prohibits the recovery at the borrowers residence. Here it is important to note that it shift in digital transaction is serving only sanction of loans but repayment still is entirely done in cash. Borrowers sometimes complain that debt collectors do not behave professionally. They use bad language in loud voice and shaming them in front of their neighbours.

The fact that these NBFC-MFIs are well regulated and are earning huge profits has helped the recent phase of growth in financial services. Lending by small finance banks to NBFC-MFIs has been recently including in

Priority Sector Lending. The cost of fund for NBFC-MFIs was lowered post-covid-19, but with no additional restriction on the interest rate.

**Way Forward:** The deregulation of micro-loans and the removal of the cap on the interest rate as proposed in the said consultative document can lead to affect the polls more. It can lead to further privatisation of rural credit and can reduce the share of direct and Chief credit from banks leaving the poor borrower at the mercy of Financial agencies. Women borrowers are at larger stake when private financial agencies go unregulated. It is a time widespread Post-pandemic distress among the working poor and they need help In terms of strengthening the public sector commercial banks and the regulation of private financial entities. pierce the corporate veil.

MD. Layeeque Azam

## WTO: Global Trade Body, at existential risk (GS II, GS III)

### CONTEXT:

The World Trade Organization (WTO), the global trade body — is facing a serious crisis of existence.

**ABOUT:** The World Trade Organization (WTO) is an intergovernmental organization that regulates and facilitates international trade between nations. It officially commenced operations on 1 January 1995, replacing the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) that had been established in 1948. The WTO is the world's largest International economic organization, with 164 member states representing over 96% of global trade and global GDP.

### CHALLENGES FACED BY WTO:

**America's stance w.r.t. WTO**→ America feels that the WTO has not served its interest by failing to control China's rise and constantly dragging the U.S. in several trade related disputes.

1. The policy of the USA led to the crippling of the Appellate Body (AB) of WTO. The U.S. has blocked the appointment of AB members and due to rise in vacancies, it has stopped functioning.
2. Moreover, the U.S. has stalled the proposal to establish an alternate appellate arbitration mechanism to address the pending crisis.

**RESULT**→ Countries now do not usually comply with the WTO panel decisions

3. Despite a clear mandate to find the solution for the public stockholding for food security purposes as declared in the 2015 Nairobi ministerial meeting, it failed.

For Countries like India that use Minimum Support Price (MSP)- backed mechanisms to procure foodgrains. They find some reservations with WTO rules, i.e. if MSP is higher than the external reference price, the budgetary support will distort the trade and is subject to an overall capping.

According to them, in order to support the farmers and provide food to the poor at subsidised rates, India may breach this WTO capping.

4. The WTO member countries continue to disagree on the need of waiving the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) agreement for COVID-19 related medical products.
5. The WTO is close to signing a deal on **regulating irrational subsidies for fishing** leading to the overexploitation of marine resources by countries like China.
6. The stalemate at the WTO has led to the emergence of mega plurilateral trade agreements like the **Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)** — a treaty between 11 countries.

Another one is the **Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)** agreement between Asian economies and countries. These plurilateral agreements fragment the global administration on International trade but marginalise such groupings.

**TO CONCLUDE:** In Spite of its flaws, the WTO is the only platform where developing countries like India(not party to any mega plurilateral trade agreements), can push for evolving an inclusive global trading order that responds to the systemic imbalances of extant globalisation. What is at stake is the future of trade multilateralism and not just an institution called WTO. It is the high time such Institutions should be restored to its popularity and focus on the objectives, for which it was created.

**Rajeev Yadav**

## **Michelangelo : A Great Artist of Italy (GS Paper 1 : Art and Culture)**

### **CONTEXT**

A sculpture of a great Italian sculptor, painter, architect and poet will be showing in an expo of Dubai. It will be a new experience for visitors. Although the director of the expo told that here in Dubai Art lovers would see the replica of the sculpture up to the neck only but art lovers have to look up at the original statue at the Galleria dell'Accademia museum in Florence

The head and neck of the six-metre-tall sculpture, It is a nude statue of a man , Even Though in Dubai because of religious and social sensitivities full sculpture would not be displayed.

Theme of this expo is Based 'Beauty connects people', almost 200 exhibitors will participate from Italy. This was the first world fair to be held in the Middle East. Despite being coronavirus pandemic for more than a year , approx 25 million people are expected to visit

### **ABOUT MICHELANGELO**

- During the Renaissance period a great artist, sculptor, painter, architect and poet Michelangelo di Lodovico Buonarroti Simoni was born on 6 March 1475.
- At that time Italy had not emerged as a full fledged state. He was born in Republic of Florence , a state of Italian federation
- Presently we observe the impact of his art work on most of the western artisans. In other word we can say that the development of the western art is influenced by his work
- He was a versatile artist and had common over every section of the art

### **HIS WORK**

- One of the most reputed artist of Renaissance Period
- His well known and recognised work is Pietà and David,. He made this sculpture when he was only 29th years old. He made many frescoes. In his frescoes we see more influenceable colours were used. Modern art of the west had learnt basics of the frescoes from his work
- His other work is the ceiling of the Sistine chapel in Rome, and the last judgement on its altar wall.
- Mannerist architecture was His legendary work still the evident of Laurentian Library
- At the age of 74, he succeeded Antonio da Sangallo the Younger as the architect of St. Peter's Basilica.

He transformed the plan so that the western end was finished to his design, as was the dome, with some modification, after his death.

- Among all the Western artist he was only artist whose whose biography has been published during his life
- Another western artist Giorgio Vasari had written about Michelangelo that his work transcended that of any artist living or dead, and was “supreme in not one art alone but in all three
- The work of A great scholar of the renaissance period is perishable and the effort of Dubai’s art lovers is also the most welcome step. In such orthodux countries , the attraction towards art , if increasing , definitely is a good sign for Art and Architecture.

Even Though the organizer would have to face many difficulties to display the work of Michelangelo In Dubai just because of the orthodux society. They would not be showing his full nude sculpture

**Dr. Anshul Bajpai**

## **Employment Estimation as per new Quarterly Employment Survey and the Issue (GS 3, Economics, The Hindu, Indian Express)**

### **CONTEXT:**

The Ministry of Labour and Employment recently released the Quarterly Employment Survey (QES) for April to June 2021 for the formal/ organised sector. The establishment or units employing ten or more workers, in the field of nine sectors of education, health, construction, manufacturing, trade, Information-Technology/ Business processing outsourcing (IT/BPO), financial services, accommodation and restaurant, were surveyed.

### **FINDINGS OF QES:**

It has reported a 29% growth in employment in the said nine selected sectors from the 2013-14 sixth economic census. The report showed that 24 lakh jobs lost during lockdown came back by the first quarter of 2021.

### **ISSUE IN REPORT:**

The report of the survey is welcome. But the interpretation and analysis of the survey calls for caution. Coverage in the report is limited. The share of establishment with workers 10 or more is very small. Especially for non-agricultural establishments, Which was just 1.6% as per the economic census 2013-14. It is worth mentioning here that a large share of workers, 81.3% as per the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2018-19, worked in the unorganised sector which is not covered. Thus with its limited coverage, the employment data of the organised sector, published in QES cannot provide an overall picture of the present employment situation of the country. Drawing inferences from this report regarding the overall job losses during lockdown and job recovered post lockdown would be misleading.

The official PLFS report indicated the extent of distress in the labour market during the nationwide lockdown. More than 12 crore workers lost their jobs in April 2020 as per the data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy. Most of those who lost their jobs were from informal sectors like small traders and casual labours.

The unemployment rate as per the current weekly status in urban areas increase from 9.1% in January-March 2020 (before lockdown) to 20.8% in April-June 2020. The current weekly status counts the employment active status during seven days preceding the survey date.

We can notice other shortcomings in the methodology of comparing the employment data published in the new QES with Economic Census 2013-14. QES is for one quarter while Economic Census 2013-14 was for one year. Sample frame ( i.e. list of units, persons, households businesses etc. in the survey population) is a must for conducting a scientific Sample Survey.

The basis of sample selection is of utmost importance for the survey design. The sample frame used is employment estimate renders it outdated which makes it irrelevant

The most recent sample frame we have is of 2013-14 which the new QES has used. Hence the new QES has not included the units setup after 2013.

In addition, there is a conceptual problem in comparing employment numbers of the EC with the QES. Although the former asks questions about the number of persons working in an enterprise, it is not a good instrument for estimating the size of the workforce or for analysing employment trends as the principal objective of the EC is generating a frame, not estimating employment.

On the pretext of the global financial crisis of 2008 the Labour Bureau conducted the first survey in 2009 selected export-oriented And Labour-intensive industries in 11 States. The sample size was small taking 2000 manufacturing units. The survey was conducted till December 2015. In April 2016 the Labour Bureau replaced this series with another quarterly series, Which had better sectoral coverage and larger sample size.

The EC2013 served as the sampling frame for this survey, too. However, it was soon abandoned as a government appointed Task Force on Improving Employment Data (2017) recommended doing away with the QES on grounds of its limited coverage and an outdated sample frame. Given the above background, the rush to produce a new QES that draws its sample from the EC2013 frame seems baffling. It would have been more prudent to await the release of a newly updated frame in the EC2020 and then canvass for the QES.

### **WAY FORWARD:**

It is desirable to produce employment data quarterly for selected industries in the organised sector. a more scientific methodology is required to estimate the employment data of the unorganised sector as well. However, in a rush to produce estimates there cannot be compromise on the quality of data and its reliability. The comparison of the two data should be logical and scientific, which we are not witnessing in the new Quarterly Economic Survey. It can undermine the potential value of QES and will lead to wrong inferences.

**MD. Layeeque Azam**

## **Kochi-based artist Anna Jovita Rajam : His art depicts Daily Routine of life (GS Paper 1)**

### **CONTEXT :**

An Artist of Kochi named Anna Jovita Rajam has painted our daily life on canvas. In his artwork she used modern technology. In fact she made painting by using an ipad and depicted the Things happening at home or the sights.

### **ABOUT ANNA JOVITA RAJAM**

- Her art also comes with a tinge of humour and often leaves the viewers in chuckles.

- A girl named Jovita is a 25-year-old artist. She is a free launcher artist
- She is native of Alappuzha. This is a small town in Kerala. This city is also situated in the coastal region. She had done her masters in animation. In her initial level she used a pencil for replicating portraits. Gradually she used multiple mediums in her painting. She used acrylic, gouache, oil, and now digital mediums in her painting
- Jovita innovates many ways to convey her subjects creatively through blending storytelling elements.
- In the initial level her subjects weren't based on any concept. She just copied the concept and story of others and painted the image. But gradually she has learnt many fundamentals of the painting and started to make animations in which she used own themes. In fact she wanted to attract the art lovers through her painting. She made her debut poster for the Malayalam movie, Thirike.
- In fact, since her childhood she was influenced by comic books and cartoons. In her painting we see its influence also
- Instead of keeping the emotions bland, Jovita often strikes joyful themes and characters.
- Sometimes she chronicles real-life incidents, like she being chased by her pet rooster and running for her life, or it is her pet dog Tony and the never-ending saga of him destroying the footwear at home.
- In her theme some time humour elements could also be observed. In fact Mr peckers and Tony are the comic characters of her creations. She had brought some modifications in each frame, and to convey the story better, detailings are done in an elaborative way.
- Jovita picks pastels and rusty red and oranges as her colour palette to make them more appealing and soothing,
- She has not bound herself with any specific style. She is very flexible in her style of painting. As per the demand of her fans and the art lovers she changes her style. She has painted many themes on the occasions of weddings, anniversaries. Her sketches range from real-life incidents to anything that strikes a chord with her. She is always ready to opt for a new style of painting if any style of the painting attracts and inspires her.
- The youngster's inktober series inspired by the topics set by the artist, Jake Parker, is unlike her cheerful comic themes. The monochrome images made using lines and hatching with ink is another source to let her creative juices flow.
- In fact, artist Anna Jovita Rajam is a young and talented artist of kerala. Her works on art are inspirations for the young generation of the artist. Definitely the role of Anna Jovita Rajam in the area of artist is very appreciable and government should also encourage such young artists through various means of the appreciation.

**Dr. Anshul Bajpai**

## **THE BAIN REPORT AND THE IDEA CONCEPT; Entry of Technology fixes and agri-business Investments in Indian Agriculture [GS I, AGRICULTURE AND GEOGRAPHY]**

### **CONTEXT:**

In June 2021, two significant documents relating to the Indian agriculture sector were released.

1. A consultation paper on the India Digital Ecosystem of Agriculture (IDEA) from the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (MoA&FW) → talks about a digital revolution in the agriculture

sector and predicts a exhaustive investment growth in agri-logistics, offtake, and agri-input delivery by 2025.

The MoA&FW report describes creating data to fuel the growth predicted by Bain and Company.

2. Paper on Indian Agriculture: Ripe for Disruption from a private organisation, Bain and Company.

The Authors of the Bain report- Parijat Jain, Prashant Sarin and Shalabh Singawne have portrayed the agriculture reforms( announced by the union government) as a game-changer in the agriculture sector.



### **THE BAIN REPORT:-**

- It is a data-based prediction on agri-business scenarios.
- It predicts its next 20 years' future trajectories.
- It includes targeting the production of alternative proteins, and food cell-based food/ingredients and initiating ocean farming, etc.
- The report has a 'today forward- future back approach' and predicts a drastic investment opportunity development by 2025.

The agriculture sector (currently worth \$370 billion), is estimated to receive an additional \$35 billion investment.

2 Reasons for such investments: Changes in the regulatory framework, in the Farm Acts and in digital disruption.

The report further discusses that benefiting from the huge investments into the agri-ecosystem, doubling farmers' income targets can be achieved in near future.

**The IDEA concept-** consulting paper is based on the Task Force and Working Group report constituted by the MoA&FW to design the blueprint of DIGITAL AGRICULTURE— which is similar to the digital disruption mentioned in the Bain report.

The aim of the IDEA concept → the farmer and the improvement of farmers' livelihood.

WAY to reach the goal→ through tight integration of agri-tech innovation and the agriculture industry ecosystem to farming and food systems.

In short, The IDEA concepts categorically speaks about data openness, which means open to businesses and farmers.

The IDEA architecture includes Value-added innovative services by agri-tech industries and start-ups.

In future, the Indian agriculture sector will enclose different aspects from the farm to fork and pave the way for a **single national market** with a national platform with better connection between producer and consumers.

**Opposition of the IT industry to the IDEA** → Ethical issue of creating a Unique Farmer ID based on one's Aadhaar number as well as the potential for data misuse.

**Goal**→ Doubling Farmers Income,

The Bain report has not been widely discussed — at least in the public domain.

The assumptions used by authors of the Bain report, especially for its 'future back approach', need more or less focusing on widespread food production in controlled environments.

Undoubtedly, the factors including the emission, energy, resource footprints, and sustainability related to these techniques should be carefully studied.

However, the report has convincingly exhibited the business opportunity available in supply chains between farm to Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) mandi and the customer, which can be realised with the support of digital disruption and the latest agriculture reforms.

The reports rely on digital disruption to improve farmers' livelihoods, without discussing how much farmers will be prepared to benefit from these newly emerging business environments.

### **HINT FROM THE GOVERNMENT SIDE SHOWING THEIR STANCE:-**

Union government has hinted that they are serious about the digital support to the agriculture sector and have sought the support of States.

But technology fixes and agri-business investments alone will not be enough to improve farmers' livelihoods

### **LIMITATIONS:**

- Majority of small and marginal farmers are not technology-savvy.
- Most of them are under-educated
- The Bain report relies on the *general assumption only* that more investments into the agriculture sector will benefit farmers.
- Together, the two reports look forward to benefiting from the recent agriculture legislature changes without perceiving the requirement of the capacity-building at farmer's end.
- Politically, these two reports **ignore the protest of farmers against the reforms** without considering it as a barrier or risk factor resulting in a repealing of these new farm laws.

### **TO CONCLUDE:**

From the point of view of the current scenario, a data revolution is inevitable in the agriculture sector, given its socio-political complexities, but solely on the basis of technology fixes and agri-business investments to improve farmers' livelihoods, it is very difficult. The capacity building of the farmers in India is needed, by establishing support systems, through FPOs and other farmers associations where technical support is available for farmers. Considering the size of the agriculture sector of India, this is a difficult task but is achievable.

**Rajeev Yadav**

# Abdulrazak Gurnah: A Nobel Laureate of 2021

## (GS Paper 1: Art and Culture)

### CONTEXT

Abdulrazak Gurnah a novelist and academic who has won the nobel prize of 2021. In all his work, Gurnah has striven to avoid the ubiquitous nostalgia for a more pristine pre-colonial Africa. His explanation about colonialism and imperialism is unique and commendable. In his work he explained the effect of colonialism and the impact of the penetration of and strange culture into africa and how this colonialism would be influencible for the fate of the refugee in the gulf between cultures and continents.

### ABOUT ABDULRAZAK GURNAH

- On the island of Zanzibar in the Indian Ocean, this great novelist was born and grew up. He was born in 1948 and resided here in Zanzibar up to 1960. At the end of 1960 he had arrived in England as a refugee
- Zanzibar became liberated from the British in December 1963. After the peaceful protest but suddenly after its liberation it went through a revolution, a type of civil war which was oppressed brutally by President Abeid Karume's regime. The government persecuted citizens of Arab origin; massacred them.
- Gurnah was also a victim of this incident and he was forced to leave his family and flee the newly formed Republic of Tanzania. Therefore He had experienced the pathetic conditions of the refugee. He returned to Zanzibar in 1984 and fortunately he could meet his father before the father's death.
- Gurnah has been the Professor of English and Postcolonial Literatures at the University of Kent in Canterbury.
- His main work on literature is to focus on the impact of colonialism on refugees. His work is influenced by writers such as Wole Soyinka, Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o and Salman Rushdie.
- Ten novels and many short stories of Gurnah have been published.
- When He was residing in England as a refugee, he started writing from that time. In the beginning of his career, he used Swahili language. Gradually he started his writings in English
- The Arabian Nights was the important source for his writings. The Arabian Nights explains about the golden age of the Isma. In fact, The Arabian Nights is the collection of thousands of folks. But in his work of English we see the impact of the language and emotions of many legendary nobelists of English language from the Shakespeare to V.S Naipal
- Desertion (2005), a novel of Gurnah expresses the story of a conventionally European hero who returns home from romantic escapades abroad.
- Memory of Departure was the debut novel of Gurnah. In this novel a story of a young man who is resident on the East African coast. He had to face the oppressive rule of the totalitarian regime. In this novel travails of this young man is very well expressed
- Paradise is another important novel which was shortlisted for the 1994 Booker Prize.
- In this novel Gurnah tried to reflect the picture of a 12 years old boy Yusuf who is forced into indentured servitude in East Africa in the years leading up to World War I.

Definitely, The Nobel prize is the most prestigious prize of the world and Gurnah's work is fit for that prize. He had not only shown the pathetic conditions of the refugees but also expressed that colonialism and totalitarian rule are responsible for such migrations throughout the entire world.

**Dr. Anshul Bajpai**

# **An Organisation of the Students of Delhi University to promote Art work : A new hope for the artisans of India**

## **(GS Paper1 : Art and Culture)**

### **CONTEXT:**

The students of the Delhi University ( SRCC college ) offer a beacon of hope for Indian artisans through the establishment of a non profitable organisation Collecting Dreams Foundation (CDF). The main function of this organisation will be the promotion of traditional art works. It is a social initiative to conserve the environment, to promote artisans and many other social welfare works.

### **COLLECTING DREAMS FOUNDATION (CDF)**

- IT is a non-profit foundation registered and licensed under section 8 of the Companies Act, 1956, Government of India,
- One of the important objectives of this organisation is to create social entrepreneurship models and empower underprivileged women.
- It is a student-based initiative (mainly from Delhi University's college SRCC) committed to initiate development of rural India and the marginalised people.
- CDF-SRCC is a branch of the umbrella organisation- 'Connecting Dreams Foundation', It had been started its functioning from 2014 in the college and has been contributing in elevating numerous lives since its beginning
- There are 60 dedicated and enthusiastic individuals working for this organisations and doing their best to uplift the status of the deprived rural people , mainly artisans

### **PROJECT RIVAAYAT**

- ▶ Project Rivaayat is one of the important projects of this organisation.
- The word Rivaayat is an Urdu word which means tradition or Parampara. This project is promoting one the oldest art of the India Terracotta Pottery. After globalisation The demand for homegrown arts and crafts has been continuously declining. Because of the technology and the demand of the market , handi craft of India , mainly rural India is tending towards its death
- There are thousands of artisans in India who are skilled in various crafts. The work of this organisation is really commendable
- Rivaayat is an initiative to revive the art of Terracotta pottery by creating the demand of the terracotta work , by creating direct market and by providing financial assistance to artisans, by organising many fairs related to handicraft , by eliminating the middlemen while connecting them with professional designers in order to modernise their existing designs.
- This organisation had collaboration with international market like US, UK, and UAE.
- It had established ecommerce platform for sell and purchase of such arts and collaborated with such e commerce platform like Amazon, Flipkart, Etsy, Gaatha,
- The products sold globally start at an affordable price of Rs 400. While the revenue received goes to the artisan, a small percent is also retained as operation cost.
- Along with terracotta pottery, the project has also launched a new venture featuring basket weaving with water hyacinth, an aquatic weed that harms the aquatic ecosystem. Facilitated by a local NGO in

Uttarakhand, Rivaayat has employed around 15 women artisans from five villages around Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh for this venture.

- Quoting their mentor Giriraj Prasad, Mondal concludes, “Man is mortal, art forms are immortal,” which highlights full circle what Keats tried to achieve with his poem.
- Rivaayat’s project then becomes a beacon of hope for all artisans around India and helps revive our age-old heritage arts and crafts.

**Dr. Anshul Bajpai**

