



CURRENT AFFAIRS



Argasia Education PVT. Ltd. (GST NO.-09AAPCAI478E1ZH)
Address: Basement C59 Noida, opposite to Priyagold Building gate, Sector 02,
Pocket I, Noida, Uttar Pradesh, 201301, CONTACT NO:-8448440231

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Hand painted film posters : A Dying art of india (GS Paper I : Art and Culture)

Context :

During the 1980s the posters of Hindi cinema were hand painted and the artists related to this art were the most significant artists . Those artists earned huge money for this art . Mahmood is one of the artists who was famous for the paintings of the posters of Indian Cinema . painter mahood , returned back to his native place after 2000 and now days he is living in very ordinary life because the market value of this art has been reduced after the invention of computer and coloured printers

- One there was a time in the early days of Indian cinema where the hand painted posters of Indian cinemas were released and the posters of Hero, heroine and villain also were hand painted. This was

the work of the painters to show the beauty of these heroes and heroines

- Many heroes like Amitabh, Rajesh Khanna, Dev Anand and Heroines like Rekha, Hema Malini had become famous because of their hand painted posters and their larger than life image was painted by such artisans in the posters
- At that time, movies were released in single screen theatres and generally the public watched these posters and decided whether they would see the cinema or not. The future of these cinema were dependent of such art
- The posters of film actor and actress were used in small shop, Pan's gunti and the barber's shops also
- After the arrival of digital painting this art died with its natural death
- Mahmood was a well recognised painter for Hindi cinema and he was known as painter Mahmood. He is now receding in very pathetic condition. He is working only for the wall painting
- Painters like Mahmood are dead now. In those days they were worship by Indian cinema now days now body is taking care them just because of the technology
- The movie Andha Kanoon became a super hit just because of a hand painted poster of Mahmood. Mahmood made the debuted hero Rajinikanth as a stars but now days Mahmood is unemployed and Rajinikanth is earning the fame
- In Nepal still. The hand painted posters are being used for the promotions of the cinema. A nepali director Sambhu Pradhan used hand painted posters for the promotion of his film. Mahmood denied to get job in Nepal
- Every thing was good until the era of digital revolution (after 2000 AD). Single screen cinema had now converted into multiplex and the hand painted posters had lost its significance in front of the digital posters as well as the social media. Now the way of promotion has completely changed
- Present day Mahmood is working as the one of the best and reputed wall painters of Kolkata and he is making the paintings of the graffiti of politicians. He painted the image of Mamta Banerji also

- In many Durga puja pandals in Kolkata we see the paintings of Mahood . It is appreciable thing
- In India many talented artists are facing economic problems. In fact , because of lack of education they could not expose them]self and the nature of the market is not in their favour . Government should do something sonstrative to preserve our old art . Government should provide some financial assistance to those artist who are carrying forward our ancient art tradition

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Swarn Singh

Sugar Industry in India and Ethanol Projects (GS 3, Economics, The Hindu, Indian Express)

News/Context: Unseasonal rains in Uttar Pradesh and a higher diversion to ethanol production are likely to result in a drop in sugar production this year, according to industry estimates. With average retail sugar prices also on the rise, a reduction in surplus sugar could help speed up cane payments by mills and reduce their pending arrears to farmers this season.

Late payments and arrears have become a political flashpoint recently, especially in the poll-bound States of U.P. and Punjab. At the end of July, when the latest data is available, arrears to farmers stood at ₹2,417 crore.

Based on satellite images taken in the second week of October, the Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) estimated that 54.37 lakh hectares has been sown with sugarcane this year, about 3% higher than during the previous season. However, the increased acreage is unlikely to translate into higher production. Due to heavy and untimely rainfall in U.P., especially in the eastern part of the State, yield and sugar recovery are both likely to fall this year. The first advance estimates pegged the production at 113.5 lakh tonnes.

Maharashtra is likely to overtake U.P. to become the highest sugar producing State this year, boosted by good monsoon rainfall and sufficient water availability in the reservoirs. Although ratoon cane availability is higher than plant cane, meaning that yield per hectare is expected to be slightly lower in comparison to last year, ISMA estimated production to be about 122.5 lakh tonnes.

As the 339 lakh tonnes of sugar to be produced is significantly higher than last year's domestic sales of about 266 lakh tonnes, the sugar industry depends heavily on exports and diversion to ethanol production to reduce the surplus.

Sugarcane is one of the important commercial led industrial crops in India. It has contributed significantly to the growth of Indian Agriculture and National Gross Domestic Products (GDP). The rural economy in traditional sugarcane growing areas is primarily linked with sugarcane crop and sugar or allied industries. Since the early 20 century, a lot of emphasis has been laid on the research and development (R&D) associated with sugarcane crop, which enabled the sugar industry to progress through years.

Sugarcane is the prime source of sugar in India. It occupies a prominent position in the Indian Agricultural scenario on account of its wider adoption in different agro-climatic conditions of the country. It has a significant role in the national economy and provides raw material to sugar and over 25 other major industries viz. producing alcohol, papers, chemicals, and cattle feed. It also has a place in the pharmaceutical industry, next to textiles, which is entirely based on cane production as raw material. The industry has enabled the country to be self-reliant in this highly sensitive essential commodity of mass consumption. Ethanol production and co-generation of electricity in sugar factories are yet other utilities that enhance the importance of sugarcane in the national economy. Besides the sugar factories and other industries based on its by-products, sugarcane also supports the rural and cottage industry of gur (jaggery) and khandsari which together produce about 7-10 million tonnes of sweeteners. Due to its multi-purpose uses in different industries, the demand is increasing for the increased production of sugarcane and its sustainability in the country.

Ethanol Projects: The Centre is encouraging sugar mills to divert excess sugarcane and sugar to ethanol. The government has allowed production of ethanol from B-Heavy molasses, sugarcane juice, sugar syrup, and sugar. To increase ethanol production capacity, the government is extending interest subvention of ₹4,687 crore to sugar mills/ distilleries against loans availed by them from banks to set up new distilleries or to expand their existing capacities. As the revenues generated from the sale of ethanol by sugar mills/ distilleries reach the accounts of sugar mills in around three weeks' time as against 12-15 months taken from the sale of sugar, production of ethanol would improve the liquidity of sugar mills enabling them to make timely payment of cane dues to sugarcane farmers.

Way Forward: The world population is increasing day by day and would demand more food besides the natural resources like land and water. Keeping in view the need of 7 billion world population, agriculture will need more land and water to produce enough food grains. Availability of natural resources is depleting at a faster rate. Thus, to fulfill the needs of the future population would be a more challenging task for farming communities. Sugarcane is one of the multi-product main cash crops of India, and its use for sugar and renewable energy (production of ethanol), the task has become more challenging than ever before to cope-up the demand of adequate sugarcane production in spite of the shrinking available natural resources.

Moreover, choice of sugarcane varieties, planting methods and distance, time of planting, methods of irrigation and frequency of irrigations required, fertilizer management and integrated weed, insect-pest and disease management are critical practices to increase sugarcane productivity vis-a-vis reducing the cost of production and improving farmers income. Number of sugarcane production technologies have been developed at various sugarcane research stations, ICAR Institutes and State Agriculture Universities (SAUs). Exploitation of the potential of advanced sugarcane production technologies and proper dissemination of technologies at national level is required. Agriculture is the state subject and it has been observed that various technologies developed by state universities can bring improvement in other states also due to similar agro-climatic zone conditions.

Md Layeeque Azam, Economics Faculty

IS THERE A NEED TO AMEND the NDPS Act ? (GS Paper II)

Context: Few weeks ago, the recent arrest of Aryan Khan (Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan's son) following a raid on a cruise ship by the Narcotics Control Bureau, including others, have led to a debate regarding the need to amend the NDPS Act or not?

DEVELOPMENTS: The Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has **proposed** certain changes to some provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act of 1985.

The recommendations have gained in importance in the background of some high-profile drug cases including the recent one of Aryan Khan.

Recommendations of the Ministry–

1. To decriminalise the ownership of narcotic drugs for personal purposes in very small quantities.
1. The persons using drugs in very small quantities should be treated as victims.
1. Referring the persons, having smaller quantities drugs to government-run rehabilitation centres instead of sending them to jail and imposing fines.

This Act was brought in 1985. This is a **stringent law** where the repeated offenders may be given death penalty.

- The Act prescribes jail for everyone — the end user as well as drug supplier.

Regarding the consequences of the changes suggested to handle the problem of drug abuse and the abuse of the law:-

- First arresting them and then investigating, seems to be the investigating principle under the NDPS Act, which is not justified or correct.
- The procedure of grabbing narcotic drugs is important first. Section 50 of the Act (conditions under which search of persons shall be conducted) needs to be followed diligently and the drugs must be seized in front of a Gazetted Officer or a Magistrate.
- In cases of sudden development, the suspect is taken to the nearby Magistrate or the same is brought to the spot and then only drugs are seized.
- If this is not followed, the court acquits the accused persons. Only then the next stage of investigation advances.

The **challenges** that police face to enforce the NDPS Act, taking drugs cases to their logical end? :-

1. While tracking drugs cases, investigators generally run from consumers to drug suppliers.
1. To follow seizure procedure, there should be **one Magistrate** at the time of seizing drugs, another during further investigation and a different one during the trial.
1. Being an organised crime, drug peddling is, it is challenging for the police to catch the persons involved from the point of source to the final destination.
1. Most cases of drug busting are made possible with specific information leads.

1. **Specially trained sniffer dogs** should be used to check narcotic drugs transportation.
1. Going beyond the jurisdiction of the State, to find the **source** of narcotic substances and destroy them is another big challenge.
1. Catching the accused cultivating ganja in areas bordering the States too is turning out to be a herculean task (becomes even tougher in areas that are Maoist dominated areas).
1. Getting the accused convicted in drugs cases is another difficult task.
9. There are frequent **delays in court procedures**.

→ **The main challenge is to catch those producing these substances.**

- The person using it in smaller quantities for personal use cannot be compared to a person producing narcotic drugs.
- We need to make a clear distinction between a drug supplier and an end user.
- A **user of the drugs** is needed to be seen as a **patient**.
- Another solution is **to decriminalise the usage of drugs**.
- Only repeating offenders should be sent to prison.

We don't have adequate counsellors and de-addiction centre. We also face a shortage of psychiatrists and counsellors.

As Policing is a State subject. So, instead of suggesting proposals to change sections of the law for the entire country, it will be advisable to introduce this on a pilot basis in one State that faces an acute drugs-related problem.

INDIA CAN LEARN FROM THE EXAMPLES FROM THE WORLD AROUND:-

for example:

1. In Iceland–

1. i) a **community-led approach** has worked very well w.r.t. its acute drug abuse problems among its children and the youth. The government decided to tackle the issue right from the school level.
1. ii) From introducing aptitude tests which showed the students' inclinations to persuade the parents in keeping liquor and cigarettes out of the reach of the youth.

Need to thoroughly examine why and how people are getting addicted to narcotic drugs ?

1. Growing hopelessness in society

For example- the COVID-19 pandemic

→ A National fund for rehabilitation is the need of the hour.

2. In the U.S.–

Some States have started permitting the usage of narcotic drugs like marijuana in smaller quantities.

In India,

the legalisation of drugs usage will only compound the problem. It could lead to proliferation of drugs which is dangerous.

There are various street children who use whiteners, glue, painting chemicals, etc. No one is focusing on such children, becoming victims and addicts of substance use.

There are 3 types of drugs —

- party drugs
- prescription drugs
- others, namely inhalants (also known as synthetic drugs)

Some people even apply **Zandu Balm** on bread slices and eat them.

We found people using **cough syrups** to get a high.

While the police have to focus on this, persons selling chemicals or whiteners are equally responsible.

India need responsible traders and merchants.

It is for the police and others concerned to keep a tab on persons selling such chemicals.

Process :

cigarettes→ drugs→ replacing tobacco in cigarette with weed

Responsibility of Parents, Teachers, Police, Civil society

If everyone joins hands, wiping out drugs usage is not an issue at all. Civil society and governments will have to work together to create an enabling environment to address the issue. Although, Certain provisions could be changed to ensure a reformative approach towards addicts.

Rajeev Yadav

PEGASUS CASE GS-2 JUDGEMENTS & CASES, CYBER SECURITY

CONTEXT

Recently, the **Supreme Court (SC)** has appointed an expert committee [to be overseen by a retired apex court judge (**Justice Raveendran Committee**)] in the **Pegasus case**. Under the case, the Union Government is alleged to have used **spyware for surveillance on private citizens**.

SUPREME COURT OBSERVATION

- **Judicial Principle Against Bias:** The court rejected the government's plea to set up its own probe. The court asserted that the government

appointment of probe would **violate the settled judicial principle against bias**, i.e., that **‘justice must not only be done, but also be seen to be done’**,”

- **Formation of Expert Committee:**On account of the government’s inaction to file a detailed response to the allegations made by the petitioners, the Court has constituted a panel of experts under former **SC judge Justice R V Raveendran**.
- **Terms of Recommendation:**The court has also asked the Raveendran committee **to make recommendations on a legal and policy framework to protect citizens against surveillance and enhance cyber security** of the country.The court has set seven terms of reference for the committee, which are essentially facts that need to be ascertained to decide the issue. Following are the terms of references-
 1. Regarding enactment or amendment of law and procedure on surveillance, and to secure improved right to privacy.
 2. Regarding enhancing and improving the cyber security of the nation and its assets
 3. To ensure prevention of invasion of right to privacy , other than lawfully, by state and/or non-state entities using such spyware.
 4. Regarding establishment of a mechanism to flag suspicion of illegal surveillance of devices.
 5. Regarding setting up a well equipped independent premier agency to investigate cyber security vulnerabilities and cyber attacks, and assess cyber attacks threats.
 6. Regarding any ad hoc arrangements of protection of citizens rights until Parliament is able to fill the lacuna.
 7. On any ancillary matter the committee may be deemed fit and proper.

CONCERN RAISED BY SC

- **Right to Privacy:-** The court reiterated that **right to privacy** is as **sacrosanct as human existence** and is **inalienable to human dignity and autonomy**. The **Right to Privacy** was held as a part of **fundamental rights** by the Supreme Court in ***K S Puttaswamy***

case, 2017. Any surveillance or snooping done on an individual by the state or any outside agency is an **infringement of that person's right to privacy.**

- **Surveillance on Free Speech:-**The Court has drawn a **link between surveillance and self-censorship.** The knowledge that one is under the threat of being spied on leads to **self-censorship** and **potential chilling effect.** The **chilling effect surveillance** can produce is an assault on the vital **public-watchdog role of the press,** which may undermine the ability of the press to provide accurate and reliable information (Free Speech). It further held that, an important and necessary corollary of such a right is to ensure the **protection of sources of information.**
- **National Security as a Ground to Block Citizen's Rights:** The Court has ruled that the state does not get a "**free pass every time the spectre of 'national security' is raised**". This also means "**no omnibus prohibition can be called for against judicial review**" if the matter impinges on national security. Hence, any violation of that right by the state, even in national interest, has to follow **procedures established by the law.** Further, the order is a strong **rebuttal of the government's specious and self-serving use of national security** as a ground to criminalise the forms of dissent.

WAYFORWARD

- **Role of Judiciary:** The order is a welcome and an emphatic reassertion of the **SC's role and responsibilities** as the **custodian of individual rights** enshrined in the Constitution. The letter and spirit of the court's order will be tested by how the Justice Raveendran panel addresses them.
- **Role of Legislature:** There is a need to expedite the enactment of **Personal Data Protection Bill 2019.**
- **Role of Executive:** Further, It is time for the executive to stop arbitrary use of power, if any.

BY ANSHUM VERMA

FACULTY (POLITY, GEOGRAPHY & ENVIRONMENT)

Plutus IAS