



# **PLUTUS IAS Weekly**

## **CURRENT AFFAIRS**



**PLUTUS IAS WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS 11-10-2021 to 17-10-2021**

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# CURRENT AFFAIRS

# OCTOBER 2021

## Artist Babu : A foreign recognised Indian Artist (Art and Culture)

### CONTEXT :

He had closely bound his inner self and the forest. His art is too much mesmerizing art which had evolved since his childhood where he was surrounded with nature and forest.

### ABOUT BABU KG

- He is kerala based artist
- He had seen nature since he took birth. He had observed the natural beauty of the kerala which he depicted in his canvas
- He has lived in great penury throughout his school life. Through his picture he, in fact depicted all his old memories of his childhood
- Since he had belonged with tribal life so in his artwork, we see the theme related to tribal life
- He had closely bound his inner self and the forest. His art is too much mesmerizing art which had evolved since his childhood where he was surrounded with nature and forest.
- Since he was also a therore in his painting we see the themes related to dwellers (adivasis)
- At an ongoing exhibition at Alappuzha. The series of his work is also being exhibited
- His other work is also in progress where he will show his mural painting of 40 x 15-foot at Mandalay Hall in Jew Town in Kochi.
- Most of the works are of six four to seven feet
- He generally used a large canvas where he could paint everything. In fact, entire world is included in his work
- For the Artist work international recognition is also a great feeling for all the artists. it is honour for this artist also that he was given opportunity to show his talent at Sweden
- Internationally Babu had also participated at the 2014 Busan–Art–Fair, South Korea,
- He had also visited China for his art work.
- He also visited America in 2015, where he showed his talent in an exhibition In this exhibition he presented his a work of a mother and child at Pittsburgh
- In his famous picture, a couple is sitting in moonlight ('Nilavu') between blue foliage and a pond with fish and frog exchanging paper boats. 'Harmony' celebrates the myriad colours of the forest and its people.

- Depiction of an evergreen tropical rainforest and its inhabitants through using various Indian colours. This picture is being appreciated in Sweden
- In the painting of a couple, Their eyes speak volumes of this reciprocal link between the human and nature which he had observed in the urban dwellers. This
- Babu's canvas is wide
- In his work, the narrative seems obvious but is enriched with deeper interpretations.
- His forests are populated with indigenous dwellers who coexist with elephants, deer, frogs, butterflies, birds, dragonfly, tigers... together, they roam in the grass around the trees, bushes and shrubs.
- In his picture Dewdrops shimmer on leaves are very much influenceable. These drops look like quiet pearls and in moon lights, these drops create an amazon beauty and glow. His world is far away from the materialism of daily existence.
- He generally used green as a predominant colour. Among his colours blue also plays an important role. The colour of the sky and background shade is shown by blue colour only and for the water of river and the mountains, blue colour is the dominant colour
- In his painting the bright hues and fulsome images are subtly layered and combine a subliminal mysticism with the real.
- Unique perception of the oneness of self and the universe underscores a refined culture of universal love and harmony

### ABOUT THE SHOW

- The show is organised in Sweden and conceptualised by artist and curator Dorina Mocan
- Since the Indian artist has had a big impact on the Swedish public, Therefore Indian Artists have been invited. She was introduced to Babu's art through his student, London-based Nisha Dilip.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

## Durga Puja Pandal : Reflection of Indian Art (GS Paper 1 : Art and Culture)



## CONTEXT :

During Durga Puja festival, everywhere in Bengal, Durga puja pandals have been installed. We can easily observe the reflection of various types of arts and culture. We observe Pandal themes that range from Burj Khalifa to Bollywood and Kolkata in the 70s.

When we observe regarding talent and ideas among our artist mainly sculpting artist, we see this talent is in abundance in the artist of Kolkata

## SIGNIFICANCE OF DURGA PUJA IN WEST BENGAL

- Durga Pujais the only festival of Kolkata among the most celebrated festivals in Kolkata. Various types of the pandals during these festivals are installed everywhere in Kolkata. These Pandals are generally theme based pandals. These Themes depict the various aspects of human life. These themes are drawn by various artists not only of India but also of abroad also.
- Durga Puja is one of the biggest cultural event of India

## VARIOUS THEMES

- During last year when we were facing the problem of the coronavirus pandemic, many artists showed this theme of coronavirus in their sculpture and in Pandals. Besides, the theme related to migrant workers was another theme which had attracted evry artist. The migrant mother theme which was fashioned by Barisha club in reflected the pathetic condition of the migrant workers
- For more than one year we have been facing the problem of coronavirus but still people could not be stopped by such a pandemic. People had shown their creativity and talent. This year various contemporary issues are also reflected in the themes of Durga Puja Pandal
- In Behala's Barisha Club, Durga Puja assumed a political stance. The idol was sculpted to look like a migrant mother. The theme for this year is 'Bhaager Maa' (division of mother), and it specifically details the life of a family inside a detention camp. It has smartly played around the subject of the National Register of Citizens and the plight of people who find themselves as refugees.
- Another important and contemporary theme was related to the protest of farmers. This theme had shown its solidarity with farmers. In this theme, the incident of Lakhimpur Khiri is also reflected in which many farmers were killed by the son of BJP home minister for state.
- A puja pandal in Kolkata has been crafted to mimic the harrowing episode.
- There are many puja pandal which depict the science of 70s' Bollywood. In hand-painted advertisements we see the image of old Bollywood heroes, scenes etc,
- The theme has been aptly named 'Phiria daou tulir tan', meaning, 'give us back the brush stroke' — a form of art which has been lost in the digital age.
- Apart from this, the Sreebhumi Sporting Club Dubai's Burj Khalifa has also been depicted. The club has designed a 145-foot pandal which has been modelled to look like the iconic Dubai tower.
- The Hatibagan Sarbojanin Club has also installed a pandal based on the theme 'Pichutan', which means a longing for something that you cannot go back to. Simply put, it recreates the Kolkata of the 70s.
- In the Bandhu Mahal Club in Baguiati, one idol has been installed with eyes of gold and another idol has been draped in a saree that has gold embroidery on it.
- The puja pandal Nabin Pallyhas been designed as the Pandal reflecting its tribute to those who died during the second wave of the Covid infection. Photos of the deceased, hanging urns and a Mahishasura with folded hands give a haunting reminder that the pandemic is the bigger evil to fight.

**Dr. Anshul Bajpai**

# The Taiwan Strait- A likely arena for clash of arms

## [GS II, International Relations]

### CONTEXT:

If the rising confrontation between U.S.A. and China erupts into a clash of arms, the likely arena may well be the Taiwan Strait.

### HISTORY/BACKGROUND:

- Issue of Taiwan is still unresolved. In the 1945-49 civil war, the CCP forces under Mao Zedong defeated the Kuomintang (KMT) forces led by Chiang Kai-shek.
- Chiang retreated to Taiwan and set up a govt. that claimed authority over the whole of China and decided to recover mainland China.
- The CCP committed to reclaim Taiwan to achieve the final reunification of China but failed, because during the Korean War of 1950-53, It became a military ally of the United States. China, though declares its commitment to pursue peaceful unification but reserves the right to use force also.

The PRC has promised a high degree of independence to Taiwan under the “**one country two systems**” formula first applied to Hong Kong after its reversion to Chinese sovereignty in 1997.

### ONE COUNTRY TWO SYSTEMS FORMULA :

To Hong Kong- It may retain its free market system with political and judicial Institutions and Processes, for a period of 50 years.

To Taiwan, it was promised that it could also retain its armed forces during the transition period, alongwith same scheme of Hong-Kong.

### ECONOMIC LINKS BETWEEN CHINA AND TAIWAN:

Since 1978, China has been rising economically and commercially (in power) globally. Taiwan business entities have invested heavily in mainland China and the two economies have become increasingly integrated while Chinese investments in Taiwan are very low in comparison i.e. barely U.S. \$2.4 billion, if Hong Kong is not considered.

- Taiwanese capital investment in China (b/w 1991 and 2020) → U.S. \$188.5 billion
- Bilateral trade in 2019 → U.S. \$150 billion

China hopes that the considerable economic benefits that Taiwan business and industry enjoy through a developing relationship with China would weaken opposition to its unification plan.

If Taiwan is seen drifting towards an independent status, China is capable of causing economic pain on Taiwan through repressive policies.

### IN THE POLITICS OF TAIWAN:

Taiwan has two major political parties:

1. The **KMT**, who came to Taiwan along with Chiang Kai-shek in 1949, remains committed to one-China policy and **does not support Taiwanese independence**.
2. The Democratic Progressive Party (**DPP**), representative of the indigenous population of Taiwan, **favours independence**.

However, faced with Chinese aggression and lack of international support, the demand for independence has been muted.

### **STANCE OF MAINLAND CHINA AGAINST TAIWAN:**

China feels comfortable with the KMT and is aggressive towards the DPP.

Ever since the DPP won the presidential elections in 2016 (under Tsai Ing-wen), China has taken back to a series of actions like economic pressures and military threats, which re-escalated since the re-election of Tsai Ing-wen in the 2020 elections.

### **CHINESE ACTIONS AND THEIR RESULTS:**

The increasing military threats against Taiwan, through daily violations of its air defence identification zone (ADIZ) and aggressive naval plans in the Taiwan Strait, are obstructive in nature.

With such Chinese actions, chances of peaceful unification have reduced. Sentiment in favour of Taiwanese independence have increased.

**INDIA'S STANCE:** In pursuance of its Indo-Pacific strategy, India needs to be watchful of the China-U.S. equations in the region.

### **THE U.S. STANCE:**

The U.S. recognised the PRC as the legal government of China in 1979.

While the U.S. does not support a declaration of independence by Taiwan, it has gradually reversed the policy of avoiding official-level engagements with the Taiwan government.

In a recent incident, a U.S. nuclear-powered submarine ran into an “unidentified object” in the South China Sea. China has objected to these U.S. actions clearly.

In the latest telephone talk between President Joe Biden and Mr. Xi, Mr. Biden confirmed Mr. Xi that the U.S. will abide by the “Taiwan agreement”, i.e. the U.S. would not reverse its one China policy.

### **IS CHINA'S NEXT STEP TO INVADE TAIWAN MILITARILY ?**

In March this year, the U.S. Pacific Commander, Philip Davidson, alerted that China could invade Taiwan within the next six years as part of its strategy to displace U.S. power in Asia.

While other analysts gives different opinions like-

- Cross-strait operations will be extremely complex
- Pacifying a hostile population may prove to be long drawn out and costly exercise.
- China may await a further decline of U.S. power and its will to intervene in the Taiwanese defence.

### **DETERRENCE AGAINST CHINA:**

- The recent crystallisation of the Quad (India a part of it)
- The announcement of the AUKUS alliance, with Australia promoted to a power with nuclear-powered submarines, may act as a check against Chinese moves on Taiwan.

### **TO CONCLUDE:**

For different reasons, Taiwan is emerging as a potential trigger point for a clash of arms between the U.S. and China. In pursuing its Indo-Pacific strategy, India has to keep these possible scenarios in mind.

**Swarn Singh**

# Understanding the Forex Reserve along with the weekly report of RBI



## NEWS:

The RBI reported on October 1, the fall in the forex reserve. It is basically due to falling in the **foreign currency assets** which is a major component of the overall **forex reserves**. The report says that the forex reserves slid by 1.169 billion dollars to reach 637.477 billion dollars during the weekend of October 1, 2021.

## UNDERSTANDING THE FOREX RESERVE:

The forex reserve of our country, which is kept with RBI, is comprised of **foreign currencies, gold, special drawing rights (SDR)**, and reserve tranche position kept with IMF. As RBI is responsible to keep the forex reserve, it is called as **custodian of the forex reserve**.

The value of forex reserve can be termed in dollars or rupees. This forex reserve is very important for any country and could be used in buying the items from the international market, which means a kind of essential for the import. That's why it is also termed as Import Cover. In this article, the dollar will be termed as for all foreign currencies.

## DYNAMIC OF FOREX RESERVE:

When a dollar comes into a country its forex reserve will increase. Similarly, when a dollar moves out of the country its forex reserve will reduce.

The coming of the dollar and outgoing of the dollar can be understood in three ways. First in the form of debit/loan, second in the form of investment, and third in the form of earnings. All the movements of the dollar whether it is coming in a country or moving out of the country is written in Balance of payment. Thus **Balance of Payment** is a record of all Dollars coming into or moving out of the country. The Balance of Payment comprises two accounts, the **current account and capital account**. The movement of debt/ loan and investment is recorded in capital account whereas all earnings are recorded in the current account.

In all these account, Whether capital account or current account, coming of dollar as well as moving out of

the dollar, both will be recorded. It means all entries will be having two ways. For example, if the **Loan/Debt (External Commercial Borrowings/Government Borrowing/Masala Bond)** is taken it will be recorded as incoming of the dollar in the capital account, and forex reserve will increase. If the loan is given or repayment of the loan is done then it will be recorded as outgoing of the dollar in capital account, and forex reserve will decrease.

In the same way, if an **Investment (FDI/FII/FPI/GDR)** is done by foreigners then it will be recorded as an incoming of the dollar in the capital account, and forex will increase. And if the investment is done by residents (citizen/company/bank/government) of the country in any foreign country then it will be recorded as outgoing out the dollar in the capital account.

Similarly, if a country is **exporting or receiving remittances (i.e. earning of the country)**, it will be recorded as incoming of the dollar in the current account. In the same way, if the country is importing or paying remittances (i.e. spending of the country), it will be recorded as outgoing of the dollar.

So we have to understand here that if the dollar is coming in our country, our forex reserve increases. But at the same time, we need to see whether this dollar is a loan, foreign investment or an earning. As discussed above loan and foreign investments will be returned in the capital account and all kinds of earning will be written in the current account. Our current account for long has Experienced deficit. It is basically our capital account that is in surplus and due to which our forex reserve is touching more than 600 billion dollars.

As on October 1, 2021, RBI reported that it has 637.477 Billion dollar Forex reserve. Out of this 637.477 billion dollars forex reserve, the value of foreign currencies are 575.451 Billion dollars, the value of gold is 37.558 Billion dollar, The value of special drawing rights is 19.240 Billion dollars and the value of reserve position in IMF 5.228 Billion dollars. In this way we can say that the forex reserve comprised of 90.27% Foreign currencies (Dollar Pound Euro Japanese yen and others), 5.89% gold, 3.02% SDR, 0.82% Reserve position kept with IMF.

### **UNDERSTANDING SPECIAL DRAWING RIGHTS(SDR) AND RESERVE TRANCHE POSITION(RTP):**

Every member country of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) requires to keep a certain amount of forex reserve with IMF as per their quota. One portion of this forex reserve is called Special Drawing Rights and another comes under the Reserve Tranche position.

IMF makes the general SDR allocation to its members in proportion to their existing quotas and it is termed as Special Drawing Rights (SDR). SDR is an alternate reserve currency floated by the IMF, which the member countries can freely exchange between themselves instead of relying on the currency of any one particular country. SDR is a basket of the U.S. dollar, Japanese yen, euro, pound sterling, and Chinese Renminbi.

For example, as of August 23, 2021, the total SDR holdings of India stand at SDR 13.66 billion (equivalent to around USD 19.41 billion at the latest exchange rate. Here you can see 13.6 billion SDR is equal to 19.41 billion USD as per the exchange rate then. Hence one SDR equals 1.42 USD then. Also, we can calculate the value of SDR in terms of rupees. The value of SDR would be changing with the change in the market value of USD or Rupees.

Presently, as of October 1, the SDR of India is equivalent to 19.240 Billion USD as discussed above. This is one portion of India's quota. Second portion of India quota in terms Reserve tranche position RTP. The RTP is basically an emergency account that IMF members can access at any time without agreeing to conditions or paying a service fee. In other words, a portion of a member country's quota can be withdrawn free of charge at its own discretion. It means India at present can withdraw 19.40 billion USD without interest in case of an emergency.

**Md Layeeque Azam, Economics Faculty**

# Reflections on the 'quasi-federal' democracy [GS II]

## CONTEXT:

Events coinciding with the jubilee of India's Independence draw attention to the federal structure of India's Constitution,

## INDIA:-

Which is a democratic country, where its units are based on language, caste, tribe or religion etc. The resolution of such conflicts needs some innovative federal craftsmanship and sensitive political management.

The diversity of India is within its sovereign boundaries. With the features like universal adult franchise, integrated judicial system and governance, it is difficult to polarise its diversity, even with Hindutva.

In Spite of its operational weaknesses, the democratic structure and national integrity are interlinked.

## THE UNWANTED CHANGES DEVELOPING:-

1 The uncontrollable Parliamentary sessions, where the Rajya Sabha Chairperson broke down (in August 2021), and was unable to conduct proceedings despite having marshals in the house.

Still the House passed a record number of Bills through a number of adjournments. It is quite strange but has become like a new normal.

2. Cross-border police firing by one State against another, causing casualties, resulting in revengeful action in the form of a ban on goods trade and travel links with its land-locked neighbour.

The Union Law Minister (while in Opposition) said that Legislative disruptions are 'legitimate democratic right, and duty', thus he was justifying the current debate and discussion.

## LEGISLATIVE SCENES IN 1960'S-

- Posters with displays like 'CIA Agent', during debates
- Suitcases were transferred publicly to save the ruling Government
- Honorable Members coming out from debates with injuries, on some of the occasions.

## LEGISLATIVE SCENES IN CURRENT SCENARIOS:-

- In the federal chamber, Honorable Members and Marshals are seen in physical contact both claiming injuries.
- Official papers are normally vandalised.
- Chairpersons are immobilised
- Assuming new dimensions in Inter-State conflict is new normal

Federal theorist **K.C. Wheare** consider India as **quasi-federal**.

Like popular voting behaviour, institutional preferences are based either on ethnic or kinship network, or like anti-incumbency factors, some personalities like:

- **T.N. Seshan w.r.t** → the Election Commission of India
- **J.F. Ribeiro** → the police
- **Justices Chandrachud or Nariman** → the judiciary.

## **GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ACT- 1935-**

- India's federal structure, basic structure has been taken from the 'GOI ACT1935', which has :-
- Provincial Autonomy
- Attempted to democratise it by: renaming "Provinces" to autonomous "States"
- Transferring "Reserved Powers" to popular governance
- Constitutionally dividing powers between the two tiers
- Inserting federalism in the Preamble
- Inserting Part 3 and 4 containing citizens' "Fundamental Rights" and "Directive Principles of State Policy"
- It is silent about States' rights and their territorial boundaries

Vacancies in judicial appointments are still continuing (approx 41% lying vacant), judicial promotion and transfers becoming a central prerogative.

Indian federalism needs institutional amendment to be democratically federal.

## **STRUCTURAL CONFLICTS-**

- **All India Services**, including the State cadres.
- **The role of Governors**

Joint sessions of LOK SABHA and RAJYA SABHA do not appear successful.

## **TO CONCLUDE:-**

India's federal structure is described in different ways like quasi Federal, having central tendency, sui Generis among others. In the democratic process, conflicts have to be resolved and opposition has also to be taken into consideration. India needs to arrive at a solution where Democratic Process should be restored with the participation of all also in the democratic process. Otherwise it will be a threat to national security.

**Rajeev Yadav**

# **Right to Clean Environment GS-2 Important International Organisation**

## **CONTEXT**

Recently, the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) unanimously voted for recognising a clean, healthy and sustainable environment as a Universal Human Right. If recognised by all, the right will be the first of its kind in more than 70 years since the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1948. UDHR: The 30 rights and freedoms include civil and political rights, like the right to life, liberty, free speech and privacy and economic, social and cultural rights, like the right to social security, health and education, etc.

## **ABOUT UNHRC**

It is an inter-governmental body within the United Nations system responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the world. The Council was created by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 2006. It is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

It is made up of 47 United Nations Member States which are elected by the UNGA. India was elected in January 2019 for a period of three years. Universal Periodic Review: UPR serves to assess the human rights situations in all United Nations Member States. UN Special Procedures: These are made up of special rapporteurs, special representatives, independent experts and working groups that monitor, examine, advise and publicly report on thematic issues or human rights situations in specific countries.

## HUMAN RIGHTS V/S ENVIRONMENT

The concept of human rights in general emerged after the Second World War (1939-45), but the right to a healthy environment, as one of those human rights, was never a priority. The right to a clean environment is rooted in the 1972 Stockholm Declaration, popularly called as the Magna Carta of human environment. It contained principles and recommendations for environmental policy. 'Caring for the Earth 1991' and the 'Earth Summit' of 1992" also declared that human beings are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature.

## CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISION

- The human right to a healthy environment brings together the environmental dimensions of civil, cultural, economic, political, and social rights, and protects the core elements of the natural environment that enable a life of dignity.
- The right to life (Article 21) has been used in a diversified manner in India. It includes, inter alia, the right to survive as a species, quality of life, the right to live with dignity and the right to livelihood. Article 21 of the Indian Constitution states: 'No person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedures established by law.'
- Further the Constitutional (forty-second Amendment) Act, 1976 incorporated two significant articles viz. Article 48-A and 51A (g) thereby making the Indian Constitution the first in the world conferring constitutional status to the environment protection.
  - ▶ Article 48-A: The State shall endeavour to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forests and wildlife of the country.
  - ▶ Article 51A(g): It is a duty of every citizen to protect and preserve the environment.

## ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION LAWS IN INDIA:

- Wildlife (rotection) Act, 1972.
- Water (prevention and control of pollution) Act, 1974.
- The Forest (conservation) Act, 1989.
- The Air (prevention and control of pollution) Act, 1981
- The Environment (protection) Act, 1986.
- The National Green Tribunal Act, 2010

## ENVIRONMENTAL PRINCIPLES:

- **Inter-generational Equity:** It states that every generation holds Earth in common, therefore its resources should be used judiciously and for the common benefit of all.
- **Polluter Pays Principle:** It states that the polluter should bear the cost of damage caused by it to the natural environment.
- **Precautionary Principle:** It states that even in the absence of scientific evidence, measures must be

taken to anticipate and prevent the causes of environmental degradation. It is the social responsibility of the State to protect the public from any plausible risk.

- **Public trust Doctrine:** It states that resources like water, air, sea and forest have a great importance to the general public that it would be unjustified to make it the subject of private ownership. It poses a duty on the State to protect such resources for the benefit of all and not to permit any commercial use of it.
- **Sustainable Development Principle:** It states that the State should try to strike a balance between development and environment.

Anshum Verma

## Protecting Geo-Heritage Sites → India's natural laboratories [GS III]

### INTRODUCTION:

India's Geo-diversity, or variety of the geological and physical elements of nature, is unique and very diverse. India has mountain ranges, gorges and valleys, different landforms, long-stretched coastlines, volcanoes, various soil types, areas having different minerals and resources, and some important fossil-bearing sites globally. India can be very useful for geo-scientific learning

### BACKGROUND-

A supercontinent Pangea was broken into Laurasia and Gondwana, India formed out of Gondwana. India then drifted northwards due to Plate-Tectonics Theory.

The geological features and landscapes that evolved over billions of years through numerous cycles of tectonic and climate disruptions are recorded in India's rock formations and terrains, and are ultimately part of the country's heritage.

### FOR EXAMPLE-

1. The Kutch region (Gujarat) has dinosaur fossils and so it resembles India's version of Jurassic Park.
2. The Tiruchirappalli region (Tamil Nadu), is a storehouse of Cretaceous period marine fossils.
3. The environmental history of the Indus River Valley has to be studied in order to understand how physical geography gets transformed into a cultural unit.

### GEO-HERITAGE SITES-

- These sites are educational spaces where people find geological literacy.
- In comparison to subjects like physics, biology, and chemistry, the disciplines like environmental science and geology are not taught and studied that way. As there is uncertainty in the future climate, hence decision-making is bit difficult.
- Learning from the geological past may serve as an analogue for future climate.
- The awareness accrued through educational activities in geo-heritage parks will make it easy for us to memorise past events of climate change and appreciate the adaptation measures to be followed for survival.
- These **Geo-heritage sites** promote geo-tourism that generates revenue and employment.

Preserving geological heritage is also very important like safeguarding the biodiversity and cultural heritage.

## **EFFORTS BY UNESCO:**

- The importance of the shared geological heritage of Earth was first recognised in 1991 at an UNESCO-sponsored event, 'First International Symposium on the Conservation of our Geological Heritage'. In this Event, the delegations from Digne, and France, assembled.
- The Man and the Earth share a common heritage, of which "we and our government is the custodian" declaration predict the establishment of geo-parks as sites that celebrate unique geological features and landscapes thus educate the public on geological importance.
- In the late 1990s, as a continuation of the Digne resolution, UNESCO facilitated efforts to create a formal programme promoting a global network of geoheritage sites, to complement the World Heritage Convention and the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere programme(MAB).
- UNESCO provided guidelines for developing national geo-parks to make them a part of the Global Geoparks Network, currently 169 Global Geoparks across 44 countries.

Unfortunately, **India** does not have any such legislation and policy for conservation unlike Vietnam and Thailand. The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has identified 32 sites as National Geological Monuments.

There is not a single geo-park in India which is recognised by the UNESCO, even when India is a signatory to the UNESCO Global Geoparks establishment.

## **THE DEVELOPMENT CAMPAIGN AGENDA-**

In India, Many fossil-bearing sites have been destroyed in the name of development. The development juggernaut may soon overwhelm almost all our sites of geo-heritage:

### **FOR EXAMPLE-**

- The Tiruchirappalli region (Tamil Nadu), a storehouse of Cretaceous marine fossils.
- The Kutch region in Gujarat has dinosaur fossils and is our version of a Jurassic Park.
- A National geological monument exhibiting a unique rock called Nepheline Syenite in Ajmer district of Rajasthan was destroyed in a road-widening project.
- The Lonar impact crater in Buldhana district(Maharashtra) is an important geo-heritage site of international significance (under threat of destruction)

India is moving towards the disappearance of most of its geological heritage sites due to factors like:

- Unplanned and booming real estate business
- Unregulated stone mining activities

Natural assets, if destroyed, can't be recreated similarly they lose much of their scientific value, if uprooted.

The protection of geo-heritage sites requires some strong and immediate legislation. **The Biological Diversity Act** was implemented in 2002 and now there are 18 notified biosphere reserves in India.

### **TO CONCLUDE:**

Geo-conservation should be a major guiding factor in land-use planning. A progressive legal framework is needed to support such strategies. In 2009, a National Commission for Heritage Sites was constituted, through a bill introduced in the Rajya Sabha later the government backtracked and the bill was withdrawn. The Government has to sympathise with these issues and take some strong action in order to save these geological heritage sites and hence the culture. Therefore the Govt. has to take some necessary steps in this direction.

**Rajeev Yadav**

# State of Terror : First Novel of Hillary Clinton

## (GS Paper I : Art and Culture)

### CONTEXT:

Hillary Clinton, a renowned politician of the USA, former candidate of US presidential election and former Secretary of State of USA has released her book (a novel) entitled State of Terror which she co-authored with Canadian mystery writer Louise Penny (a Canadian author of mystery novels). This book is a fiction as declared by Hilery Clinton

### ABOUT THE NOVEL

- The theme of this novel is based on the contemporary issue mainly raising the issues of women in orthodox regime.
- In this novel a female character Ellen Adams is shown who is the protagonist and another character Ellen Adams is also there in this novel who has been inducted into the new cabinet of the president Douglas Williams. Earlier she was a media magnate.
- As the secretary of state, Adams is to unravel the issue of global terror conspiracy involving Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran with the assistance of other employees of foreign services who are of Lebanese origin and with the support of US-Pakistani journalists.
- Before this novel, Hillary Clinton had already worked on some books related to non fiction. In fact Hilary used to raise the issue of contemporary politics through her writings. The books “It Takes a Village” (1996), “Living History” (2003), “Hard Choices” (2014) and “What Happened” are inclusive part of her thinking regarding contemporary issues related to political system
- When Hilary Clinton had to face her defeat in the presidential election from the hand of Trump, the idea of this book State of Terror had emerged in her mind. Even though it is fiction, at least it provides us an idea why political leaders write novels.
- As per the view of Renowned book critic of America Jacob Appel, the political leaders write a novel for the coming generation. In fact they want to leave their legacy for upcoming generation

### LITERATURE WORK OF OTHER POLITICIANS

- In fact, politicians think that they would send their ideas and principles to the public through their literature work. Definitely some of the politicians had succeeded in this regard but many of them had failed.
- In America, the literature work started by politicians goes back during the last of the nineteenth century when Donnelly, a Minnesota Congressman, wrote a novel entitled “Caesar’s Column” (in 1890). This novel had become too popular because it was based on technological changes in the future.
- Former American President Jimmy Carter was the first American President who had become the author of a novel. He wrote novels entitled The Hornet’s Nest: A Novel of the Revolutionary War. Following the legacy of carter Bill Clinton had also written a novel entitled The President is Missing”
- Apart from these works of US politicians, Indian politicians had also done a lot of work on literature. For example – Pt Nehru wrote Discovery of India. Atal Bihari Bajpai was a goot poet and his works on literature is profoundly commendable
- It is not necessary that books written by powerful leaders have become much popular. Jimmy Carter’s “The Hornet’s Nest” novel had failed among readers. Bill Clinton also could not place his place among readers.

- But definitely the leaders of the countries of the world had done a lot of works on literature and through these literature they spread their ideas among the public

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

## **THE CAATSA TEST AND COURSE OF INDO-US RELATIONSHIP [GS II, International Relation]**

### **CONTEXT:**

The Air Chief Marshal V.R. Chaudhari, recently said that the delivery of the S-400 Triumph air defence systems from Russia is expected according to schedule. USA reacted that under the Countering America's Adversaries through Sanctions Act (CAATSA), enacted by the U.S. Congress → India's receiving the missile systems could attract sanctions.

A/c Sherman, U.S. thinks it's "dangerous" for "any country that decides to use the S-400".

India is scheduled to receive five squadrons of the surface-to-air missile systems under the \$5.43 billion (₹40,000 crore) agreement it signed three years ago.

### **ENACTMENT OF CAATSA**

Even though CAATSA was signed into law by then President Donald Trump in 2017.

The CAATSA was passed when the U.S. sought to discourage trade in the defence and intelligence sectors of Russia, as Russia was considered to have interfered in the 2016 U.S. presidential election.

India has stressed on the tactical importance of the defence missile systems considering the environment in the Indian subcontinent.

### **CAATSA:**

The Act mandates the President to impose at least 5/12 sanctions on persons engaged in a "significant transaction" with Russian defence and intelligence sectors.

### **THESE SANCTIONS INCLUDE:-**

- Suspending export licence
- Banning American equity/debt investments in entities
- Prohibiting loans from U.S. financial institutions
- Opposing loans from international finance institutions

The Act also built in a safety valve in the form of a presidential waiver i.e. "modified waiver authority". This waiver depends on following considerations:-

- Whether the move is in American interest
- That it does not endanger the country's national security
- Whether it affect its military operations in an adverse manner
- Whether the country in question is taking steps to bring down its inventory of defence equipment from Russia
- Whether the country in question cooperate with Washington on matters of critical security

Whether India can secure a waiver from President Joe Biden when the time comes for the White House to make a decision has to be awaited.

**AN ADDITIONAL PROVISION**– allowing for sanctions waivers for 180 days, provided the administration certifies that the country in question is scaling back its ties with Russia.

The debate in the U.S. hovers around the efficacy of CAATSA-related sanctions against India when the geopolitical situation in the region is undergoing a change.

**CHANGING GLOBAL ALLIANCES**- Today, there is a growing relationship between China and Russia with both countries seeking to expand engagement in Afghanistan from where the U.S. withdrew its military after two decades of war.

### **INDIA'S STANCE W.R.T USA EXIT FROM AFGHANISTAN AND THE DIPLOMACY-**

India turned a bit hostile over the U.S. negotiation of the exit deal with the Taliban. Yet, on the strategic plane, India remained on course by agreeing to the upgrading of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue and sharing the same vision as the U.S. on the Indo-Pacific construct.

**EFFECTS OF SANCTION**- If sanctions are made, they have the tremendous potential of downgrading the bilateral relationship trajectory between the U.S. and India, which now covers 50 sectors, especially in the field of defence. And as per U.S.'s concern, it may drift India towards Russia again along with the belief that Washington cannot be relied upon as a partner.

### **INDIA-RUSSIA TRADING SITUATION-**

According to a report by a defence think-tank SIPRI-

- India's military purchase from Russia has steadily declined over the last decade
- Between 2011-15 and 2016-20, India's arms import decreased by 33%

In recent years, though, there have been some big-ticket deals worth \$15 billion including S400, Ka-226-T utility helicopters, BrahMos missiles and production of AK-203 assault rifles.

### **INDIA-USA TRADING SITUATION-**

- Government-to-Government deals with the U.S., over the past decade, have reached to \$20 billion
- Additionally, They have negotiated with approx \$10 billion deals

### **US GIFTS TO INDIA-**

- The U.S. designated India as a Major Defence Partner in 2016
- USA further gave India Strategic Trade Authorisation-1 which allows access to critical technologies.

Today, manufacturers in both countries are exploring ways to co-develop and co-produce military equipment.

### **WILL THE SANCTIONS BE IMPOSED ON INDIA LIKE CHINA AND TURKEY?**

There are three clear steps/options in the current scenario:-

- The presidential determination on waiver
- The referral to the Congressional Committees
- Clearance by these panels

While referral to the Armed Services is spelled out, it is a distinct possibility that this will be sent to the Senate Foreign Relations Committees.

**TO CONCLUDE-** This CAATSA test is going to determine the future course of the India-U.S. relationship. The role of Indian-Americans and the Indian-diaspora should be significant just as they showed support for the historic Civil Nuclear Deal in the face of resistance from Democrats opposing this nuclear proliferation deal. This development will go a long way in moulding the INDO-US INDO-RUSSIA relationship and also has the power to impact the current global balance with respect to India in particular.

**Rajeev Yadav**

## **Sculpting Idols of the God instead of Taj miniature in Agra City : A Changing Trend because of the Covid 19 (GS Paper 1 : Art and Culture)**

### **CONTEXT:**

India has been facing the problem of the coronavirus pandemic for more than one and half years and because of this pandemic the number of foreign tourists in Agra has decreased drastically. The artisans who are expert in miniature art of tajmahal, now are facing the problem of decreased demand of the miniature of taj. Therefore most of them had changed their path and started to sculpt the idols of Hindu God and Goddess whose demand is still good and continuously increasing in the local market.

### **MINIATURE ART :**

- Miniature art is a form of art in which we either make painting or sculpting any idols in its small form even though this term was used during the 16th century by British Artisans to explain its form. In fact the art work in its minor form is called miniature art. If we observe its history we see that from the 3rd, 4th century in India we get the evidence of miniature sculptures in large numbers. Even though the history of miniature painting goes back up to the paleolithic period. Cave painting in India is a type of miniature painting. But the miniature sculpting is not older than 3rd century AD
- The terms miniature art is used by a British Sir Philip Sydney
- Besides india, we find the evidence of standard miniature painting of 3rd 4th century Ad from Turkey, egypt, Iran etc

### **FAMOUS MINIATURE ARTISTS OF INDIA**

#### **Ganesh Subramanyan**

He is the famous personality of Miniature art. He belongs to Kerala He has done more than 50 miniature works till date. the nano sculptures of Ganesh could not be seen by your naked eye. It can be seen by using lenses only. He used Gold in developing miniature models of Taj Mahal and Hindu god and goddess. His most challenging work so far has been a number lock he made a few years ago. The work also holds a world record for being the smallest functioning gold code lock ever made.

#### **Agnika Banarjee**

- A Bengali artist, 31st year old, MBA graduate, expert in miniature art (sculpting). She used clay for sculpting and All her clay miniatures are made up of polymer clay (a kind of clay which hardens when baked in an oven).
- She also used chalk pastels and glaze for added effects. The common tools used are blades, needle tools, rolling pin and shape cutters.

### **Kailash Babu**

- A 24-year-old boy from Tiruvallur in Tamil Nadu has carved more than 200 miniature sculptures on pencil lead – some as small as 0.7 mm in diameter.
- He is an engineering graduate and uses his engineering skill in such art.
- Among them have been sculptures of bookshelves, alphabets, farmers, birds, vehicles, faces, tools, and even a newborn attached to the umbilical cord.

India is a big market for miniature sculpture. The miniature sculptures look very beautiful and are used in home decoration also. Definitely when we overcome the corona pandemic, the market of miniature idols of agra will also expand. Indian miniature is diversified in its nature

**Dr. Anshul Bajpai**

## **Karuppur kalamkari paintings & Kallakurichi wood carvings: India's Traditional Art (GS paper 1 : Art and culture)**

### **CONTEXT:**

Recently, Traditional Indian Art kalamkari paintings and the Kallakurichi wood carvings both of Tamilnadu are recognized with GI tag because of its reputation. These traditional arts have been popular in Tamilnadu for a long time.

### **KALAMKARI PAINTING**

- The term kalamkari is derived from two terms Kalam and kari. Qalam is a persian term which means Pen and Kari is also a persian term which means crafting through a particular skill. Hence kalamkari means an skill of crafting something on cotton by using pen and brush
- This art is popular in Andhra Pradesh. but gradually this art has become flourished in various part of Southern India also
- The brush using in this art are made of generally from the bamboo tree or coconut tree both are available in abundance in southern India
- This art has many forms and major forms of the art are from Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh. machalipatta, is another important region of Andhra pradesh for the kalamkari painting The Srikalahasthi style of Kalamkari is related to these regions
- There are almost 17steps of the kalamkari painting starting from block making followed by cloth treating, printing, and washing etc
- The theme of Srikalahasthi style of Kalamkari is the stories of Myths and Epics like ramayana and Mahabharata
- The colours used in kalamkari painting are generally made from vegetables
- All colours are natural colours. A village of Andhra Pradesh Lepakshi, is the most promoter of this type of painting
- Although only three three colours are used traditionally. These are — black, red and yellow. But gradually artisans had started to use 'pale blue' colour also mainly in the regions of *Tamil Nadu*
- Besides, We observe some other other innovations in this traditional art which varies from region to region like the Kanyakumari cloves, Dindigul locks, Mahabalipuram stone sculpture, Nilgiri

(orthodox) tea, Virupakshi hill banana, Thanjavur doll, Thanjavur paintings, Coimbatore wet grinder, Kancheepuram silk and saree etc

- Recently the people of tamilnadu who are making the paintings on wood, mainly on furniture received GI tag by Tamil Nadu Handicrafts Development Corporation (Poompuhar). It is received for Kallakurichi wood carvings jointly with the Kallakurichi Wood Carving with the effort of Handicrafts Industrial Cooperative Limited Society, and the Chinnasalem and Vriksha Association of Wood Carving Artisans self-help group.

Like most other art, It is also a temple art or art for home. Now this traditional folk tribal art has been brought into the mainstream. This thing is appreciable

## **GI TAG**

- GI is a tag used on products with a specific geographical origin, and ones that possess a reputation due to that origin.
- GI tag Provides special status
- There are many varieties of any art popular in various regions of India But if one specific style of art has its own long history and become popular because of its own specific style and got its recognition and reputation at national and International level
- The owner of the GI tag has 'exclusive rights' over the product, and can even sue someone for trying to duplicate it
- This GI tag ensures the protection of Intellectual Property right which also comes from the Paris Convention for the protection of Intellectual Property right
- GI, In India is regulated and administered through geographical Indication of goods (registration and Protection) Act 1999.

Kalamkari Art is not limited to the painting of religious myths on temples and on religious buildings. Present days many artisans of kalamkari art are using this style on sarees and modern dress for female mainly. Many models of India and abroad also are promoting the dresses of kalamkari painting. Therefore this traditional Indian art has now modernised and internationally recognised

**DR ANSHUL BAJPAI**

**Swarn Singh**

## **Powers of National Green Tribunal (GS 3 – Environmental pollution & Degradation, Tribunals)**

### **CONTEXT:-**

Recently, the Supreme Court has declared the National Green Tribunal's (NGT) position as a "unique" forum endowed with suo motu (on its own motion) powers to take up environmental issues across the country.

### **WHAT IS THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL (NGT)?**

- It is a specialised body set up under the National Green Tribunal Act (2010) for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources.

- With the establishment of the NGT, India became the third country in the world to set up a specialised environmental tribunal, only after Australia and New Zealand, and the first developing country to do so.
- NGT is mandated to make disposal of applications or appeals finally within 6 months of filing the same.
- The NGT has five places of sittings, New Delhi is the Principal place of sitting and Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata and Chennai are the other four.

### **STRUCTURE OF NGT**

- The Tribunal comprises the Chairperson, the Judicial Members and Expert Members. They shall hold office for a term of five years and are not eligible for reappointment.
- The Chairperson is appointed by the Central Government in consultation with the Chief Justice of India (CJI).
- A Selection Committee shall be formed by the central government to appoint the Judicial Members and Expert Members.
- There are to be at least 10 and maximum 20 full time Judicial members and Expert Members in the tribunal.

### **HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JUDGEMENT:**

- Not limited to Adjudicating Role: The role of the NGT is not simply adjudicatory in nature. The Tribunal has to perform equally vital roles that are preventative, ameliorative or remedial in nature.
- The functional capacity of the NGT is intended to leverage wide powers to do full justice in its environmental mandate.
- Article 21 rights cannot stand on a narrow compass of interpretation. Article 21 of the constitution protects the right to life and personal liberty.
- Multidisciplinary Role: NGT, as a complimentary, competent, specialised forum, to deal with all environmental multidisciplinary issues both as original and also as an appellate authority.
- International Commitment: The NGT embodied the international obligation India owed to the environment.
- The NGT has been recognised as one of the most progressive Tribunals in the world.
- This jurisprudential leap has allowed India to enter a rather exclusive group of nations which have set up such institutions with broad powers.

### **CHALLENGES**

- Two important acts – Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 have been kept out of NGT's jurisdiction. This restricts the jurisdiction area of NGT and at times hampers its functioning as the crucial forest rights issue is linked directly to the environment.
- The NGT decisions are being challenged in various High Courts under Article 226 (power of High Courts to issue certain writs) with many asserting the superiority of a High Court over the NGT, claiming 'High Court is a constitutional body while NGT is a statutory body.' This is one of the weaknesses of the Act as there is lack of clarity about what kind of decisions can be challenged; even though according to the NGT Act, its decision can be challenged before the Supreme Court.
- Decisions of NGT have also been criticised and challenged due to their repercussions on economic growth and development.

- The absence of a formula based mechanism in determining the compensation has also brought criticism to the tribunal.
- The decisions given by NGT are not fully complied by the stakeholders or the government. Sometimes its decisions are pointed out not to be feasible to implement within a given timeframe.
- The lack of human and financial resources has led to high pendency of cases – which undermines NGT’s very objective of disposal of appeals within 6 months.
- The justice delivery mechanism is also hindered by a limited number of regional benches.

### **WAY FORWARD**

- There is a need for more autonomy and to widen NGT’s scope for effective protection of the environment in balance with human developmental activities.
- The government needs to provide adequate financial and human resources — if it does not want the NGT to wither away.
- NGT offers a path for the evolution of environmental jurisprudence by setting up an alternative dispute resolution mechanism. It helps reduce the burden of litigation in the higher courts on environmental matters.

**Anshum Verma**

## **Cultural Significance of Kochi-Muziris (GS Paper 1; History and Culture)**

### **CONTEXT:**

Kochi-Muziris Biennale is postponed because of the covid situation. It is now set to open on December 12, 2022, and will run for four months, till April 10, 2023. The formal announcement was made on October 14.

### **CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE OF KOCHI**

- Kochi has been an important cultural centre of India for centuries
- For the centuries many traders, seafarers and travellers have interacting with this town and they were involved themselves in the trade of spices
- Many foreigners like Portugal, Greece, Arab, China, The Netherlands and England penetrated India for the trade therefore we see the the cultural impact of foreign culture over indigeneous culture of Kochi
- Therefore multicultural evidences can easily been explored from his historical town
- Vishu is a Hindu festival popular in Kochi also. However Vishu is l celebrated in the other Indian states also. For example it is celebrated in the Tulu Nadu region in Karnataka, Mahé district of the Union Territory of Pondicherry, neighbouring areas of Tamil Nadu and in the regions of their diaspora communities. It is celebrated to bring prosperity. Other festivals like Holi, Diwali, Eid-ul-Fitr, Christmas, Easter, Milad-e-Sharif are also celebrated in this region
- Kochi Carnival is the biggest and most loved carnival in the city. It is celebrated for Ten days in the month of December. TIn this carnival we see the cultural glimpse of portuguese. This celebration also welcomes the new year. On New Year’s Day an elephant parade is organised and tunes of “Panchavadyam” fills the air.

## CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE OF MUZIRIS

- Muziris is the ancient cultural city of Kerala. Muziris has been popular for international trade for more than 3000 years. Muzirish was a famous port of ancient India and in the Sangam text we see the name of this port.
- It was one of the greatest and largest trade centres of ancient India which had trade relations with Greece, South East Asia and other parts of the world.
- Our archaeologists and scientists are exploring the cultural evidence from this site and the project related to Muziris Heritage is the effort to reinstall its legacy as well as its fame.
- Archaeologists have found evidence of international trade from this site from the 7th century BC. Indian spices were exported to various regions of the world. Even though archaeologists had also claimed that they had the remains of the Alexandrian Empire, they controlled a developed network of trade with India which had previously existed under the influence of the Persian Achaemenid dynasty.
- Greek historian Strabo and Pliny also describe Indian-Roman trade. The Port of Alexandria became the major staging point for the spice trade (Northern Silk Route).
- Parthian Empire during the 3rd century BC was located on the trade route between the Roman Empire in the Mediterranean Basin and the Han Empire of China, becoming important places in the circulation of spices.
- The reign of Augustus (27 BC- 15 BC) is the witness of direct trade relations between Rome and India.
- Saint Thomas, one of the twelve apostles of Jesus Christ, arrived in Muziris from Jerusalem and thus this site has also become the holy place of Christianity also.
- These types of biennale should be held on time to time to protect and to enhance our ancient Indian Culture.

Swarn Singh

## TERRORISM: Its new genres and further challenges [GS II, International Relations]

### CONTEXT:

Two decades after September 11, 2001, when al-Qaeda attacked over American soil, resulting into US invasion of Afghanistan. The developments now in the same series are in the form of the return of the Taliban in Afghanistan.

The question arises whether the Global war on terror was a failure?

Are there lessons to be learnt from it?

### BACKGROUND PERCEPTIONS:-

The 9/11 attacks were the aggregate of a series of systemic and structural shortcomings of the U.S. security establishment along with the failure of human imagination.

A/c Historians, Osama bin Laden's actions were motivated by geopolitical and religious objectives, and his obsession with the 'sufferings of Muslims' in many far-flung regions.

He wanted to force the U.S. to alter its policies in areas of conflict, by such attacks. However, he failed and al-Qaeda faced the consequences.

Laden's goal to destroy the 'myth of American invincibility' failed and the Global war on terror neutralised the fears that terrorism was assured to create large-scale chaos across the globe.

### **REASONS FOR BIN LADEN'S FAILURE:-**

- Laden and other leaders, all lacked the centrality of vision or power essential to sustain the momentum of such initiatives.
- Initially Afghanistan and Pakistan provided safe havens, and the situation changed once the safe havens were no longer available.
- The lack of visibility of the leaders and their diminishing authority over time contributed to the disappearance of the terror momentum and the capacity for militancy and violence.

### **CHALLENGE CONTINUES:-**

Two decades have passed since of the Global war on terror is continued, however it did not eradicate terrorism. Terror groups such as al-Qaeda and the IS today pose a persistent challenge. Even after:-

- Leadership losses
- Organisational fracturing
- Territorial degradation
- Hard intelligence on the myriad terror modules
- The absence of a single core for either al-Qaeda or the IS

### **CHANGING NATURE OF ATTACKS:-**

It would be tempting for intelligence agencies to think that the current low attacks shows the weakening of terror modules, including that of al-Qaeda and the IS, including –

- low-tech attacks
- small arms attacks
- the occasional use of Improvised Explosive Devices
- random 'lone wolf' attacks

The Terrorism, stemming from a mixture of religious fervour and fundamentalist aims, remains vibrant.

**The newer breed of terrorists**, though less familiar with teachings of the Egyptian, Sayyid Qutb or the Palestinian, Abdullah Azzam, but they are well-versed in the practical methodologies practised by:

- Jalaluddin and Sirajuddin Haqqanis (the latter is a Minister in the Interim Afghan Government),
- Hafiz Saeed of the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and
- Maulana Masood Azhar of the Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), etc.

Hence, it is possible to conclude that notwithstanding some temporary setbacks caused by the Global war on terror, the broad contours of terrorism, specially Islamist terrorism, remain much the same.

### **A WARNING-**

The return of the Taliban in Afghanistan, after humiliating the combined forces of the U.S., the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the Afghan Armed Forces is a grim warning of what lies in store for the neighbourhood.

Apart from giving radical Islam a fresh lease of life and a new thrust, it has come at a time when the democratic world is demonstrating a diminishing appetite to fight terror away from their own 'locales', thus leaving the

field wide open to the forces of Terror Inc., of which the Taliban is an indispensable entity.

Several terror groups which possess varying capabilities such as al-Qaeda, the IS, the Daesh across Asia, the LeT, JeM and the TRF (The Resistance Front, which is backed by the LeT) in India, the Al-Shabab in Africa, etc., are certain to feel energised and gain a fresh lease of life.

### **IN INDIA-**

**Kashmir** is witnessing a new wave of terror attacks reviving memories of the 1990s. **Targeted killings of minorities** have begun to send tremors across Jammu & Kashmir (J&K), and many other parts of India.

The current situation is against India, with J&K being in the centre of several terror groups, further complicated by Pakistan's efforts to aid and support them through the use of its 'regulars'.

While 'Zero-day' attacks like New York (9/11) and Mumbai (26/11) are still very much on the drawing board of terror groups, it is also known that a new breed of terrorists is experimenting with newer forms of terror, specially the possibility of 'enabled or remote controlled terror'. This is a frightening prospect.

### **THE FORMS OF 'NEW ERA' TERROR-**

A challenge for Intelligence and terror specialists must begin to anticipate how to deal with 'new era terrorists', recruited over the Internet, who would thereafter be guided through different steps, over a sustained period, by anonymous handlers located elsewhere.

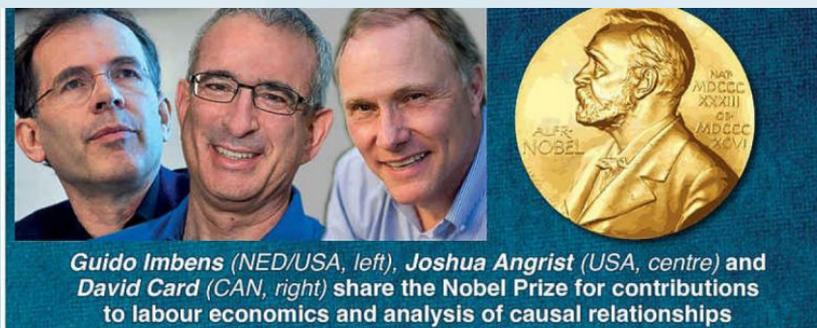
Internet-enabled terrorism — a completely new genre of terrorism — would be very different from what we have seen so far.

### **TO CONCLUDE:-**

THE NEW FORM OF TERROR THAT HAS BEEN EMERGING FROM THE NEW BREED OF TERRORISM IS MORE DEADLY AND THREATENING. Linked to this is the threat posed by cyber-terrorism. Digital sabotage has already entered the armoury of certain terror groups. Cyber sabotage is a distinct possibility in certain situations today. It is well-known that terror groups that have state backing, have the capacity today to employ cyber techniques to carry out hostile attacks on the ICT-enabled infrastructure of another country. India and other countries globally have to collectively think and address the new emerging crisis soon.

**Rajeev Yadav**

## **Nobel Prize for Economics 2021: Natural Experiments And the Causal Relationship (GS 3, Economics, The Hindu, Indian Express)**



The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has decided to award the Nobel Prize for economics 2021, one half to David Card for his “*empirical contributions to labor economics*” and another half jointly to *Joshua D. Angrist and Guido W. Imbens* “*for their methodological contributions to the analysis of causal relationships*”. They have basically provided us with a new insight about the labor market and manifested the importance of natural experiments in concluding the cause and effect relationships. This will for sure help us in finding answers to important questions for society.

Many questions in social science which is related to the decisions taken by people deal with cause and effect.

### **UNDERSTANDING THE NATURAL EXPERIMENTS:**

For example, if there is an increment in minimum wages as per the law by the government, then will it affect the employment rate as the employer would hire fewer workers? Or something else would also come into play and will affect the employment rate. For example what if the employer has decided to pass on the burden of increased cost, due to increased wages to consumers.

### **QUESTIONS:**

How do immigration affect pay and employment levels? Should immigration be considered as to reduce the availability of resources to the existing residents? What if the immigrant population contributed more to the economy and resulted in an increase in the income of existing residents.

How does the extension of compulsory education by one year for a group of a student will affect them? Will it affect in the same manner for all students in the group in terms of increasing their future income or will it be different for different students. Will the extension of compulsory education necessarily result in an increase in income for all students of the group? What if some students do not look into the extension of education as to get an economic benefit, but to them, the value of education in itself is a benefit.

### **DIFFICULT TO ANSWER:**

These questions are difficult to answer because we have nothing to use as a comparison.

In the first question, we do not know what would have happened if there was no increment in the minimum wages. had the employment rate remained the same or increased if there had been no increment in minimum wages. In the second case, we do not know what would have happened, if there had been no immigration at all or less immigration. In the third question, we do not know what would have happened if the students had not gone for the extension of education.

However, this year’s Nobel Prize winners have shown that it is possible to answer these questions and similar kinds of questions using natural experiments. The concept of natural experiments resembles the concept of clinical trials in medicine. The key is to use situations in which chance events or policy changes result in groups of people being treated differently in a way that resembles clinical trials in medicine. It means that the outcome of any cause will be not depending upon that specific cause only as the same cause will be affecting differently in different situations. This approach of Nobel laureates spread to other fields as well and revolutionized empirical research.

David Card has analyzed the effects of minimum wages, immigration and education on labour market, using natural experiments. He has basically challenged the conventional wisdom of Empirical/Theoretical research. The results showed among other things that increasing the minimum wage does not necessarily lead to fewer jobs. We have now witnessed that the income of people who were born in a country can benefit from new immigration. We have also now witnessed and realised that the resources provided to a student in a school is important for his/ her success and play important role in students future labour market.

Data from a natural experiment are difficult to interpret. In the mid-1990s, Joshua Angrist and Guido Imbens solved this methodological problem of interpretation, demonstrating how precise conclusions about cause and effect can be drawn from natural experiments.

Card's studies of core questions for society and Angrist and Imbens' methodological contributions have shown that natural experiments are a rich source of knowledge. Their research has substantially improved our ability to answer key causal questions, which has been of great benefit to society.

### **INFORMATION:**

The Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences is officially known as **The Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel**. The Nobel Prize for economic science differs from other awarded by Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in the sense that it is officially known by a different name. It is an award funded by **Sveriges Riksbank** and is annually awarded by the **Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences** to researchers in the field of economic sciences since 1968. However other Nobel Prizes have been awarded since 1901.

**MD. Layeeque Azam**

## **Return of Comic con in India**

### **CONTEXT**

India has been facing the problem of coronavirus pandemic for almost 2 years. Indian artisans and artlover and the organisers are trying to come from such a pandemic. Despite there being many restrictions and protocols on the exhibitions, some art events are going to be held in the month of Dec 2021. Among these even Comic Con India is also going to organise these funny shows although the New York comic con event has recently successfully ended by 8th Oct.

At New York Comic Con, which opened Thursday at the Javits Convention Center in Manhattan, attendees celebrated the return of face-to-face gatherings. But this year, masks at the pop culture event are not just for those in costume; they are required for everyone.

### **COMIC CON INDIA**

- **Comic Con India (CCI)** is a annual series based on comic theme
- The conventions regarding comic themes are held every year in India.
- The first edition was held in New Delhi in 2011
- Gradually this is expanding towards other cities of India such as Mumbai, Bangalore, Pune, Hyderabad and Ahmedabad. Nowadays There are annual comic cons being organised in these cities.
- Cumulatively these five cities attract thousands of visitors and artisans and exhibitors in several exhibitions.
- It is founded by Jatin Varma and presently he is managing director of Comic Con India
- in 2011 the first comic con had launched in India in Delhi
- It hosts the Indian Championship of Cosplay.
- Due to the corona pandemic, this year this fest could not be organised properly. This fest is celebrating its 10th anniversary of the Indian edition of the world's largest celebration

- The recently-concluded Comic Con was a week-long celebration to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the event in India
- The works of the artists like Abhijeet Kini, Saumin Patel, Savio Mascarenhas and Sumit Kumar were involved in this fest

### THE REVIVAL OF INDIAN STORIES THROUGH COMICS

- This art is not new for India. For hundreds of years many shows were organised on comic based tale
- For our ancient time period, our ancestors have been telling us the stories of our past. Many times these stories are retold in various and in various forms. We played these shows through comic drama like Ram Leela or Kathakali
- Other tales have also been acted through comic dramas like Dahi Handi.
- Some figures related Modern history, mainly the people who fought for the freedom of India such as Rani Lakshmi Bai, too, have become a part of our storytelling traditions. In fact, in these stories we generally include those stories which are moral and inspirational for our society

### THE COMIC WORLD

- The history of the Comic books in India is a little newer to the West. In fact, in India, Printing Press had come late. The initial comics published in the country were the American ones.
- Indian comics had become popular after the publishing of Amar Chitra Katha. It was very interesting comic book of those days and during those days in almost every house of India this book was available
- The blend of art and story brought India's cultural history alive for the 20th century and it became a hit with both children, teachers and parents.
- Similarly the comic and classic magazine for children was Chandamama. It was also a very popular book of that time. This book was also based on the illustrations of mythological stories that ran for years.
- In this way, we say that, By god grace very soon our cultural festivals will be returning with full pace after this corona pandemic

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

## Kunming Declaration GS- 3 Environmental Pollution & Degradation, Government Policies & Interventions, International Treaties & Agreements, Important International Institutions

### CONTEXT

Recently, the Kunming Declaration was adopted by over 100 countries at the ongoing **15th Conference of the Parties** to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity in China. The adoption of the declaration will create momentum for a new global biodiversity pact. In a previous agreement, Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, signed in Aichi, Japan, in 2010, governments agreed on 20 targets to try to slow biodiversity loss and protect habitats by 2020.

### KEY DISCUSSIONS

- It calls for **urgent and integrated action** to reflect **biodiversity considerations in all sectors of the**

**global economy** but crucial issues – like funding conservation in poorer countries and committing to biodiversity-friendly supply chains have been left to discuss later.

- It is **not a binding international agreement**.
- It **calls upon the parties to mainstream biodiversity protection in decision-making** and recognise the importance of conservation in protecting human health.
- The theme of the declaration is **Ecological Civilization: Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth**. By adopting this, the **nations have committed themselves to support the development, adoption and implementation** of an effective post-2020 implementation plan, a capacity building action plan for the **Cartagena Protocol on biosafety**.
- The Protocol seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology. As per the declaration the signatory nations will ensure that the post-pandemic recovery policies, programmes and plans contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, promoting sustainable and inclusive development.

### **30 BY 30 TARGET**

- The declaration made a reference to the '30 by 30' target which is a **key proposal being debated at the COP15**, that would afford **30% of the Earth's land and oceans protected status by 2030**.
- Apart from this, the goal to halve the use of chemicals in agriculture and stop creating plastic waste is also being debated.

### **KUNMING BIODIVERSITY FUND**

- China has also pledged to **inject USD 233 million into a new fund** to protect biodiversity in developing countries. The fund is being referred to by China as **Kunming Biodiversity Fund**.
- It is the right step in this direction. However, some countries have reservations regarding this fund. Some countries have called this fund as **“a drop in the bucket”** given that China is the world's biggest polluter.
- Further, some rich country donors say a new fund for conservation is unnecessary because the **United Nations' Global Environment Facility** already helps developing nations finance green projects.

### **GLOBAL INITIATIVES TO SAVE BIODIVERSITY**

- **Convention on Biological Diversity**- It is a **legally binding treaty to conserve biodiversity** that has been in force since 1993. India is a party to the convention.
- **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora**- It provides public, private and **non-governmental organisations** with the knowledge and **tools that enable human progress, economic development and nature conservation** to take place together. India is a member of the convention.
- **World Wide Fund for Nature**- It is an international non-governmental organisation for the conservation, research and restoration of the natural environment.
- **Global Biodiversity Assessment**- It is an independent, critical, peer reviewed scientific analysis of the current issues, theories and views regarding the main aspects of biodiversity.
- **Man and the Biosphere Program** –It was **launched in 1970** and has initiated **programmes and activities focusing on the diversity and the resources provided by nature, humans' impacts on biodiversity**, as well as how biodiversity affects human activities.

**BY ANSHUM VERMA**

**FACULTY (POLITY, GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT)**

# The Taiwan Strait- A likely arena for clash of arms

## [GS II, International Relations]

### CONTEXT:

If the rising confrontation between U.S.A. and China erupts into a clash of arms, the likely arena may well be the **Taiwan Strait**.

### HISTORY/BACKGROUND:

- Issue of Taiwan is still unresolved. In the 1945-49 civil war, the CCP forces under Mao Zedong defeated the Kuomintang (KMT) forces led by Chiang Kai-shek.
- Chiang retreated to Taiwan and set up a govt. that claimed authority over the whole of China and decided to recover mainland China.
- The CCP committed to reclaim Taiwan to achieve the final reunification of China but failed, because during the Korean War of 1950-53, It became a military ally of the United States. China, though declares its commitment to pursue peaceful unification but reserves the right to use force also.

The PRC has promised a high degree of independence to Taiwan under the “**one country two systems**” formula first applied to Hong Kong after its reversion to Chinese sovereignty in 1997.

### ONE COUNTRY TWO SYSTEMS FORMULA :

To Hong Kong- It may retain its free market system with political and judicial Institutions and Processes, for a period of 50 years.

To Taiwan, it was promised that it could also retain its armed forces during the transition period, alongwith same scheme of Hong-Kong.

### ECONOMIC LINKS BETWEEN CHINA AND TAIWAN:

Since 1978, China has been rising economically and commercially (in power) globally. Taiwan business entities have invested heavily in mainland China and the two economies have become increasingly integrated while Chinese investments in Taiwan are very low in comparison i.e. barely U.S. \$2.4 billion, if Hong Kong is not considered.

- Taiwanese capital investment in China (b/w 1991 and 2020) → U.S. \$188.5 billion
- Bilateral trade in 2019 → U.S. \$150 billion

China hopes that the considerable economic benefits that Taiwan business and industry enjoy through a developing relationship with China would weaken opposition to its unification plan.

If Taiwan is seen drifting towards an independent status, China is capable of causing economic pain on Taiwan through repressive policies.

### IN THE POLITICS OF TAIWAN:

Taiwan has two major political parties:

1. The **KMT**, who came to Taiwan along with Chiang Kai-shek in 1949, remains committed to one-China policy and **does not support Taiwanese independence**.
2. The Democratic Progressive Party (**DPP**), representative of the indigenous population of Taiwan, **favours independence**.

However, faced with Chinese aggression and lack of international support, the demand for independence has been muted.

### **STANCE OF MAINLAND CHINA AGAINST TAIWAN:**

China feels comfortable with the KMT and is aggressive towards the DPP.

Ever since the DPP won the presidential elections in 2016 (under Tsai Ing-wen), China has taken back to a series of actions like economic pressures and military threats, which re-escalated since the re-election of Tsai Ing-wen in the 2020 elections.

### **CHINESE ACTIONS AND THEIR RESULTS:**

The increasing military threats against Taiwan, through daily violations of its air defence identification zone (ADIZ) and aggressive naval plans in the Taiwan Strait, are obstructive in nature.

With such Chinese actions, chances of peaceful unification have reduced. Sentiment in favour of Taiwanese independence have increased.

**INDIA'S STANCE:** In pursuance of its Indo-Pacific strategy, India needs to be watchful of the China-U.S. equations in the region.

### **THE U.S. STANCE:**

The U.S. recognised the PRC as the legal government of China in 1979.

While the U.S. does not support a declaration of independence by Taiwan, it has gradually reversed the policy of avoiding official-level engagements with the Taiwan government.

In a recent incident, a U.S. nuclear-powered submarine ran into an “unidentified object” in the South China Sea. China has objected to these U.S. actions clearly.

In the latest telephone talk between President Joe Biden and Mr. Xi, Mr. Biden confirmed Mr. Xi that the U.S. will abide by the “Taiwan agreement”, i.e. the U.S. would not reverse its one China policy.

### **IS CHINA'S NEXT STEP TO INVADE TAIWAN MILITARILY ?**

In March this year, the U.S. Pacific Commander, Philip Davidson, alerted that China could invade Taiwan within the next six years as part of its strategy to displace U.S. power in Asia.

While other analysts gives different opinions like-

- Cross-strait operations will be extremely complex
- Pacifying a hostile population may prove to be long drawn out and costly exercise.
- China may await a further decline of U.S. power and its will to intervene in the Taiwanese defence.

### **DETERRENCE AGAINST CHINA :**

- The recent crystallisation of the Quad (India a part of it)
- The announcement of the AUKUS alliance, with Australia promoted to a power with nuclear-powered submarines, may act as a check against Chinese moves on Taiwan.

**TO CONCLUDE:** For different reasons, Taiwan is emerging as a potential trigger point for a clash of arms between the U.S. and China. In pursuing its Indo-Pacific strategy, India has to keep these possible scenarios in mind.

**Rajeev Yadav**

# **Banksy : A Renowned British Street Artist**

## **(GS Paper 1 Art and Culture)**

### **CONTEXT :**

- British Street Artist Banksy is in news nowadays because his work is auctioned in London in 18.6 million pounds (A record for an artist)
- About Banksy's Work
- "Love is in the Bin" is the title of his artwork
- It consists of a half-shredded canvas in an ornate frame bearing a spray-painted image of a girl reaching for a heart-shaped red balloon.
- When it last sold at Sotheby's in October 2018, the piece was known as Girl With Balloon.
- His mischievous and often satirical images include two male police officers kissing, armed riot police with yellow smiley faces and a chimpanzee with a sign bearing the words, "Laugh now, but one day I'll be in charge."
- In March, a Banksy mural honouring Britain's health workers, first painted on a hospital wall, sold for 16.8 million pounds (\$29.5 million) at a Christie's auction, which was — until this week — a record for the artist.
- Girl With Balloon was originally stencilled on a wall in east London and has been endlessly reproduced, becoming one of Banksy's best-known images.

### **ABOUT BANKSY**

- Even Though, we do not know much about Banksy because he has not disclosed his identity much.
- First time he was come in notice when his art work was presented in public in 1993
- Nowadays he is renowned street artist not only of England but internationally recognised also
- Since 2000, he has developed many images which are highly recognizable like Rats & Police man. This image not only expresses his artist work but it also communicates a message. This message is against the authoritarian rule
- The beauty of Banksy artwork is that he merged graffiti art with installation and performance.
- "Turf war: is also highly appreciable work in which used the bodies of live pigs for painting
- "Crude Oils" is also his other work which was shown in London in 2005. Although in this artwork he followed the techniques and style of Claude Monet, Vincent van Ghos and Edward Hopper his presentation was unique. in this exhibition he released 200 live rats in the gallery
- After this, he had become fully recognised painter and everywhere in the world his work was appreciated
- His art works can be seen in the walls of London, Newyork etc
- Many books of Banksy have been published up to now. for example Banging Your Head Against a Brick Wall which was published in 2001 and by the next year his another book Existencilism was published. Wall and Piece is also highly recommended book
- Among all of this work is an image of lifesize, in this image the kissing of two policemen is shown. This image is also picturised in the futuristic film Children of Men
- He also directed a film. Exit Through the Gift Shop, a documentary film of 2010 shows this person of versatile virtues

This artist is a multi talented artist who is not only an expert in painting but also He is a book writer and directed many films also. The most interesting thing about this artist is that he had not opened his identity clearly

**Dr. Anshul Bajpai**

## At the Quad, forming habits of cooperation (GS-2, International relation)

### LET'S TALK ABOUT WHAT THESE 4 LEADERS SAID DURING SUMMIT:-

- Mr. Biden portrayed the Quad as a group of democratic partners “who share a worldview and have a **common vision for the future**”.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was confident that the **Quad would “play the role of a force for global good”**.
- Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison “Indo-Pacific be always free from coercion”
- Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga Quad as “an extremely significant initiative

### PRACTICAL COOPERATION

- ▶ “a free and open Indo Pacific, which is also inclusive and resilient”.
  - Promoting security and prosperity in this region is the *raison d'être* of the Quad,
- New areas of collaboration:
  - Infrastructure
  - Cybersecurity
  - space;
  - Education and people to people relations.
- ▶ Aligning the Quad with the G7's Build Back Better World (B3W) Partnership.
- four key B3W elements:
  - ▶ digital connectivity
  - ▶ Climate
  - ▶ health security
  - ▶ gender equality infrastructure.
    - formation of an infrastructure coordination group composed of senior officials was announced.
    - Catalyse private sector investment.
    - On cybersecurity
  - ▶ the Quad will cooperate on combating cyber threats and securing critical infrastructure.
  - ▶ On the space front
    - The plan is to identify new collaboration opportunities, especially sharing of data to monitor climate change, disaster response and preparedness, and sustainable uses of ocean and marine resources.
  - ▶ A senior cyber group and a new working group on space will be established.
  - ▶ On education
    - The Quad fellowship programme will award 100 graduates — 25 scholars from each Quad country — opportunities in leading STEM (Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics)
  - ▶ The three working groups on vaccines, climate and emerging technologies established last March.
  - ▶ Quad stands committed to donate over 1.2 billion doses globally
  - ▶ The **Quad working group on climate change** has focused on **three thematic areas**:

- ▶ Climate ambition
- ▶ Clean energy innovation
- ▶ climate adaptation and resilience.
- ▶ The Quad leaders emphasised enhanced action for achieving global netzero emissions preferably by 2050,
- ▶ A Quad shipping task force has now been launched to build a greenshipping network and green port infrastructure.
- Technological front:-
  - ▶ 5G and beyond 5G networks
  - ▶ supply chains of critical minerals including semiconductors
  - ▶ Emerging advances in biotechnology
  - ▶ A contact group on Advanced Communications and Artificial Intelligence will focus on standards development and foundational research.
- Maritime security will continue to be strengthened through bilateral 2+2.
  - ▶ Malabar Exercise
  - ▶ Bilateral or trilateral arrangements such as AUKUS
- Defence cooperation will not be lowered in priority; it will just be handled differently.

#### **INTERNATIONAL OUTLOOK:-**

- Quad sees the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) as “the heart of the Indo Pacific region”.
- Together with the small island States in the South Pacific, ASEAN countries will stand to benefit from growing cooperation within the Quad.

**Swarn Singh**

## **Gati Shakti National Master Plan [GS II]**

### **CONTEXT :**

The Prime Minister of India launched Gati Shakti National Master Plan on October 13, to renew the momentum towards India’s slowing economic growth engine, through major infrastructure upgrades cutting logistics costs for industry and raising the efficiency.

### **ABOUT :**

Launch of **PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan** (above ₹ 100-lakh-crore) for the multi-model connectivity will help improve global competitiveness, promote manufacturing and modernise infrastructure in the country

According to experts, PM Gati Shakti targets –

- To cut logistic costs
- Increase cargo handling capacity
- Reducing the turnaround time

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday launched a PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan for multi-modal connectivity in the country.

The initiative promises to integrate 16 Ministries including railways, roads and ports through information technology, satellite mapping and data tools, as an umbrella integrator of 111-lakh crore worth of projects under the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) for 2020-25.

According to NITI Aayog, the importance in the plan is given to rail-road multimodal connectivity and the share of freight for the railways has been hiked.

### **THIS INCLUDES:**

- reducing the cost of logistics to GDP from 14% to 8%
- to meet climate change commitments
- the challenge of reducing vehicular emissions from road freight growth
- containing input costs due to extraordinarily high taxes on diesel

A similar fillip to efficiency in port operations can increase cargo handling capacity and cut vessel turnaround time.

Evidently, States have a crucial role in all this, considering that key pieces of the plan such as port linkages and land availability for highways, railways, industrial clusters and corridors depend on political consensus and active partnership.

The Economic Survey for 2020-21 emphasises the need of better Centre-State relationships for such projects. The infrastructural projects demand investments towards NIP sectors like energy, roads, urban infrastructure and railways for FY 2021 and 22.

### **REASONS FOR PROJECT DELAYS:**

- land acquisition problems
- Environmental degradation issues
- policymakers should reclaim lands already subjected to degradation and pollution

Centre is preferring **Geographic Information Systems** and **remote sensing** to identify potential industrial areas.

### **WAYS TO CONVINC THE CITIZENS ABOUT THE BENEFITS:-**

- Social welfare
- Lower service costs
- Higher efficiencies
- Respecting federal boundaries while dealing with the State

Centre has to convince all States to come on board, to reduce logistics support.

### **TO CONCLUDE:**

The scheme of the Government has been appreciated by many. The seamless connectivity between rail, road, ports and civil aviation, along with the integration of states, local bodies, corporates, through a geospatial digital platform, will thrust manufacturing and exports besides job creation.

**Rajeev Yadav**