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CURRENT AFFAIRS (NOVEMBER 2021)

Emissions Gap Report 2021 GS-3
ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

Government to change Tax
Laws to tax the Cryptocurrency

ARTICLE OF THE DAY Finding a
way out of India's deepening

Introduction of Bharat Gaurav
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Abusive Households and
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8.4% Growth in Q2 GDP,
Recovery appears patchy

50% Clean Energy Share and
500 GW Renewable Energy

Understanding Stock Exchange
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Industrial Output went down
and Inflation going up

MGNREGA: its Importance
and Shortage of Fund



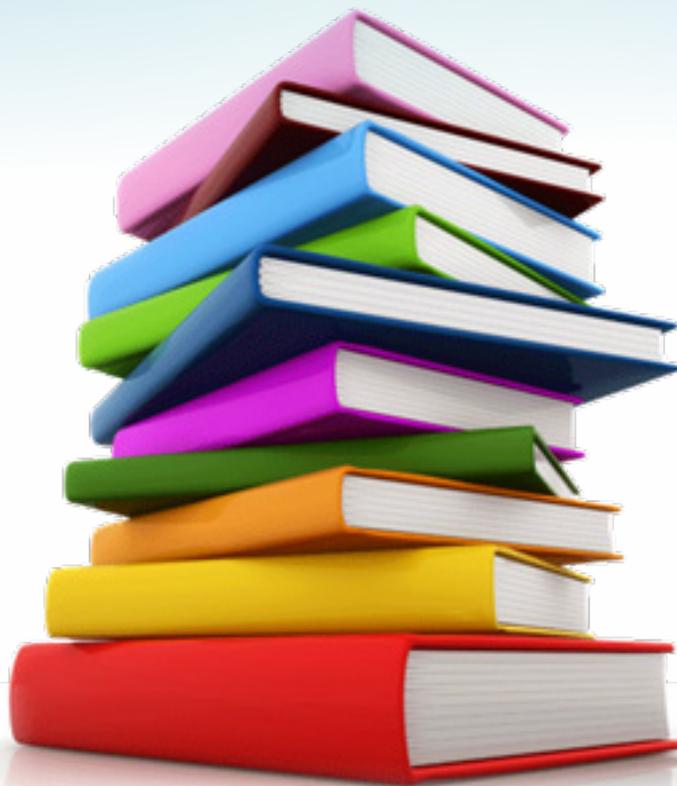
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CURRENT AFFAIRS

NOVEMBER 2021

Emissions Gap Report 2021 GS-3 ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION AND DEGRADATION, CONSERVATION

CONTEXT

Recently, the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**'s Emissions Gap Report 2021 has been published. This is the **twelfth edition** of the **UNEP Emissions Gap Report**. It assesses **the gap between anticipated emissions in 2030 and levels consistent with the 1.5°C and 2°C targets of the Paris Agreement**. Every year, the report features ways to bridge the gap. It informs that the **new national climate pledges** combined with other mitigation measures put the world on track for a **global temperature rise of 2.7°C** by the end of the century.

ABOUT UNEP

It is a **leading global environmental authority** established on **5th June 1972**. It sets the **global environmental agenda**, promotes sustainable development within the United Nations system, and serves as an authoritative advocate for global environment protection.

Headquarters is located in Nairobi, Kenya.

Major Reports: Emission Gap Report, Adaptation Gap Report, Global Environment Outlook, Frontiers, Invest into Healthy Planet.

KEY FEATURES OF THE REPORT

GHGs Continue to Rise: Following an unprecedented drop of 5.4 % in 2020, **global carbon dioxide emissions** are bouncing back to pre-COVID levels, and concentrations of **Green House Gases (GHGs)** in the atmosphere continue to rise.

New Mitigation Pledges:- **New mitigation pledges** for 2030 show some progress, but their aggregate effect on global emissions is insufficient. As a group, **G20 members are not on track** to achieve either their original or new 2030 pledges. Ten G20 members are on track to achieve their previous **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)**, while seven are off track. Compared to previous unconditional NDCs, the new pledges for 2030 reduce projected 2030 emissions by only 7.5 %, whereas 30 % is needed for 2°C and 55 % is needed for 1.5°C.

Net-zero Emissions: The long-term **net-zero emissions** pledged by 50 countries, covering more than half of global emissions show large ambiguities. **Net zero emission** means that all man-made greenhouse gas emissions must be removed from the atmosphere through reduction measures, thus reducing the Earth's net climate balance, after removal via natural and artificial sink. Few of the G20 members' NDC targets put

emissions on a clear path towards net-zero pledges. There is an **urgent need to back these pledges up with near-term targets** and actions that give confidence that net-zero emissions can ultimately be achieved and the remaining carbon budget kept.

Global Warming: At the **end of the century global warming is estimated at 2.7°C** if all unconditional 2030 pledges are fully implemented and 2.6°C if all conditional pledges are also implemented. If the **net-zero emissions** pledges are additionally fully implemented, this estimate is lowered to around 2.2°C.

Methane Emission: Reduction of **methane emissions** from the fossil fuel, waste and agriculture sectors can contribute significantly to closing the emissions gap and reduce warming in the short term.

Carbon Markets: **Carbon market** can deliver real emissions abatement and drive ambition, but only **when rules are clearly defined, designed to ensure that transactions reflect actual reductions in emissions**, and supported by arrangements to track progress and provide transparency.

Current Situation: The current **atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂)** concentrations are **higher than at any time in the last two million years**. At present, there are no **estimates available** of total global GHG emissions for 2020. However, the **COVID-19 pandemic** led to an unprecedented 5.4 % drop in CO₂ emissions in 2020, with a smaller drop in total GHG emissions expected for the year. From 2010 to 2019, GHG emissions grew by 1.3 % per year on average, both with and without land-use change (LUC). GHG emissions reached a record high of 51.5 gigatons of CO₂ equivalent (GtCO₂e) in 2019 without LUC emissions and 58.1 GtCO₂e when including LUC.

INITIATIVES TO REDUCE EMISSIONS IN INDIA:

- Shift from **Bharat Stage-IV (BS-IV) to Bharat Stage-VI (BS-VI)** emission norms.
- Distribution of LED bulbs under the **UJALA scheme**.
- Formation of **International Solar Alliance**.
- Launch of the **National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)**.
- Roadmap for **Ethanol Blending in India** by 2025.

BY AN SHUM VERMA

FACULTY (POLITY, GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT)

Advertisements of the brands interrelate with Indian Culture and Society (GS paper I- Art and Society)

CONTEXT:

These days, many advertisements have faced boycotts from the people of social media because these advertisements are not reflecting the right image of Indian society. In these days, people of the social media are demanding to remove the advertisements of the Sahrukh Khan because of the incidents of the Aryan Khan

Julien Cayla, an ethnographer wrote an article and described that SRK is the representation of Pan India and the products advertised by SRK are recommended by the people of the world. SRK is not the representation of any caste, religion, ethnic group, it is the representation of entire India which is having heterogeneous cultures

But nowadays a swadeshi movement is going on through hate speeches on social media. They are targeting SRK on the bases of his religion and

This is not only SRK who is being targeted, other brands and advertisements are also being targeted on the name of Indian culture

- In a line of advertisement, the designer used the creative of underwear in the advertisement of mangal sutra, in a advertisement of Dabur where a lesbian couple has been shown are being opposed on the name of religion and the culture. Now dabur admitted and canceled the contract Sabyasachi who made that advertisement.
- Now the advertising agencies demanded protection from the government. There is an authority who controls and regulates over advertisements (Advertising Standards Council of India, ASCI) If anything is not as per the rules, ASCI could ban it. Government should consider such types of social media movements of boycotts. Many advertisers are being threatened by goons now days
- During the last few days, because of the Aryan Khan incident (Son of Sahrukh Khan, who was sent to jail for allegations of the Drugs), many advertising companies stopped the advertisements of SRK. Many of them ended their contract with SRK. Now after getting bail some of the agencies renewed their contract with SRK
- The provision of Censorship in India is not a new concept. In the past, advertisements for brands, such as Tuff Shoes, faced a heavy backlash and were dragged to the court, on grounds of morality and propriety. Even Though all these things were going on the communal ground
- The advertisement of the Tanishq where interreligious marriage is promoted but haters of our social media also ran a campaign against Tanishq
- These types of the hate campaigns of social media have their two dimensions one is for religious polarisation and other is for patriarchal gender norms,

Social media haters now creating the problems for the upcoming movie of SRK "Pathan" These haters are calling SRK as Pakistani and terrorist

The above analysis is showing the trend and nature of our society which has been transforming from secularism to communalism in the name of Indian culture. This nature of the society is a threat for the state or internal security. Government should take appropriate action on those who are deteriorating the atmosphere in the name of Indian Culture although these haters do not have any concern with Indian culture. They are just potical and social goons and wanted to destroy communal harmony. Neither they know the fundamental characteristics of Indian culture nor they follow Indian culture. They are just antisocial elements which should be eliminated

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Informal Sector Shrinking fastly: Is it not Good? (GS 3, Economics, The Hindu, Indian Express)

NEWS/CONTEXT: Signalling a **greater shift towards formalisation of the economy**, the share of the large informal sector in overall economic activity dipped sharply in 2020-21 even as informal workers continue to bear the brunt of the pandemic's adverse effects, the SBI said in a research report. Concluding that the **share of the informal economy may have shrunk to no more than 20% of the economic output from about 52% in 2017-18**, SBI group chief economic advisor Soumya Kanti Ghosh termed this "a positive development" amid the pandemic.

There are wide variations in the formalisation levels in different sectors but the SBI estimated that the **informal economy is possibly at a maximum of 15% to 20% of formal GDP in 2020-21**, with at least ₹13 lakh crore coming into the formal economy through various channels in recent years.

An IMF policy paper earlier this year estimated that **the share of India's informal economy in the Gross Value Added (GVA) was at 53.9% in 2011-12** and improved only marginally to 52.4% in 2017-18. As per a National Sample Survey of 2014, around **93% of the workforce earned their livelihoods as informal workers**.

India in 2015 has changed its base of the National Accounts to 201-12. It is currently the sixth largest economy measured in terms of PPP. The contribution of various sectors to total GVA are presented in Table 1. **The agriculture sector which employs more than 40% of the workforce contributes 17-18% of the Gross Value (GVA) added of the economy.** The services sector (excluding construction) contribute 50% of the GVA. The comparison with 2011-12 is because of 2011-12 is the base year for the new series which was released in 2015.

Table 1: Structure of the economy :Share of Broad Economic Activity sectors in Overall Gross Value Added (%)

Industry	2011-12	2016-17	2017-18
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	18.5	17.9	17.2
Mining and quarrying	3.2	2.3	2.3
Manufacturing	17.4	16.8	16.4
Electricity, gas, water supply & other utility services	2.3	2.5	2.7
Construction	9.6	7.8	7.8
Trade, repair, Accommodation	10.9	11.5	11.8
Transport, storage, communication & services related to broadcasting	6.5	6.7	6.4
Financial services	5.9	5.4	5.4

The terms unorganised/informal sector are used interchangeably in the India context. The informal sector/unorganised sector consists of enterprises which are own account enterprises and operated by own account workers or unorganised enterprises employing hired workers. They are essentially proprietary and partnership enterprises. Table 2 presents the contribution of formal informal sector to total GVA. It may be mentioned that India treats unincorporated enterprises maintaining accounts as quasi corporates and are treated as part of the formal sector. The table presents the share of informal /unorganised sector GVA to total as shown in Table 2 is more than 50% across all years. However, as stated if quasi sector is also taken into account, the share reduces below 50%. The share of unorganised sector is highest in agriculture as the holdings are small and fragmented. This is followed by trade, construction, real estate, professional services etc and other services.

Table 2- Share of formal/informal sectors across broad sectors to GVA

Industry	2011-12			2016-17			2017-18					
	Organised / formal	Unorganised/ informal		organ ised/f ormal	unorganised/i nformal		organ ised/f ormal	unorganised/inf ormal				
		Of which HH*	Total		Of which HH*	Total		Of which HH*	Total			
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	3.2	96.8	94.8	100.0	2.8	97.2	95.2	100.0	2.9	97.1	95.2	100.0
Mining and quarrying	77.4	22.6	22.6	100.0	77.4	22.6	22.6	100.0	77.5	22.5	22.5	100.0
Manufacturing	74.5	25.5	12.7	100.0	76.4	23.6	12.5	100.0	77.3	22.7	12.0	100.0
Electricity, gas, water supply & other utility services	95.7	4.3	3.2	100.0	95.0	5.0	5.0	100.0	94.7	5.3	5.3	100.0
Construction	23.6	76.4	76.4	100.0	26.6	73.4	73.4	100.0	25.5	74.5	74.5	100.0
Trade, repair, Accommodation and food services	13.4	86.6	56.0	100.0	13.4	86.6	55.8	100.0	13.4	86.6	55.8	100.0
Transport, storage, communication & services related to broadcasting	53.0	47.0	39.6	100.0	53.7	46.3	38.5	100.0	52.3	47.7	39.6	100.0
Financial services	90.7	9.3	0.0	100.0	88.1	11.9	0.0	100.0	88.1	11.9	0.0	100.0
Real estate, ownership of dwelling & professional services	36.9	63.1	57.2	100.0	46.8	53.2	46.7	100.0	47.2	52.8	46.0	100.0
Public administration and defence	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Other services	58.8	41.2	22.6	100.0	52.7	47.3	24.4	100.0	52.1	47.9	24.3	100.0
TOTAL GVA at basic prices	46.1	53.9	45.5	100.0	47.3	52.7	43.6	100.0	47.6	52.4	43.1	100.0

*Excludes quasi corporates

Source: Computed from National Accounts Statistics, 2019

Structure of Informal employment in India 3 Informal worker as defined as a worker with no written contract, paid leave, health benefits or social security. The table 3 gives a sense of the formalisation of the workforce over the period 2011-12 to 2017-18. In terms of employment share the unorganised sector employs 83% of the work force and 17% in the organised sector. There are 92.4% informal workers (with no written contract, paid leave and other benefits) in the economy. There are also 9.8% informal workers in the organised sectors indicating the level of outsourcing. These are possibly the contract workers. In 2017-18 the share of unorganised sector employment has increased by 3.6 percentage points while on the other hand the share of formal employment has increased by 0.9 percentage points. There has been an increase in share of formal employment. This also indicates the efforts of the government to provide social security to workers in the unorganised sector.

Table 3 Distribution of total employment (%)

Worker	2011-12			2017-18		
	Unorganized	Organised	Total	Unorganized	Organised	Total
Informal	82.6	9.8	92.4	85.5	5.2	90.7
Formal	0.4	7.2	7.6	1.3	7.9	9.3
Total	83.0	17.0	100.0	86.8	13.2	100.0

Source: Computed from NSS 68th unit level data on employment unemployment, 2011-12 and Periodic Labour Force Survey, 2017-18

INFORMAL AGRICULTURE SECTOR SHRINKS

The SBI projections suggest that the **informal agriculture sector has shrunk from 97.1% of the sector's GVA in 2017-18 to just 70%-75% in 2020-21, driven by the increased penetration of credit through Kisan credit cards. Real estate has also seen a significant dip in informal activity from 52.8% in 2017-18 to 20%-25% last year.**

The report estimated that about ₹1.2 lakh crore of cash usage has been formalised since the COVID-19 pandemic. Formal agriculture credit flows have grown ₹4.6 lakh crore between 2017-18 and 2020-21, with digital payments for petrol and diesel rising around ₹1 lakh crore in the same period.

For India, post-2016, a plethora of measures which accelerated digitisation of the economy, emergence of gig economy, have facilitated higher formalisation of the economy — at rates possibly much faster than most other nations.

Since 2017-18, a lot has changed in the economy landscape. The IMF has noted that formalisation of economy has increased since the adoption of GST, enhanced digitalisation and demonetisation.

Informal Sector



Md Layeeque Azam, Economics Faculty

Shortage of MGNREGA funds GS -2 POVERTY, GOVT. POLICIES & INTERVENTION

CONTEXT

The Centre's flagship rural employment scheme (MGNREGA) has run out of funds halfway through the financial year. This means that **payments for MGNREGA workers as well as material costs will be delayed**, unless the States dip into their own funds. Earlier, the government **introduced the category-wise wage payment system for SC, ST and others**, as made applicable from this current financial year (2021-22), to accurately reflect on the ground flow of funds to various population groups.

ABOUT MGNREGA

The **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act**, earlier known as the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act was passed in 2005 to augment employment generation and social security in India. The scheme is a **demand-driven wage employment scheme**, which functions under the **Ministry of Rural Development**.

Every adult member of a household in a rural area with a job card is eligible for a job under the scheme. The scheme envisages **providing 100 days of guaranteed wage employment** in a financial year to adult member volunteers for unskilled manual work.

It covers all districts of India except the ones with 100% urban population. There is also a provision for additional 50 days of unskilled wage employment in drought/natural calamity notified rural areas. As per Section 3(4) of the MGNREGA, the States may make provisions for providing additional days beyond the period guaranteed under the Act from their own funds.

CHALLENGES WITH MGNREGA

Ridiculously Low Wage Rate:- Currently, the MNREGA wage rates of at least 17 of the 21 major states are even lower than the state minimum wage for agriculture. The shortfall is in the range of 2-33% of the minimum wage. The National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), 2017 data shows that the average daily wage for general agricultural labourers is Rs. 264.05 for men, and Rs. 205.32 for women. The **ridiculously low wage rates** have resulted in lack of interest among workers in working for MGNREGA schemes, making way for contractors and middle men to take control locally.

Inadequate Financing: Due to lack of funds, state governments find it difficult to meet the demand for employment under MGNREGA.

Delay in Payment of Wages: Most states have failed to disburse wages within 15 days as mandated by MGNREGA. In addition, workers are not compensated for a delay in payment of wages. This has turned the scheme into a supply-based programme and subsequently, workers had begun to lose interest in working under it. A 2016 judgement of the Supreme Court described pending wage payments under MGNREGA as “a clear constitutional breach committed by the State” and “a modern form of begar”.

Ineffective Role of PRI: With very little autonomy, gram panchayats are not able to implement this act in an effective and efficient manner.

Large Number of Incomplete works: There has been a **delay in the completion of works under MGNREGA** and inspection of projects has been irregular. Also, there is an issue of quality of work and asset creation under MGNREGA.

Fabrication of Job cards: There are several issues related to the existence of fake job cards, the inclusion of fictitious names, missing entries and delays in making entries in job cards.

WAY FORWARD

Must Ensure Work is Provided: The government **must ensure that work is provided** notwithstanding the demand. The government should expand the scheme and **focus on value addition** and multiply community asset works.

Strengthening the Scheme: There is a **need for better coordination** between various government departments and the mechanism to allot and measure the work. This is one of the best welfare schemes in recent years and it has helped the rural poor. However, government officials must take the initiative to implement the scheme and must not block the work.

Gender Wage Gap: Some discrepancies in the payouts need to be addressed, too. Women in the sector, on an average, earn 22.24% less than their male counterparts.

Anshum Verma

Samantha Ruth Prabhu : An Actress as well as Social Worker (GS Paper I : Art and Culture)

CONTEXT

Samantha Ruth Prabhu an Indian Telugu actress recently posted her video on Instagram in which she is making the painting. She is a good painter. In fact, the objective of this video is to engage with the community and use art as a medium to heal and bring people together and promote hope.

ABOUT SAMANTHA RUTH PRABHU

- She was born in Chennai in 1987
- She was awarded many times with several awards like the Filmfare Award, Nandi Awards, South Indian International Movie Award
- Apart from being an actress, she is running an NGO also Pratyusha Support, to provide medical support for women and children
- She donates her earnings from endorsements, product launches, and inauguration events to support the foundation. She has founded and owns the women's clothing brand Saaki
- Samantha Ruth Prabhu is a good and well-known Telugu actress as well as a good painter
- She used large canvas for her painting
- In fact, through her painting, she wanted to support those painters who are facing the economic problem because of this Corona pandemic
- The title of her work is Hope Kosmos

This artwork of Samantha will be showcased as part of an exhibition organized by Shrishti Art Gallery. This exhibition would be unique where many painters and the artist would be called and all of them will paint on the large canvas

- Besides Samantha Ruth Prabhu, Shilpa Reddy will also be participating in that exhibition
- The proceeds of this artwork will be sold and the money earned from that will be used in the financial assistance of those artists who are facing economic problems during this pandemic
- Although Samantha is not a good painter from her profession and her hobby is painting and in this picture posted by Samantha it is clearly shown that she is new in the world of painting
- The work of the Hyderabad-based great artist Manohar is definitely appreciable who composed paintings, sculptures, and installations where he looked to depict mundane subjects through visual means, as per Mojarto.com.

ABOUT SHRISHTI ART GALLERY

- It is one of the oldest art galleries of Hyderabad
- Shrishti Art Gallery was set up in 2002 by Remani Nambiar, an Ikebana practitioner and Ikebana teacher.
- The basic objective of this art gallery is to bring to light the works of contemporary artists, this art gallery fosters art exhibitions, art camps, and workshops on a regular basis.

Definitely, the work of the actors and the actress should be definitely appreciable. They are paying their duty for society also. At least they understand the significance of the dying art and they are trying to uplift the status of the painters and other artisans during this time of the Corona pandemic.

Samantha Ruth Prabhu is playing an important role not only in the field of Telugu Cinema but also in paying her duty for the society also through her NGOs and other social institutions. The work of the collection of money through the painting for the artisans or painters of India is definitely should be ideal for other Actors who earned money and fame because of this society

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

MGNREGA: its Importance and Shortage of Fund (GS 3, Economics, The Hindu, Indian Express)



NEWS/CONTEXT:

That as many as 21 of 35 States/UTs have utilised, by October 29, over 100% of their allocated funds under the Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) for FY2021-22 is not a surprise. In the previous year, the allocations for MGNREGS were increased by 50,000 crore to meet the demand for work, with the Revised Estimates for spending for the scheme going up to 1,11,500 crore. MGNREGS was a life-saver for the poor, especially migrant labourers, following the sudden lockdown announced by the Union government. In this year's Budget, the Finance Minister allocated 73,000 crore for the scheme, which was higher than the previous year's absolute number in Budget allocations, but this amounted only to 2.1% of the Budget expenditure, the lowest outlay in those terms in the last six years. By October-end, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh had utilised more than 130% of their respective allocations for the scheme, indicating the extent to which rural workers depend on the scheme even in relatively better-off States. Clearly, the Union government has underestimated the demand for work under the scheme, which even if it involves arduous and menial labour has accounted for a large chunk of rural employment at a time when the economy suffered a steep contraction due to the effects of the pandemic.

States are witnessing rising demand for work and wages in rural India. Civil society activists claim that

some workers have been turned away by officials despite the demand for work because of the paucity of funds. The Union Government must ensure that the allocation is adequate for wage payments to be done and for demand to be met in the remaining months of this financial year. The utility of MGNREGS as a scheme that alleviates distress has never been in question. **From acting as an effective substitute in the absence of crop and weather insurance in aiding poor farm households and helping to provide wages during agrarian crises**, to being an avenue for employment during the economic crisis induced by the pandemic and the response, MGNREGS has turned out to be a salve for farm workers and labourers. **Delays in wage payments could also result in a decline in rural consumption, which plays a vital role in stimulating the economy.** Besides the scheme's utility in distress, it also has the potential, if works are upgraded suitably, to continue to improve rural development and infrastructure. The Union Government must consider this during allocations and not be conservative in its outlay or remain unmindful of the overall potential of the scheme.

WHAT IS MGNREGA ALL ABOUT:

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), also known as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGS) is Indian legislation enacted on August 25, 2005. The MGNREGA provides a legal guarantee for one hundred days of employment in every financial year to adult members of any rural household willing to do public work-related unskilled manual work at the statutory minimum wage. The Ministry of Rural Development (MRD), Govt of India is monitoring the entire implementation of this scheme in association with state governments

- This act was introduced with an aim of improving the purchasing power of the rural people, primarily semi or un-skilled work to people living below poverty line in rural India. It attempts to bridge the gap between the rich and poor in the country. Roughly one-third of the stipulated work force must be women.
- Adult members of rural households submit their name, age and address with photo to the Gram Panchayat. The Gram Panchayat registers households after making enquiry and issues a job card. The job card contains the details of adult member enrolled and his /her photo. Registered person can submit an application for work in writing (for at least fourteen days of continuous work) either to Panchayat or to Programme Officer.
- The Panchayat/Programme officer will accept the valid application and issue dated receipt of application, letter providing work will be sent to the applicant and also displayed at Panchayat office. The employment will be provided within a radius of 5 km: if it is above 5 km extra wage will be paid.

What Activities are covered: Union Rural Development Ministry has notified works under MGNREGA, majority of which are related to agricultural and allied activities, besides the works that will facilitate rural sanitation projects in a major way.

- The works have been divided into 10 broad categories like Watershed, Irrigation and Flood management works, Agricultural and Livestock related works, Fisheries and works in coastal areas and the Rural Drinking water and Sanitation related works.
- Briefing the MGNREGA 2.0 (the second generation reforms for the rural job scheme) the priority of the works will be decided by the Gram Panchayats in meetings of the Gram Sabhas and the Ward Sabhas.
- The Rural development also informed that the 30 new works being added in the Schedule 1 will also help the
- Rural sanitation projects, as for the first time toilet building, soak pits and solid and liquid waste management have been included under MGNREGA. Though the overall 60:40 ratio of labour and material component will be maintained at the Gram Panchayat level but there will be some flexibility in the ratio for certain works based on the practical requirements.

- Construction of AWC building has been included as an approved activity under the MGNREG Act. 'Guidelines for construction of Anganwadi Centres' under MGNREGS have been issued jointly by Secretary, WCD and Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development, on 13th August, 2015. Under MGNREGS, expenditure up to Rs.5 lakh per AWC building for construction will be allowed. Expenditure beyond Rs. 5 lakh per AWC including finishing, flooring, painting, plumbing, electrification, wood work, etc. will be met from the ICDS funds.

Md Layeeque Azam, Economics Faculty

ARTICLE OF THE DAY Finding a way out of India's deepening water stress

Water plays a very important role in human life. We can't imagine life without it. For that we have to be very cautious that we conserve water and utilise its and conserve it for our future generations also.

Billions of people around the world lack adequate access to one of the essential elements of life: clean water. Although governments have helped many living in water-stressed regions gain access in recent years, the problem is projected to get worse with the harmful effects of global warming and population growth.

WHAT IS THIS WATER STRESS?

Water stress occurs when the demand for water exceeds the available amount during a certain period or when poor quality restricts its use.

Water stress causes deterioration of fresh water resources in terms of quantity (aquifer overexploitation, dry rivers, etc.). Quality (eutrophication, organic matter pollution, saline intrusion, etc.)

SOURCES OF WATER

In the rural areas, 80%-90% of the drinking water and 75% of the water used for agriculture is drawn from groundwater sources.

In urban areas, 50%-60% of the water supply is drawn from groundwater sources, whereas the remaining is sourced from surface water resources such as rivers, in addition to lakes, tanks and reservoirs.

SOME EXAMPLES OF DIFFERENT STATES IN INDIA WHICH ARE FACING WATER CRISIS

The Chennai example of 2019 where life came to a standstill and parts of the city went without piped water for months. Chennai city's inability to meet the basic needs of citizens, drinking water, cooking and sanitation. This happened due to poor rainfall received in this city as one of the main reasons for the water crisis.

Mumbai had suffered from floods previously

Punjab city also can't be left behind

82% of Punjab's land area has seen a huge decline in groundwater levels Why this has happened in this city was due to Groundwater extraction which was at 35% in the 1960s and 1970s, rose to 70% post the Green Revolution — a period which saw governments subsidising power for irrigation that left tubewells running for hours.

Cultivation of water intensive crops such as paddy have further aggravated water depletion, even turning water saline.

NEED FOR SYNERGY

Government should take it seriously regarding this water crisis in urban areas. The Ministry of Water Resources must reconfigure its relationship with other Ministries and Departments (Urban Development, Local Self-Government and Environment). This would be for enhanced integration and coordination through effective land and water zoning regulations that protect urban water bodies, groundwater sources, wetlands and green cover while simultaneously working to enhance waste water recycling and water recharge activities targeting aquifers and wells through rainwater harvesting.

GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

The Ministry of Jal Shakti, has a targeted plan to provide water connections to every household in India by 2024. In view of the ongoing erosion of water resources and an ever-increasing demand for water, the thrust should not be on promising water supply. Instead the aim should be towards protecting and conserving water resources on the one hand and minimising and enhancing efficiency of water usage on the other.

WAY FORWARD

We urgently require a transition from this 'supply-and-supply-more water' provision to measures which lead towards improving water use efficiency, reducing leakages, recharging/restoring local water bodies

By Mahima Pant

Geography Optional Faculty

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Net zero' carbon targets to tackle climate change

Net zero emissions' refers to achieving an overall balance between greenhouse gas emissions produced and greenhouse gas emissions taken out of the atmosphere

HOW IT CAN BE ACHIEVED:-

Net-zero emissions will be achieved when all GHG emissions released by humans are counterbalanced by removing GHGs from the atmosphere in a process known as carbon removal.

First and foremost, human-caused emissions (such as those from fossil-fueled vehicles and factories) should be reduced as close to zero as possible. Any remaining GHGs should then be balanced with an equivalent amount of carbon removal, which can happen through things like restoring forests or using direct air capture and storage (DACs) technology.

WHEN DOES THE WORLD NEED TO REACH NET-ZERO EMISSIONS?

Under the Paris Agreement, countries agreed to limit warming well below 2 degrees C (3.6 degrees F), ideally to 1.5 degrees C (2.7 degrees F). Global climate impacts that are already unfolding under today's 1.1 degrees C (2 degrees F) of warming — from melting ice to devastating heat waves and more intense storms — show the urgency of minimizing temperature increase.

The latest science suggests that reaching the Paris Agreement's temperature goals will require reaching net-zero emissions on the following timelines:

In scenarios limiting warming to 1.5 degrees C, carbon dioxide (CO₂) needs to reach net-zero between 2044 and 2052, and total GHG emissions must reach net-zero between 2063 and 2068. Reaching net zero earlier

in the range avoids a risk of temporarily overshooting 1.5 degrees C. Reaching the top of the range almost guarantees surpassing 1.5 degrees C for some time before it eventually drops down.

In scenarios limiting warming to 2 degrees C, CO₂ needs to reach net zero by 2070 (for a 66% likelihood of limiting warming to 2 degrees C) to 2085 (with a 50-66% likelihood). Total GHG emissions must reach net-zero by the end of the century or beyond.

The Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), finds that if the world reaches net-zero emissions by 2040, the chance of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees C is considerably higher. The sooner emissions peak, and the lower they are at that point, the more realistic achieving net zero becomes.

WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN TO ACHIEVE NET-ZERO EMISSIONS?

Policy, technology and behavior need to happen to achieve this. For example, in pathways to 1.5 degrees C, renewables are projected to supply 70-85% of electricity by 2050. Energy efficiency and fuel-switching measures are critical for transportation. Improving the efficiency of food production, changing dietary choices, halting deforestation, restoring degraded lands and reducing food loss and waste also have significant potential to reduce emissions.

IS THE WORLD ON TRACK TO REACH NET-ZERO EMISSIONS?

Despite the benefits of climate action, progress is happening far too slowly for the world to reach net-zero by mid-century or meet emissions reductions necessary by 2030.

INDIA'S EFFORTS TO ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Firstly, India is set to significantly exceed its Paris Agreement commitment of reducing the emission intensity of its GDP by 33-35% below 2005 levels by 2030.

Secondly, India is leading with the roll-out of renewable energy and an expanded target for 450GW by 2030.

Thirdly, It is taking leadership on the International Solar Alliance and recent national hydrogen strategy.

Fourthly, Indian corporates are also stepping up, with the Tata Group winning awards on sustainability, Mahindra committing to net zero by 2040 and Reliance by 2035.

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India to Reach Carbon Neutrality by 2070

GS-3 ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

CONTEXT

Recently, India announced that it will **reach carbon neutrality by 2070** as part of a **five-point action plan** that included reducing emissions to 50% by 2030.

- India made this pledge at the **Conference of the Parties (COP) 26 climate summit in Glasgow**, where it also urged developed countries to deliver on their promise of **climate financing**.

- However, India hasn't submitted an updated **Nationally Determined Contribution (NDCs)** with these commitments to the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** yet.

ABOUT NET ZERO

Net Zero is a **state in which a country's total emissions are offset by absorptions of carbon dioxide** from the atmosphere, like that done by trees and forests, and physical removal of carbon dioxide through futuristic technologies.

More than **70 countries have promised to become Net Zero by the middle of the century**, and this is being considered vital for meeting the Paris Agreement goal of keeping global temperatures within 2 degrees Celsius from pre-industrial times.

India's Net Zero target of 2070 silences its critics but it is along expected lines. The big thing here is not the target itself but the fact that **India finally relented and decided to take up a target**, something it had been holding back on for quite some time.

In its climate action plan submitted under the **Paris Agreement**, India had promised to reduce its emissions intensity, or emissions per unit of **Gross Domestic Product**, by 33 to 35% by the year 2030 compared to 2005 levels.

REDUCING INDIA'S EMISSIONS

India **has the lowest per capita emissions** of the world's major economies — emitting **5% of the total**, despite accounting for **17% of the world's population**. According to the **World Resources Institute**, India's total **greenhouse gas** emissions were about 3.3 billion tonnes in 2018.

It's **projected to rise above 4 billion tonnes per year by 2030**.

That would mean between now and 2030, **India could be emitting anywhere between 35 to 40 billion tonnes** at the current rates of growth. Cutting 1 billion tonnes would, therefore, represent a reduction of **2.5 to 3% in its absolute emissions** in the business-as-usual scenario in the next nine years.

INDIA'S NEW RENEWABLES TARGET:

In 2019 India announced that it would take up its installed capacity of **renewable energy to 450 GW by 2030**. At that time, India's publicly stated target was **175 GW by the year 2022**. The installed renewable capacity has been growing rapidly in the last few years, and the **enhancement as per its pledge from 450 GW to 500 GW is not likely to be very challenging**. The **increase in the proportion of non-fossil fuel energy** in the energy mix, to 50% is a natural corollary of this.

Most of the new capacity additions in the energy sector are being done in the renewable and non-fossil fuel space. In fact, India has already said **it does not plan to start any new coal power plants after 2022**. As of now, India was already targeting 40% electricity production through non-fossil fuel sources by 2030.

CLIMATE FINANCE:

India's efforts though will have to be supported by the **availability of climate finance from developed countries**. Without foreign capital, on concessional terms, this transition will prove to be difficult. India **demands USD 1 trillion of climate finance as soon as possible** and will monitor not just climate action, but deliver climate finance. Most importantly, India has called, once again, for a **change in lifestyles**.

STEPS NEEDED TO ACHIEVE NET ZERO:

According to the **Council on Energy, Environment and Waters** implications of a Net-zero Target for India's

Sectoral Energy Transitions and Climate Policy' study, **India's total installed solar power capacity would need to increase to over 5,600 gigawatts to achieve net-zero by 2070.**

The **usage of coal, especially for power generation, would need to drop by 99% by 2060**, for India to achieve net-zero by 2070. Consumption of **crude oil, across sectors**, would need to peak by 2050 and **fall substantially by 90% between 2050 and 2070.**

Green hydrogen could contribute 19% of the total energy needs of the industrial sector.

Anshum Verma

Kashmir's fragility [GS Paper II- International Relations]

CONTEXT:

In the last few weeks, several civilians as well as security and armed forces personnel, have been killed by terrorists. In many parts of Kashmir, there is a prevailing sentiment of fear nowadays.

Reaction of current situation → the exodus of Hindus (Kashmiri Pandits) and migrant labour, fearing for their lives and future.

However, Incidents of violence have continued.

The recent outbreak of violence shows that the situation is fragile.

FACTORS RESPONSIBLE:

Pakistan has always tended to be a factor in the ground situation in Kashmir. Kashmir is reflecting the same attitude as many post-conflict, pre-modern, hybrid societies with mixed populations.

Kashmir has neighbours like Afghanistan, Pakistan and China, which leaves little scope for experimentation. As violence hiked in J&K, it became common place to link it with the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan.

Currently, Geopolitics cannot be ignored. The sudden increase in Kashmir violence needs a careful analysis of several dimensions and facts rather than simplistic answers and excuses like that of Taliban in the current Kashmir issue.

India is wedged between Pakistan and China, as a Talibanised Afghanistan being a neighbour and there is a resurgence of International terror groups, like the Islamic State and al-Qaeda.

CONSEQUENCES:

- China's continuing cooperation with Pakistan in different matters
- China's growing assertiveness with regard to its territorial claims, vis-à-vis India
- China opposed the prominence given to India by the West in both Asian and global forums.

All such incident helped cement the nexus between China and Pakistan.

Intertwined with this is again the battle raging for spheres of influence between China and India, which has intensified under China's President Xi Jinping. China is intended to establish an Asian system in which China sits at the summit of a hierarchical regional order. All this is altering the ground realities and it is worth considering whether Kashmir is emerging as a pressure point in this context.

INTELLIGENCE IS CRITICAL :

There is a need for hard and better intelligence. Hard intelligence is critical to avoid misperceptions and miscalculations.

Moreover, as intelligence agencies become more wedded to technology, they need to realise that technology advancement is needed.

The improvement in analysis and to provide decision-makers with information is needed.

LAPSES DONE BY WESTERN INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES-

- The serious miscalculation about Iraqi President **Saddam Hussein** possessing nuclear weapons based on wrong intelligence led to unnecessary involvement by the United States and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in Iraq, followed by an unfortunate train of events that continues to haunt the world to this day.
- Misreading, misunderstanding and failing to anticipate **the role of Sayyid Qutb** and his preachings which later set the stage for the 9/11 attack on the Twin Towers in New York and other targets in the U.S.

Had they understood what Sayyid Qutb preached, viz., that martyrdom was a necessary part of 20th century jihad, they would not have underestimated the influence exerted by Islamist theology on the terrorist mindset.

To understand the nature of current events as a precursor of future threats, the 'missing dimensions' of intelligence in most cases, need to be understood, viz., thinking imaginatively and improving analytical capabilities.

The focus of intelligence agencies, limited to current events such as-

- Tensions with China on the border
- Pakistan's attempts to push in 'irregulars' and aid the Lashkar and Jaish elements to cross over into India, may prove self-defeating.

The arc of intelligence needs to be much wider and Indian intelligence agencies such as the Intelligence Bureau, the Research & Analysis Wing as also the National Security Council Secretariat should ensure that they have the necessary capabilities.

To limit what is happening in J&K solely to the impetus created by a Talibanised Afghanistan could cost India dear

Although the danger of 'intelligence adjustment' are also linked to it, viz., avoiding challenging conventional assumptions, which could undermine their ability to provide a more accurate picture of the larger threat.

Nowadays, when India faces problems all around it, to limit what is happening in Kashmir solely to the impetus created by a Talibanised Afghanistan without fully analysing all the facts could cost the country dear.

Rajeev Yadav

Future of Art in Afghanistan (GS Paper I : Art and Culture)

CONTEXT:

Recently it has been observed that Afghanistan issued a circular regarding artworks. All the schools of the art were ordered to be closed till the next orders of the government (talibani). All the artworks like music m, radio, television and the films industries, comedy shows and others were instructed to stop.

The day when the Taliban controlled over Afghanistan and the Afghan President Ashraf Ghani fled, the declination of the artwork of Afghanistan had started which had flourished during the last 20 years. Now the future of art in Afghanistan is completely in the dark. Most of the artisans, painters, musicians and the comedians, either they have left their country forever or they have to change their profession for the survival

because on the name of islam, This taliwan government will never allow to flourish any art work, mainly music and comedy

Although Talibani spokesperson said that only those artworks would be hampered which are anti Islamic but everybody knows about them. During their first regime, they had destroyed the statues of Buddha in Bamiyan provinces and they banned music, painting, dance etc completely. Therefore, just because of this fear many artisan are leaving this country and trying to be settled in european countries, America or in the countries of third world

Afghanistan had been very rich in its art works. Mural painting flourished during the last 20 years. Under the new government, there has been a concerted campaign to remove artworks from all aspects of life, in an attempt to make society more Islamic. In doing so, the group is erasing two decades of craftsmanship that blossomed after the collapse of its first government in 2001.

Every art lover thinks that art and Taliban would not survive simultaneously.

These days, we see more than 2000 murals in the streets of Kabul that are going to be covered. These murals were related to women, promoting a message of peace, human rights and gender equality, among other issues.

Since Taliban is sole explainer of Islam he will destroy this art and promote only those muran which would be Islamic in the sight of Taliwan. In other words we can say that It is not possible for the Taliban to live with art.”

After getting power, taliwant either cover those murans (painted after 2001) or remove those murals which were painted beyond the preechings of Islam.

Even Though the taliban government said that non religious painting and artwork would be stopped and painters would be pressurized to paint only religious messages even though they are the painters of the nature

Although Taliwan claimed that they haven't officially imposed any nationwide restrictions on artistic activities. But they also have shown no sign that their government will allow art as a form of free expression in the society they wish to lead, and their actions so far foretell an uncertain future for thousands of artists.

Many liberal professors, intellectuals and artists had fled Afghanistan. International agencies should ensure the life of these artisans and other artworks/ secular artworks should also be promoted and preserved. Art does not have its own religion. Art and religion both are different things. Taliwan should understand this concept and not to destroy the old artworks on the name of Islam

(Dr Anshul Bajpai)

Rajeev Yadav

Do We Really Need Smart Cities?

INTRODUCTION

Smart city uses information and communication technology (ICT) to improve operational efficiency, share information with the public and provide a better quality of government service and citizen welfare.

IBM defines a smart city as **“one that makes optimal use of all the interconnected information available today to better understand and control its operations and optimise the use of limited resources.”**

However, in short, a smart city uses a framework of information and communication technologies to create, deploy and promote development practices to address urban challenges and create a joined-up technologically-enabled and sustainable infrastructure.

The term smart city is also used in literature regarding the education of its inhabitants. A smart city has therefore smart inhabitants in terms of their educational grade. The intelligent systems represent an important part of future educational process. The intelligent systems will affect the way in which the information is received, used, understood and learned by users.

HISTORY OF SMART CITIES

The concept of smart cities in 1960s and 1970s when the US Community Analysis Bureau began using databases, aerial photography and cluster analysis to collect data, direct resources and issue reports in order to direct services, mitigate against disasters and reduce poverty. This led to the creation of the first generation of smart cities.

The **first generation** of smart city was delivered by technology providers to understand the implications of technology on daily life. This led to the **second generation** of smart city, which looked at how smart technologies and other innovations could create joined-up municipal solutions. The **third generation** of smart city took the control away from technology providers and city leaders, instead creating a model that involved the public and enabled social inclusion and community engagement.

This third generation model was adopted by Vienna, who created a partnership with the local Wien Energy company, allowing citizens to invest in local solar plants as well as working with the public to resolve gender equality and affordable housing issues. Such adoption has continued around the world, including in Vancouver, where 30,000 citizens co-created the Vancouver Greenest City 2020 Action Plan.

HOW SMART CITIES WORK

Smart cities follow four steps to improve the quality of life and enable economic growth through a network of connected IoT devices and other technologies. These steps are as follows:

1. Collection – Smart sensors gather real-time data
2. Analysis – The data is analysed to gain insights into the operation of city services and operations
3. Communication – The results of the data analysis are communicated to decision makers
4. Action – Action is taken to improve operations, manage assets and improve the quality of city life for the residents

People are able to engage and interact with smart city ecosystems through mobile devices and connected vehicles and buildings. By pairing devices with data and the infrastructure of the city, it is possible to cut costs, improve sustainability and streamline factors such as energy distribution and refuse collection, as well as offering reduced traffic congestion, and improve air quality.

SMART CITY FEATURES

Smart city features are energy conservation and environmental efficiencies, such as streetlights that dim when the roads are empty.

Smart city can be used to combat climate change and air pollution as well as waste management and sanitation through internet-enabled rubbish collection, bins and fleet management systems.

Smart cities allow for the provision of safety measures such as monitoring areas of high crime or using sensors to enable an early warning for incidents like floods, landslides, hurricanes or droughts.

Smart buildings can also offer real-time space management or structural health monitoring. People can also access this system to notify officials of any problems, such as potholes, while sensors can also monitor infrastructure problems such as leaks in water pipes

Smart city technology can improve the efficiency of manufacturing, urban farming, energy use, and more.

Smart cities can connect all manner of services to provide joined up solutions for citizens

Combining automation, machine learning is allowing for the adoption of smart city technologies for a variety of applications. For example, smart parking can help drivers find a parking space and also allow for digital payment.

Another example would be smart traffic management to monitor traffic flows and optimise traffic lights to reduce congestion, while ride-sharing services can also be managed by a smart city infrastructure.

WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES?

‘Challenge’ or competition to select cities for funding and using a strategy of area-based development is the challenging task. This captures the spirit of ‘competitive and cooperative federalism’.

Smart leadership and vision at this level and ability to act decisively will be important factors determining the success of the Mission.

Understanding the concepts of retrofitting, redevelopment and greenfield development by the policy makers, implementers and other stakeholders at different levels will require capacity assistance.

The Smart Cities Mission requires smart people who actively participate in governance and reforms. Citizen involvement is much more than a ceremonial participation in governance. The participation of smart people will be enabled by the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) through increasing use of ICT, especially mobile-based tools.

WHY SMART CITIES ARE IMPORTANT

54% of the world’s population live in cities and this is expected to rise to 66% by 2050, adding a further 2.5 billion people to the urban population over the next three decades. With this expected population growth there comes a need to manage environmental, social and economic sustainability of resources.

Smart cities allow citizens and local government authorities to work together to launch initiatives and use smart technologies to manage assets and resources in the growing urban environment.

ARE SMART CITIES SUSTAINABLE?

Sustainability is an important aspect of smart cities as they seek to improve efficiencies in urban areas and improve citizen welfare. Cities offer many environmental advantages, such as smaller geographical footprints, but they also have some negative impacts, including the use of fossil fuels to power them. However, smart technologies could help alleviate these negative effects, such as through the implementation of an electric transport system to reduce emissions. Electric vehicles could also help to regulate the frequency of the electric grid while not in use.

Such sustainable transport options should also see a reduction in the number of cars in urban areas as autonomous vehicles are expected to reduce the need for car ownership amongst the population.

Creating such sustainable solutions could deliver environmental and societal benefits

WHY DO WE NEED THEM?

A smart city should provide an urban environment that delivers a high quality of life to residents while also generating economic growth. This means delivering a suite of joined-up services to citizens with reduced infrastructure costs.

This becomes increasingly important in the light of the future population growth in urban areas, where more efficient use of infrastructure and assets will be required. Smart city services and applications will allow for these improvements which will lead to a higher quality of life for citizens.

Smart city improvements also provide new value from existing infrastructure while creating new revenue streams and operational efficiencies to help save money for governments and citizens alike

ARE THEY SECURE?

Smart cities offer plenty of benefits to improve citizen safety, such as connected surveillance systems, intelligent roadways and public safety monitoring

There is a need to ensure smart cities are protected from cyber-attacks, hacking and data theft while also making sure the data that is reported is accurate.

In order to manage the security of smart cities there is a need to implement measures such as physical data vaults, resilient authentication management and ID solutions. Citizens need to trust the security of smart cities which means government, private sector enterprise, software developers, device manufacturers, energy providers and network service managers need to work together to deliver integrated solutions with core security objectives

Accountability – System users need to be accountable for their actions and interaction with sensitive data systems. Users logs should record who is accessing the information to ensure accountability should there be any problems

CONCLUSION

Creating smart connected systems for our urban areas provides a great many benefits for people around the world, not only to improve quality of life, but also to ensure sustainability and the best possible use of resources.

These solutions are dependent on a unified approach from government as well as the private sector and residents themselves. With the correct support and infrastructure, however, smart cities can use advances such as the Internet of Things to enhance the lives of residents and create joined-up living solutions for the growing global urban

Mahima Pant

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ARTICLE 1

Abusive Households and Juvenile Crimes

“Overcoming abuse doesn’t just happen; it takes positive steps every day. Let today be the day you start to move forward” – **Assunta Harris**

Abuse is defined as any action that intentionally harms or injures another person.

In short, someone who purposefully harms another in any way is committing abuse. There are many kinds of abuse encountered by adults, including: physical abuse, psychological abuse, rape, sexual assault, verbal abuse, elder abuse, financial abuse, spiritual abuse, emotional abuse

- 1.** Physical abuse can be any act of violence (accidental or intentional) that results in an injury to a child. This may include punching, kicking, shaking, stabbing, throwing, biting, choking, burning or hitting (with an hand or an object, like a belt or switch).

PHYSICAL ABUSE CAN RESULT IN:

Bruises, blisters, burns, cuts and scratches

Internal injuries, possible brain damage

Broken bones, sprains, dislocated joints

Emotional and psychological harm

Lifelong injury and/or death

2. Sexual abuse is unwanted sexual activity, with perpetrators using force, making threats or taking advantage of victims not able to give consent. Most victims and perpetrators know each other. Immediate reactions to sexual abuse include shock, fear or disbelief. Long-term symptoms include anxiety, fear or post-traumatic stress disorder. Sexual abuse can be included in physical abuse, but it isn't entirely just limited to physical. Sexual abuse can be physical and non-physical in nature. It involves rape, touching or making a person see or do something without their will. Sexual abuse is often used to assert dominance by the one who's inflicting the abuse onto the victim. Even though many are reported, there is one particular form of sexual abuse which goes unnoticed especially in the Indian society, which is Marital Rape. Marital Rape in India is not classified as a form of Rape, hence, not identified as a crime.
3. Verbal and/or emotional abuse refers to a situation where the abuser uses knife-like words to wound a person's self worth and motivation, inflicting harm on their emotions.
4. Mental/ Psychological abuse is when a person ignores another person's mental well being or existing factors that can trigger them and wear them out. One of the most prominent forms of mental/ psychological abuse is Gaslighting. Gaslighting refers to manipulating a person by psychological means into doubting their own sanity. This is the most common type of mental abuse which goes unnoticed because of the lack of awareness of the same.

Juvenile crimes are the ones which are committed by under aged civilians. The abuse faced by these children may or may not result in them committing crimes.

Juvenile meaning in Indian constitution is that if a child is below the age of 18 so under the Indian Laws, Section 2 (k) of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 defines "juvenile" or "Child" as a person who hasn't completed eighteenth year of age.

How do these forms of abuse turn into juvenile crimes?

Nirbhaya Rape Case, 2012:

The infamous and heinous 2012 Delhi gang-Rape case involved a rape case and fatal assault that occurred on the night of 16th December 2012 in Munirka, a neighborhood in South Delhi. The said unfortunate incident took place when Jyoti Singh (Nirbhaya), a 23 year old physiotherapy intern, was brutally gang-raped, beaten, and tortured in a private bus in which she was travelling with her male friend. There were six other people in the vehicle, including the driver, all of whom raped the woman and beat her male friend. Eleven days after the assault happened, she was transferred to a hospital in Singapore for emergency treatment but unfortunately died two days later.

THE DECISION OF THE TRIAL IN THE COURT OF LAW MENTIONED:

Death sentence to the four convicts

Juvenile convict served the maximum imprisonment of three years under Juvenile Justice Laws as applicable, since he was less than 18 years old when the crime was committed

Four convicts finally executed on 20 March 2020 after exhausting all legal options available to them.

The history of the juvenile amongst other convicts revealed that he had ran away from his home in UP at the age of 11.

He was reportedly a victim of child sexual abuse, which is why he ran away from his home at an early age. When he was in the Juvenile conviction centre, according to his Juvenile counselor, he showed no remorse whatsoever of the heinous crime he had committed.

Teenage is known to be one of the most crucial stages of an individual's life, where the individual's personality formation begins. Since he ran away at a very young age, it may have caused him to think about and make sense of his past abuse the best way he could by himself at that age, channelizing it into believing that sexual abuse is "normal" as no one was around as a parent figure to guide him.

As he ran away from home at an early age, there's a high probability that he was not exposed to any form of education let alone sex education. Moreover, due to the vulnerable age group and lack of parental guidance, there is always a risk of having a bad company, which would've influenced him to become a person who would commit a heinous crime, showing no remorse for the same afterwards.

ALCOHOL AND ILLICIT DRUG ABUSE:

Evidence has been found that if the mother consumes drugs or alcohol while being pregnant, the child too becomes addicted from the very beginning.

In 2018, police arrested Ricki Dahlin at gunpoint for trying to force her way through a barricade in a stolen car, which was a GMC Sierra. A gram of heroin (drug) was found in the center console and a palm-size.380 handgun on the passenger seat.

"She has absolutely no regard for the law," one exasperated-sounding prosecutor said at September 2018 bail hearing.

However, from Dahlin's perspective, it's the law that had not held up its end of the bargain.

Born premature along with being diagnosed with a fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (a group of conditions that can occur in an individual whose birth mother consumed alcohol during pregnancy. These effects can include physical as well as behavior and learning problems), Dahlin said she was sexually abused as a girl. She remembers letting her mind go blank when the abuser would begin touching her. "Blacking out," she calls it.

By age 13, Dahlin was drinking and abusing drugs.

"People often look at us as just some drug addicts or junkies, 'they deserve to be in jail.' It goes way deeper than just that," Dahlin said. "We are broken. We are trying to fix ourselves."

Underage drug abuse may also occur due to peer pressure, or escaping one's familial problems for some time. Once the teen starts abusing drugs, the feeling of relaxation or satisfaction that drugs gives the individual is what keeps them going, leading to addiction.

In the case of Dahlin, we can see that she suffers from Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, because her mother abused alcohol. Moreover, she was sexually abused as a girl too, which may have led her to indulge into drug abuse, so as to cope with her pain better.

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE CASE:

Kiran was just in third grade when her father, Rahul began sexually abusing her first. Adults near Kiran, including her mother, started suspecting that Kiran was indeed being abused, but failed to offer help. When Rahul turned his attention to her little sister Christy, Kiran felt there was only one solution left for the entire situation, and killed her father.

CHILD ON CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE:

Amie Zyla, a 17 year old, made a plea to the team of House Subcommittee- on Terrorism, Crime, Homeland Security, and Investigations- in the year 2005. Zyla was sexually assaulted at age 8 by a 14-year-old friend of

the family named Joshua Wade. Nine years after Wade (the assaulter) was convicted in the juvenile court, Zyla was horrified to see his face on their local news channel. Wade was then finally arrested for luring children into his apartment and videotaping dozens of them in his shower.

A unique insight into why young children sexually abuse other children was revealed in a study.

The research was on boys aged 10 or under who have molested siblings, classmates, or friends. It found that they're invariably born in the families in which abuse, violence and neglect has become routine over many generations.

The study found that those boys (in the study) were unable to form healthy relationships as an obvious result of neglectful as well as hostile parenting. Even before starting their school, they were very anxious, angry and detached; bed-wetting, nightmares, self-harm and eating problems were quite common.

All of the boys in the study started abusing after being sexually abused themselves. They had all perpetrated serious sexual abuse against several children by the time they received specialist help. This wasn't childhood experimentation: their victims were very young- as young as six months; penetration and violence were quite common.

What happens to the Juvenile after they commit the crime? How does the justice system work with Juveniles?

The Indian justice system keeps Juveniles under tenure of punishment for 3 years, even for heinous crimes.

A child below the age of 16 is not tried, even if the crime is heinous, whereas a child aging from 16-18 years would be tried as an adult for a heinous crime, but shall not receive a death or life imprisonment sentence.

Let's take a look at an incident which occurred in Chennai: About 3 years ago, about 33 Juvenile offenders escaped an observation home in Chennai, which raised a lot of questions of Juvenile the Justice System in India. It also seems like the observation homes are not very looked after, and are often not offered with educational or vocational activities as the offenders have a short tenure.

After they are released, they go into the same environment that made them to offend or the environment where they feel unsafe. This has a high probability of bringing the Juveniles back to square one, making them prone to commit crimes again.

To avoid this situation, it is essential for the Juvenile Justice system to have some reforms, such as collaborating with Child Rights Organizations, setting up recreational activities, providing qualified juvenile counselors to the observational homes, and ensuring that after the tenure is over, they go through psychological evaluations to make sure the offender does not commit the offence again. Otherwise, the Juvenile Justice would not really be justice; it would remain stagnant and would not really have an actual impact.

In a nutshell, the Juvenile Justice system should focus on reformation rather than punitive action as these measures impact the mental health and wellbeing of the juvenile through adult life.

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RBI's Prompt Corrective Action for Banks: Revised (GS 3, Economics, The Hindu, Indian Express)



News/Context: The RBI on Nov 2, 2021 issued a revised Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework for banks to enable supervisory intervention at “appropriate time” and also act as a tool for effective market discipline. Capital, asset quality and leverage will be the key areas for monitoring in the revised framework, the RBI said. The revised PCA framework will be effective from January 1, 2022.

OBJECTIVE:

The objective of the PCA Framework is to enable Supervisory intervention at an appropriate time and require the Supervised Entity to initiate and implement remedial measures in a timely manner, so as to restore its financial health. The PCA framework is also intended to act as a tool for effective market discipline. The central bank also stressed that the PCA Framework does not preclude the Reserve Bank of India from taking any other action as it deems fit at any time, in addition to the corrective actions prescribed in the framework.

“**Indicators to be tracked for capital, asset quality and leverage would be CRAR/Common Equity Tier I Ratio, Net NPA Ratio and Tier I Leverage Ratio, respectively,**” according to the revised framework. Breach of any risk threshold may result in invocation of the PCA. If a bank is put under the PCA, several restrictions are placed on it. The framework also details conditions for exit from PCA and withdrawal of restrictions. The restrictions are imposed on dividend distribution and remittance of profits, bringing in the capital (in the case of foreign banks), branch expansion, and capital expenditure. The framework was last revised in April 2017.

What is PCA? Prompt Corrective Action Framework refers to the central bank’s watchlist of weak banks. The regulator imposes restrictions like curbs on lending on such banks. The PCA Framework applies only to commercial banks and does not cover cooperative banks and non-banking financial companies.

When exactly does a bank fall into this list? The RBI has specified certain regulatory trigger points with respect to three parameters, i.e., **capital-to-risk weighted assets ratio (CRAR), net non-performing assets (NPA) and return on assets (RoA)** for the initiation of the process.

If Capital goes down: There are various stages.

If CRAR falls to less than 9 percent, the RBI asks banks to submit a **capital restoration plan, restricts new businesses and dividend payments.** The RBI also orders **recapitalisation, restrictions on borrowings from the inter-bank market, reduction of stake in subsidiaries and reduction of exposure to sensitive sectors** like the capital markets, real estate or investments in non-statutory liquidity ratio securities.

If CRAR is less than 6 percent but equal to or more than 3 percent, the RBI could take additional steps if the bank fails to submit a recapitalisation plan. These measures include **bringing in a new management/board, appointing consultants for business/organisational restructuring, taking steps to change ownership and also initiating the process for merger of the bank.**

If CRAR is less than 3 percent, in addition to the actions upon hitting the first and second trigger points, **closer monitoring and steps to merge/amalgamate/liquidate the bank or impose a moratorium on the bank**, if its CRAR does not improve beyond 3 percent within one year or within such extended period, will follow.

If net NPAs shoots up: If net NPAs rise **beyond 10 percent but are less than 15 percent**, a special drive to **reduce bad loans and contain the generation of fresh NPAs begins**. The RBI reviews the bank's loan policy and takes steps to strengthen credit-appraisal skills. Subsequently, the follow-up of advances and suit filed/decreed debt starts. Also, the RBI puts in place proper credit-risk management policies and will reduce loan concentration. **Further, there will be restrictions on entering new lines of business, making dividend payments and increasing its stake in subsidiaries.**

If net NPAs shoot up above 15 percent? In addition to the actions upon hitting the initial trigger point, the bank's board is called for discussion on the PCA.

If Return on Assets (Profit) goes down: If RoA is less than 0.25 percent, **restrictions on accessing/renewing costly deposits and CDs kick in and the RBI bars the bank from entering new lines of business**. The bank's borrowings from the inter-bank market, making dividend payments and increasing staff will be restricted.

Md Layeeque Azam,
Economics Faculty

Metropolitan Opera : An American opera company (GS paper 1 : Source Indian Express, <https://indianexpress.com/article/lifestyle/art-and-culture/a-6-hour-opera-in-a-pandemic-the-met-goes-for-it-7604083/>)

CONTEXT:

During this pandemic, In New York the metropolitan opera was opened for the visitors by 26th Oct and visitors enjoyed opera here

WHAT IS OPERA

- Opera is a type of theater that evolved in western world.
- In this theater general drama is played with the help of music and musical instruments.
- In other word we say opera is a type of musical drama where through music, an artist play drama by its face expressions
- Opera is an Italian word which means "work"/ "action"/ Deed etc. musica lirica
- Is another meaning of this word. This is evolved as a drama with the collaboration between a composer and a librettist (a person who writes the text of an opera or other long vocal work.).
- In opera generally we see the incorporation among a number of the performing arts, such as acting, scenery, costume, and sometimes dance or ballet

- As per the source of the Oxford English Dictionary, this word was initially used for poetry composition, dance composition and music composition. gradually this art defused everywhere in Europe. It was mainly patronised in Italy
- The opera can be performed generally in opera house with the support of music orchestra etc
- Now days opera is a type of western classical music and generally with various art
- It is considered today that Dafne by Jacopo Peri the earliest composition of opera.
- It is also considered that by 1597 the concept of opera had evolved and it was also written during the last 16th century largely under the inspiration of an elite circle of literate Florentine humanists who gathered as the “Camerata de’ Bardi”.

GENERAL FEATURES OF OPERA

- One important feature of opera music is that it is continuous, with set pieces such as solos, duets, trios, quartets, etc., and choral pieces, all designed to dramatize the action and display the particular vocal skills of the principal singers. all designed to dramatize the action and display the particular vocal skills of the principal singers.
- The music in opera is continuous, with set pieces such as solos, duets, trios, quartets, etc., and choral pieces, all designed to dramatize the action and display the particular vocal skills of the principal singers.

WHAT IS METROPOLITAN OPERA

- This is a big American music company based on opera art.
- This company is situated in New York City of America
- This company is founded in 1880 by Otto Harman khan
- The company is operated by the non-profit Metropolitan Opera Association, with Peter Gelb as general manager.
- This company is one of the largest companies in North America related to music.
- We found almost 27 types of different operas each year from late September through May.
- The operas are presented in a rotating repertory schedule, with up to seven performances of four different works staged each week.
- Performances are given in the evening Monday through Saturday with a matinee on Saturday.
- In America this company is promoting and conserving this western classical art
- During this pandemic, this company faced a lot of problem but with the support of art and music lovers, once again this company had opened its door for the public so that art lovers could enjoy in this pandemic also
- Nowadays, opera is being popular in Asian countries also and this company is promoting opera in entire world

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Matrilineal Meghalaya to give land rights to men

Matrilineal Meghalaya is set to break the tradition of sharing parental property to the khatduh, which means the youngest daughter in the Khasi language.

Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council (KHADC) is about to introduce the Khasi Hills Autonomous

District Khasi Inheritance of Property Bill, 2021 for equitable distribution of ancestral property among siblings, both male and female

MATRILINEAL SYSTEM IN MEGHALAYA

- The three tribes of Meghalaya (Khasis, Jaintias, and Garos) practise a matrilineal system of inheritance.
- In this system, lineage and descent are traced through the mother's clan. In other words, children take the mother's surname, the husband moves into his wife's house, and the youngest daughter (khatduh) of the family is bequeathed the full share of the ancestral (or the clan's) property.
- The khatduh becomes the "custodian" of the land, and assumes all responsibility associated with the land, including taking care of aged parents, unmarried or destitute siblings.
- Custom also dictates that the khatduh cannot sell the property, without permission of her mother's brother (maternal uncle) — since he technically belongs to the mother's clan, through which descent is traced.
- This inheritance tradition applies only to ancestral or clan/community property, which has been with the family for years. On the other hand, self-acquired property can be distributed equally among siblings
- In this traditional set-up, if a couple does not have any daughters, then the property goes to the wife's elder sister, and her daughters.
- If the wife does not have sisters, then the clan usually takes over the property.

FEATURES OF THE BILL

- It is aimed at "equitable distribution" of parental property among siblings(both male & Female) in the Khasi community.
- It would let parents decide who they want their property to.
- It prevents a sibling from getting parental property if they marry a non-Khasi and accept the spouse's customs and culture.
- If implemented, the proposed Bill would modify an age-old customary practice of inheritance of the matrilineal Khasi tribe.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE SYSTEM

- The system "disinherits" men, and denies equitable property distribution between all children in the family.
- Boys are not able to take loans because there is no collateral to show.
- When a couple has no children, and there is no genuine heir, the clan takes over the property, as per custom.
- It leads to a number of litigations by children against their parents.
- Only about 35-38% of women own property in the state; because most of the property is clan property or community property.

IMPACT

- This would modify an age-old customary practice of inheritance of the matrilineal Khasi tribe.
- The legislation is aimed at economic empowerment based on the principle of equitable distribution of property.

CONCLUSION

If implemented, the proposed Bill would modify an age-old customary practice of inheritance of the matrilineal Khasi tribe and will give equal representation.

Swarn Singh

One Sun One World One Grid (GGI-OSOWOG)

Mentioned in the ancient text, in the Suryopanishad, that everything is created from the Sun, the source of all energy is the Sun and it is the energy from the Sun which nurtures us.

The Green Grids Initiative—One Sun One World One Grid (GGI-OSOWOG), the first international network of global interconnected solar power grids, was launched.

THE VISION

‘The Sun Never Sets’ and is a constant at some geographical location, globally, at any given point of time.

With India in the middle, the solar spectrum can easily be divided into two broad zones, which are:

- Far East including countries like Myanmar, Vietnam, Thailand, Lao, Cambodia etc.
- Far West covering the Middle East and the Africa Region.

THREE PHASES OF THE PLAN:

First Phase: It will entail interconnectivity within the Asian continent.

Second Phase: It will add Africa.

Third Phase: It is about global interconnection.

Issues with the Project

GEOPOLITICS:

The project is seen as an Indian endeavour for world leadership but under Covid-19 uncertainties, the geopolitical implications of projects like OSOWOG are hard to decipher.

The mechanism of cost-sharing will be challenging, given the varied priorities of participating countries depending on their socio-economic orders.

GLOBALISATION VS DE-GLOBALISATION:

- The OSOWOG will turn out to be an expensive, complex and very slow progress project.
- The strategic benefits, if any, of having a single grid will be obliterated in the wake of any geopolitical problem.
- In India, the major issue of renewable energy developers is to deal with different state governments and hence, different laws and regulations.
- Further, the project also contradicts the Prime Minister’s Aatmanirbhar Bharat (self-dependent India) vision, as it extends the reliance for a major strategic entity, energy supply, to other countries through this grid.

COST BENEFIT

Supply of energy through this grid, in a time zone with a six-hour difference will require thousands of kilometres of transmission of the electricity, which will add up a huge cost.

Centralised vs Distributed Generation

There is a difference in voltage, frequency and specifications of the grid in most regions. Maintaining grid stability with just renewable generation would be technically difficult.

SIGNIFICANCE OF OSOWOG

1. The project seeks to assist all its participating bodies to attract effective investments in renewable energy sources by utilising technology, finance and skill.
2. A collaborative effort by all stakeholder countries will lead to reduced project costs, higher efficiencies and increased asset utilisation for all involved.
3. The resulting economic benefit of using a more cost effective source of energy production could be employed in other areas such as poverty alleviation, provision of drinking water, sanitation facilities and food security.
4. Global collaboration will bring in increased investment into research and development centres like the centre for National Renewable Energy Management in India, as these will now become global and regional management centres.

WAY FORWARD

- Future renewable-based energy systems globally because regional and international interconnected green grids can enable sharing and balancing of renewable energy across international borders.
- It allows grabbing opportunities to learn quickly from global developments and share renewable energy resources to reduce the global carbon footprint
- Institution building is key to fulfilling the ambitions of a multi-country grid project. In this context, ISA (International Solar Alliance) can act as an independent supranational institution to take decisions about how the grid should be run and conflicts settled

CONCLUSION

The future of OSOWOG is therefore as bright as the sun.

Swarn Singh

CAATSA LAW

WHAT IS CAATSA

The US Congress passed Countering America's Adversaries through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) in 2017. It was signed by current US President Donald Trump on 02 August 2017 with an aim to counter the aggressions by Russia, Iran and North Korea. The US President has delegated his powers through CAATSA to ban 39 Russian entities, dealings with which could make third parties liable to sanctions. Its major objective is to discourage exports of Russian defence equipment.

THE LAW IS DESIGNED TO PUNISH RUSSIAN PRESIDENT VLADIMIR PUTIN FOR THE

- 2014 annexation of Crimea from Ukraine
- Involvement in the Syrian civil war
- Meddling in the 2016 U.S. presidential election

WHAT SANCTIONS WILL BE IMPOSED?

- prohibition on loans to the sanctioned person.
- prohibition of Export-Import bank assistance for exports to sanctioned persons.
- prohibition on procurement by the United States Government to procure goods or services from the sanctioned person.
- denial of visas to persons closely associated with the sanctioned person.

None of these is of any material consequence. There are only two sanctions that may impact either India-Russia relations or India-US relations.

The first of these, which is likely to have an impact on relations, is the “Prohibition of Banking transactions” [Sec. 235(a)(8) of CAATSA]. Under this, the Secretary of the Treasury would prohibit the opening, and prohibit or impose strict conditions on maintaining, in the United States, correspondent accounts or payable-through accounts of Financial Institutions engaged in transfer of funds from the sanctioned person to the Russian defence sector. This would mean difficulties for India in making payments in US Dollars to Rosoboronexport for the purchase of the S-400 systems.

The second sanction will have far greater consequences, not for India-Russia relations, but for India-US relations. And that is the “Export sanction” [Sec. 235(a)(2)], which has the potential to completely derail the India-US Strategic and Defence partnership, as it will deny the license for, and export of, any items controlled by the US to the sanctioned person under

- the Export Administration Act (EAA) (all dual-use high technology goods and technology);
- the Arms Export Control Act (AECA) (all defence related items);
- the Atomic Energy Act (AEA) (all nuclear related items); and
- all other items from the US requiring prior review and approval of the United States Government.

US President Biden urged not to impose CAATSA sanctions on India

The reasons behind it

“First, India has taken significant steps to reduce its imports of Russian military hardware in recent years. From 2016 to 2020, there was a 53 per cent drop in Russian arms exports to India compared to the preceding five-year period.

These are positive trends that show India’s effort to reduce reliance on Russian equipment, and a desire to take advantage of its new status as a Strategic Trade Authorization-1 (STA-1) partner,

“Second, there is a national security imperative to waiving sanctions. Imposing sanctions at this time could derail deepening cooperation with India across all aspects of our bilateral relationship – from vaccines to defence cooperation, from energy strategy to technology sharing.

CONCLUSION

Actions reinforce India’s status as a Major Defense Partner and will provide another avenue to counter PRC influence in the Indo-Pacific,

Swarn Singh

Rangoli : A historic ritual of Hindu festival Diwali

CONTEXT :

On the occasion, we see that Rangoli is depicted in every house on the occasion of Hindu's auspicious festival diwali. A kolam artist has adopted the multicoloured tradition of the rangoli. In fact the rangoli art is not popular in Northern India but also it is popular in entire India

HISTORY

- The word "rangoli" is similar to the word "rangavalli" which is a Sanskrit word. Which means "rows of colors,". Thus the simple meaning of Rangoli is the coloured rows for the purpose of worshipping God and it is depicted on the occasion of diwali to remove darkness from our life
- Rangoli is one of the oldest art in India. The description of Rangoli can be found in Puranas also. Puranas are composed during the Gupta period.
- Rangoli art is made for the worship of god.
- There is a story regarding Rangoli art that is famous in Indian Myth. As per this story this art was originated by Lopamudra, wife of a Rigvedic sage Agasta. Lopamudra also wrote some hymns of the Rigveda. Since Agasta lived in a remote area, it was difficult for him to perform yajnas by making Yajna Vedi. To help her husband Lopamudra made rangoli art to worship God (It was a decoration of the Yajna Kunda/ vedi)
- Lopamudra used five colours from the universe. She took these five colours from Panchtatva through which this universe is formed. These panch tatvas are sky, wind, water, earth, fire. She took blue colour from sky, green colour from water or nature, black from soil/land/ white colour from wind and red colour from fire. These colours are original colours used in rangoli art
- All these colours of the Rangoli have some significance also. For example black is the symbol of strength and unity, while red colour is the symbol of anger, danger or punishment or law and order. It implies to follow the social rules (Code of conduct), White is the symbol of peace and humbleness and positivity. Nowadays all these colours of Rangoli are used for the decoration on the occasion of Diwali

There are several myths that are popular related to Rangoli. In Gujarat, a story of rangoli is related to Lord Krishna. The wife of Krishna first time made Rangoli in for the worship of Lord Krishna.

Anyway this Rangoli art is famous throughout India and it is known by various names in the various parts of India also.

In West Bengal, rangoli is known as the name of Alpana, while in Orissa, its other name is Joti, In Chhattisgarh, it is known as Chauk purna. Generally in some village of Uttar Pradesh Chowk Purn is also another name of rangoli, but, in Chauka purana, in UP, people use only white colour. In Karnataka, Rangoli is the popular with its original name rangoli while in Maharashtra its name is sanskar Bharti. In modern days rangoli art is famous only because of the rangoli artist of the Tamilnadu where Rangoli is called Kaolam

In modern days, many artists of the Rangoli belonging from Tamilnadu have earned fame at international level. Nowadays, not only on the occasion of Diwali, but also on the occasion of every auspicious festival the Rangoli art is formed.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

STUBBLE BURNING

WHAT IS STUBBLE BURNING?

Stubble burning is the practice where intentionally fire is set to the straw stubble that remains after grains, such as paddy, rice and wheat, have been harvested.

ADVANTAGES OF STUBBLE BURNING

The advantages of burning are:

- Helps in weed, insect and disease control
- Cheap
- quick and easy to do
- reduced nitrogen tie-up.

DISADVANTAGES

The disadvantages of burning are:

- loss of soil nutrients
- loss of carbon
- impact on soil microbes and fauna
- reduction in soil structure
- Leads to erosion (wind and water)
- Increase acidity

Effects of stubble burning

Major pollutants released into the atmosphere during crop residue burning

Environmental risks and health risks

HEALTH RISK

Stubble burning is a main source of gaseous pollutants like, carbon dioxide (CO₂), carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), sulfur oxides (SO_x), and methane (CH₄) as also particulate matters (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}). These air pollutants are a concern for people's health when levels in the air are high. PM 2.5 and PM₁₀ can lead to cancer.

The other health effects of air pollution ranges from

- skin and eyes irritation
- severe neurological, cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, bronchitis, lung capacity loss, cancer,
- Leads to an increase in mortality rates

ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS

It leads to air pollution. Emission of greenhouse gases leads to global climate change. It further leads to loss of diversity of agricultural lands, and reduces soil fertility and erodes soil nutrients.

SOLUTIONS TO BURNING PROBLEM

In 2014, the government released the National Policy for Management of Crop Residue.

Farmers can also manage crop residues effectively by employing agricultural machines like:

- **Happy Seeder** (used for sowing of crop in standing stubble)
- **Zero till seed drill** (used for land preparations directly sowing of seeds in the previous crop stubble)
- **Rotavator** (used for land preparation and incorporation of crop stubble in the soil)
- **Baler** (used for collection of straw and making bales of the paddy stubble)
- **Paddy Straw Chopper** (cutting of paddy stubble for easily mixing with the soil)
- **Reaper Binder** (used for harvesting paddy stubble and making into bundles)
- The most efficient technology to counter crop burning at the moment seems to be the **Turbo Happy Seeder (THS)**. It is a machine mounted on a tractor that not only cuts and uproots the stubble, but it also drills wheat seeds on the soil that has just been cleared up. The straw is simultaneously thrown over the sown seeds to form a mulch cover.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION AGAINST THIS STUBBLE BURNING BASED ON FOLLOWING COMPONENTS OF THE FRAMEWORK: –

- In-situ Crop Residue Management
 - Microbial spray have been developed
 - Ex-situ Crop Residue Management
1. Prohibition of Stubble/Crop Residue Burning.
 2. Effective monitoring/enforcement.
 3. Plans / Schemes to reduce the generation of paddy straw.
- Use of Bio-Decomposer technology
 - Removal of dust from roads and open area
 - Installation of Anti-smog guns
 - Use of E vehicles

CONCLUSION

Stubble burning has to be taken seriously so that we can stop these environmental and health risks. We should work on real solutions that can work to overcome this issue.

Swarn Singh

The right time for India to have its own climate law

A nation that destroys its soils destroys itself. Forests are the lungs of our land, purifying the air and giving fresh strength to our people. - Franklin D. Roosevelt

WHAT IS CLIMATE

The normal weather condition of a particular region. It is mainly the pattern of variation in temperature, humidity, atmospheric pressure, wind, precipitation, in a given region over long periods.

THAN WHAT IS CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change mainly means a change in the average conditions — such as temperature and rainfall — in a region over a long period of time.

India is an agricultural based economy and its beauty is based on its environment which is seen from Himalayas in the north to kanyakumari in the south. With beautiful mountain ranges and flora and fauna.

But we are seeing that India is now facing a lot of climate change like temperature rising, glaciers melting, rising sea level.

India is now amongst the third ranking among the emission of greenhouse gases. We should take all steps to control this and have some strict laws.

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND POLICIES

Before India's independence several environmental legislations existed, but the real impetus for bringing about a well-developed framework came only after the UN Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm, 1972). The National Council for Environmental Policy and Planning within the Department of Science and Technology was set up in 1972 and in 1985 it came into a full-fledged Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) which today is the apex administrative body in the country for regulating and ensuring environmental protection. After the Stockholm Conference, in 1976, constitutional sanction was given to environmental concerns through the 42nd Amendment, which incorporated them into the Directive Principles of State Policy and Fundamental Rights and Duties.

During British time we had the Indian penal code 1860, factory act 1897. And after independence we have many laws like National Environment Policy, 2006, Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (EPA)

CURRENT LAWS AND GAPS

- **Existing Laws are not adequate to deal with climate change.**

Like laws for the environment, water and air are there but climate is not about water or air. We should have laws which would cover the impacts of floods, and how to reduce future climate impacts. The Law on environment like Environment (Protection) Act is inadequate to deal with violations on climate.

- **We should integrate climate action- adaption, mitigation and monitoring.**
- The 500 Gigawatt by 2030 goal for renewable, solar or wind power can put critically endangered grassland and desert birds such as the Great Indian Bustard at risk, as they die on collision with wires in the desert.

CREATION OF COMMISSION

A climate law could consider these aspects.

- **One, creating an institution that monitors action plans for climate change**

A 'Commission on Climate Change' could be set up, with the power and the authority to issue directions, and implementation of plans and programmes on climate. The Commission could have quasi judicial powers with powers of a civil court

- **Second, we need a system of liability and accountability at short, medium and long term levels when we face hazards.**

In an order of the National Green Tribunal in 2016, the court examined the damage caused when a cloudburst occurred in 2013 in Pauri, Uttarakhand which damaged a lot of property and lives were lost.

CONCLUSION

India needs an urgent moral imperative to tackle climate change and reduce its worst impacts. But we also should have laws which should have the spine, the heart and teeth also

Swarn Singh





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Rangoli : A Tradition form of Indian Art

CONTEXT :

On the Auspicious occasion of the rangoli various types of Rangolis are being depicted in each housed of India and many artisans they earned their name in this art

RANGOLI AS THE CULTURAL HERITAGE

Rangoli is not only modern art which we see in modern days only on the occasion of Diwali, This is the one of the oldest art of India which has been popular in India during Vedic period and even in Ancient India, it has been too popular. This is a folk art, generally made on the floor.

In Ancient India, natural colours were used in the Rangoli, those colors were obtained from leaf, cow dung etc.

As per the Indian tradition, it first originated in Maharashtra and from Maharashtra it spreaded in the entire India gradually. In Southern India it is known as with the name of kolam and In rajasthan it is known as madonna and in bihar it is known as Arpana

In fact in ancient India people used to decorate their houses with rangoli

In Maharashtra, we see the Rangoli made daily in front of the houses.

This art is made three dimensionally on the floor on any auspicious occasion, (Birthday, marriage, or any religious festival)

On the occasion of Diwali it is made for welcoming Laxi, the goddess of prosperity

According to the Chitralakshana (A text of Mukul Raj Ananad in which the history of Indian painting has been described, Published by national Book Trust Delhi in 1989)

As per the description of Chitralakshana, there is a story regarding a king, and his kingdom were steeped in sorrow at the death of the high priest's son.

The king prayed to Lord Brahma for blessings and gave life to his son. When Brahma accepted his prayer he asked the king to paint a portrait of the boy on the floor so that he could breathe life into it.and from this incident this art evolved. This art is made on the floor by using rice, rice, flour and flowers and through this art people worship the God

In Rangoli, frist we clean the dusted floor and then we make some designs (three dimensional by drawing rows and columns). We use various colours to decorate it The colours are used in powder form or the grains like rice and wheat may be coloured first and then it may be used

This art is described in various other ancient Indian texts also. The Bharat Muni also describes Rangoli in

Natyashastra. This art is also described in other ancient texts like Ramayana, Mahabharata, Bhagwatgita and other texts also.

In the vaishnava sect, this art was popular in Tamilnadu also. Among Alwar saints, this art was most popular, there is description in Tamil Texts in which it is stated that there is an auspicious month Margashirsha which is dedicated to the worship of lord Vishnu and Amman. During 8th century, this alvar saint had no children for long and when he prayed for God, by grace of God he was gifted a daughter

In this way, we see that Rangoli art is religious as well as historically significant artwork.

INDIAN LEOPARD WITNESSING POPULATION DECLINE GS-3 CONSERVATION, ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION & DEGRADATION

CONTEXT

According to research **leopard faces an 83% increased risk of extinction in North India due to roadkill.** The research was published in the international journal Global Ecology and Biogeography. India's leopard population has reduced to one tenth in the last 100 years, experiencing catastrophic declines due to increasing human pressures. Some common threats the animal faces today—ranging from conflicts with humans, poaching, habitat loss to availability of prey—a group of scientists with new insights on loss of leopard abundance. Therefore there are much needed projects required on the similar lines of “Project Tiger”.

SALIENT FEATURES OF THE REPORT:

The **leopard population of North India is vulnerable** among four animal populations. Leopards are identified as being the **most vulnerable and are prone to go extinct in the next 50 years** if observed roadkill levels continue with the same effect. According to the study at an **83% increased risk**, the North Indian leopard **population will take 33 years to become extinct.**

Existing roadkill data used for 392 mammal species on six continents, the calculations are based on population density, roadkill rates, sexual maturity age, litter size etc. For the North Indian leopard population, the study was carried out in Uttarakhand's Rajaji National Park and Haridwar Conservation area. If at least 20% of the population has been killed by roadkill, the risk of local extinction can increase by 10%.

Other populations which lie in the same vulnerability include the **lion-tailed macaque (Macaca silenus)** and **sloth bear (Melursus ursinus)** in South India.

The study **focuses on Sub-Saharan Africa and south-eastern Asia as regions where roads can lead to loss of mammalian biodiversity** and thus, areas where future road development and road mitigation need to be carefully considered.

ABOUT LEOPARD

The leopard (*Panthera pardus*) is the one of the **smallest Big Cats of genus Panthera, namely the Tiger, Lion, Jaguar, Leopard,** and Snow Leopard, and known for its ability to adapt in any habitat.

Leopards are nocturnal animals, which means they like to hunt during night times. They usually **feed on smaller species of herbivores like deers, chital, wild pigs, wild boars etc.** **Melanism** is a common phenomenon in leopards, where their entire skin of the animal turns black in colour, including its spots such a **leopard is often called black panther** or jaguar, and mistakenly thought to be a different species, however they are the same.

HABITAT

Leopards occur in a wide range in **sub-Saharan African countries, in small parts of Western and Central Asian countries, on the Indian subcontinent** to Southeast and East Asia. The **Indian leopard (*Panthera pardus fusca*)** is a leopard widely distributed on the Indian subcontinent.

As per a recent report released by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and climate change titled '**Status of leopards in India, 2018**' there has been a **"60% increase in the population count of leopards in India from 2014 estimates"**. The 2014 estimates 8000 individuals which nearly increased to 12,852 individuals. The **highest population of leopards in Indian states have been recorded** in Madhya Pradesh (3,421) followed by Karnataka (1,783) and Maharashtra (1,690).

THREATS

- Poaching
- Death Due to accidents
- Habitat loss
- Fragmentation of habitat
- Human-Leopard conflict
- Illegal wildlife trade
- Incompetent conservation policies

PRESENT CONSERVATION STATUS:

- In IUCN Red List leopards are classified as **Vulnerable**
- In CITES leopard are classified under **Appendix-I**
- In Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 leopards are classified under Schedule-I which prohibits its poaching.

Anshum Verma

RBI integrating Climate related risk into Financial Stability (GS 3, Economics, The Hindu, Indian Express)



NEWS/CONTEXT:

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) published its 'Statement of Commitment to Support Greening India's Financial System – NGFS', coinciding with the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26). The apex bank (RBI) joined the Central Banks and Supervisors Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS) as a Member on April 23, and aims to learn from as well as contribute to global efforts on green finance.

The commitment of RBI to integrate climate-related risks into financial stability monitoring and to explore use of climate scenario exercises to identify weakness in the central bank-supervised entities is appreciable. **RBI in a statement said that it supports broadly the declaration of Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS). "We commend the co-ordination efforts of NGFS in defining, promoting, and contributing to the development of best practices in climate finance through sharing experiences and best practices for climate risk management in the financial sector," it said.**

"Specifically in respect of the national commitments, complexity and priorities of the country's financial system, RBI is committed to integrate climate-related risks into financial stability monitoring," according to the statement.

Further, the central bank said that it was committed to **"look into how climate scenario exercises can be used to identify loopholes in RBI supervised entities' business models, their balance sheets, and gaps in their abilities for managing and measuring climate-related financial risks."**

Launched at the Paris One Planet Summit on December 12, 2017, NGFS is a group of central banks and regulators seeking to share best practices and contribute to the evolution of environment and climate risk management in the financial sector while deploying mainstream finance to support the adaptation towards a sustainable economy.

Climate Change and Macroeconomic transitions: It has been analysed in the major weather related events in India since 1901, shows that the extreme events incidence has increased in the last two decades, with increasing temperature levels and more volatile precipitation pattern. As per the empirical findings, macroeconomic impact of climate change on certain indicators of real economic flow and particularly on food inflation has been statistical is significant for India. Climate change and the related shift in the weather pattern along with an increase in average world temperature has emerged as a key risk to macroeconomic outlook for both developed and developing economics. The United Nation has noted that 'the climate change is the defining issue of our time and we are at a defining moment'. India too has seen significant changes in climatic behaviour in the recent period.

The cumulative level of greenhouse gas emissions has increased with the increase in world population. As per International Energy agency (IEA), 2,299 million tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂) by india in 2018, a rise of 4.8 per cent over the previous year.

The inflation and growth outlook in India continues to be influenced by the amount of rainfall received from southwest monsoon and distribution. India receives 75% of annual rainfall from southwest monsoon during four months from June to September, which is very important for agriculture sector, given the fact that 65% of gross cropped area in India still remains unirrigated. In 2019 a prolonged dry spell in the initial months along with heavy rainfall as monsoon progressed led to floods and crop damage integral parts of the country.

The mean annual temperature in the past two decades, India has witnessed a significant rise.

India Meteorological Department records, 2016 has been the warmest year on record for India.

Gradually increasing average wall temperature is a long term characteristics of changing climate conditions across the globe. Extreme weather incidence like changing precipitation patterns, its skewed distribution, increasing intensity and frequency of floods, unseasonal rainfall, draughts and heat waves, melting of glaciers and rising sea levels pose serious macroeconomic challenges and risks. These extremities can cause severe

damage to the people's livelihood and output of an economy. Climate change thus, alongwith technological rapid advancements and shifts in demography, has the potential to bring about economic transformation significantly.

Among the macroeconomic transformation, the most evident is agricultural output, the others could be adverse effects on labour productivity, mortality rates, asset's prices and investment decisions.

MD. Layeeque Azam

Pt Chhannu lal Mishra : A renowned Hindustani Classical Singer (GS Paper I : Art and Culture)

CONTEXT :

Pandit Chhannu lal Mishra, a renowned Hindustani Classical singer is awarded with One of the most prestigious Award Padma Vibhushan (Second highest civilian award of India after Bharat Ratna) by our honorable president Ram nath Kovind on 8th Nov 2021.

BIOGRAPHY OF CHHANNULAL MISHRA :

- The most prominent classical singer of Varanasi Pt Chhannulal was born in 1936 (3rd August) in Azamgarh dist (Uttar pradesh). Since beginning he learnt the elementary music from Varanasi and his entire life He served Varanasi through his music/ bhajans
- His father was also a good singer of classical music. Pandit learned basics of the music from his father Pt Badri Prasad Mishra
- Later on, he went to the ustad Abdul Ghani khan to learn music. Abdul Ghani Khan was a renowned musician of Kirana Gharana.
- Late padma Bhushan thakur jaidev Singh also taught him the Classical music and he became the popular shishya (Pupil/ disciple) of Thakur jaidev Singh
- He was awarded with padma Bhushan in 2010 and also nominated as navranta by Our PM Narendra Modi for clean india Campaign
- He was also awarded with several other awards like Shiromani Award of Sur Singar Sansad, Uttar pradesh Sangeet natak Akademi Award, Naushad Award, yash bharti Award as well as Bihar Sangeet Shiromani award. Pt Madan Mohal Malviya award by BHU
- He also received an award of international level Smithsonian award (1995) provide by Air and space auditorium, Washington DC
- He was honored by London Music festival
- Pandit ji is also entitled with Jewel of Tumari
- He had equally command on Khayal, dadra, Thumari, chaiti, kajri sawani, holi and Bhajan
- He sung many bhajans and many gajal which had become popular not only in India but beyond this boundary
- His bhajan sung for the Bollywood (Sans Alveli in the movie Arakshan) has become too much popular also
- He is popular in kahaya (A type of Hindustani classical music) and Thumari (Thumri is a vocal genre or style of Indian music.)
- He is also recognized as the top grade artist of all India radio as well as Door darshan

- In various government cultural bodies his presence could be seen. For example he is a prominent member of the ministry of culture (government of India). Many Time our PM has met with him, since the constituency of PM is the residential place of Pt Chhanula Mishra is same
- His entire family is related with music and they are carrying the tradition of Hindustani Classical Music. His on in law, pt Anokhe Lal Mishra was also a good tabla player and his son Pt Ram kumar misra is gradaly earning fame as tabla master

He is teaching the basics of music in Varanasi. This work of Pt Chhannulal Mishra ji is really commendable that he is transferring our cultural heritage to the next generation. Definitely he is not only a jewel of Indian traditional music but also Jewels of Indian culture also. He is preserving our cultural heritage. In his honour, our President tweeted that Shri Mishra has the distinction of being equally proficient in classical, semi-classical, light music and folk music.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

India ahead of China in Financial Inclusion; Why is Financial Inclusion important? (GS 3, Economics, The Hindu, Indian Express, RBI)



NEWS/ CONTEXT:

India is now ahead of China in financial inclusion metrics, with mobile and Internet banking transactions rising to 13,615 per 1,000 adults in 2020 from 183 in 2015 and the number of bank branches inching up to 14.7 per 1 lakh adults in 2020 from 13.6 in 2015, which is higher than in Germany, China and South Africa, as per a SBI report. The report says that the use of digital payments between 2015 and 2020, internet and mobile banking transaction per 1000 adults have increased to 13615 in 2019 from 183 in 2015.

Pradhanmantri Jan Aadhar Yojana along with robust digital infrastructure, since 2014, usage of Banking

correspondent model judiciously and recalibration of Bank branches played a very important role in achieving this milestone. It must be noted that **financial inclusion policies have a multiplier effect on economic growth, poverty and income inequality reduction**, while being promising for financial stability and thus in enhancing the standard of living of common people.

The SBI report has also noted that the states with higher Pradhanmantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) account balances have seen a **perceptible decline in crime**. States with more PMJDY accounts are why accounts are opened, witnessed **drop in consumption of intoxicants such as alcohol and tobacco products** which is statistically significant and economically meaningful.

Banking correspondent model has also played a very important role in this regard as per the report. Banking correspondent in India is enabled to provide a defined range of banking services at low cost and hence is instrumental in promoting financial inclusion.

“The new branch authorisation policy of 2017 – which recognises BCs that provide banking services for a minimum of 4-hours per day and for at least 5-days a week as banking outlets has progressively obviated the need to set up brick and mortar branches. For example, the number of ‘Banking Outlets in Villages – BCs’ has risen from 34,174 in Mar’10 to 12.4 lakh in Dec’20. Such progress shows an impressive outreach of banking services through branchless banking,” the report said.

What is Financial Inclusion: Financial inclusion may be defined as the process of ensuring access to financial services and timely and adequate credit where needed by vulnerable groups such as weaker sections and low income groups at an affordable cost (The Committee on Financial Inclusion, Chairman: Dr. C. Rangarajan). Financial Inclusion, broadly defined, refers to universal access to a wide range of financial services at a reasonable cost. These include not only banking products but also other financial services such as insurance and equity products (The Committee on Financial Sector Reforms, Chairman: Dr. Raghuram G. Rajan).

The essence of financial inclusion is to ensure delivery of financial services which include – bank accounts for savings and transactional purposes, low cost credit for productive, personal and other purposes, financial advisory services, insurance facilities (life and non-life) etc.

The Government of India and the Reserve Bank of India have been making concerted efforts to promote financial inclusion as one of the important national objectives of the country. Some of the major efforts made in the last five decades include – nationalization of banks, building up of robust branch network of scheduled commercial banks, co-operatives and regional rural banks, introduction of mandated priority sector lending targets, lead bank scheme, formation of self-help groups, permitting Banking Correspondents/ Banking Facilitators (BCs/BFs) to be appointed by banks to provide doorstep delivery of banking services, zero balance BSBD (Basic Savings Bank Deposit) accounts, etc. The fundamental objective of all these initiatives is to reach the large sections of the hitherto financially excluded Indian population, as Financial Inclusion plays a crucial role in eliminating poverty.

“Overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity. It is an act of justice. It is the protection of a fundamental human right, the right to dignity and a decent life. While poverty persists, there is no true freedom. Sometimes it falls upon a generation to be great. You can be that great generation. Let your greatness blossom. Of course, the task will not be easy. But not to do this would be a crime against humanity, against which I ask all humanity now to rise up.”Nelson Mandela

“The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little.” – Franklin D. Roosevelt

“Poverty is the worst form of violence.” Mahatma Gandhi

“If the misery of the poor be caused not by the laws of nature, but by our institutions, great is our sin.”
..... Charles Darwin

MD. Layeeque Azam

A fire can take place anywhere and at any time, it's unpredictable (GS-3)

A fire can take place anywhere and at any time, it's unpredictable. We can expect a fire at your home or at your workplace or in a hospital or in public places like theatres, malls, restaurants. Fire in any occupancy has the potential to cause harm to catch hold the people and severe damage to property.

- In India, every year, nearly more than 25,000 persons die due to fires and related causes.
- Nearly about 66% of females were killed in fire accidents. It is estimated that about 21 males and 42 females die every day in India due to fire. If we have enough fire protection measures many of these deaths could have been prevented
- Provisions in India Related to Fire Safety

CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISION

- The Fire Services is a state subject and has been included in the XIIth Schedule of the
- Constitution of India under Article 243 (W).
- The National Building Code of India, 2016
- Titled 'Fire and Life Safety of the NBC Part 4
- All existing and new buildings are classified by nature of use, such as educational, residential, institutional, assembly, business, industrial, storage and hazardous.

THE CODE COVERS THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

- Fire Prevention: This covers fire prevention pertaining to the design and construction of buildings. It also explains the various types of building materials and their fire rating.
- Life Safety: It covers life safety provisions in the event of fire and similar emergencies, also addressing construction and occupancy features that are necessary to minimise danger to life from fire, smoke.

THE MODEL BUILDING BYE LAWS, 2016

- The Ministry of Urban Development has framed a circular called "Model Building By Laws 2016" which states the mechanism and engineering parameters to keep in mind before starting any construction project.

GUIDELINES BY NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (NDMA):

- It has given guidelines regarding fire safety in public buildings, including hospitals, which incorporate elements of the NBC, besides design guidelines on maintaining minimum open safety space, protected exit mechanisms, dedicated staircases, drills to carry out evacuations.
- In 2019 the Central Government has also circulated 'Model Bill on Maintenance of Fire & Emergency Services.

LOOPHOLES

- Violations of norms and standards laid down under the national building construct code which leads to fire accidents
- Lack of inadequate fire protection in skyscrapers leads to accident

- Inadequate modern equipment and resources
- Lack of funds
- Inadequate uniform fire safety legislation
- Lack of awareness about safety arrangements

PREVENTION STRATEGY

- Large numbers regarding construction of buildings and regularly keep a check on different types of firefighting equipment and suppression systems like CO₂, FM 200, and NOVEC, to suit specific requirements.
- Follow proper norm
- Training the employees / occupants regarding fire safety or in for fire drills
- Awareness among citizens
- Proper design of electrical fittings
- Proper demarcation of entry and exit in crowded buildings

WAY FORWARD

- As it is a state subject so municipal and local bodies are responsible for providing fire services
- Need to break the bureaucracy-real estate business nexus.
- Strict implementation of laws is necessary regarding fire regulations
- The organisations should also be insured for the highest levels of public liability.

CONCLUSION:-

Every human being is important so their safety of life should be the first priority for that good rules and regulations are more important regarding fire safety

Swarn Singh

FALLING DOWN COVID CASES IN INDIA : REASON FOR OPTIMISM?

CONTEXT:

In India's battle against the COVID-19 pandemic, there is a reason for optimism as new coronavirus daily cases have dipped to a 9-month low.

ACCORDING TO THE HEALTH MINISTRY, THE REASONS FOR OPTIMISM→

- Country's active case load 1,46,950 cases (a 262-day low)
- Since the pandemic began in March 2020, the active cases were 0.43% of the total caseload and the lowest so far.
- Since September, **Globally** also, the daily caseload has **fallen** by nearly 1/3rd, but the virus continues to infect

All this is after the situation where India was hit by a second wave, led by a dominating Delta variant that saw daily cases increment to approx 4,00,000 a day and numerous deaths in many States.

VACCINATION :

- About 74 crore **first doses** of the vaccine have been administered, which amounts to 56% of the population.
- Close to 34 crore **second doses** have been administered which stand for a quarter of the population being fully inoculated.

RESULTS FROM SEROLOGY SURVEYS –

show that many more have been exposed to the virus than official numbers but is not fatal.

The future demand for vaccination may depend on children's adoption or on the demand for **booster shots** from people who are worried about dwindling immunity.

THE FOLLOWING SCENES CLARIFIES THE DECLINE IN COVID-FEAR :-

- Queues in airports
- Crowds in tourist destinations
- Rejuvenation in several indices of trade and economic activity

THE NEXT IMPORTANT STEP OF THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE TOWARDS:

- Last mile delivery of vaccines
- Advocating caution to avoid another wave of infections
- facilitate the upgradation of hospital infrastructure in every district
- Building up stocks of promising antivirals
- Ensure that vaccine companies increase supplies

Inspite of the falling COVID-19 cases, India must focus on the improvement in vaccination, treatment and continue its pace in the same direction.

Rajeev Yadav

MGNREGA payments Delays

MGNREGA payments Delays

CONTEXT :

The Study shows –

- 71% MGNREGA wages were not paid on time
- 14% delayed beyond 30 days

8 crore MGNREGA wage transactions were pending on Diwali.

→ Over the past two months, Payments have not been made under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), leaving lakhs of workers in distress.

There are also delays in the stage where the Central government transfers wages to the workers' accounts

PAYMENT DELAYS :

A/c, the People's Action for Employment Guarantee (PAEG)

metrics on MGNREGA implementation → the funds allocated for this financial year (FY) is **34% lower** than the revised budget allocation of last year and this year's funds have been exhausted.

The Rural Development Ministry has issued a press release stating that, Currently Rs.8921 crore funds are available to meet the wage liability.

In opposition to the Ministry's statement, the Ministry has not accounted for pending arrears of ₹17,543 crore from previous years.

According to, the Ministry of Finance, this has been due to-

Insufficient funds.

GENERALLY, IN THE WAGE PAYMENT PROCESS, THERE ARE 2 STAGES :-

Stage 1 → States electronically send invoices (FTOs) to the Central government within 8 days of work completion at worksite; having essential worker details (their names, bank account numbers)

Stage 2 → Then the Central government processes the invoices and transfers wages directly to the workers' accounts.

Stage 2 is the responsibility of Central government which should be completed within 7 days after Stage 1.

Since Supreme Court orders in 2018, the delays in Stage 1 have reduced while they still continue in Stage 2.

AS PER THE ACT,

If Stage 1 + Stage 2 = 15 days, then workers are entitled to a **delay compensation** for each day's delay.

The Central government has repeatedly adjusted the payment architecture and tried to show that payment delays are an artefact of technological hurdles.

CASTE-BASED SEGREGATION:

On March 2, the Central government issued a circular to segregate invoices based on the caste of workers (Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and 'Others').

Earlier, the invoices were not segregated by caste.

The negative impact of caste-based segregation has been found from :

- Madhya Pradesh
- Jharkhand
- Odisha
- West Bengal

AS PER THE REPORTS :

- Stage 2 was completed in 7 days for only half the transactions for SC/ST workers in Madhya Pradesh.
- For non-SC/ST workers in Madhya Pradesh, only 7% of transactions were completed.
- In West Bengal, the Central government kept pending approx 45% of the wages beyond 15 days as on October 13.

CASTE-BASED SEPERATION HAS ALSO RESULTED IN:

- Tensions at worksites

- Threefold increase of workload for computer operators at blocks

STAND OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT:

In consultation with the Department of Expenditure, GOVT. has decided to have a category-wise wage payment system (SC, ST and others) → For better accounting purposes.

However, the Central government has **NO accountability** to pay the compensation for delays inspite of the damages caused by caste-based segregation of payments.

Problems directed by APBS (Aadhar Payment Bridge System), due to inaccurate Aadhaar mapping with the payment software:-

- **Misdirected payments**
- **Payment failures**

These are not even enough to provide an impartial, independent assessment and audit of the payment systems.

→ It should be kept in mind that Technical fixes cannot be substitutes for political will.

- Currently around ₹50,000 crore needs to be allocated immediately.
- The Central government, along with the Supreme Court orders, must calculate and pay the workers their compensation delays.

Rajeev Yadav

Sudarshan Sahu : A great veteran sculptor (Source : Indian Express) GS Paper 1 : Art and Culture

CONTEXT :

Sudarshan Sahu a great veteran sculptor received the second highest civil award after the Bharat Ratna, Padma Vibhushan 2021. During an occasion President Ram nath Kovind gave him this award.

ABOUT SUDARSHAN SAHU

- Sudarshan Sahu is a master of carving lifeless stones to create sculptures that look like mythological figures. Sudarshan, who was awarded the Padma Shri in 1988 for his art, established the Craft Museum in Puri in 1977.
- Sudarshan Sahu was born on 11 March 1939 in Puri, Odisha. Sudarshan Sahu is a famous sculptor. The exhibitions of his works are famous in the country and abroad.
- He learnt the basics of sculpture art from his guru late Bhubaneswar Mohapatra and Late Guru Kunia Moharana of Puri.
- He was the founder of Sudarshan craft Museum in Puri Orissa(1977)
- Later on, He established the Sudarshan Art and Craft college in Bhubaneswar with the help of the government of Orissa. This institution has now become famous and provide the training to the students who want to learn the basic skill of various sculpture making (Stone, wood etc)
- He was not only well known in India but in the field of sculpture he is an internationally recognised person. He also decorated the Atmi Stupa of Japan. Besides an artwork of Sudarshan in London is also appreciable where he installed a stone panel based around the life of the Buddha

- Sudarshan received the National Award for stone carving in 1981. He received the Shilp Guru Award 2003. He received Dharmapada Award by Odisha Lalit Kala Akademi in the year 2012 and Now he received Padm Vibhushan 2021
- He established an art and Craft village in orissa which is based on the Gurukul system. In this village students and teacher would be residing together as gurukul patter the the training would be given for sculpture making from various stones, sands, wood etce. In this way, He is protecting Indian culture and heritage

HIS WORKS

- He carved many beautiful sculpture based on Jatakas stories as well as puranic stories
- He carved many beautiful sculptures near Dhauli Peace Pagoda in 1971 which earned him worldwide recognition and appreciation.

Stone culture has been the fundamental cultural feature of odisha for a long time. During the ancient period many temples and sculptures were made in Odisha. Sudarshan type sculptures are not only protecting this cultural heritage but also through various institutions established to promote art and culture (mainly sculpture art) he is carrying forward this cultural heritage to the next generation. His sculptures are related to various religions. He objective of sculpting is just to give the message of peace to the world

Through this Padam Vibhushan award, we not only showed our gratitude towards this artist but we also encouraged those artists also who are protecting and preserving Indian culture. This is unfortunate for India, amny good artists could not get sufficient recognition so they faced a lot of economical problems and they had to leave their skill. Through various institutions, Sahoo is attempting to give recognition to those artists also Therefore we can say Sahoo is real competent for this award

Dr Anshul Bajpai

Regional Security Dialogue GS- 2 International Relations, Effect of Policies & Politics of Countries on India's Interests, India & its neighbourhood

CONTEXT

India will be holding “The Delhi Regional Security Dialogue on Afghanistan” on November 10 will seek to strengthen the common approach among major countries of central asia and its neighbours.

Participants include India, Russia, and the five Central Asian countries (Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Iran, Kazakhstan & Kyrgyzstan). Based on similar concerns over export of radical ideology, cross-border terrorism and humanitarian situation in the landlocked country. The invitation has been extended to China & Pakistan both of which have refused to join the NSA meeting giving scheduling issues as their concern.

SALIENT FEATURES OF THE MEET

After the **withdrawal of US forces** from Afghanistan and the **Taliban's takeover**, has created a necessity for India to be concerned about security in the region. In the above mentioned context, it is sine qua non India has taken this initiative to organise a conference of regional stakeholders and important powers on the country's current situation and future outlook.

Key interest for India around this meeting is to **attempt to secure for itself a seat at the table** to decide the future course of action on Afghanistan.

The meet is aimed at establishing India's significance and its role in the Afghan theatre. "The regime in Kabul will see the message and get the message when eight NSAs sit around the table of the security dialogue.

WHY AFGANISTAN SIGNIFICANT TO INDIA

- **Strategic Importance:** India's strategy for Afghanistan is guided by the desire to prevent afghanistani soil from readily providing Pakistan with strategic depth and a safe haven for terror groups.
- **Soft Power:** India has opted to pursue a 'soft power' approach to engage with Afghanistan. The contribution of Indian Movies, songs etc has resulted in preferring substantially in the civilian sector rather than in defence and security. Further, access to Indian Medical Tourism to the Afghan population has created a deep rooted space for Indians in the hearts of the local people.
- **Developmental assistance :** India is particularly active in contributing in developmental aid to the afghans. India provided aid in construction, infrastructure, human capital building and mining sectors. Besides, it has also contributed in the health, pharmaceuticals, telecommunications, and information technology and education sectors for cooperation.
- **Economic Aid:** Within the framework of two bilateral agreements, India has contributed around 3 billion USD in aid to Afghanistan. This makes India one of the largest investors in Afghanistan's quest for economic and social development, and thus attaining stability.
- **Connectivity Infra-Projects:** India has also agreed to build the **600-km-long (Hajigak mines to Herat). The project name is Bamiyan – Herat rail link.** Further, India is developing the Iranian port of **Chabahar** which will be linked to Afghanistan passing through **Delaram-Zaranj highway.** The connectivity can prove to be a major trade route if things stabilize.

WAYFORWARD

Each of the Central Asian countries having moderate societies have been worried about the export of radical ideology due to the Taliban and this concern has been shared with India particularly for the J&K region. The intelligence agencies and security establishments of all eight countries have been regularly sharing perspectives and inputs on Afghanistan.

However engaging with Taliban like Russia and China is also necessary for India to seek security guarantees from the insurgents in return for continued development assistance or other pledges.

Anshum Verma

Thumri : A classical Indian song

CONTEXT :

The Padam: Vibhusan award of 2020 is given to Pt Chhannu Lal Mishra who is well known personality of Thumari, Kayal and other semi classical hindustani music

THUMRI :

- The term Thumari originated from the term Thumakna which means walking with dance. it is similar to the Dhrupad, Khayal and Tappa This type of song is originated from eastern UP and generally song on the occasion of various Hindu festivals

- As per the sources this is originated during 16th 17 century in Uttar Pradesh but became popular during the time of Awadh's Nawab Wazid Ali Shah
- It is influenced with some other old indian music like Hori, Kajari, dadra, Chalika (it is described in Harivamsa Purana also)
- The subject matter of Thumari is eroticism. This is a song related to romanticism. It is sung on the occasion of love at the time of unison or separation or devotion.
- The language of this song is generally the various dialects of the Hindi language like Awadhi, Brij, Bojpuri, Mirjapuri etc. But Some thumaris are composed in Marathi and other languages also. The languages or dialects used in thumri are very soft and very romantic for example In Thumri, instead of word Pani and piya, the term pania and piyua are used respectively
- Thumari are composed in lighter ragas and generally have similar Talas. Thumari is accompanied by sarangi or by harmonium, tanpura and tabla.
- Thumaris are sung in various *ragas* like Khayal, Bihag, Sahana, etc and the *talas* of the Thumari are *deepchanda*, addha and sitarkhani. Their talas are of smaller cycles derived from folk music. This is sung in very slow tempo

VARIOUS GHARANAS :

- Since Thumari originated in purav (east) of Ganga, yamuna Doaab hence it is also named as purvi or banaras thumri which is generally sung in very slow tempo. Other gharanas related to thumri are – lucknow and Patiyala.
- The singer of Lucknow Gharana sing little bit faster in comparison to banaras Gharana. It is also called Pacchayee Thumari.
- Patiala gharana is also named as Punjabi Thumari. This is also popular and attractive because of its phrases.

VARIOUS THUMRI SINGERS AND THEIR POPULAR SONGS :

- There are many musicians and the protector of Thumari tradition. For example, Nawab Wajid Ali Shah and Rang Priya were the two well known Thumri singers of the Lucknow gharana. “Babul mora naihar chuto hi jaye... became a very popular Thumari and later on this thumri was sung by K. L Saigal's for the movie Devdas (1936).
- Rassolan Bai, Siddeshwari Devi and Girja Devi were the most popular singers of the thumri related to banaras Gharana. The famous Thumari song of Girja Devi is nayan ki Mat Maro Talwariyan.
- Another prominent singer of thumri related to Patiala gharana is Ustad bade ghulam ali khan and Sobha Gurtu. The famous Thumri sung by Ustad are AAye na Balam, Yaad piya ki aaye.
- In this way we see the Thumari, a classical form of Indian music still popular among the Youth of India. many Thumari were made popular through our Indian Cinema also

Dr Anshul Bajpai

50% Clean Energy Share and 500 GW Renewable Energy Capacity before 2030: The new Targets (GS 3, Economics, The Hindu, Indian Express)



NEWS/CONTEXT:

India has set the new target of achieving 50% share of energy from non fossil fuels and 500 GW of renewable energy capacity before the deadline of 2030. These targets are set by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which could be easily achievable as per the Power and New & Renewable Energy Minister RK Singh. **PM Narendra Modi has pledged that India will achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2070.** The above said new targets with the deadline of 2030 is a step forward towards this pledge.

The nationally determined contribution/ intended nationally determined contribution target of non-fossil energy capacity was also raised to 500 GW by 2030 from 450 GW earlier by PM Modi.

As per the Minister the government is working hard to achieve the Prime Minister's target of 500 GW from renewable energy by 2030. India has already reached 39% share of energy from non-fossil (clean energy), so it will be easily possible to achieve 50% share by 2030.

India at present has renewable energy capacity of 149 GW including large hydro projects and 63 GW renewable energy capacity are under construction. Hence it comes at 212 GW. So getting a further of 300 GW by 2030 or in this decade will not be that much difficult as per the Minister.

When we check out the combination of varied resources in Renewable Energy target, India which have around 450 GW from wind and solar at 70-100 GW are going to be coming from hydro power plant.

At present we have Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO) till 2022. This Renewable Purchase Obligation will be extended till 2030 in view of the 500 GW renewable energy target as per the Minister.

What is Clean Energy: Clean energy, often mentioned as Renewable energy comes from natural sources or processes that are constantly replenished. For example, wind and sunlight keep blowing and shining, albeit their availability depends on weather and time. Geothermal, Bioenergy, Hydropower, Nuclear Energy are also considered as clean energy.

What is Nationally Determined Contribution: The Paris Agreement requests each country to convey and describe their post-2020 climate actions, referred to as their NDCs. Nationally determined contributions (NDCs) are at the centre of the Paris Agreement and therefore the achievement of those long-term goals.

NDCs embody efforts by each country to scale back national emissions and adapt to the impacts of global climate change. The Paris Agreement requires each Party to organize, communicate and maintain successive nationally determined contributions (NDCs) that it intends to realize. Parties shall pursue domestic mitigation measures, with the aim of achieving the objectives of such contributions.

What is Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO): According to Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO) all electricity distribution licensees (Distribution companies – Discoms) are required to purchase or produce a minimum specified quantity of their requirements from Renewable Energy Sources. This is as per the Indian Electricity Act, 2003. The minimum RPO for the State is fixed by The State Electricity Regulatory Commissions. For example The Kerala State Electricity Regulatory Commission (KSERC) had fixed a complete RPO of three percent in 2010. Of this, 2.75% was to be met from non-solar sources and 0.25% from solar energy. The RPO increases by 10% of three per annum, up to a maximum of 10% just in case of Kerala.

Md Layeeque Azam, Economics Faculty

PROJECT 75 GS-3(Defence, Indianisation of Technology.)

CONTEXT

The Indian Navy recently got **INS VELA** as the fourth submarine under **Project-75**. Upgrading its submarine technology and naval capability has been the top priority for the Indian Navy in wake of the increased presence of Chinese vessels in the Indian Ocean Region.

The Government has dedicated the submarine '**Vela**' to the nation after it was launched on May 6, 2019, and it has completed all sea trials and major harbour trials including weapon and sensor trials despite Covid restrictions. Three of these submarines are already in commission with the Indian Navy which includes INS Kalvari, INS Khanderi, INS Karanj.

The Indian Navy currently has a working stock of 12 submarines, in addition to which there are two nuclear capable submarines INS Arihant and INS Chakra. INS Arihant is an indigenously designed submarine with the help of Russia whereas INS Chakra has been taken on lease from Russia.

PROJECT 75

Project 75 was signed under the collaboration of France under which it includes the construction of six submarines of Scorpene design. These submarine technologies, research designed and are being developed at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) Mumbai, with assistance from M/s Naval Group.

This programme entails building six Scorpene Class/ Kalveri class attack submarines. Scorpene class technology is taken from France which is then aligned with the Indian Kalvari class of submarine.

Out of the 6 submarines which are being developed under the project three are functional (INS Kalvari, INS Karanj, and INS Khanderi). INS Vagsheer, is under construction, INS Vagir was launched last year, the sixth and the last in the project.

FOLLOWING ARE THE CHALLENGES TO INDIA'S NAVAL BUILD UP.

- **India's Bureaucratic Delay:** India still faces bureaucratic bottlenecks and delays for eg the current deal of signing of P-75 took almost 10 years.
- **China's Naval Prowess:** China is aggressive in the Indian Ocean Region, It has developed a stock pile of 60 submarines (50 conventional & 10 nuclear. Indian presence under water still lacks teeth despite having geographic advantage of open seas in the Indian ocean region.
 - ▶ **Cancellation of Deals:** Unrelated corruption scandals like Agustawestland helicopters leads to cancelation of other defence deals like ATAS heavyweight torpedoes which are critical not only to their survivability, but also their overall offensive capability.
 - ▶ **Less Attention to Indian Navy:** Major part of the Indian budget is dedicated to the Army, with the air force being a distant second and the navy a poor third in the allocation.
 - ▶ **Time consuming Development:** Naval Capabilities require huge time and are highly capital intensive in nature, this slows down the modernisation plans further.

WAYFORWARD

In order to counter the gap of mitigating China in the open seas, the above mentioned challenges have to be addressed. It is only then India can walk and talk on the lines of international grouping like QUAD and seek to fulfill its Indo-Pacific ambitions.

Anshum Verma

Sitara Devi : A legendary Kathak danseuse (GS paper I : Art and Culture)

CONTEXT :

- A legendary Kathak danseuse Sitara Devi would be honoured and remembered through a biopic produced by Raj C Anand of Raj Anand Movies after the announcement by the producer. It was announced on the 101 the birth anniversary of Sitara Devi (8th Nov)

WHO WAS SITARA DEVI :

- Sitara Devi was a renowned kathak dancer born in Calcutta on 8th Nov 1920. Her original name was Dhanlaxmi because she was born on the occasion of Diwali. Her family belonged to Royal Family of Nepal
- Apart from kathak dancing she was expert in singing and acting also
- She was not recognised in India only but she earned fame at international level also
- She received many honours and awards like Sangeet Natak Academy Award, Padm Shri, Kalidas Samman and Nritya Nipuna, Indian lifetime achievement award also. She refused to accept Padma Bhushan award (The third biggest civilian award) and stated that she would not accept any award less

than Bharat Ratna because this would be her insult if her juniors were awarded with Padm Vibhusan and Bharat Ratna award.

- She was honored at various stages (daisies/forum) including Royal Albert Hall, London (1967) and at the Carnegie Hall, New York (1976).
- She passed away by 25th Nov 2014.

WORKS OF THE SITARA DEVI :

- She had been an eminent dancer of Kathak and evolved many new steps of Kathak, a traditional dance of northern India
- She not only revived Kathak but also inspired this new generation towards Kathak. Ravindra Nath Tagore entitled her as Nritya Smarajni
- He performed dances in various Hindi films also. Some of her notable films are *Shaher Ka jadu, Judgement of Allah, Nagina, Bhagwan, watan, Meri aankhe, Aaj ka Hindustan, pooja, jindagi, Roti, Dukh sukh* (all the films done before India's freedom). She performed a dance in the famous movie Mother India (in a Holi song). She also trained many Hindi film actresses like Mathubala, Rekha, Mala Sinha and Kajol in Kathak

WHAT IS KATHAK :

- This is a form of Indian classical dance popular in northern India. It is popular in both Hindu and Muslim Gharanas equally.
- The term Kathak is derived from Kathakaras which means storytellers. These Kathakars wandered around and communicated legendary stories via music, dance and songs quite like the early Greek theatre.
- The roots of the Kathak can be found in the ancient Text Natya Shastra of Bharat Muni. It evolved in India during the 3rd – 4th century BC and gradually it spreaded throughout India.
- This dance achieved its zenith when the concept of Bhakti came to existence. To pray to the god, people used the medium of dance and singing in their local languages. In Uttar Pradesh this dance had become popular during 13th and 14th century. The development of Kathak during the era of Bhakti movement predominantly focussed on the legends of Lord Krishna and his eternal love Radhika or Radha found in texts like the 'Bhagavata Purana' which were spectacularly performed by the Kathak artists.
- After the Mughal Period this form of Indian dance had declined but artists like Sitara Devi again revived this form of dance during the 20th century.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

KERALA GOVT. AWARDING Education TO MUSLIMS JUSTIFIED? (GS PAPER-II, III)

CONTEXT:

On October 29, the Supreme Court issued notice on an appeal of the Kerala government against a High Court order directing it to award the scholarships by the proportion of minorities in the overall population of the State.

IDEA BEHIND THIS GOVT. MOVE-

- Those who can get the benefits with some support should catch up with those who are ahead.
- To enable those who are worse off to come at par with others.

DEVELOPMENTS SO FAR-

1. In 2015, the Kerala Government passed an administrative order that nonage communities will be authorised for literacy.
2. Out of the total literacy-
 - 80 will be distributed among Muslim scholars
 - 20 to Latin Catholics and converted Christians
1. In Justine Pallivathukkal v. State of Kerala (2021), the Kerala High Court set aside this order holding that all minorities must be treated alike.
2. Ruling that the only relevant criterion is the minority groups' share of the population.

STAND OF KERALA GOVT. -

That its policy was grounded on the disadvantages that are being faced by Muslims as per-

- Sachar Committee report
- Kerala Padana report
- That Muslims were far behind than the Christians, Dalits and Adivasis in- council registration, employment, land Power

Besides, studies on discrimination in labour and housing markets reveal that Muslims experience substantial levels of discrimination when applying for jobs or housing, often even more than Dalits.

HOW THE POLICY OF KERALA GOVT. IS JUSTIFIED?

The ideal of the Govt. is-

- To grease scholars from these communities to study, and reduce the inequalities between different communities.
- Relating the most underprivileged groups and addressing their concern is what the Kerala Government is doing.
- The different kinds of backwardness of a community must be considered while the awarding of the education schemes is made.

Thus, reserving an advanced proportion of literacy for Muslims is justified.

TO CONCLUDE

In B.K. Pavitrav. Union of India (2019)-the Supreme Court correctly noted “ For equivalency to be truly effective or substantial, the principle must honor being inequalities in society to overcome them.”

It'll determine how representation is understood in the law on reservations.

One of Ambedkar's view was that the estate system is a form of canted inequality. Indeed when we identify underprivileged gentries or communities, we need to remember the forms of inequality and scale among them.

Rajeev Yadav

Bank Credit Growth, Increased Demands and Jobs going to kickstart the Investment Cycle: Finance Ministry

(GS 3, Economics, The Hindu, Indian Express)

NEWS/ CONTEXT:

India's economy is all set for a sharp rise in demand and job creation backed by strong prospects of an investment revival, bank credit surge along with inflation pressure easing, as per the Finance Ministry in its latest report.

In the monthly review of the economy for the month of October the ministry claims that with the necessary tools of micro and macro growth drivers, the Indian economy stage is set for a kickstart of India's investment cycle and to accelerate its recovery towards becoming the fastest growing economy of the world.

The review released by Department of Economic Affairs projected that with the crossing new milestones in rapid succession regarding covid-19 vaccination campaign along with teeming festivities lending has generated new hope to India's ongoing economic recovery in terms of fuller restoration of supply chains, demand stimulation, greater employment generation and narrowing of demand-supply mismatches.

As per the Ministry the bank loan had been buoyant in September with a very good credit disbursement in the labour intensive sectors which creates relatively more number of jobs. Thus the Ministry is basically forecasting a strong possibility of fast credit growth in the near future.

In addition to this the report has noted that high growth in loans for consumer durables tracks an upward consumer's spending in the festival season.

INFLATION OUTLOOK

As per the Finance Ministry, ripple effects of escalating global Crude/Petroleum prices and hardening input costs pose concerns on the inflation front, but such concerns aren't yet witnessed in 'self-fulfilling inflationary expectations' as seen in RBI's inflation survey.

It has emphasised that the recent cut in excise duty by centre on diesel and petrol prices is predicted to cool down inflationary pressures exerted by rising petroleum prices.

The Ministry expects food inflation, which had hit a 30-month low in September, to get lower further in October and get retail inflation less than 4.4% recorded for the previous month.

"Going forward, good kharif production and adequate buffer stock of food grains are expected to get food inflation low," it asserted.

The review has noted that the ease of inflation pressures as reflected in the retail inflation staying comfortably close to the range of monetary policy goal of RBI, which could be said as bode well for prioritising the economic growth.

RBI, unlike many other central banks in advanced countries, is Not having pressure to increase the Repo rates for controlling inflation, which no doubts creates more room for monetary side expansion of the demand.

RECOVERY SIGNALS

Among what it called as 'clear indicators of meaningful recovery in India's real sector', the Ministry cited the rise in capital goods production/ capital formation as a possible reflection of 'revival in investment' and highlighted the rising power demand accompanied with a surge in GST e-way bills generation in October.

The rising trend in revenue collection of GST is predicted to stay strong and continuous post festive season

driven by upward movement in economic activity and reinforced tax administration, the review has suggested citing the collections of ₹1.3 lakh crore in October for transactions completed in September, which is the second highest.

The month of October witnessed a splendid growth in e-way bills with revived economic activity amplified by the festive season, as per the Ministry. With 39% over the pre-pandemic level of October 2019 and 8.2% over the September 2021, as many as 7.35 crore e-way bills were generated within the month of October. This reflects a sustained growth in activity levels after the second wave as per the Ministry asserted.

In comparison to what 0.8% in September and 15.6% above pre-COVID levels of 2019 the power consumption in October 2021 picked up to grow at 3.1 % year on year basis.

It indicates the resilience in power sector, withstanding disruptions in coal supply at electricity generation plants (where supply disruptions are caused by heavy rains in mining areas) and rise of international coal price. The power sector recovery in view of rising power consumption and demand is expected to gain further momentum, as per the report.

MD. Layeeque Azam

China's Gongtong Fuyu (Gs-2, International Relations)

CONTEXT:

President Xi Jinping has called for China to achieve "common prosperity", seeking to narrow down the widening wealth gap that threatens the country's economic rise and the legitimacy of Communist Party ruling.

MEANING :

Common prosperity (gongtong fuyu) is an idea which is not new in China, but a sharp escalation in official delivery and a crackdown on excesses in industries including technology and private ones, has shaken investors in the world's second-largest economy. It is To achieve prosperity for all people.

Consequences of common prosperity : Refocusing of corporate China's priorities to the domestic market. Being a beneficiary of the country's economic progress :

- **Technology giant Alibaba** has now committed \$15.5bn (£11.4bn) to help promote common prosperity initiatives in China.
- Rival **tech giant Tencent** has pledged \$7.75bn for the same cause.

Rather than making a radical break and realigning social relations, it seems intended to sustain the existing system.

The Party-state is anxious about social disintegration and political polarisation.

It seeks to tame the excesses generated by over4 decade-long Reform and Opening Up.

The common thread binding the following actions together is Common Prosperity (gongtong fuyu)-

- From a regulatory crackdown on tech unicorns to→ clampdown on private tutoring
- from exhorting the rich to redistribute wealth to → fintech companies forming unions for their workforce

DEVELOPMENTS SO FAR :-

- Common Prosperity is not a new term, it's there since 1992.

- Under China's President Xi Jinping, It has acquired momentum.
- In August this year, he explained action plan in his speech at the 10th meeting of China's Central Committee for Financial and Economic Affairs.
- In October, Its text was published in the theoretical journal, Qiushi OF CPC.
- The top-down campaign is aimed at manoeuvre a "profound transformation" of China-
- To achieve prosperity for all in their material, spiritual, and moral lives.

Inspite of achieving industrial developments and technological growth, there are negative byproducts in China, like :

- **widening inequality** (income, wealth, and region-based)
- **unbalanced, or inadequate development**
- **China's Gini coefficient** (between 0.46 and 0.49 for the last two decades)

ORIGIN OF THIS CAMPAIGN:

It lies in Mr. Xi's political report at the 19th Congress of the CPC in 2017, where he identified the change in the principal contradiction in Chinese society from previous years — between unbalanced and inadequate development and the people's ever-growing needs for a better life.

The first step in that direction is → authorising the State Council to initiate **pilot experiments** for five years before national implementation.

AGENDA OF CPC BEHIND THIS?

- To tighten the Party-state's control over monopolies
- Regulate the private sector
- Expand the size of the middle class
- Check wealth accumulation
- Equalising access to basic social services

Mr. Xi continues to encourage people getting rich but in a more controlled manner as dictated by the Party-state.

- The government would continue its :
- Commitment to State-led capitalism
- Pursuit of larger economic goals
- Non-intervention in substantive welfare redistribution
- Avoidance of welfarism
- Action plan that should not be equated with egalitarianism

Though, the Party-state erases its responsibility for workers-centric reforms at a systemic-level.

CHALLENGES STILL PERSISTING ARE :-

1. The long-pending reform of the **household registration system (hukou)** will still continue and remain unfulfilled given the strong pushback from city officials.
2. The **rural migrant labour (nongmingong)** will continue to negotiate their second class, lonely existence in unfamiliar cities and workplaces, alongwith their physical dislocations from home.
3. The discouragement of and intolerance against the online resistance of white-collar workers against the gruelling '996' work schedules (9 a.m. to 9 p.m., six days a week).

Labour repression is the basis on which the success of the Chinese economic development model is built.

Rajeev Yadav

Srinagar : A creative city' for craft and folk arts (GS Paper I : Art and culture,) (Source : Indian Express)

CONTEXT:

Srinagar is recognised as a creative city for craft and folk art by UNESCO. It is the 6th Indian city which is recognised by the UNESCO as the creative city for the craft and folk art. Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad, Varanasi and Jaipur have been already recognised by the UNESCO with same designation

ABOUT THE HISTORY OF SRINAGAR

- Presently Srinagar is the capital of Kashmir. This city was controlled by the Mauryan kings also. Aoka was the king who introduced Buddhism in this region
- Many other cultures have also flourished in this region like kushan culture during the time of Kanisjh had been flourished here> Gupta king Chandragupta II and Mihirkula (A Huna king) also ruled over this city / region
- The term Srinagar is the sum of two terms Sri and Nagar. Sre refers to laxmi and Nagar means Town. Its history starts from the period of Asoka. As per the view of some historian Pravarsena (it may be local ruler, not a vakataka ruler) established this town During the period of Huna ruler Mihirkul, It was made as the capital of Kashmir
- Muslim culture penetrated in Srinagar during 12-13 th century. Zanol Abdin was the prominent and secular king of the kashmir Mughals generally visited kashmir region and Mughals equated this region with heaven also
- In the modern period srinagar was controlled by Raja Ranjeet Singh, the ruler of Punjab. Ranjeet Singh had friendly relations with the British. During British period Kashir was the princely state

Significance of the recognition of UNESCO

- *UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) is the subsidiary of the UNO whose objective is to promote cultural harmony and establish peace at global level. It recognises many cultural sites on several parameters.*
- *For Srinagar, it recognition at international level will be helpful for the promotion of tourism in Srinagar*
- *UNESCO generally recognises the town on the bases of the parameter of craft, craft, folk art, media arts, film design, gastronomy, literature and music. It invites applications from the entire world to get the recognition. The ministry of culture of every country sends their applications and a selection committee of UNESCO give recognition on the bases of several parameters.*
- *Srinagar has been famous for its art and craft for a long time. traditional Kashmiri handicrafts like shawls, and also dried fruits are not popular throughout India but these are popular in entire world*
- *Every year tourists from various countries come to Kashmir to purchase various woolen clothes like Pashmina shawls, carpets, hand-woven rugs, woolen items, embroidered jackets, Phirhan, scarves. wood carvings art has also been famous as kashmiri folk art.*
- *The papier-mâché craft is also famous in Kashmir. Nowadays this art has flourished out of the Srinagar i, in various regions of kashmir like Kupwara, Baramulla, Budgam and Anantnag. It is said that it is the*

Sakhtasaz. It is said that it is the Sakhtasaz who makes the items with paper pulp, and Naqqash then does the painting and ornamentation. While the Sakhta work is traditionally done by Sunni artisans located in the Naupura locality, the Naqqashi craftsmen are Shias based in Zadibal, Kamangarpura and Hasanabad.

- Srinagar is the city where we can see the comiste culture, a fundamental feature of Indian culture. Srinagar is also famous for its traditional music. Chakri is the traditional folk music of Srinagar

Defenently, this is the big achievement for the Srinagar and this would also promote the tourism in Valley and the promotion of cultural activities in kashmir would be helpful in curtailment of the terrorism also

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Current Account Deficit to hit 1.4% of GDP: Barclays (GS 3, Economics, The Hindu, Indian Express)



NEWS/CONTEXT:

British brokerage Barclays has reported that fragile recovery of the Indian economy could be more pressurized by widening current account deficit of India which is driven by surge in the commodity price led by crude oil. The Brokerage has revised current account deficit forecast of India to 245 billion dollars by the month of March, which comes as 1.4 % of GDP.

As per the brokerage report, the continuous jump in the trade deficit since July, is the main cause of worry. The report said the average monthly trade deficit has jumped to 16.8 billion dollar in July to October, which was 12 billion dollar till June. The month of September got 22.6 billion dollar trade deficit which is the highest ever on record.

The report has increased the current account deficit forecast to 45 billion dollar for the financial year 2021-22 (FY22), up from 35 billion dollar earlier, **But has indicated that a large balance of payment surplus**

remains on track. It has been estimated that the trade deficit will be widened by 12 billion dollar or 35 base points (0.35%) of GDP with every 10 dollar per barrel rise in global crude prices, as around 85% of the oil demand is met through imports

The Brokerage has noted down that there will be **no risk to macroeconomic stability** given the record high foreign Reserves, and thus ruled out any alarming situation at current point of time.

It can be understood from the data that the **higher oil prices** has mainly fuelled the larger trade deficits. During the past three months the monthly oil trade deficit has risen to 8.5 billion dollar from an average of 5.2 billion dollar in the first half of the current financial year, as per the report.

Because of the fact that the economy is recovering fast post pandemic, oil import's volume has significantly jumped over the past few months but still it is below pandemic levels, as per the report. Also the pace of the oil demand is most likely to accelerate in the upcoming months.

As per the report is expected that crude import will remain elevated, which will be resulted into relatively high volume import in the coming months.

Increasing gold import is also another factor driving down the foreign exchange and pressurizing the current account deficit, which have been witnessed on a faster clip for months.

The world gold Council is expecting Gold demands this year can surpass the 2020 levels, looking into the fact that the ongoing festive seasons and recovering domestic demand are boosting the imports of yellow metal. And it expects that due to rising wealth effects and incomes the demand for the gold will be remaining high.

On the positive side of the current account, the monthly services surplus (services export minus services import) is getting better. In 2019 the average monthly service surplus was 6.6 billion dollar, which got better to 7 billion dollar in 2020. It further went up to 8 billion dollar in the first nine months of 2021.

The report is expecting that the country can generate a yearly service surplus of nearly 100 billion dollar for the first time as it is expecting the resumption of international travel will be having a limited impact on the services balance.

Let's understand the dynamics behind Current Account Deficit: When there is a rise in the **Current Account Deficit (CAD)**, it means the dollar is moving out of the country or demand for the Dollar is increasing. The price of the Dollar will go up against Rupee. It is termed as the Devaluation of Rupee, the domestic currency. The devaluation of the rupee will make export cheaper and import costly. There would be export competitiveness but to increase the export you need better quality products along with increased production capacity. Devaluation generally favors more to a country like China and less to a country like India.

In the case of our country, after devaluation, the gain of getting export competitiveness is less than the loss due to costly import. Among import items the crude oil is major. Crude oil gets costly after devaluation. Sectors including aviation, lubricants, refining and tyres are sensitive to oil price movement. As a rise in crude oil prices impacts input raw material cost, profitability comes under pressure, thereby hurting almost every sector and we witness a general price rise which is nothing but inflation. Hence in our country, devaluation leads to inflation. During the period of high inflation, people used to buy gold as gold gives better real returns compare to keeping the money in the banks. (Purchasing gold is an unproductive investment). This will put pressure on gold and gold import will rise. Dollars will move out and will stretch the current account deficit further. The economy could be trapped in this kind of vicious cycle. People must have a wide range of investment options. In response to this vicious cycle, RBI issues Inflation-indexed Bonds and the Government regulates the import of gold.

In recent days the increase in the prices of coal and crude oil poses the same challenges of the vicious cycle as mentioned above.

MD. Layeeque Azam

REVAMPING FOOD PROCESSING IN INDIA GS- 3 FOOD PROCESSING AND RELATED INDUSTRIES, SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT.

WHAT IS FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES

Food Processing Industries includes process under which any raw product of dairy, animal husbandry, agriculture, meat, poultry or fishing is transformed through a process (involving labour, power & capital) in such a way that its original physical properties undergo a change and the transformed good/product has commercial value and is suitable for human and animal consumption.

Food processing includes **value addition** to the products through methods such as addition of food additives preservation, drying etc. in order to preserve food substances in an effective manner, enhance their shelf life and quality.

SIGNIFICANCE OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES

The **Food Processing Industry (FPI)** is of immeasurable importance in providing direct linkages in two pillars of the economy, i.e. agriculture and industry. Other significance are as follows-

- **Employment Generation:** It bridges Agriculture and Manufacturing by providing direct and indirect employment opportunities. It further can curb urban migration by localising employment opportunities.
- **Increasing farmers income:** With the rise in demand for agri-products there will be commensurate rise in the price paid to the farmer, thereby doubling their income.
- **Reducing malnutrition:** Value addition for the processed food for eg- Fortification of foods with vitamins and minerals can reduce the nutritional gap in the population.
- **Boosts Trade and Earns Forex:** India can boost exports by investing in processing industries and earning forex. For e.g. Indian Basmati rice has a huge demand in Arabian countries.
- **Curbing Inflation:** The food supplies can stay in tune as processed food has more shelf life thus keeping with the demand thereby controlling food-inflation.
- **Crop-diversification:** Farmers will be incentivised by the rising requirement of inputs of different crops.

CHALLENGES FOR FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES

- **Health Associated Risk:** Processed foods may not be nutritionally balanced and may pose a health risk for example if the food has excess use of fertilizers and pesticide it can pose a problem to the people. Further protection is needed from harmful practices like adulteration.
- **Low value-added:** Such processing units are generally working under the unorganised sector which uses primitive technology. This results in lower value-addition at the processing stage, especially from a nutritional point of view.
- **Unregulated quality and safety:** The rising number of players, and unhealthy competition, involved in the food value-chain, makes implementation of quality and safety norms difficult. It makes tough for the regulating agencies to monitor these unfair practices.
- **Low consumer awareness:** Consumers are generally unaware about several nutritional and food safety and quality aspects.

WAY FORWARD

Food processing industries have huge advantages which are specific to the Indian economy. It has the ability to lift millions out of poverty and hunger. This industry should be developed in a way keeping in mind the interests of small scale industry along with attracting big ticket domestic and foreign investments.

The Food Processing industry needs a comprehensive policy that will ensure that various initiatives across the departments are aligned to the overall goal of ensuring awareness, affordability, availability, access, quality and safety of food. In order to ensure food security for the country requires effort by all stakeholders including government, private player, NGO, SHG etc.

Anshum Verma

Marie Antoinette : An Arrogant Queen of 18th century in France (GS Paper I : World History) (Source Indian Express)

CONTEXT :

In an auction house of Geneva (Switzerland), the Jewellery of Marie Antoinette are still available there for public sale. One of the biggest auction houses, Christie's, provided this information. This auction house was founded in 1766 by James Christie.

WHO WAS MARIE ANTOINETTE

- She was an ill-fated queen of France during the 18th century which was responsible for the French Revolution. She was killed during this bloodshed French Revolution of 1789
- She was the princess of Austria and was born on 2 November 1755 in Vienna (Austria). She was married to Louis 16th of France at the age of 15 years.
- She has been the most iconic character in the history of France.
- She was the most talented queen so she interfered in the administration of France and played an important role in administrative and financial reforms of France but she could not bring the financial reform to satisfy the public of France. She could not uplift the status of common people

HOW FAR SHE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

- In fact when Marie Antoinette became the queen of France, France was facing the problem of economic instability. From the period of Louis 14th and 15 the entire economy of France had collapsed and the level of discontent among the common people was continuously increasing, Eventhough though she tried to bring some financial reform but those were not sufficient.
- She was very fond of jewellery and luxurious lives. Her this fondness had made them unpopular
- When France was facing a financial crisis she continued her expenses for luxurious life.
- Many scholars stated that she had sexula relationships with other persons also and many pictures and paintings were made during that time explaining her sensuality. In fact This is not the correct description about this queen, In fact, preceders of the Louis 16th were responsible for the French Revolution, this revolution was inevitable nobody could stop this revolution until or unless leaving all the royal privileges or imposing taxes on all the classes of the society without any discrimination
- During her effort to bring Financial reform she could not impose the tax over privileged class because

of the technical constraint of the constitution. That was the reason the meeting of estates general was called

- In fact, Only this queen was not responsible for the french revolution alone, absolute Monarch could not be sustained in France for a long time because France was the centre of intellectual awareness also. The Social contract of Rousseau had paved the way for the French revolution already. It was her ill fate that she became the queen of France when France was facing the problem of financial crises and huge discontent among the people.
- Generally French people made her more responsible because she belonged to Austria which had been the enemy of the france and where the absolute monarch was existed.
- In this way, we can conclude that this queen was responsible for the French revolution up to a certain extent only. But Nowadays against her jewellery and other luxurious items are being popular and many people are ready to purchase her Jewellery in that auction

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

SEASON OF FLOODS GS- 3 DISASTER MANAGEMENT, URBAN FLOODS

CONTEXT

Recently, torrential rains that took place in Chennai have caused massive urban floods. In most parts of India, urban floods have become an every year phenomenon in recent years.

As the incidence of extreme weather events and climate variability increases, urban flooding becomes more and more common especially in urban areas. While the heavy downpour can be attributed to changing climate patterns, the urban flooding is largely due to an **unplanned haphazard urbanisation**.

MAN-MADE DISASTERS

Unregulated construction with no regard to the natural hydro-geomorphology, topography and over burdened drainage systems, all make urban floods a man-made disaster.

- **Poor Urban Drainage:** Major urban centres like Delhi, Hyderabad, Mumbai rely on a century-old drainage system, covering only miniscule part of the core city. With the pace of urbanisation Indian cities have grown manifold with its original built-up area however not much was done to address the absence of adequate drainage systems.
- **Haphazard Construction:** Lasting irreversible damage has been done to the city by leveling & flattening landscape and altering natural drainage routes. Unplanning construction of cities compounded by problems of illegal encroachments which eliminate natural watercourses necessary to drain excess water.
- **Concretisation:** Indian cities are becoming increasingly impervious to water because of the nature of materials used which are hard, non-porous construction material that makes the soil impervious and which does not allow the water to reach natural aquifers.
- **Weak Institutional & Legal framework:** Even with scientific methods of rainwater harvesting, sustainable urban drainage systems, etc, in regulatory mechanisms like the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), adoption at user end as well as enforcement agencies remains weak.
- **Destruction of urban environment:** The number of wetlands has reduced to 128 in 2018 from 683 in 1956. Forest cover in urban areas is only 9 per cent, which ideally should have been at least 33 per cent.

This led to the major changes in the natural patterns of the weather over urban centres.

MITIGATION FOR URBAN FLOODING

- One of the best solutions to reduce the chances of flooding is to **plan construction** away from floodplains and high flood hazard zones. The major challenge lies in identifying such zones and water bodies but using geospatial data.
- **New construction** in flood-prone areas must be strictly regulated and in areas where constructions had already finished or rather encroached upon should be monitored regularly. Structural measures of flood control like increasing stormwater drainage capacitors, should be adopted by the urban management on priority basis.
- Government programmes like the **Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)** and **Sponge Cities mission** can go a long way in helping urban authorities to plan cities keeping flood risks in mind. Further, commercial, residential and government buildings should mandatorily install green infrastructure options like rain gardens, green roofs, and rainwater harvesting systems.

WAYFORWARD

Urban Flood management will not just help controlling regular floods but also cater to other fault lines, provide for water security, more green spaces, and will make the city resilient and sustainable.

Anshum Verma

Opening of New Art museum in Hong Kong : Balance of Freedom of speech and expressions with new security laws of China in Hong kong (GS Paper I- Art and Culture)

CONTEXT :

A museum M+ of the cost of, multibillion dollar has opened in Hongkong on 12 th November 2021. Many political supporter of China are opposing this and considering it as the threat for national security of the China

ABOUT M+

- This museum is dedicated to visual art in the West Kowloon Cultural District of Hong Kong. Multi billion dollars have been expended in this museum
- This museum is the world class museum as the museums like the Tate Modern in London, the MoMA in New York and the Centre Pompidou in Paris.
- In this museum, art works of Chinese culture would be exhibited for the public. Apart from Chinese culture some art works describing about the culture of southern Asian countries and western countries would also been exhibit (After the permission of Chinese government)
- One of the senior Chinese government officer stated in this regard- “nothing is above than national security”
- The M+ museum’s collection includes paintings, ceramics, videos and installations from artists like China’s Zhang Xiaogang and Britain’s Antony Gormley. A piece by Wang Xingwei of a man in Beijing

pedalling a bicycle cart laden with two dead penguins, has echoes of the Tiananmen killings in 1989. One of Ai's installations, "Whitewash", is also on display, featuring ancient Chinese earthenware jars.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS MUSEUM

- This museum is not only the tool to preserve and promotion of culture only but up to a certain extent, it would bring the freedom of expressions among the people of Hong Kong
- In fact, these days, the people of Hong Kong are demanding for autonomous rule, But Chinese government is tightening the Hong Kong administration through various laws in the name of National security. In fact, Since Hong Kong had enjoyed democracy and the freedom of speech and expression for a long time because it was colonised by British rule.
- After its transfer to China by the British government in 1999, China is curtailing its autonomy gradually. For the last several years huge demonstrations have occurred in Hong Kong demanding internal autonomy. Therefore, by last year the Chinese government had implemented a national security act in this region also. As per the national security act, any activity is prohibited against the sovereignty of the Chinese government. Any speech and expression were prohibited against the Chinese government.
- When this museum become ready for open, Chinese government did not give permission, because in this way many thing could be shown against government on the name of visual art and culture. But now government of China gave the permission to open this museum under strict censorship
- Kacey Wong, A chinese artist who was afraid to chinese government and escaped from China to taiwan, because he knew that Chinese government would never allow to flourish his artwork freely. Many protestors of the Hong kong, either were jailed or were killed in Hong Kong

However this museum brings a small hope for the artists of China. Art and culture should be separated from politics but it should not cross the sovereign laws of any state. Definitely this museum would be milestone in the history of Hong Kong

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

THE WOES OF TAMIL NADU CITY [GS I-Geography, GS III-Environment and Disaster Management]

CONTEXT :

As many as 5 people have been killed in rain-related incidents and over 1,400 moved to relief camps as the rainfall continued to strike parts of Tamil Nadu. The IMD predicted heavy to extremely heavy rainfall in parts of the TN on 9 and 10 November 2021, citing the low-pressure zone formation over the Bay of Bengal. In the last 4 days, other parts of the State also, were at the receiving end of the monsoon. Nagapattinam, one of the backward areas of the Cauvery delta, was devastated after 31 cm fall in a day.

- The ongoing spell of heavy rain in Chennai has revealed its vulnerability to floods.
- The first spell of heavy rain of 21 cm, (November 7) has already surprised everyone.

Chennai is a coastal metropolis with a flat terrain as far as its geography is concerned. **The issue of drainage** is the main problem in Chennai or in Nagapattinam.

HOW IT HAPPENED ?

There was a **depression** in the Bay of Bengal, which crossed the coast near Chennai on 11 November 2021

(Thursday). Chennai experienced very heavy rainfall but several suburbs like Tambaram and Red Hills recorded over 22 cm of rain.

In a large urban setting such as Chennai, there are the issues of :-

- The shrinking of open spaces
- The gap between the coverage of the drains and that of sewer lines
- Ageing drains and sewer networks in core areas of the city.
- Encroachments or obstructions hampering the free flow of water are responsible for the mess.

OTHER PROBABLE RELIEFS FROM THE CITY ITSELF :-

- The city is blessed with a few rivers such as the Cooum and the Adyar, apart from a number of canals including the Buckingham Canal.
- All these available water bodies can be very effective flood carriers, if properly maintained.

ROLE OF STATE GOVERNMENT :-

- The State Government, executing a couple of integrated storm water drain projects, must devise some durable solutions to the city's long-standing miseries and implement them in a shortest possible time.
- The Government has been very swift in providing relief and its seriousness in the matter.
- Mr. Stalin, who was Chennai Mayor and Local Administration Minister earlier should use his experience and pull the city out of the dilemma.
- The Government has to hike its preparedness to deal with the northeast monsoon in advance with the retreat of South-West monsoon every year

RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PEOPLE :-

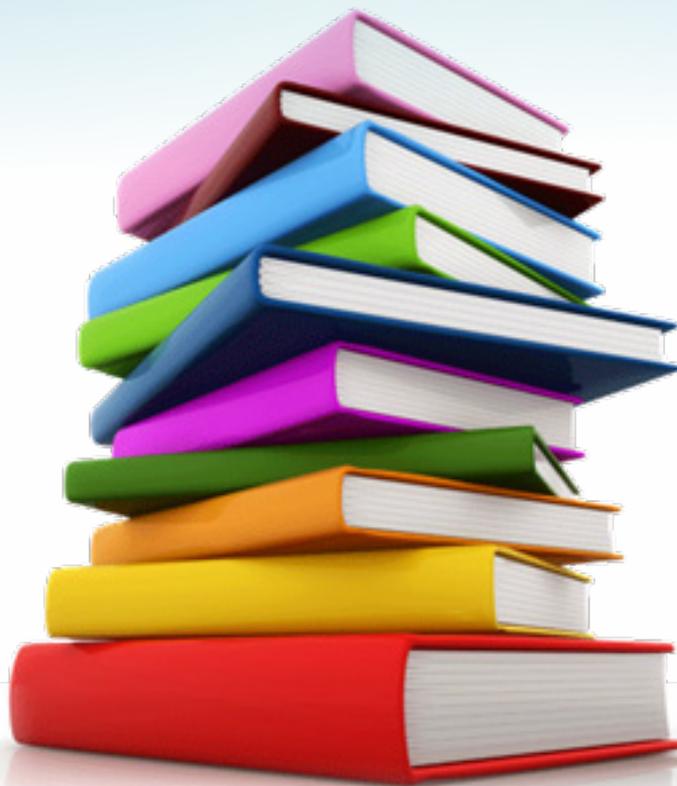
To fulfill their responsibility and ensure that the water bodies and drains are not turned into dumps. Though much needed improvement has not been seen in the problem of inundation from years.

Rajeev Yadav



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CURRENT AFFAIRS

NOVEMBER 2021

Industrial Output went down and Inflation going up : Not a good sign (GS 3, Economics, The Hindu, Indian Express)



NEWS/ CONTEXT:

The data of National Statistical Office shows that India's industrial output fell 2.6% month on month basis in September. It happened even when the retail inflation marginally moved up to four 4.48% in October with the sharp rise in urban price trends. The growth of industry as shown by the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) for the month of August 2021 was 12% compare to the month of August in 2020. The pace of growth dipping sharply to 3.1 percent in September 2021 in comparison to September 2020. The industry is blaming the supply side constraints for the moderation in industrial output.

Growth is affected: As per the phd Chamber of Commerce and industry for the Pradeep Multani, The shortage in raw material and higher commodity prices are impacting the production and overall growth of Index of Industrial Production (IIP). Industry is expecting that input prices might come down due to the cuts in fuel taxes.

The sharp decrement in the IIP growth is mainly because of base effect.

(what is base effect: This is to understand that when the base is high, the growth percentage will be coming as low. Similarly when the base is low the growth percentage will be coming as high. Because generally growth

is calculated on the basis of percentage and the percentage whether will remain high or low very much depends upon the base.) But the sequential decline in the IIP growth is a cause of concern. The government has to go for demand stimulating economic policies so that consumer spending could be boosted. This is a crucial and essential driver to get a sustainable economic momentum in 2022.

We are witnessing that the activity in construction and Infrastructure has come down, which may not go good for rural demand and externalities related to this sector, because of the fact that many labours working on the site of construction belongs to rural area and many raw materials which is used in construction are prepared in rural areas.

In the month of October the consumer price inflation moved to 4.48 % in comparison to 4.5% in September on the basis of year on year. While the urban parts of the country on the basis of consumer price index urban have experienced sharper jump from 4.5% in September to 5.04% in October.

Inflation in the food prices at the consumer label on the basis of consumer food price index has witnessed as 0.85% in October. It was marginally higher than 0.68 percent for the month of September. In contrast to this urban consumers have experience a higher rate of food inflation of 1.72 percent. The inflation in communication and transportation stood at 10.9%, whereas oil and fats have witnessed higher rate of inflation of 33.5% in October.

As per the ICRA chief economist Aditya Nayar, The sharp month on month rise of 2.3% in the food and beverages index was driven by the 14.2% spike in vegetable prices, a trend which is expected to persist in the ongoing month with the further rise in the prices of staples such as potatoes, onions and tomatoes. She also agreed that the fuel tax cuts announced recently might soften the November inflation.

The production in the automobile Sector fell 9% in September from a year ago. According to index of Industrial Production, the auto production slid for the second month in a row, declining 3.3% over other August output.

WAY FORWARD:

The government has to go for demand stimulating economic policies so that consumer spending could be boosted. The government needs to spend more to incentivise the supply side of the economy as well as to boost the demand side. This is a crucial and essential driver to get a sustainable economic momentum in 2022.

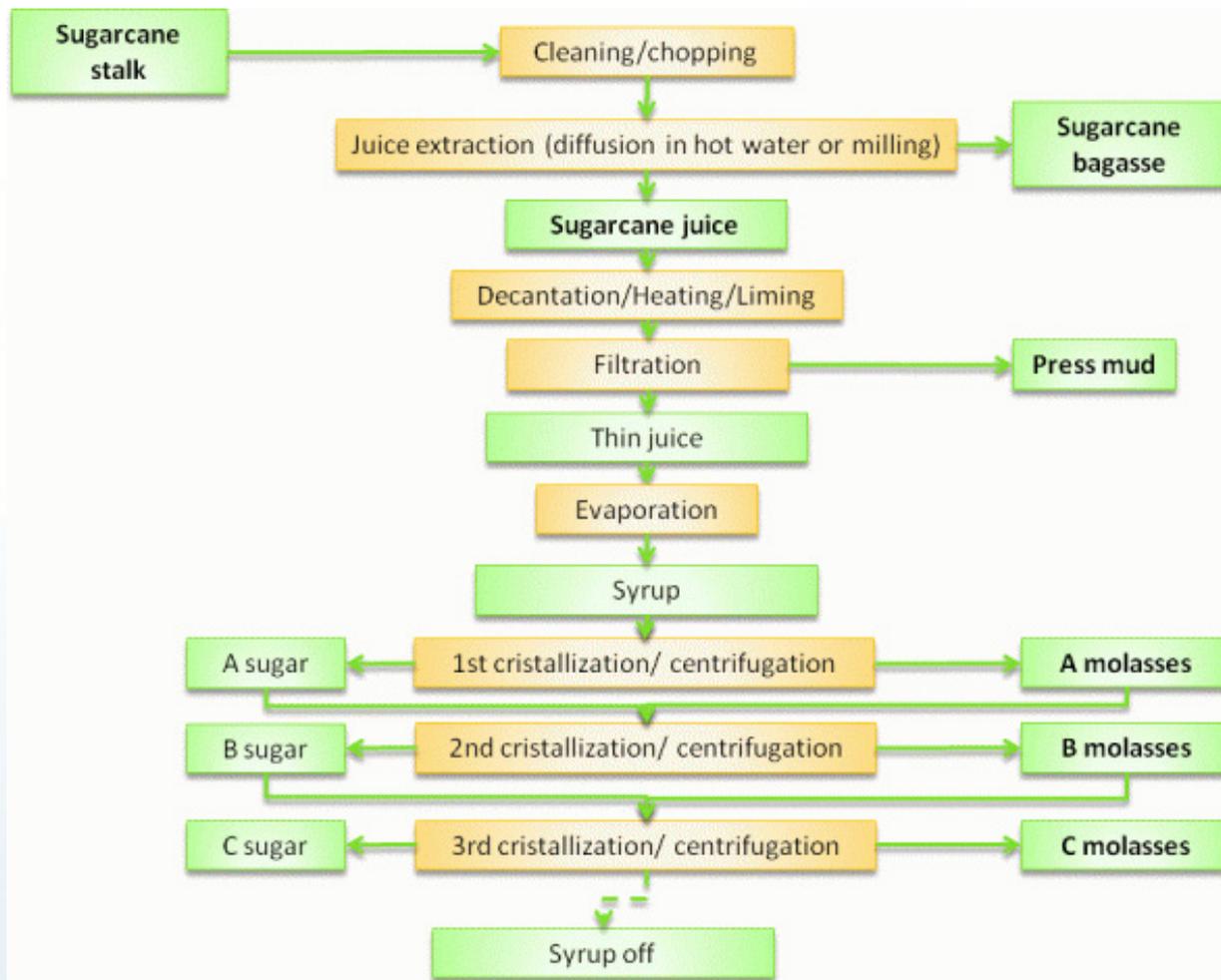
**Md Layeeque Azam,
Economics Faculty**

Central Government's Incentives for Jute, Cotton and Sugar to Farmers (GS 3, Economics, The Hindu, Indian Express, PIB)

NEWS/ CONTEXT:

The Cabinet Committee On Economic Affairs has approved impressive measures to support farmers growing jute cotton and sugar.

The cabinet committee on economic affairs at a meeting increased the price of ethanol to Rs 63.45 for the upcoming market season of sugar, starting in December. This ethanol is extracted from sugarcane juice for blending in petrol. This is an increase of 80 paise from the previous year. The rate of ethanol extracted from B-heavy molasses is up by Rs 1.47 a litre, while that of ethanol extracted from C-heavy molasses has been increased by 97 paise a litre.



Ethanol blending is considered as crucial in controlling the carbon emission coming out of petrol. It is expected that ethanol blending with petrol will reach 10% (E10) next year and 20% (E20) by 2025. The ethanol blending programme also reduced the dependency on crude oil imports.

E10 fuel is a blend of 10% ethanol with unleaded petrol (gasoline), E20 fuel is a blend of 20% ethanol with unleaded petrol. India in 2021 has achieved only 6% of blending.

According to the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog), a government-backed policy think tank. **“To achieve the 20% target, India needs to expand its ethanol production to 10.2 billion liters—including 5.5 billion liters from sugarcane and a whopping 4.7 billion liters from grains”.**

Oil market companies buy ethanol from distilleries and sugar mills at the price set by the central government. Sugar mills are required to pay the sugarcane farmers for the sugar they buy, and we have witnessed huge arrears and delay in these payments to farmers. Against this we are witnessing a sizable chunk of protests from sugarcane farmers in the region of Western Uttar Pradesh and could be a critical issue in the state’s coming assembly polls. The current rate hike is expected to reduce the pending arrears.

A committed price support of ₹17,408.85 crore has also been approved by the CCEA to the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) as reimbursement for its losses in procuring crops from farmers at minimum support prices over the last seven years. Around 58 lakh farmers and more than 400 lakh people engaged in trade and processing are dependent on cotton for their livelihood. The price support operation helps stabilize the prices and alleviate farmers distress. Whenever the market price comes down from the MSP rates set by the centre, in a bid to protect farmers from distress sales the Cotton Corporation of India is mandated to procure all Fair Average Quality grade cotton from farmers without any quantitative ceiling. The CCI procured a third of the country’s cotton production over the last two seasons during the pandemic and paid

40 lakh farmers more than 55000 crore.

Currently, raw cotton prices in various markets across the country are ruling above ₹7,000 a quintal against the MSP of ₹5,726 fixed for this year. Prices are much above MSP, which means the CCI does not need to do any market intervention this year (CCI does not need to buy cotton from farmers when farmers are already getting good prices, more than MSP from market/textile producers).

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs in another decision approved reservation norms for the mandatory use of jute in packaging this year. It has decided that 20% of sugar and 100% of food grains must compulsorily be packaged in jute bags. Two thirds of the total raw jute produced last year were consumed because of such reservations.. The central government itself purchases jute sacking bags worth around 8000 crore a year. The government ensures a guaranteed market for the produce of 40 lakh jute farmers mostly in the eastern India and supports 3.7 lakh Jute mill workers largely in West Bengal.

WHAT IS A, B AND C MOLASSES:

First molasses/A molasses; It is an intermediate by-product resulting from first sugar crystal extraction (A sugar), from initial processing at the sugar factory. A molasses contains 80-85% dry matter (DM : The dry matter or dry weight is a measurement of the mass of something when completely dried). If it has to be stored, it should be inverted in order to prevent crystallization.

Second molasses/ B molasses: It has approximately the same dry matter (DM) content as A molasses but contains less sugar and does not spontaneously crystallize.

Final molasses/C molasses (blackstrap molasses, treacle) is the end by-product of the processing in the sugar factory. It still contains considerable amounts of sucrose (approximately 32 to 42%). C molasses does not crystallize and can be found in liquid or dried form as a commercial feed ingredient.

**Md Layeeque Azam,
Economics Faculty**

Swarn Singh

Biren Kumar basak : A Great Weaver and Artist of Tangain and Jamdani style of Sarees (GS Paper I : Art and Culture)

CONTEXT:

Biren Kumar was awarded with Padam Shri award this year and he is the prominent weaver of Kolkata, He gifted a sari to our hon'ble PM Narendra Modi in which the story of our Indian culture was depicted. PM Modi also praised Biren Kumar and tweeted "Shri Biren Kumar Basak belongs to Nadia in West Bengal. He is a reputed weaver, who depicts different aspects of Indian history and culture in his Sarees. During the interaction with the Padma Awardees, he presented something to me which I greatly cherish."

ABOUT BIREN KUMAR :

- Biren Kumar Basak is manufacturer and supplier of the sari not only to India but also beyond India.
- His father was also a great weaver of saree and He was expert in Tangail and Jamdani sarees.
- After the partition, His father settled in western part of Bengal

ABOUT TANGAIN AND JAMDANI STYLE OF SAREE

- Tangain Saree is the saree of unique style evolved in the Tangail dist of Bangladesh
- To make it so soft and comfortable an extremely qualitifful yarn is used to prepare Tangail Jamdani Saree)
- Jamdani Saree is popularly known as Dhakai Jamdani or simply Dhakai, because it is originated in Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh
- The word Jamdani is derived from two words *Jam* and *Dani*. Jam is a Persian word which means flower and Dani means vase.
- This unique style of saree weaving is also mentioned in Arthashastra, A mauryan Text of 3rd century BC, and various other texts of the Gupta period.
- During the Mughal period Dhaka became the main centre of Saree weaving and Dhaka received extensive royal patronage.
- During the Mughal period, the tradition of motifs on the saree was started and now it has become its fundamental characteristic. This was the golden age of dhakai saree.
- During British rule this handicraft face various problems
- After 1947 many Hindu weavers from Bangladesh had migrated to west Bengal and they are continuing this ancient tradition of art
- It has been observed that over the last few decades this tradition art received huge support from our government

TECHNIQUE OF JAMDANI SAREE.

- These sarees are woven on the brocade loom
- Many artistic motifs are depicted in those saree. these moties depicted the Indian culture, some of depiction employees about ancient folk tale s also
- Each supplementary weft motif is added separately by hand by interlacing the weft threads into the warp with fine bamboo sticks using individual spools of thread. The result is a myriad of vibrant patterns that appear to float on a shimmering surface.
- The remarkable thing is that this weaving technique is unique regarding its fabric, its style and its art
- Popular motifs include panna hajar (thousand emeralds), kalka (paisley), butidar (small flowers), fulwar (flowers arranged in straight rows), tersa (diagonal patterns), jalar (motifs evenly covering the entire saree), duria (polka spots) and charkona (rectangular motifs).

In this way we see our government is promoting our ancient traditional art through providing awards to those persons who are preserving ancient traditional art of India. Biren Kumar Basak is one of them, Through his work he is not only reviving this ancient craft but also, this style of saree is being popular in India as well as in abroad also

Dr Anshul Bajpai

AGRICULTURE IN INDIA – FUTURE TECHNOLOGICAL PROSPECTS

GS-3 FOOD SECURITY, E-TECHNOLOGY IN AID OF FARMERS

CONTEXT

The era of **Green Revolution** in agriculture in India has come a long way. The science behind the revolution is what saved the country from food shortages and severe farming distress.

Today, the country is once again at the turning point, though it's in a much stronger position than it was in the pre-green revolution era. India today is one of the leading producers in a variety of crops which include wheat, cotton, rice, sugarcane and an impressive list of fruits and vegetables. But, India lags behind in terms of yield or output per unit of land. Major reasons affecting crop yields include access to high-quality farm inputs, mechanisation, access to capital climate conditions, and latest farming techniques.

Even if we sought the above mentioned problems, the purpose is defeated if the seeds that go into our lands are not of the best quality or do not have resistance to many of the pests and diseases.

MERITS OF GM TECHNOLOGY

- **Transition from Importer to Net-Exporter:** In India reap immediate and very impressive benefits of **GM technology**. Ever since the Indian agricultural sector has been opened to the **genetically-modified cotton (Bt Cotton)**, the country has emerged as one of the major producers of Cotton cash crop and in less than a span of 3-4 years, India became a net exporter.
- **Value addition in the crop:** Transgenic or modified seeds are nothing but seeds which have some value addition by introducing new desired genes extracted from another species. The genome of the seed can be changed as per the need and can improve **its taste, colour, quality, nutrition value** and make them resistant to common diseases or resistant from the impact of nature (drought, pest etc) for eg the bollworm that attacks the cotton plants.
- **Climate Resilient Agriculture:** Following mentioned critical need for the future – climate resilient agriculture can be attained through the use of GM technology.
 - ▶ Disease and drought-resistant plants that require less water and fertilizer.
 - ▶ Less dependence on pesticides
 - ▶ Ensuring stable supply of food with less cost and longer shelf life
 - ▶ Medicinal foods when introduced with special genes can be used as vaccines or other medicines.
 - ▶ Can help in tackling hunger for eg- fortified crops.

DEMERITS OF GM CROPS

- **Diversification in Genetic Crops:** BT cotton is the only available GM crop right now in the Indian agriculture market. The benefits of this transgenic technology enjoyed by the cotton farmers have not spread to other crops.
- **Losing valuable Forex:** China is importing huge quantities of maize imports from the American countries. Whereas as China's next-door neighbour, India is unable to profit from these opportunities or have a competitive price because of the current levels of productivity.
- **Keeping pace with Technological Advancement:** Indian agriculture is not averse to science and technology, and development of technology in agriculture is not in pace. Gene edited crops have shown great promise and are being cultivated in other parts of the world for benefits like quality of produce, India can also increase its agricultural produce by keeping pace with GM technology.

- **Unknown Environmental Impact:** There can be unknown consequences and disturbance in nature to altering the natural state of an organism through foreign gene expression. Such alterations can change the organism's response to external environmental factors, change its metabolism, growth rate etc.
- **Health associated Risks:** Possibility of exposure to new cancer causing agents in genetically modified foods, as well as the transfer of antibiotic-resistant genes to gut flora etc have potential health risks to humans.

WAY FORWARD

- **Keeping Pace biotechnology:** Other GMO crops can be granted permission after the exhaustive Environmental impact assessment for eg Bt brinjal, DMH-11 mustard. Only after core and deep research the government should go for commercialization of GM seeds.
- **Use of Indigenous Technology:** In order to double farmers income home-grown technologies should be encouraged and also get support with the necessary regulatory steps without any compromise on the science and safety.
- **Promoting investment:** There is a need to attract foreign investment along with more domestic allocation of funds which will motivate all technology developers to take interest in crops that are relevant to India.

Anshum Verma

The Relevance of Nehru's legacy [GS Paper II]

NOTE → The **views** in this Article are **personal** and **belong to Mr. Shashi Tharoor** [Third-term Member of Parliament (Congress Party) representing Thiruvananthapuram.

CONTEXT :

The date **14 November 1889** marks the birth anniversary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India. Today, looking back on his 132nd birthday of PT. JAWAHARLAL NEHRU.

A/C Mr. Tharoor, In the 1940s, Clearly 4 men had the vision of free India :

1. Gandhi
2. Nehru
3. Patel
4. Ambedkar

The much needed strategy and tactics for the struggle against British rule was provided by- Gandhiji, Nehru, Ambedkar and Sardar Patel.

- Gandhi had moral righteousness and Integrity.
- Jawaharlal Nehru had political passion.
- Sardar Patel unified as well as tried to integrate the nation.
- Ambedkar helped in working out a legal document laying the foundations of an enduring democracy.

CONTRIBUTIONS :

Gandhi taught the virtues of truth, non-violence, and peace at a time when the world was disintegrating into fascism, violence, and war.

While the nation was rocked from bloodshed and communal massacre, Ambedkar delivered the values of constitutionalism and the rule of law.

Patel led the nation to a vision of unity and common purpose, when there were threats about national unity. The humane and non-sectarian vision of Nehru, inspired and brought the glory of India. While mobs were marching into the streets for taking revenge,

Mr. Tharoor further says, Gandhi and Nehru stood out among the four. Despite differences over both tactics and philosophy, these two men proved a challenging combination.

Gandhiji helped and guided Nehru to reach the zenith of politics and Nehru equally proved to be an inspirational campaigner as President of the Indian National Congress, with his speeches and tireless travelling.

KEEPER OF THE FLAME

When Mahatma Gandhiji was assassinated in 1948, just five months after Independence, Nehru, the country's first Prime Minister kept the national flame burning.

After Gandhi's death, Nehru spent a lifetime involved in the democratic values codified by Ambedkar, tried to instill the habits of democracy among the masses.

NEHRU HAD:

- a disrespect for dictators
- a respect for parliamentary procedures
- an abiding faith in the constitutional system

Mr. Tharoor further keeps glorifying Nehru by saying that Nehru's stature was so great that the country he led seemed inconceivable without him.

A/C HIM, NEHRU WAS :

- Incorruptible
- Visionary
- Ecumenical
- A politician above politics

Welles Hangen, a leading American journalist, published a book, a year before his death entitled as- **After Nehru, Who?**

Nehru himself, as a man with an open and questioning mind, would have allowed his practical thinking to evolve with the times, even while remaining anchored to his core beliefs.

THE PILLARS OF HIS IMPRINT

In my 2003 biography, *Nehru: The Invention of India*, I sought to examine this great figure of 20th-century nationalism from the vantage point of the beginning of the 21st.

At the same time, I sought to analyse critically the four principal pillars of Nehru's legacy to India —

- Democratic institution-building
- Staunch pan-Indian secularism
- Socialist economics at home
- foreign policy of non-alignment

A DEFERENCE TO THE SYSTEM

- As Prime Minister, Nehru carefully nurtured the country's infant democratic institutions.
- He wrote regular letters to the Chief Ministers of the States, and explained his policies and took feedbacks.
- Took opposition into consideration even if when it is in minority.
- He was cautious not to interfere with the judicial system.
- He started the practice of offering a daily darshan at home for an hour each morning to anyone coming in off the street without an appointment.
- It was Nehru who ingrained democratic traits in our country.

NEHRU LEFT A PRECIOUS LEGACY OF FREEDOM AS HE HAD :-

- Respect for Parliament
- Regard for the judicial independence
- Courtesy to those of different political convictions
- Commitment to free elections
- Deference to institutions over those of individuals

Rajeev Yadav

DECARBONISING TRANSPORTATION SECTOR GS-3 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, CONSERVATION, POLLUTION, DEGRADATION

During the course of **COP 26**, **most important players** were unable to focus beyond their individual goals, which explains the reasons why the world has made so little progress on one of the **biggest crises of the time, climate change**. Changing landscapes in the form of Melting ice caps, flooding in the plains and loss of human lives have become a norm and despite billions of dollars of commitments and technological innovations, **no actual progress has been made**.

With reference to the transportation sector which is one of the major sectoral contributors in global carbon emitters, **little has been pledged to muzzle the exhaust of large car markets**. Decarbonisation of the transport sector by 2050 is not just essential but will require **a holistic and integrated approach**. Innovating technology to create a cleaner road sector is essential, but it needs to be combined with other interventions too.

GLOBAL EMISSIONS AND TRANSPORT SECTOR

- **Increasing Temperatures: Paris Agreement's** goal of limiting global temperature rise to below 1.5°C and hitting carbon neutrality by 2050 seems to be out of reach as of now. Even many warnings have been issued by the United Nation for rising temperatures that the planet was on a "catastrophic pathway" to 2.7°C of heating, breaking the promise made six years ago.
- **Emissions From Transportation:** The transport sector alone is responsible for **1/4 of total global emissions**, out of which **road transport accounts for 3/4 of transport emissions** (and 15% of total global CO₂ emissions). Passenger/ local vehicular pollution are the largest chunk of this, releasing about 45% of CO₂. If these trends prevail, **annual GHG emissions in 2050 will be 90% higher** than those of 2020.
- **Emissions in India:** The contribution of the **Indian transportation sector to the country's GHG**

emissions is about 12% (railways alone accounts for about 4% of GHG emissions). According to the latest estimates, vehicular emissions are also among the **fastest-growing** and have almost tripled compared to 1990's level.

CHALLENGES ASSOCIATED CURBING EMISSIONS

- **Impotent Global Private automobile players:** The world's biggest brands in the automobile sector like Toyota, Volkswagen, BMW and are unlikely to get on board with an **emissions pledge of COP26** climate summit because their respective governments are reluctant. Many of the automobile companies don't even have plans to curb their respective emissions.
- **Lack of Governmental Accountability:** Governments **US, China, and Japan** who account for three of the world's biggest automobile markets, and have emissions amounting to 50% of global emission **abstained from taking the pledge**. However, India, despite being the 4th largest auto market in the world, joined hands with the coalition along with the UK, Canada, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, and Sweden.
- **Under-Reporting of Emissions:** UN and other emission monitoring agencies have highlighted under-reporting of GHG emissions. The huge **gap in the data ranges from at least 9.5 billion to as high as 14 billion tonnes** a year which is enough to have a meaningful impact on the planet's temperature.

INDIA'S INITIATIVES

- **Forum for Decarbonizing Transport** was launched in August 2021 as a part of the **NDC-TIA Project** for developing a coherent strategy for decarbonising the Indian transport sector which ultimately reduces the emission.
- The **Indian Railways, which** accounts for 4% of Indian emissions, also announced that it is **likely to become the world's first railways to attain 'net-zero' carbon emitter** by 2030.
- The Electric vehicles in India got promotions through the **FAME Scheme** under the Ministry of Heavy Industries and was launched as a part of the **National Electric Mobility Mission Plan**.
- Under the **Produce linked incentive scheme**, around Rs.18,000 crore was approved for **development of advanced cell chemistry** battery storage manufacturing which aims to encourage domestic development of **Electric Vehicles (EVs)** so as to cut down their manufacturing cost.

WAY FORWARD

- **Decarbonising India Roads:** According to Greenpeace, to reach targets of COP 26, Indian road transportation needs to be entirely decarbonized by 2050. Private sector needs to **phase out internal combustion engine vehicles** over the next decade to get there.
- **Need of Investments:** A handful number of policymakers are looking for focused solutions but are not getting enough attention or investments. **Public capital must assist private investment to priority areas**.
- **EVs as Solution:** It is equally important to take into account the issues faced in the Electric Vehicles manufacturers. In order to revive the EV sector it's **cost, technology, manufacturing at scale or margins** would be a focusing areas.
- **Promotion of greener ways like cycling, walking, work from home culture and public transport coupled with electrification of motor vehicles** should be the right strategy for the country to decarbonise Indian roads.

Anshum Verma

MPLAD Scheme (Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme)

WHY IN NEWS?

The Union Cabinet has restored the MPLAD scheme that was suspended in April 2020. However, the MP's will get rupees 2 crore instead of the annual approved 5 crore.

- In April 2020 government decided to direct the fund of the MPLAD under the Ministry of Finance to meet the emergency situation posed by Covid19, for the financial year 2020-2021- 2021-2022.
- The fund has been utilized to improve the health infrastructure, provide free ration under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana and free vaccination to the people.

WHAT IS MPLAD SCHEME?

- The MPLAD scheme came into existence in 1993 to enable MP's to recommend development work in their constituencies with emphasis on the creation of durable community assets based on the local needs.
- In the beginning, the scheme was under the control of the Ministry of Rural Development and Planning, later in 1994 the scheme was transferred to the Ministry of Statics and Programme Implementation.
- Each year MP gets rupee 5 crores in two installments (currently reduced to 2crores). The fund is non-lapsable.
- The members of Lok Sabha can recommend works in their respective constituencies.
- The Rajya Sabha members who are elected can recommend work anywhere in the state from which they are elected.
- The Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha members who are nominated may choose to work for implementation anywhere in the country.

SPECIAL FOCUS:

- Every year MPs are required to recommend works costing at least 15 percent of the MPLADS funds for the year for areas inhabited by Scheduled Caste population and 7.5 percent for Schedule Tribe population.

NEWLY ADDED AREA:

- As per the 'Guidelines on Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS)' published by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in June 2016, the MPLAD funds can be used for the implementation of the schemes such as Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan), conservation of water through rain water harvesting and Sansad Aadarsh Gram Yojana.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SCHEME :

- Nearly 19 lakh projects worth 45,000 crore had been sanctioned under the MPLAD scheme until 2017.
- The creation of the assets has been reported to be of good quality that had a positive impact on the

'local economy, social fabric and feasible environment', by the Third party evaluators appointed by the government.

- Nearly 82% of the projects have been implemented in rural areas and remaining in urban and semi urban areas.
- Owing to its significance the central government in 2018 approved the continuation of the scheme stating that "the entire population across the country stands to benefit through the creation of durable Assets as per locally felt needs namely drinking water, education, public health sanitation etc" under MPLAD scheme.

CONCERNS RELATED TO MPLAD SCHEME:

1. Lack of statutory backing, since it is not backed by any statutory law which makes it subjective to the whims of the government of the day.
2. Violation of federalism, the scheme interferes in the domain of the local self governing Institutions thereby violating part IX and IX- A of the Constitution.
3. Implementation lapses- CAG has raised instances of financial mismanagement and artificial inflation of amount spent.
4. The scheme is alleged to be marred by the nexus of MP's and private firms.
5. It raises the issue of conflict with separation of power as MP's are getting involved in executive functions.

COMMISSIONS RECOMMENDATIONS:

- In 2002, the National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution recommended **immediate discontinuation** of the MPLAD scheme stating that it was inconsistent with the spirit of federalism and distribution of powers between centre and state.
- **2nd Administrative Reforms Commission** report 2007 too suggested for its discontinuation.

QUESTION OF CONSTITUTIONALITY OF THE SCHEME:

A 5 judge bench of Supreme Court in 2010 upheld the constitutionality of the scheme stating –

- The functions of the MP's are limited to recommendations of the work and the actual work is done by the local authorities thereby it does not violate separation of power.
- Additionally India has a quasi federal nature of the Constitution, and the purpose of the scheme is to fulfill the development and the welfare of the state which resonates with the spirit of Directive Principle of State Policy.

WAY FORWARD:

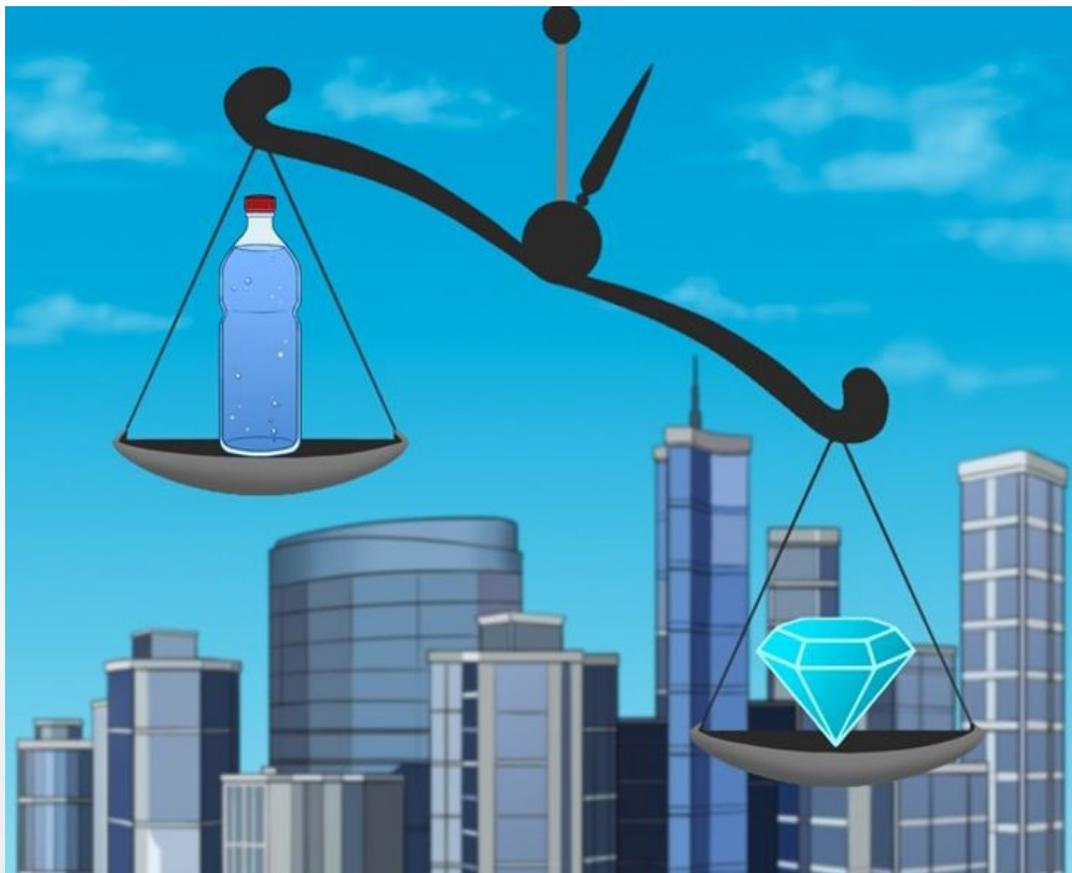
Though the constitutionality of the MPLAD scheme is upheld but the concerns of its implementation remains, which can be improved by;

- Making the fund lapsable can put pressure on the MP for its better utility.
- Better transparency and accountability is needed to ensure its effective implementation.

The increased citizens' inclusiveness and monitoring along with the political will can make this scheme a tool of welfare and development.

**By Vivek Raj Yadav
Swarn Singh**

Understanding the paradox of value:(GS 3, Economics, The Hindu, Indian Express)



Understanding the paradox of value: Why Diamond (which is non-essential) is costly and Water (which is essential and life saving) is cheap (GS 3, Economics, The Hindu, Indian Express)

There is a paradox of value in economics when we witness very high prices for non essential goods and very low prices for essential items. also known as the diamond-water Paradox. In a market economy many goods and services which are essential for our lives, like food, water, shelter, have a much lower price in comparison to goods and services that are not so essential, like gold and diamond. For human existence water is essential but the diamond is not. But water sells at a price that is just a fraction of the price of diamonds.

The similar Paradox of value we witness in the wages of essential workers such as farmers and nurses and that of the others such as managers and CEOs of companies which are considered by many as non-essential workers. Many critics of the market economy have cited this paradox of value to argue that it is an unfair economic system that leads to inequality among different populations.

Many economists have tried to explain this paradox of value. Economists like Adam Smith believed that there is difference in the amount of labour to produce different goods or services which is why there is difference in their value.

The marginal revolution in economics took place in the latter half of the 19th century, which is attributed to the contributions made by economists like Leon walras, Carl Menger, William stanley Jevons. These economists adhered to the theory of marginalism. (Marginalism is an economic theory which states that buyers make decisions on the purchase of an additional unit of any item based on the additional utility they will get from it). They argued that the exchange value of the price of goods and services is not determined

by the simple use value. It is actually their marginal use value (or utility) to the buyer which determines their value. This resolution for the paradox of value is the most widely accepted among economists.

Austrian economist Eugen von Bohm-Bawerk in his 1891 book “The Positive Theory of Capital”, explained very beautifully the theory of marginal utility. He took the example of a farmer who had five sacks of corn to use until next season. The farmer put values against all these five sacks. The first two sacks of corn he kept for his food to stay alive until the next season and that’s why he valued these two sacks the most. He was then supposed to use the remaining three sacks of corn for other purposes in descending order of importance, namely the third one to feed his poultry, the fourth one to make alcohol and the final corn sack to feed the parrots that amuse him. The farmer would be ready to pay the price for the last sack of grain depending upon the fact that how much he values feeding his parrots, which is like the least urgent of his desires.

It is to note here that it would not depend on the value for the first two corn sacks that the farmer places on his life which is most urgent desire. In case of severe shortage because of famine or other crises, the farmer would be willing to pay a higher price for the corn sacks.

Hence in the context of prices of water and diamond, it is the abundant supply of water which makes them cheap and it is the limited supply of diamond which makes it costly.

But it is not only the limited supply of diamond which makes it costly. Otherwise there are many things in the world which are very rare and scarce, but they are not as costly as diamonds.

It is to understand that for items like Gold and Diamond, people have developed trust which took a very long period of time, say since human civilization. Every civilization of the world has given cultural and traditional value to gold, most likely due to its metallic character like brightness, malleability, durability, indestructibility etc. The history of gold is unequalled by that of any other metal because of its perceived value from earliest times.

Thus there has been development of universal trust especially in gold and diamond (more in gold) regarding its acceptability as a wealth. Thus gold has traditional and cultural as well as historical significance across the world.

**Md Layeeque Azam,
Economics Faculty**

Artist Pradipta Chakraborty : A Great painter of Bengal (GS Paper I : Art and Culture)

CONTEXT :

Artist Pradipta Chakraborty of Bengal is now doing his excellent work on painting, Nowadays his legendary work on romantic painting is everywhere being appreciated. His paintings are shown in an exhibition entitled “Ae Mohabbat” in Delhi

ABOUT ARTIST PRADIPTAA CHAKRABORTY

- Pradipta Chaudhari is based on Bengal and he was born in 1979 in Malda Town of Bengal
- He did his graduation from renowned university Shankiniketal, where he learned the basics of miniature art and painting
- He got merit scholarship from kala bhavan also because of his extraordinary work on art
- His works are exhibited throughout the world

WORKS OF PRADIPTA CHAKRABORTY

- He painted romantic miniature of traditional tales
- From Heer-Ranjha to Mirza-Sahiba and Parineeta, the romantic scene of the stories are painted by Chakraborty
- His work of art brings together the fabric of socio-cultural customs and visits both the past and the present
- Melancholy Kiss of Heer Ranjha expresses an intimate moment between the lovers with metaphorical references — from a hoofed human (deer symbol of freedom in Buddhism) and a lion (symbol of pride)
- His painting on Parineeta, a great novel of Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay' is also appreciated. In this painting he includes the golden deer Maricha from the Ramayana in the depiction.
- In the story of Parneeta it has been shown that Parneeta gives of herself for her home and family. She is a complete women of India. In real, through this painting, Chakraborty gave life to this painting
- Mesmerized self identity of Universal lover, mahabharata tremendous rajneeti Cahmeli, Eco Friendly Friendship, The dark Lover, Signature Posture of Love Renaissance, The adulterous dilemma in eyes, The Visual assault 1 are the most significant works of Chakraborty

HIS SHOWS ON INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

He exhibited his work in various international Shows also. Some of them are given below

- An Exchange Exhibition with SAGA ART COLLEGE, JAPAN 2002
- National Art School, Sydney, AUSTRALIA 2002.
- National Art School, Sydney, AUSTRALIA 2002.
- Three way exchange exhibition with Comferwell College of Arts, LONDON. 2002.
- “Behind the canvas”, group show in Dubai, 2013.
- Art in the air”, group show in Dubai, 2015.
- Dubai art fair 2017 and Singapore art fair 2017. “

GENERAL FEATURES OF PAINTING OF PRADIPTA CHAKRABORTY :

- He used large canvas for painting
- His themes of the painting is romance, manly based on traditional tale or any folk or any popular novel
- Adultery is another significant feature of Chakraborty. In some of his painting we see the elements of sensuality are also reflected
- In the painting of Adultery Dilema in eyes, We observer more sensuality as women is kissing on lips of man

The Painting tradition has been popular in India for a long time. The history of this art work goes back to the paleolithic period (50000 BC) and there have been various legendary artists of painting in India. Bengal has been the land of artist which has given the artist like Ravindra Nath Tagore, Avnindra Nath Tagore etc. Chakraborty also comes from that land of art. In modern days, Chakraborty is also one of the great artist who is internationally recognised and whose works are paused globally. Definitely these artiste not only carrying forward the traditional art of India but also flourish Indian painting worldwide

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Parampara Series : A Cultural Heritage of India (GS Paper I : Art and Culture) Source : Indian Express

CONTEXT:

India is celebrating 75th years of India's freedom as Ajadi ka Amrit Mahotsav. During this auspicious occasion our cultural heritage is being exhibited through various activities related to performing art. India's great performing artists are performing on this occasion.

WHAT IS PARAMPARA SERIES :

- Paramapara series is national festival of Indian classical music and dance held every year in Hyderabad (Telangana).
- Parampara means Tradition. The objective of this series is to promote Indian classical dance and music specially Kuchipudi dance
- The another name of this festival is Andhiri/Andhri
- It is organised by Padm Bhusan Raja Reddy and Radha Reddy " s classical dance institute with the collaboration of Natya Tarangini (An institute founded by Drs Raja Reddy in Delhi during 1976. This is also dedicated to teaching the basics of classical Hindustani dance. Its sole aim is to uphold Indian Culture, Traditions and Heritage.)

SIGNIFICANCE OF PARAMPARA SERIES

- Now days these types of the organisations are only tools to preserve na promote our Indian culture
- Through our culture heritage and tradition, our national sentiments would be strong and we feel proud over our ancient culture
- This is the single platform to connect people bringing all artistes and art lovers together in the capital of India
- This institute had performed on various cultural occasion in India as well as abroad
- Natya Tarangini repertory toured the USA, Singapore, Europe, Malaysia and Kuwait.

EMINENT ARTISTS

- Pt Madhup Mudgal
- Sawani Mudgal
- Arushi Mudgal
- Dr Thiruvaarur Bhakthavathsalam
- Pt Yogesh Samsi
- Abhishek Raghuram
- Pt Sanjeev Abhyankar
- Dr Raja and Dr Radha Reddy will also be present during this festival

WHAT IS KUCHIPUDI

- It is the one for of the Indian classical dance and it originated from the place of Kuchipudi of Andhra Pradesh.

- It originated from the ancient Indian dance tradition described in the Brat muni's text natya Shastra
- In this tradition of the dance, artists perform dance on traditional tales.

SIGNIFICANCE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

- Culture makes us human. This is the culture which differentiate between human and cattle
- Cultural heritage provides us the sense of unity, sense of nationalism and a sense of recognition
- Cultural Heritage is the tool through which we transfer our values to the next generation.
- Cultural heritage is the source of life and inspiration.
- If we lose our culture, we will lose our identity and identity less human and society can never progress and it would be subjugated by others always

Culture is not merely a concept regarding our values, food habits and dressing, it is a tool which provides us recognition through which we feel pride. The organisations like Parampara series are not merely for entertainment but through these programmes we would enrich and preserve our cultural heritage. Apart from the government's efforts, these private institutions like Natya tarangini are playing an important role to promote Indian culture and Heritage. Government should encourage these types of activities on a broader scale because for national unity, culture is the most important tool.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS ARTICLE IN UPSC

At mains level – “What is the cultural Heritage. Discuss the ways through which our cultural heritage is being enriched. Also Substantiate your answer with suitable examples

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

EU AND INDO-PACIFIC OPPORTUNITIES [GS II, INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS]

CONTEXT :

The Indo-Pacific region has been notable with the U.S.-China strategic contestation and the speedy development of **the Quad** (Australia, Japan, India and the U.S.) as well as **AUKUS** [comprising Australia, the U.K. and the U.S.]

INFORMATION –

Europe's connection with Asia is old, and multifaceted.

ASIA carries a lot of global significance, and it is evident from the fact that since 2018, France, the Netherlands, Germany and the U.K. have announced their different policies towards the Indo-Pacific region.

DEVELOPMENTS –

The following developments may be bit disturbing for EU :-

- China's aggressiveness along the periphery of EU
- Economic consolidation through RCEP
- The Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership

2 DEVELOPMENTS OF EU ARE NOTABLE :

- Announcement by the Council of the European Union of its initial policy conclusions in April.
- The unveiling of the EU strategy for cooperation in the Indo-Pacific on September 16.

EU IS ALREADY A PARTNER WITH THE FOLLOWINGS:

- The EU and the Indo-Pacific are “natural partner regions”
- The EU is a significant player in the Indian Ocean littoral states
- The ASEAN
- The Pacific Island states

EU must engage across a wide spectrum with all the current partners and also add others in the fold.

FUTURE PROGRESS CAN BE IN THE FOLLOWING :-

- To defend the “rules-based international order”
- Promote a level-playing field for trade and investment
- Sustainable Development Goals
- Multilateral cooperation
- Support “truly inclusive policy-making” encompassing the civil society and the private sector
- Protect human rights and democracy

THE POLICY DOCUMENT ALSO SAYS COOPERATION WILL BE STRENGTHENED IN THE FOLLOWING :-

- Sustainable and inclusive prosperity
- Green transition
- Ocean governance
- Digital governance and partnerships
- Connectivity
- Security and defence
- Human security

The EU thus promises to focus on the security and development dimensions of its relationship.

But the EU’s security and defence capabilities are quite limited, as compared to the U.S. and China. Hence it has to ally with –

- France (having sizeable assets and linkages with the Indo-Pacific)
- The U.K. (as it expand its role in Asia as part of its ‘Global Britain’ strategy)

AS A MAJOR ECONOMIC POWER, THE EU HAS AN EXCELLENT CHANCE OF SUCCESS IN ITS TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WITH :-

- Australia
- Indonesia
- New Zealand
- With the East African Community

- In forging fisheries agreements and green alliances with interested partners to fight climate change.

IN LIEU OF ALL THIS, WHAT EU MUST PROVIDE IN RETURN?

EU must share its financial resources and new technologies with partner-countries.

APPROACH OF EU W.R.T. CHINA AND INDIA –

In EU also,

- Many states view China as a great economic opportunity
- Others are acutely conscious of the China challenge

The risks being faced the EU-

- Russia is on China's side
- The EU should cooperate with the Quad
- AUKUS, already bothered for France

An attempt by a part of the western alliance to bolster naval and technological facilities to deal with **China** cannot be welcome steps.

India's pivotal position in the region necessitates a closer India-EU partnership.

The India-EU Leaders' Meeting on May 8, followed by the External Affairs Minister's Gymnich meeting in Slovenia with the EU foreign ministers on September 3, were designed to "foster new synergies".

EU needs an internally coordinated approach.

SOME STEPS NEEDED ARE :-

- Early conclusion of an ambitious and comprehensive trade agreement
- A standalone investment protection agreement
- Cooperation in Industry 4.0 technologies
- Consolidating and upgrading defence ties with France, Germany and the U.K.

The EU can create a vantage position for itself in the Indo-Pacific by being more open, more confident with China, and more cooperative with India.

Rajeev Yadav

Central Bureau of Investigation- CBI (GS Paper-II, Indian Polity & Constitution) Source: Indian Express

WHY IN NEWS?

Eight States have recently withdrawn consent to CBI namely, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Kerala and Mizoram.

WHAT DOES THE WITHDRAWAL OF GENERAL CONSENT MEAN?

It implies that CBI will no longer be able to register any fresh case involving officials of the Central Government or a private person in the state without the consent of that state government.

TYPES OF CONSENT:

1. **Case specific-** CBI can investigate a case involving a State Government employee or a crime in state only after the concerned state gives its consent.
2. **General consent-** It is generally given to the CBI to seamlessly conduct its investigation into the case of corruption against Central Government employees in the concerned state.

RECENT VERDICT:

In a recent verdict of illegal coal mining and cattle smuggling being investigated by the CBI, Calcutta High Court ruled that the central agency cannot be stopped from probing an employee of the central government in another state.

ABOUT CBI?

- It is the main investigating agency of the central government. It plays an important role in the prevention of corruption and maintaining integrity in administration.
- It also provides assistance to the Central Vigilance Commission.
- CBI was established on the recommendations of Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption(1962-1964).
- It is not a statutory body and functions under the Ministry of Personnel Pension and Public Grievances.

SOURCE OF POWER:

- CBI derives its power from Delhi Special Police Establishment Act 1946.

FUNCTIONS OF CBI:

- Investigating cases of corruption, bribery and misconduct of the central government employee.
- Investigates cases related to the infringement of the fiscal and economic law.
- Investigates serious crime having National and International ramification committed by the organised Gangs Of Professional criminals.
- Coordinating the activities of the Anti Corruption Agencies and various state police force.
- Taking up on the request of the state government any case of public importance of Investigation.
- The agency maintains crime statistics and disseminates criminal information.
- The CBI also acts as the 'National Central Bureau of Interpol' in India.

DIFFERENT TYPES OF CASES HANDLED BY CBI:

1. **Special crime-** investigate serious crimes under Indian penal code and other laws on the request of the State government or on the order of the Supreme Court and High Court.
2. **Economic crimes-** investigates major financial scams and serious economic fraud, for example cybercrime, fake currency notes,smuggling etc.
3. **Anti corruption crimes-** it deals with the corruption cases under the Prevention of Corruption Act against the public officials and employees of the central government.
4. **Suo Moto case-** it can take up the case itself only in Union Territories.

CONCERNS ASSOCIATED WITH CBI:

- The agency depends upon the Home Ministry for staffing since many of its investigators come from Indian Police Services.
- CBI run by IPS officers on deputation makes it susceptible to the government's ability to manipulate the officials.
- The agency also depends upon the Law Ministry for lawyers and lacks functional autonomy to some extent.
- Excessive political interference, it has often been used by the government to keep political opponents at bay. This is why the Supreme Court called CBI a caged parrot.
- Lack of accountability as it is excluded from RTI provisions.
- Provision of consent of states limits the power and the extent of Investigation by CBI.
- CBI has been accused of becoming handmaiden to the party in power as a result high-profile cases are not treated seriously.

WAY FORWARD:

- Providing statutory status to the CBI would help maintain the independence of the Institution.
- Another way to ensure autonomy would be to delink the agency from the administrative control of the government.
- According to the Second Administrative Reform Commission 2007 new laws should be enacted to govern the working of CBI.
- The government must also ensure financial autonomy.
- The CBI Act should be formulated to ensure the autonomy of CBI while at the same time improving the quality of supervision.

Vivek Raj Yadav

RBI seeking private investment, Centre devolving more funds: All to get sustained growth (GS 3, Economics, The Hindu, Indian Express)



NEWS/ CONTEXT:

The RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das has asked banks to be ready for the investment with the pickup of the investment cycle which is likely to begin next fiscal as per RBI.

Many macroeconomic indicators are suggesting that economic recovery is now taking hold after the sluggish economy experienced during the pandemic. But for this economic recovery and growth to be consistent and sustainable and to reach its potential, private capital investment has a crucial role to play. The Governor has said in a meeting with the banks that **the economy has potential to grow at a reasonably high rate in the post pandemic if the private capital investment resumes.**

The central bank has kept its forecast of growth as 9% for the current fiscal year although many economists are revising down the growth forecast between 8.5 percent and 10%.

It is to be noted that private capital investment has been missing from the economy since 2013 or is not of the level as it was to be before 2013.

The RBI Governor has told the banks that their capital management process has to be improved. **The RBI Governor lauded the Tech Entrepreneurs and said that the country has emerged as a top performer in the startup landscape and it is attracting billions of foreign capital.**

The good thing in the economy with respect to banks is that the balance sheets of banks are fast improving. **The gross bad loans of the banks have come down** in the September quarter from the previous quarter.

In another development the centre has decided to remit ₹95,082 crore to states, double the amount due on centre from the shareable pool of taxes this month so as to make state enable to deploy more fund on capital expenditure. This decision was taken by Central Finance and Corporate Affairs minister Nirmala Sitharaman in a meeting with state chief ministers and governors ministers.

“The context of the meeting was that after the second wave, we are seeing a robust growth. However, it’s also a time where we are looking at ways in which we need to sustain the growth, take it as close as possible to a double-digit growth for which the Centre and States have to work together,” Ms. Sitharaman said.

She urged States to help India become the fastest growing economy in coming years, through facilitating investment attractiveness and expediting ease of doing business measures and undertake power sector reforms.

Several States requested the Centre for early release of funds to speed up capital spending just as it had front-loaded the remittance of their GST compensation dues for this year.

What are Bad Loans/ Stressed Assets/ NPAs : The Non Performing Assets is abbreviated as NPA, also said as Stressed Assets or Bad Loans. When the banks give money to borrowers as loans, the banks write these loans as assets in their balance sheets (The balance sheet shows the assets and liabilities of any company or bank). These loans will be said as performing if the borrower is repaying the loan amount back to the bank including interests as per the agreement. Now say if the borrower is unable to repay the loan amount or the interest, which will be generally in the form of EMI, then the loan (which is an asset of the bank) will be said as non-performing. And now Banks will not write these loans as assets in their balance sheet but as Non-Performing Assets (NPAs). In general these loans are also termed as Bad Loans or stressed Assets.

As per RBI rules, loans should be written as NPAs if the borrower is unable to pay the principal amount or interest for 90 days after borrowing or keep a 90 days gap in between. It means from the 91st day onward banks have to write loans as NPAs. Now if there is 90 days gap in repayment, there will be fear whether those loans will be returned back. The fear will increase with the increasing gap and accordingly these loans will be renamed as Substandard Assets (90 days + 1 year), Doubtful Assets (90days + 1 year + 1 year), Loss assets (Non collectible) etc. All these could be said as NPAs as all are having at least 90 days gap in repayment.

**Md Layeeque Azam,
Economics Faculty**

INDO-US RELATIONS AND THE THREAT OF SANCTIONS

[GS PAPER II]

CONTEXT:

With the announcement of supplies of the S-400 Triumf system to India by Russia, the U.S. has now threatened India with sanctions. Though this deal for the air defence system was signed in 2018 during Mr. Putin's visit then.

For this current action, the US may use the excuse of CAATSA ACT (Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act), which was passed in 2017.

CAATSA ACT – provides for economic and travel sanctions against the countries and officials that transacted significant military and intelligence contracts with Russia, North Korea and Iran.

STAND OF INDIA W.R.T. THE U.S. SANCTIONS :- “Little heed or not much concern”

A rupee-rouble system has been used by India and Russia, in order to protect advance payments for the S-400 from U.S. restrictions.

OPTIONS WITH U.S.A. –

Not to allow the S-400 delivery to turn into a showdown with India.

The U.S. Congress has authorised U.S. President Joe Biden to waive sanctions if :

- The waiver is found to be in American “vital national security interests”
- OR India would reduce its future dependence on Russian weaponry
- Many U.S. Congress representatives have proposed amendment to CAATSA, as India is a very crucial U.S. partner [the Quad, the Indo-Pacific and in countering China].

RESULT OF THE SANCTIONS :

- Sanctions will create a rift in Indo-U.S. ties, and could move India towards Russia.
- Such unilateral sanctions, not U.N. endorsed, will compromise with the multilateral system
- Threat of sanctions will hurt the very basis of Indo-U.S. global strategic partnership

MEANING OF SUCH SANCTIONS TO INDIA:

- To be a party to a bilateral dispute
- Challenging India's principles of sovereignty and strategic autonomy

WAY FORWARD :

INDIA should make it clear to U.S. that the CAATSA law should be abandoned, as it invalidates the “rules-based International order” which is the foundation of the India-U.S. global strategic partnership and also take the US legislators into confidence.

Rajeev Yadav

National Register Of Citizen- NRC (GS Paper-II, Polity, Constitution and Governance) Source: The Hindu

WHY IN NEWS?

- Over 19 lakhs of 3.29 crore applicants in Assam were excluded from the final draft register published on August 31st 2019.
- The Assam government has rejected the NRC in its current form and demanded re-verification of at least 30% names in areas bordering Bangladesh and 10% in the rest of the State.

WHAT CAN REJECTED APPLICANTS DO?

- Each rejected person can approach foreign Tribunal within 120 days of receiving the rejection list.
- Under Citizenship rule any person may object to the inclusion or exclusion of a person from citizens register.
- After which the local Registrar will issue a notice and the applicants will have to furnish the documents to prove their claim.

WHAT IS NRC:

- National register of citizens is the official record of legal Indian citizens. It includes demographic information of all Indian citizens as per the Citizenship Act 1955.
- For the first time the register was prepared in 1951.

ASSAM AND NRC:

- Assam is the only state in the country that has maintained such a database.
- Reason: a lot of illegal immigrants from Bangladesh migrated to Assam after the 1971 Bangladesh war which created a lot of conflicts and resentment that ultimately culminated into the Assam Accord of 1985.
- The Supreme Court ordered the update of the NRC of Assam in 2014 which officially started in 2015.

WHAT IS THE ASSAM ACCORD?

- This was a memorandum of settlement signed between the representatives of the Government of India and the leaders of the Assam movement.
- This ended the six years of Assam movement and was aimed to protect Assamese culture, economic and political rights.

IMPACT:

- By updating NRC the problem of illegal immigrants is likely to be resolved by identifying the legal residence from illegal ones.
- This record will also provide a verified database to formulate appropriate policy.
- The process of NRC will deter the illegal migrants from procuring Indian identity.
- At the same time it would also provide relief to Bengalis living in Assam who were suspected to be Bangladeshis.

CONCERNS AND NRC:

- The process of updating the NRC was flawed; lakhs of people were left out of the draft published in 2018.
- To resolve this matter the Supreme Court issued an order to mandatorily submit the biometrics of those who are left out during the hearing of the claims.
- Out of 27 lakh people left out in 2018 draft only 8 lakhs made it to the list and even these 8 lakhs are struggling to get Aadhar and other benefits.
- The deprivation from availing the Aadhar and related benefits has created a lot of mental pressure on individuals.
- Even after the entire process is completed there remains uncertainty about the future of those left out.
- The burden on Judiciary is likely to increase as “No citizens” can resort to judicial relief.
- Directly expelling migrants can also jeopardize relations with Dhaka and may damage the country’s image internationally.

WAY FORWARD:

- Robust mechanism of legal support is required to help people to prove their citizenship of India with their limited means.
- A proper course of action shall be decided regarding the fate of those excluded people.
- The land of Vasudev Kutumbakam shall take any decisions with least haste and more precision.

By:- Vivek Raj Yadav

Swarn Singh

National Interlinking of Rivers Authority GS -2 ISSUES RELATED TO DEVELOPMENT, WATER RESOURCES & MANAGEMENT

CONTEXT

The idea of **River Interlinking** was first proposed during the colonial era when **Sir Arthur Cotton**, a British general and irrigation engineer suggested linking the Ganga in the north and the Cauvery in the south for navigational purposes. The aim of the project was to link different surplus rivers of the country (which are prone to floods every year) with deficient rivers (which experience drought every year), so that the excess water from surplus regions could be diverted to water scarce regions.

The Union is working on creation of a new autonomous body i.e National Interlinking of Rivers Authority (NIRA). In order to plan, finance, investigate, and the implementation of the river interlinking projects in the country, (NIRA) will be given independent autonomous responsibility.

ABOUT NIRA

NIRA will be chaired by a panel consisting of Union Minister of Jal Shakti (chairperson), Irrigation or Water Resources Ministers and Secretaries of States. It will function as an umbrella body for all river linking projects and will replace the existing National Water Development Agency (NWDA).

The proposed body is expected to take up both inter-State and intra-State projects and will also coordinate with neighbouring countries. NIRA also will be given power to issue clearances related to environment, wildlife and forest under river linking projects and their legal aspects.

NIRA will also make arrangements for generating up funds, internally and externally by acting as a repository

of borrowed funds on deposit or loan given on interest. NIRA will also have the power to set up a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for individual link projects due to which foreign investments are expected.

MERITS OF RIVER LINKING PROJECTS

Bringing Down Regional Imbalance: India has a high dependence on monsoon rains that are irregular as well as regionally imbalanced. Interlinking of rivers will help to regulate the volume of surplus rain and river water which flows into the sea.

Irrigation: Other than the monsoon, Indian agriculture is highly dependent on irrigation. Interlinking the rivers can provide a solution to the rain-fed irrigation problems through the transferring of surplus water to deficit regions with the network of canal and barrages.

Tackling Water Distress: River inter linking can help in water management in the country, can help in mitigating the effect of drought and floods to a certain extent.

Miscellaneous Benefits: Hydro-electric power generation, development water transport, Employment generation, Ecological benefits as dried up forests and lands will be replenished etc.

ASSOCIATED CONCERNS

Ecological Costs: The project threatens to obstruct the natural ecology of rivers as when a river changes its natural course it can create new problems. Moreover the human induced structural changes can threaten the forests of the Himalayas and even impact the functioning of the monsoon system.

Displacement of people: As large strips of land (15000 km approx) might have to be converted to canals, It is estimated that the network of the project would displace about 5.5 million people, mostly tribals and farmers. These vulnerable groups need new rehabilitated areas.

Financial Costs: It is estimated that river interlinking will be a huge fiscal burden on the exchequer.

Impact on biodiversity: Many environmental groups are of the opinion that the project could be an ecological disaster. There would be a decrease in flows resulting in reduction of freshwater inflows into the seas seriously jeopardizing biodiversity. Moreover submergence of inland areas will impact the local biodiversity.

Current status ILR Projects

Out of the, six ILR projects — the Ken-Betwa is India's first inter linking project, the other five are Damanganga-Pinjal, Par-Tapi-Narmada, Manas-Sankosh-Teesta-Ganga, Mahanadi-Godavari and Godavari-Cauvery (Grand Anicut) and in peninsular india Godavari-Cauvery link is on priority.

WAYFORWARD

River Interlinking projects have many implications like economic, political, and environmental implications at national level. Therefore a wise decision is to start the project in a decentralized manner, and more sustainable ways like rainwater harvesting should be promoted to mitigate floods and droughts.

Anshum Verma

PURVANCHAL EXPRESSWAY GS – 3 GOVERNMENT POLICIES & INTERVENTION, INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

CONTEXT

Prime Minister Modi recently inaugurated the 341-km Purvanchal Expressway at Karwal Kheri in Sultanpur district, Uttar Pradesh. It is at present one of the biggest completed infrastructure projects initiated by the Uttar Pradesh government.

KEY FEATURES

- Expressway starts at **Chandsara village**, a district in Lucknow, located near the existing Lucknow-Sultanpur Road (NH-731), and it ends at Haidaria village Gazipur on National Highway 31, UP-Bihar border, in Ghazipur district is only 18 km where this 6 lanes expressway finally ends.
- The expressway has been billed as the “carrier of development” to the underdeveloped Purvanchal region with an estimated cost of Rs 22,496 crore.
- The expressway will develop an industrial corridor providing connectivity from the eastern to western borders of UP thereby opening the gates of development. The two major ends of the industrial corridor will be the existing Agra-Lucknow and Agra-Noida Yamuna expressways providing multi-modal transport services that would pass through the states as main arteries.
- The expressway will go through major urban centres of Uttar Pradesh covering districts like Lucknow, Barabanki, Amethi, Sultanpur, Ayodhya, Ambedkar Nagar, Azamgarh, Mau and Ghazipur.
- It will be equipped with modern amenities like CNG stations, electric recharge stations for vehicles and will be eased with 18 flyovers, seven railway over bridges, seven long bridges, 104 minor bridges, 13 interchanges and 271 underpasses.
- It will also be connected with the defence corridor through the Agra and Bundelkhand expressways which will boost Defence Infra in the country.

ABOUT INDUSTRIAL CORRIDORS

- National Industrial Corridor programme envisaged developing various Industrial Corridor Projects
- National Industrial Corridor Development Programme aimed at development of next generation industrial cities in India which can compete with the best manufacturing and investment destinations in the world and simultaneously can develop new industrial cities as “Smart Cities”
- These corridors will open the gates to economic growth & social growth by creating employment opportunities
- National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust (NICDIT) is the executive agency.

PROJECTS DEVELOPED UNDER INDUSTRIAL CORRIDORS

- Modern international airports
- Special economic zones/industrial areas
- High-speed transportation links (rail and road)
- Ports equipped with state-of-the-art cargo handling equipment
- Knowledge parks
- Complementary infrastructure for eg industrial townships/real estate
- Other urban infrastructure
- Logistic parks/transshipment hubs

Anshum Verma

RBI remained net purchaser of US Dollar: Why does RBI buy or sell dollars? (GS 3, Economics, The Hindu, Indian Express)



NEWS/CONTEXT:

RBI had bought 9.169 billion dollars and sold 8.378 billion dollars in the spot market in the month of September. As per the RBI data, published in its monthly report, RBI remained the net buyer of US Dollar in September 2021 as it purchased 791 million dollar on a net basis from the spot market.

Previously in the month of August 2021, the RBI had net purchases of 3.747 billion dollars. The central bank had purchased 10.887 billion dollars and sold 7.14 billion dollars in the spot market during the month of August 2021. While in the September month of previous year 2020, RBI had net purchase of 8.172 to billion Dollar.

If we look on the yearly basis then for the financial year 2020-21, RBI had net purchases of 68.315 billion dollars from the spot market. Here we can say that the forex reserve of the RBI, in terms of US currency, was increased by 68.315 billion dollars during the financial year 2020-21. **It is to be noted here that the overall forex reserve of the RBI is kept in the form of Foreign currencies (basically hard currencies including US Dollar, UK Pound, Euro and Japanese Yen), Gold, SDRs and Reserve Position in the IMF.**

If we look into the value of outstanding net purchase in the forward dollar market at the end of September 2021, It was 49.606 billion US dollars, same as it was in the previous month, the data showed.

What is forex market : Forex market is the market where foreign currencies also known as forex or foreign exchange are being bought and sold or say traded. The forex market is the most liquid market as it is very easy to sell or buy by the foreign currency here, meaning if you want to sell your foreign currency you will get the buyer very easily. It is also the largest market, many times greater than the global share market.

Forex trading takes place whenever you buy or sell the foreign currencies. For example if you want to travel to France you need to convert your rupees into euros. Here you are creating the demand for euros. How much euros you will get for your rupees, depends upon the current market value of euros which ultimately depends upon the current demand and supply of euros in the Indian market.

Similarly, like shares, you can buy or sell foreign currencies based on your own assumption for what you think its value is or its value will be in the future, as you do in the case of shares. You can trade the forex (buying and selling of basically US dollars and other hard currencies) in Indian exchanges like Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), National Stock Exchange (NSE) or Multi Commodity Stock Exchange (MCX-SX), etc. The foreign exchange market is highly liquid, decentralized and global. Commercial Banks, Brokers and Central Banks are the major participants in the foreign exchange market. Paris, London, Frankfurt, Amsterdam, Milan, New York, Toronto, Bahrain, Hong Kong, Singapore, Tokyo etc are the major commercial centres for the foreign exchange market. The RBI observes the market movement and according to its policies is obligated to intervene.

Why RBI purchases or sells dollars in the Spot Market : When the value of US Dollar increases, the Rupee depreciates. Depreciation of rupee can lead to costly imports, which can ultimately lead to inflation in India and which is not favoured as per the government policies. In this case RBI sells dollars in foreign exchange market so as to lower the dollar value and to control the depreciation of rupees. Here basically RBI is increasing the supply of dollars in the forex market of India from its own forex reserve. It will result into reduction in its own forex reserve.

Opposite to this, when the value of US Dollar decreases, the Rupee appreciates. The appreciation of rupees reduces the international competitiveness of our product and hence our export can decrease. This is also not favoured as per our government policies. Here RBI will be buying dollars to control the appreciation of rupees. Basically here RBI is trying to increase the demand of dollars and thus the dollar price can go up. In this case RBI's forex reserve will increase.

The overall mandate of the RBI is to stabilize the rate of Forex. Thus RBI sells and buys dollars based on the current situation. In this way RBI can be a net purchaser of US dollar in a month or net seller in another month.

Md Layeeque Azam,
Economics Faculty

COLLEGIUM SYSTEM AND CONTINUED DRAWBACKS [GS PAPER III]

CONTEXT :

Recently, Chief Justice of the Madras High Court Sanjib Banerjee has been abruptly transferred to head the Meghalaya High Court, its the second such instance.

In September 2019, Justice Vijaya K. Tahilramani resigned after getting shifted from Madras to the Meghalaya High Court at a time when she was the country's senior-most Chief Justice.

COLLEGIUM SYSTEM:

A system of appointment and transfer of judges that has evolved through the SC judgments [not by an Act of Parliament or by a Constitution provision].

The SC collegium is headed by the CJI and 4 other senior most SC judges.

- A HC collegium is led by its Chief Justice and 4 other senior most HC judges. Names recommended by a HC collegium for appointment reaches the government only after CJI approval and the SC collegium.
- Judges of the higher judiciary are appointed only through the collegium system and the government has a role only after the collegium decides the names.
- The government can only get an inquiry conducted by the Intelligence Bureau (IB) if a lawyer is to be elevated as a judge in a High Court or the Supreme Court.

The functioning of the collegium system of judicial appointments and transfers is ambiguous.

ACCEPTED THAT – 1 High Court is as important and prestigious as another

ACCEPTED THAT – the Chief Justice of India is empowered to transfer the head of any High Court in the interest of the “better administration of justice”.

WHERE THE PROBLEM LIES ?

When it is **unclear** why a senior puisne judge in another High Court, (about to be elevated), could not be adjusted there?

If a Chief Justice is not fit for an elevation to the Supreme Court, were there sufficient reasons to transfer the office bearer ?

- High Court Chief Justices too identify the judicial talent for appointments and streamlining administrative functions.
- A serving Chief Justice should be given a tenure long enough in a High Court to discharge these functions effectively.

In Justice Banerjee’s case, the transfer came within 10 months of his assuming office, raising the question whether he was being punished for some hidden reason ?

It may be a possibility that his transfer has anything to do with his stern approach and stinging oral observations while seeking accountability from the Government and other institutions.

5 MEMBER COLLEGIUM MEANS :-

According to ‘The Memorandum of Procedure for judicial appointments and transfers’ :-

A proposal to transfer a High Court judge can only be initiated by the CJI, [whose opinion in this regard is indisputable] alongwith the views of “one or more knowledgeable Supreme Court judges”.

Why any concern relating to a Chief Justice’s style of functioning or conduct should not have been quietly resolved by the CJI without transferring, is not clear?

Rajeev Yadav

WTO must come forward to rein nations violating trade rules: India (GS 3, Economics, The Hindu, Indian Express, WTO)

NEWS/ CONTEXT:

The commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal in a meeting at Global economic Policy Summit 2021 said that some countries are not working transparently as per international trading rules. Without naming countries like China he said that stage ahead of the World Trade Organisation ministerial meeting which

will begin later this month. He urged a reboot the way the WTO and other such global bodies go about their business to deal with such situations.



Mr Goyal urged the developed countries to look into whether they were treating the developing nations and least developed nations at par in international trade, sustainability and in achieving the goals of climate change. As per the Minister, the WTO should pay attention and reassess the way it has been conducting its affairs.

Answering a question from New Zealand high Commissioner to India David Pyne present in the meeting, the Minister said that the new zealand wanted **India to join regional comprehensive economic partnership RCEP, but it was an agreement between two unequals.**

While alluding China during the talk which is a key member of RCEP, The Minister said that **India is looking at a honest and transparent trading system, but entering into an agreement with certain economies that don't it give market access to everybody openly and equitably, don't share information, and where there are hidden subsidies, would not be at par.** The Minister said that you never get to act because you don't have the information, where you asked for data but you never get the data.

In contrast to others, India is following “the rules of transparency” with almost everything done transparently in the public domain. **For example The Right to Information laws in India are so strong, you can have almost any information as per the RTI Act.** The system allows for anyone to pay a fee just rupees 10 to take out any file from the government system. If the person seeking information belongs to BPL, he or she doesn't even need to pay the fee.

Thus reformation in the WTO is critical to check such countries' flagrant violation of trade rules. Whenever some talk about these changes take place triggered the developed nation into immediately seeking whether special and differential treatment trade benefits for the developing and less developed countries should continue.

The Indian Pharma Industry has been trying for many years but not getting market access. In contrast India has opened up to 100% through automatic approval. It means anybody from outside can invest and buy companies in India in the Pharma sector. In other many sectors too, India has opened its economy for foreign investment up to 100%.

Underdeveloped and developing countries at the level of 1000 dollar to 2000 dollar per capita income are deprived of differentiated treatments in the business practices and putting them on the same benchmark with the countries having 60000 to 80000 per capita income, is grossly unfair.

The developed nations are making noises about climate change and sustainable development goals, but they are not doing sufficient in regard to helping the less developed nations to meet their obligations while developing their economies and meeting the aspirations of billions.

WHAT ARE “SPECIAL AND DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT PROVISIONS” :

There are special provisions in the WTO agreements which give developing countries a special rights. These are called “special and differential treatment” provisions. **It was mandated by the Ministers in Doha at the 4th WTO Ministerial Conference to the committee on Trade and Development to examine these special and differential treatment provisions. A mechanism to review and analyse the implementation of special and differential treatment provisions** was established by The Bali Ministerial Conference in December 2013.

The special provisions which give developing countries special rights and which give developed countries **the possibility to treat developing countries more favourably than other WTO Members**. These special provisions include, for example, longer time periods for implementing Agreements and commitments or measures to increase trading opportunities for developing countries.

These provisions are referred to as “**special and differential treatment**” (S&D) provisions.

The special provisions include:

- longer time periods for implementing Agreements and commitments,
- measures to increase trading opportunities for developing countries,
- provisions requiring all WTO members to safeguard the trade interests of developing countries,
- support to help developing countries build the capacity to carry out WTO work, handle disputes, and implement technical standards, and
- provisions related to least-developed country (LDC) Members.

**Md Layeeque Azam,
Economics Faculty**

PM Modi on first Audit day- CAG a heritage that every generation must cherish. (GS Paper-II, Polity, Constitution and Governance) Source: The Hindustan Times

WHY IN NEWS?

The first Audit diwas was celebrated on November 16 to mark the historical origin and contribution of CAG in governance, transparency and accountability over many years.

PM Modi inaugurated the statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel at CAG office in Delhi.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

November 16,1860 the first Auditor General took charge when the audit department of Bengal Madras and Bombay Presidencies were merged under the Government of India Act 1858.

ABOUT CAG ?

CAG is the guardian of the public purse in India and controls the entire financial system of the country at both the levels- the centre and state.

CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISION:

- Article 148 provides for an independent office of Comptroller Auditor General of India.
- She/ he is appointed by the president by a warrant under his hand and seal.
- She/ he is the head of the Indian Audit and Accounts department.
- It is her/ his duty to uphold the Constitution of India and laws of parliament in the field of financial administration.

TERMS AND TENURE:

- CAG holds the office for a period of six years or up to the age of 65 years whichever is earlier.
- She/ he can resign anytime from office by addressing the resignation letter to the President.
- She/ he can be removed by the President on the same ground and in the same manner as a judge of the Supreme Court.

DUTIES:

1. CAG audits all the accounts related to all the expenditure from the Consolidated fund of India from the Consolidated fund of state and from the Consolidated fund of union territories having a Legislative Assembly.
2. She/he audits all the expenditure from the Contingency Fund of India and Contingency Fund of State and Public Account of India and public accounts of each state.
3. She/ he audits the receipt and expenditure of the centre and each state to satisfy herself / himself that the rules and the procedure in that behalf are designed to secure an effective check on the assessment collection and proper location of revenue.
4. CAG ascertains and certifies the net proceeds of any tax for duty (article 279).
5. CAG is a friend, philosopher and guide of the Public Accounts Committee of the Parliament.

CAG – ANTI CORRUPTION INSTITUTION:

1. Financial transparency, the CAG determines whether the money was used for the purpose for which it was shown in the account.
2. The office of CAG keeps fiscal watch and whenever required can put to the wisdom, faithfulness and economy of the government expenditure and may comment on the wastefulness and extravagance.
3. The audit report of CAG ensures the accountability of the executive to the parliament.
4. All the receipts which are payable in the Consolidated fund of India are audited by CAG. This procedure ensures an effective check on the assessment collection and proper allocation of revenue.
5. Reports of CAG play an important role in the exposure of corruption. e.g it played an important role in exposing Coal scam.

CAG AND CONCERNS:

- Post expenditure audit by CAG makes it more of an auditor than a controller.
- Lack of independence as CAG does not have the right to release the reports in public domain if they are not presented in the legislature within one month of their submission.
- Most of the time the government either remains passive or simply ignores the CAG findings.

- Irregular periodicity, there is no deadline for the production of documents and replies to any contempt proceedings for their denial.

Though certain concerns remain, over a period of time the image of CAG has transformed from just an agency running the files to a key part of India's development.

Its credibility can be derived from the fact that it had audited the UN headquarters involving multifarious and complex operations.

By:- Vivek Raj Yadav

Swarn Singh

Role of Indira Gandhi in strengthening India as a nation (GS Paper I : History : India's after independence)

CONTEXT :

Today is the 105 birthday anniversary of our legendary prime minister of India. She was the first lady prime minister of India who not only strengthened Indian strategically but also economically. Country is celebrating the 105th birth anniversary of this Iron lady. 19th November is also known as Quami Ekta Divas (national integration Day)

Indira Gandhi, our ex prime minister of India not only uplifted the status of common people of India but she played the most important role in solving various internal threats for security but also she weakened Pakistan through its disintegration (With the formation of Bangladesh).

When Indira Gandhi became the prime minister of India, India was facing various problems in the field of security as well as in the field of economy. We were completely dependent on the import of the grains.

Internally, India was facing the problem of communal conflict. Indira strengthened the concept of secularism and she fought for secularism throughout entire life and she sacrificed herself fighting for national integration. His last speech can be quoted in this regard "Every drop of blood that is in me will give life to India and strengthen it."

Through her last speech, she requested Indians to keep peace, nation is above any religion and India is the country of all religions and all religions are free to flourish without any restrictions so as not to encourage communal conflict or violence.

She emphasized how to remove this poverty because she knew very well that economical gap could weaken India, without reducing this economical gap nation could never be strong so she focused to eliminate poverty and to full fill this economical gap she nationalised all the banks of India

She knew the importance of science and technology for a nation, so she focused on the improvement of scientific research and development.

America, during that time was supporting Pakistan in every external affairs and India had not dared to do anything against America because India was dependent over the aid of America (Mainly on food). Indira decided to increase the food production inside the India and through Green Revolution she succeeded to increase food production rapidly. production of the food incrad up to 35 %. After being self-sufficient in food production, India could take action against Pakistan during the disintegration of Bangladesh.

Apart from this, social cohesion was tending towards decline. fissiparous tendencies based on culture, language, race, script, religion were flourishing once again (mainly in kashmir, Punjab and North east). Indria had to take bold steps with courage and conviction to curtail these disintegrable tendencies. Big opponent

of Indira ji, Dr Ram Manohar Lohia who used to say Indira Gandhi as Goongi Gudia now people started to equate Indira ji with Durga (Protector from evils), the only men in his cabinet, Iron lady etc.

Conclusively, the efforts and measures taken by India ji to consolidate India as a nation were incredible and commendable. She knew that the strength of India is “Unity in Diversity” She knew that extremism (Extremist ideologies of RSS and Muslims or Sikh organisations) is the big threat for Nation it should be completely curtailed so she had to take bold stamps even though in this process she had to give her life.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

ORGANISING UNORGANISED SECTOR GS-3 INCLUSIVE GROWTH, DEVELOPMENT, GROWTH, EMPLOYMENT

Be it roll out of the Goods and services regime or imposition of **demonetization** or outbreak of current COVID pandemic, much of the **impact was felt by the informal unorganised sector**, which largely deals on daily cash basis and operates mostly outside the regulatory ambit. The net beneficiary was the protected and well regulated formal/organized sector.

The Indian economy has been divided into two blocks, the organised one which is witnessing rising fortunes and galloping profits and the informal one which is a real decline in the casual wages in the rural areas.

The informal/unorganised sector in its current form is in **an urgent need to undergo effective formalisation in the least possible time** as this sector stands as a primary provider of jobs to a proportion of the Indian working population.

UNORGANISED SECTOR IN INDIA

- **Worstly Hit:** The National lockdown has worstly hit the Informal sector workers than their formal sector counterparts. Without a proper safeguard, there were painful accounts of displaced informal workers trying to reach back to their homes. The overall wage levels were 2.5 times lower than urban india. According to data from the Labour Bureau the **real wages of non-agricultural workers have declined 1.6% per annum** in the last two years, and for **agricultural workers, they fell 0.4% per year.**
- **Shrinking of Informal Sector:** According to the State Bank of India's (SBI) **report-‘Ecowrap’**, it is claimed that the **informal sector's share in the overall economy has shrunk** from 52% in 2017-18 to just 15- 20%. The report further stated that **construction & housing and food services & trade** are the two sectors that witnessed the sharpest declines in their shares of the informal economy. The **contribution of our unorganised sector in Gross Value Added (GVA)** is close to around 44% in 2019-20 which was **marginally higher than in 2017-18.**

ASSOCIATED CHALLENGES

- **Lack of authentic data:** The **unavailability of real-time economic indicators and data** makes it hard to track India's large informal sector, which employs around 80% of the labour force and produces about 50% of GDP.
- **Digitisation of Records:** The digitization of workers on the **E-Shram portal** is not an indicator of formalization of jobs unless workers are able to get all the social security benefits listed on the portal. **Increasing digitalization is neither a necessary nor sufficient condition** for any enterprise/worker to be classified as formal.
- **Ambiguity Regarding the Standards of Economy:** The real issue is whether formalization of the unorganised sector is a definite measure of improvement in the economy or the material condition

of workers. The **economy has performed terribly in worsening employment situations**, decline in incomes and also in development indicators like HDI.

SOLUTIONS

- **Responsibility of legislature:** It is important to recognize the importance of the unorganised which provide livelihoods to a significant number of the people. The **legislature & policymakers** should define the informal sector appropriately, provide labour legislation to protect employment, provide **required wages** and treat them on par with the formal sector. Moreover there is an urgent need for a legal **institutional regulatory mechanism** to improve the working conditions and well-being of those engaged in the informal sector.
- **Understanding Formalisation:** There is a need to comprehend the difference between “natural” formalisation and “forced formalisation”. Formalisation of the unorganised sector will not be sustainable if it comes only with the support of external pressure or leads to deep distress in the informal sector. In contrary, a sustainable **formalisation happens with support of policy and legislative changes** that **help small and informal industries to grow** over time into medium or larger formal sectors.
- **Security to unorganised Sector:** What is needed now is **protection for unorganised sector workers in the ambit of social welfare schemes** so that the problems they are facing does not lead to a permanent fall in demand. For eg MGNREGA has witnessed many hurdles.
- **Urban Social Welfare Structure:** The economic structure in India doesn't have an equivalent urban social welfare scheme which provides more of a cause to **set up a more permanent direct urban social welfare structure**. Innovative reforms that assist small businesses/ firms in growth are also essential. For instance, lowering the regulatory burden associated with nascent firms.

Anshum Verma

SINO-U.S. RELATION [GS PAPER II]

CONTEXT :

Recently a virtual summit meeting between Presidents Joe Biden and Xi Jinping was held in which, multiple points of continuing strategic contentions between the U.S. and China were highlighted.

DEVELOPMENTS :

Both agreed to find the common ground on contentious issues like :

- Trade and tensions surrounding Taiwan issue
- The South China Sea

In March 2021, at a meeting in Anchorage, Alaska, between senior officials from both countries, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said that there would be a “much more violent world” without the rules-based international order.

Blinken added that Chinese activities in Xinjiang, Hong Kong, and Taiwan, menace that international order, and were not internal matters.

In that, Beijing was quick to claim a diplomatic victory, even though the summit meeting yielded no major developments.

The Chinese state media announced after that meeting that Biden doesn't support Taiwan independence.

Trade– At the top of the policy agenda, causing bilateral friction.

After the damaging trade war with China prior to 2020, a relief arrived when **Phase 1 Trade Agreement** took place, requiring China to buy \$380 billion worth of American goods by the end of 2021.

With the shortages in orders from Beijing for Boeing aircraft (aviation slowdown), that did not happen.

On Taiwan's independence : like always, Washington recognises but does not admit china's claim over Taiwan under the One China policy

TO CONCLUDE: Both CHINA and USA have to be balanced in managing their disputes over trade and regional issues otherwise there may be disturbances in the weak recovery in economic growth and public health.

Rajeev Yadav

Zarya: first module of the International Space Station to have been launched (GS Paper III : Science and Technology)

CONTEXT :

Today is the 24 th anniversary of the Zyra (A module launched to the international space station on **20 November 1998**). This was the milestone in the field of the development of Space research

WHAT IS ZARYA

- Technically the Zarya is also known as Functional Cargo Block and the Russian acronym FGB (Functional Cargo Block)
- This cargo was funded by the USA but designed and built by Russia.
- The meaning of this term Zarya is Sunrise which means a hope for the research of space. This cargo reached its orbit in two weeks

FEATURES OF ZARYA

- it was the, first act of the ISS Program in which a shuttle was assembled
- The mass of Zarya is 19323 kg
- This was launched by a three-stage Proton rocket
- It was launched from the Baikonur Cosmodrome, Kazakhstan.
- Its launch marked the beginning of an international venture of unprecedented scale.
- It has solar arrays and 6 nickel-cadmium batteries so that it could get sufficient energy of 3 kilowatts of electrical power.
- Each of the two solar arrays was 11 m long and 3 m wide.
- It would perform an automated and remotely piloted rendezvous and docking with the Service Module in orbit.
- Later, this module was modified so that it could be refueled by a Progress vehicle docked to its down-facing port if necessary.
- It was launched to its orbit at an altitude of about 390 km,
- This module had 16 fuel tanks in which more than 6 metric tons of propellant can be there

- It had 24 large steering jets and 12 small steering jets.
- There are two large engines so that it could reboost the spacecraft and make major orbital changes.

IDEA OF SPACE STATION

- Before the second world war the idea of a space centre was just a fiction, but during the second world war, science and technology progressed rapidly.
- The USSR and USA both were rapidly involved in the research of space technology. After the second world war, Russia invested huge money in the field of Space research.
- The first rudimentary station was created in 1969 by the linking of two Russian Soyuz vehicles in space but it was incomplete before the Zarya
- Until recently, U.S. research space onboard the ISS had been reserved for mostly government initiatives, but new opportunities for commercial and academic use of the ISS are now available, facilitated by the ISS National Lab.
- In this process of Space research some astronauts were also sent to space in 2000 and Astronaut Bill Shepherd and Yuri Gidzenko and sergei were sent to space as the first crew to reside in this space centre and they stayed in that space centre for several months

Conclusively, this date of 20th november is a very important date in the field of the development of Space research for Russia. First time America and Russia came together for any sace research.

Definitely, in the field of science, such research would be beneficial in the development of human beings. After the second world war the tendency of Space research had been increased, therefore we observe drastic and revolutionary change in the field of information technology

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

League of Nations : Formation and Its failure

CONTEXT :

League of Nations was an effort to prevent the world from further wars but by 1931, the flaws of this league had started to be exposed. By 1931, Japan and China rejected the League of Council terms for Manchuria at Geneva. 20 Nov is remembered as the date of the world history on which date the foundation of second world wars was laid and which paved the way for huge destruction in future also

WHAT WAS LEAGUE OF NATION

- The League of Nations was the first international organisation which was formed to prevent the world from any armed conflict. Countries from throughout the world were members of this organisation. It was founded by 10 January 1920 after the Paris Peace Treaty concluded after first world war
- Geneva was the headQuarter of League of Nations
- There were 32 members initially in this league; those were the signatories of the treaty of Versailles. The doors of League were opened for the other countries of the world also if they fulfilled certain conditions.
- Most interesting fact is that USA never joined the league of Nations even the idea of League of nations was brought by American President Woodrow Wilson

ORGANISATION OF LEAGUE OF NATIONS

- The main and important part of this organization was the League of Council It was responsible for the execution of the laws. Apart from councils it had two other wings, the Permanent Court of International Justice and the International Labour Organization.
- Each organ's budget was allocated by assembly. In addition, there were several auxiliary agencies and commissions.
- It also had two essential wings: the Permanent Court of International Justice and the International Labour Organization. In addition, there were several auxiliary agencies and commissions. Each organ's budget was allocated by the Assembly (the League was supported financially by its member states).
- The relations between the Assembly and the Council and the competencies of each were for the most part not explicitly defined. Each body could deal with any matter within the sphere of competence of the League or affecting peace in the world. Particular questions or tasks might be referred to either.
- Britain, France, Italy and Japan were the permanent members of the League initially. Later, Germany was also pushed to be permanent member

WHY THIS LEAGUE FAILED

- The League of Nations was the organiser of international level and was formed to maintain world peace but USA was not the member of the league. It was the big flaw of the league. USA neither took any interstate in league nor he funded league to execute its laws
- The League did not have its army. Without any, league could not force any country who violated the rules of league and created the problems for world
- In the League, every time Germany was defeated Germany was treated badly. Germany could not tolerate such humiliation and finally Germany left the league
- The League could not stop Italy (Which was its permanent member and should be loyal towards the league) to invade Ethiopia. It was obvious that it was considered as the dictatorship of League after that Spain, Japan, Germany all these country adopted expansive and aggressive policies

Conclusively it can be said that the league laid the foundation of further UNO and it can be said as preceders of UNO. Even though it failed completely, it taught us a lesson on how to make UNO more efficient so that peace could be maintained permanently in the world. Today's date is significant because by this date the first stone of the 2nd World war was laid.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

China wants Myanmar junta to join ASEAN Summit which met with stiff opposition (GS Paper-II, Polity, Constitution and Governance) Source: The Hindu

WHY IN NEWS?

The Chinese bid to let Myanmar military rulers attend the Asian Summit has met with stiff opposition by its members.

REASON FOR OPPOSITION:

- There was a military coup and ousted the elected government of Nobel Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi which sparkled bloody turmoil in Myanmar
- Myanmar Military Chief senior General Min Aung Hlaing was blocked from attending ASEAN Summit for his failure to honour the pledge to allow an ASEAN envoy to meet lawmakers overthrown in the coup.

WHAT IS ASEAN (ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS)?

- It is a Regional organization that aims to promote political and social stability with the motto “One Vision One Identity One Community”.
- ASEAN was established with the signing of the Bangkok declaration in 1967 by its founding members namely- Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines Singapore and Thailand.
- Its member countries are- Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia.

OBJECTIVES

- To promote regional peace and stability by respectful adherence to United Nations charter and abiding for justice and rule of law.
- To promote economic and social growth and cultural development of Southeast Asian nations.
- To promote and co-operate with the existing regional and international institutions.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE GROUPING

- It is the third largest Market in the world, larger than North America and European Union markets. It is also the third largest economy in Asia and sixth largest in the world.
- It forms the 4th most popular investment destination globally.
- ASEAN grouping through building much-needed norms and fostering a neutral environment has contributed to regional stability.

CHALLENGES

- Grouping's individual market suffers from regional social and economic imbalances.
- Income gap between rich and poor member States is very large.
- The political system of member countries is a mix of democracy, communist and authoritarian states.
- The issue of human rights is too a point of division among its members. e.g crackdown against Rohingyas in Myanmar.
- The issue of the South China Sea exposes the rift among its members.
- There is a lack of a Central mechanism to enforce compliance.
- Its dispute settlement mechanism is also not very efficient.

INDIA AND ASEAN

- India shares a historic and cultural root with ASEAN members. Traditionally there has been trade and people-to-people ties between India and ASEAN.
- In the current scenario, ASEAN has been Central to India's Act East Policy and for India's vision for the

wider Indo-Pacific and growth for all in the region.

- ASEAN is India's fourth largest trading partner.
- Every year India- ASEAN Summit is held which provides an opportunity for India and ASEAN countries to engage at the highest level.
- In Jakarta, India has a separate mission for ASEAN.
- 25 years of Dialogue partnership, 15 years of Summit level interactions and 5 years of Strategic partnership with ASEAN has already been signed.
- Delhi Declaration which aims to identify and promote cooperation in the Maritime domain under ASEAN- India strategic partnership.
- ASEAN- India Centre, to undertake policy research advocacy and networking activities with organizations and think tanks in India and ASEAN.
- To further strengthen the India- ASEAN connectivity, the Indian government announced its support for establishing ASEAN cultural heritage list.
- In 16th East Asia Summit India reaffirmed its focus on free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific keeping the principle of ASEAN centrality in the region.

By Vivek Raj Yadav

Swarn Singh

Zero Budget Natural Farming, Features and Benefits: Can they really double a farmer's income



Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) is a type of organic farming where the cost of growing and harvesting crops comes out to be zero. The first thing which is considered here is to get the cost zero or as little as possible and second thing is that whatever cost has been incurred that can be recovered through intercropping, mixed cropping, crop rotation etc. Union Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman mentioned the zero budget natural

farming in her 2019 budget speech, when she said that the farmers income can be doubled if they go for Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF).

As an alternative to the Green Revolution methods where chemical fertilizers and intensive irrigation was the key, **Subhash Palekar and Indian agriculturist and Padma Shri recipient gave the concept of zero budget natural farming. He emphasized that whatever is required to grow a crop, can be managed from nature with no cost or very less cost.** For example, earthworm excreta, which has seven times more nitrogen than soil, can be used in place of chemical fertilizers. Many farmers, especially marginal and small, are using these techniques as tools to get rid of debts and defaults. This kind of practice in farming can make it sustainable and more profitable.

In Zero budget natural farming **Jeevamrutha, Beejamrutha, Achhadana, Whapassa** are important concepts. **Jeevamrutha** is a mixture of cow dung, cow urine, jaggery, pulse flour, water and soil, which can be used in place of chemical fertilizers for adding nutrients in the soil and catalyzing the microbial activities in the soil. It is found that the soil system will become self-sustaining in three years of time period, if about 200 litres of Jeevamrutha is spread twice a month on a piece of one acre of land.

The **Beejamrutha** is the process for seed treatment which is important for seed germination. Actually during seed germination some disease may attack in the germination stage. The seeds are soaked with **Beejamrutha**, which is a mixture of cow urine, cow dung, water and soil, to control the seed's disease and to increase the seed germination. Another mixture of pulp, neem leaves and green chillies and tobacco is used as an insecticide.

Achhadana which is the process of mulching, where farm ground is covered by cover crops and crop residues to conserve the soil moisture, improve fertility and health of the soil and to reduce the growth of weeds.

Whapassa is a soil micro climatic condition in which roots and soil organisms can live safely due to the availability of adequate water and air. Hence the concept here is to reduce irrigation, irrigating only at noon and at alternate furrows. **Hence deep ploughing and intensive irrigation is not promoted in zero budget natural farming.**

Apart from those mentioned above, **the intercropping, mixed cropping, crop rotation, contours and bunds are also important principles of Zero Budget Natural Farming.**

Andhra Pradesh government in 2018 citing the benefits of zero budget natural farming role in ambitious plan **to become India's first state to practice 100% natural farming by 2024.**

Conclusions: The external production cost in Zero Budget Natural Farming is zero or very low. This farming system requires no monetary commitment on the part of the farmer for the procurement of seeds, fertilizers, and plant safety chemicals. Natural Farming products are of high quality, have a pleasant flavor, and produce a higher yield. ZBNF is heavily reliant on its four wheels. It is important to understand the relationships of different components in a given environment when monitoring pests in ZBNF. This farming method would have a positive impact on all the natural resources of our environment, soil, and human health, as well as the purity of groundwater. Sustainable land resource management is also a critical factor in reducing the pressures on all-natural resources and ensuring long-term crop production.

KEY TAKE AWAYS:

- The pioneer of zero budget natural farming suggested that one can earn an income of 6 Lakhs rupees per acre in irrigated areas and income of 1.5 Lakh rupees per acre in non irrigated areas.
- In zero budget natural farming the major feature is that the cost of production is zero and farmers do not have to buy any inputs.
- It uses only 10% of the water used in the conventional method.

- It also promotes the use of local Indian breeds of cow for 30 acres of land, which could be profitable to farmers.
- It can certainly increase the farmer's income and can stop the migration from villages to cities.
- It covers all kinds of agro climatic areas and is suitable for all kinds of crops.
- It can ease out the debt pressure on the farmers as they don't need to take loans from the banks or money lenders.

MD. Layeeque Azam





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NOVEMBER 2021

REPEAL OF FARM BILLS (GS Paper II)

CONTEXT:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced the repealing of the three farm laws that are at the centre of a long confrontation between his government and a section of farmers for a year.

ACCORDING TO THE GOVERNMENT-

- The laws, which are repealed, were targeted to restructure India's agriculture sector as per the principles of market economy.
- The repealed Acts could have reshaped the food procurement of India and the mechanisms of distribution, this feared the producers and would have adversely affected the consumers
- As these laws were brought about through ordinances and without deliberations, or consultations with the States. They again became doubtful in the eyes of the peasants and general Public.

REASONS FOR REPEAL :

- The decision to repeal them is a triumph of democracy.
- Tenacity of the agitating farmers could not be broken by the BJP and state agencies
- The approaching Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh and Punjab, forced the ruling party's hand.
- In bowing to public demand, Mr. Modi has shown flexibility and pragmatism.
- Responsibility of the Farmers : Farmers should withdraw the protest now and show a flexible approach towards reforming the sector.
- In a democracy, Flexibility (constant negotiations) should not be for political convenience only.
- In the agitation against farm Bills, composition of the agitators:
 - Socially Dominant
 - Economically and politically powerful groups

WHAT SHOULD THE GOVERNMENT DO ?

- The ruling BJP Party found it difficult to handle the hostility of such dominant agitators.
- The Government should revisit its general attitude towards protest mobilisation.
- The Government should also take opposition into consideration and accept constructive criticism

- The Government should stay away from branding the agitators as traitors or anti-nationals
- A consultative decision making would always be more sustainable and easier to enforce.
- The current repeal will have different political dimensions in the coming times of elections.
- The Congress has been supporting the protesting farmers, and can claim victory.
- By repealing the laws the BJP has increased its political space in both States, more so in Punjab where the Congress is in power.
- The Akali Dal, and Amarinder Singh, former Congress CM, will also look for new opportunities in the situation.

WAYFORWARD :

Farmers should withdraw protest, and push for consultations in efforts to reform the sector. The repeal does not mean that there is no more, the need for reforms in the agriculture sector. The reforms in agriculture are required but the process should include social activists, opinions of farmer groups, agriculture experts, opposition and other such groups. Moreover, this time it should be through proper Parliamentary proceedings via proper discussions.

Rajeev Yadav

Significance of Jaffna cultural Centre in respect to India Srilanka Relation (GS Paper II : International relation)

CONTEXT :

A cultural centre dedicated to jaffna culture was built in Sri Lanka with the financial support of India but still this centre is to be inaugurated.

- A cultural centre dedicated to preservation of the cultural element related to Jaffna regions was built and this was a milestone in the field of the development of the preservation of cultural heritage of Sri Lanka. After two years of its completion it is still waiting for the inauguration. As per the local media report, the local administration had deployed an army to prevent any inauguration. This shows the biases and discriminationary nature of the Shrilankan government towards tamil Culture
- Jaffna is Sri Lanka's northern province and has been facing the problem of insurgency. In Jaffna region, Tamil people are in majority but they have been treated in discriminatory behaviour for a long time. For nationalism, emotional attachment of the public should be there toward the nation and this emotional attachment comes from the culture. If Government of Sri Lanka will promote cultural heritage of Jaffna people definitely various race residing of Jaffna would come together and would feel emotional affection towards Lanks
- The establishment of the peace is also necessary in Indian context, because of discontent of Tamil of Sri Lanka, we have already lost our young ex prime minister so, we should assist Shrilankan government for preserving and promoting Jaffna culture
- Sri Lanka is the most important friend of India from a strategic point of view. Any likeness will attract Sri Lanka towards China. Therefore India will always seek peace in Sri Lanka
- This cultural centre has a big auditorium and India had invested almost 11 million dollars in its construction. In the auditorium almost 600 people can sit.

- As per the MoU signed by India and Sri Lanka in 2014, the government of India was to hand over the facility to the government of Sri Lanka that would hand over it to Municipal Council of Jaffna. and the Municipal Council of Jaffna would take care of this cultural centre and in this regard this municipal council would have sole right and autonomy. Central government of Sri Lanka would not interfere
- Without the support of Shrilankan government how it would be run, is a big question.
- In fact there must be a strong and autonomous government in the Northern region and this cultural centre must be managed either by the provincial government or by the local government. Even Though, the mayor of Jaffna assured that he is able to manage this cultural centre
- India is keen to see the flourishing culture of Jaffna regions. People of Jaffna should be taught about their culture and civilization so they could know about their art and religion and other cultural activities. India has always been in the support of cultural development and culturally, India has very close relation to Sri Lanka. Historically Chola king had conquered Sri Lanka many times and before it Asoka had sent ambassadors to Sri Lanka. In Indian mythology, we consider that Shrilanka was also won by Lord Rama. Any way, India's interest would always lie in the peace of Sri Lanka so that the culture of Jaffna region would be flourished

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Connecting Rural India

GS-2 Issues related to development, Government Policy and intervention

CONTEXT

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) which comes under the purview Ministry of Finance gave its assent for continuation of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-I and II (PMGSY-I and II) upto September, 2022. The major object of the project is to complete the balance of road and bridge works in rural areas. The Prime Minister who acts as a head of CCEA has approved continuation of Road Connectivity in areas under Left Wing Extremism (RCPLWEA) by the first quarter of 2023. The proposals came from the Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Rural Development.

SALIENT FEATURES

- **PMGSY- Phase I:** It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, launched in the year 2000 to provide infrastructure connectivity to the unconnected habitations of more than 500 regions and more than 300 regions in North-East and Himalayan states as per census 2001. The development under this phase also included upgradation of already existing rural roads for those districts where all the eligible rural population had been saturated.
- **PMGSY- Phase II:** It was approved by the government in mid of 2013. This phase of the scheme envisaged consolidation of 50,000 Km of the existing rural road network of the country.
- **PMGSY- Phase III:** It was given assent in 2019 for completion of 1,25,000 Km approx existing road network through routes and major rural links connecting habitations, inter-alia, to Gramin Agricultural Markets, Higher Secondary Schools and Hospitals. The time period of the scheme extends upto March, 2025.
- **Connectivity Project In Red Corridor:** Road connectivity project for red corridor states (Left wing

Extremism area) was launched in 2016. It aims to complete upgradation of 5,500 Km approx road length and 125 bridges of strategic importance in 44 districts in 9 states, viz. Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, MP, Maharashtra, Odisha, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh. Target period was 2016-17 to 2019-20. Road and bridge construction work to be taken up under the scheme of these regions comes under the direct supervision of the Ministry of Home Affairs in consultation with states and security forces.

SIGNIFICANCE OF PMGSY:

- Various impact evaluation research carried out on the scheme have stated that it had a significant positive impact on agriculture, rural education, urbanization, health, and employment generation, etc.
- All weather road connectivity to balance habitations would unlock the economic potential of the rural areas.
- Upgradation of the existing rural infrastructure would improve the overall efficiency of the road network as a provider of transportation services for people, goods and services.
- The construction/upgradation of roads would generate both direct and indirect employment and will help to mitigate urban migration.

CHALLENGES TO PMGSY:

- Lack of dedicated funds for rural infrastructure.
- Panchayati Raj Institutions participation is low.
- Inadequate execution
- Contracting capacity.
- Less working due to weather
- Difficult terrain particularly in Hill areas.
- Low Quality of the construction materials.
- Security concerns particularly in Naxalite areas.

WAY FORWARD

Rural Connectivity is an essential element of Rural Development as it promotes access to economic and social resources. Moreover, it helps in generating increased agricultural incomes and productive employment opportunities in India. In this regard, the government can consider engagement with global financial institutions like World Bank which provide special assistance to construct basic rural infrastructure.

Anshum Verma

Laggard states needs to expedite notification of PESA – Centre (GS Paper-II, Polity, Constitution and Governance)

WHY IN NEWS?

- The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has circulated the draft model PESA rules to the 10 PESA states out of which six States- Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan Gujarat and Telangana have notified their PESA rules.

- Four states namely Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Orissa having a significant part of India's tribal population are asked to expedite notifications and implementation of the rules of PESA act 1996 by the centre.
- In a meeting, the tribal minister and minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj made it clear that there was no scope for further delay.
- Outlining the spirit of PESA, the Tribal Minister quoted - "PESA seeks to protect the spirit of Jal Jangal, Jameen for tribal".
- PESA will complete 25 years in December 2021.
- What is PESA?

BACKGROUND:

- 73rd Constitution Amendment 1992 was made to promote local self governance in rural India. However its provisions were not applicable to the fifth schedule areas.
- On the recommendations of the Bhuria committee in 1995, PESA act 1996 came into existence.

OBJECTIVE:

- The provisions of the PESA Act seek to empower local self-government in the scheduled V area of the country to help safeguard and preserve the traditions and Customs of the tribal communities.
- The act focuses on the village governance with participatory democracy and to make Gram Sabha a nucleus of all the activities.
- Gram Sabha is conferred with the absolute power under PESA. To ensure proper functioning of Panchayat and Gram Sabha state legislatures have been given advisory roles.
- Power provided to the Gram Sabha:
 - It has the ownership of the minor forest produce.
 - It owns the power to manage village markets and exercise control over Institutions and functionaries in all social sectors.
 - It has the power to regulate and prohibit the sale and consumption of any intoxicant.
 - It has power against land alienation of scheduled areas.
 - The Other power includes, power to control local plans and resources for such plans.
 - The beneficiaries are identified by the gram sabha.

SIGNIFICANCE:

- It ensures the independence of local governance through decentralization of power and by empowering indigenous communities.
- It revolves around the Gandhian philosophy of Gram Swaraj mentioned under article 40 (organization of village panchayat).
- The provisions of the act are designed in a way which respects the traditional system of the tribal community while at the same time trying to erase the historical injustice done to them.
- The act also tries to bring harmony between the tribal community needs and modernity being grounded on its own culture.

CONCERNS AROUND PESA:

- There has been partial implementation of the act by the state government which has adversely affected

the self governance in tribal areas.

- The social audit revealed that developmental schemes were being approved by Gram Sabha without actual discussion.
- Several other legislations have been brought up by the central government example Forest Right Act 2006, Land Acquisition Act 2013 which includes many provisions of PESA thereby creating confusion and undermining the purpose of the act.
- Though through the PESA Gram Sabha has been conferred much power but in practice gram sabha has to go through many permissions and denials.
- The biggest challenge lies in the degradation of the spirit of PESA which has now been termed as toothless.

WAY FORWARD:

- Proper action needs to be taken for time bound implementation of PESA in the states.
- The conflict between Gram Sabha and panchayat needs to be addressed.
- The state government shall allocate the power to Gram Sabha in such a way which empowers Gram Sabha than override it.

By Vivek Raj Yadav

Swarn Singh

Government to change Tax Laws to tax the Cryptocurrency Gains : Will it solve the real fear of the Central Bank /RBI



NEWS/CONTEXT:

- The revenue secretary to the Government of India Tarun Bajaj said that the government is pondering over changes to the income tax laws to bring the cryptocurrencies under the tax net and we can witness

some changes that could be part of the budget next year.

- The Revenue Secretary said the law is very clear in respect of goods and services tax that the rate could be applicable as those in case of other services, while some people are already paying capital gain tax on the income of cryptocurrency.
- With an understanding that people are already paying taxes on the income of cryptocurrencies but as the trading of cryptocurrency has really grown a lot, the government is likely to bring some changes in law position in the next budget which is near.
- The secretary over a question whether provision of tax collected at source will be introduced for cryptocurrency trading said that the government will see what is to be done if it comes up with a new law.
- It is clear that if somebody makes money, they have to pay tax on their income.
- People involved in cryptocurrency trading would be categorised as facilitator, trading platform and brokerage and they will be charged as per the existing GST rate for providing financial services. So whatever GST rates they are taxed at, they will be applicable on them. They required to get themselves registered. In terms of brokerage the GST law is very clear. In case of any economic activity if a broker is charging brokerage fees for helping people, GST would be applicable.
- In addition the winter session of Parliament beginning November 29 can witness a bill on cryptocurrencies, to be introduced by the government amid concerns over cryptocurrencies being allegedly used for luring investors with misleading claims. There is a fear among economists that there could be a flood of ponzi schemes in respect of cryptocurrency, which we are already witnessing. The number of advertisements featuring celebrities, promising high and easy returns on the investment in cryptocurrencies, are on a rise.
- At present there is no ban or no regulation on the use of cryptocurrencies in the country. It is to be noted that indications are strong that regulatory steps to be taken to deal with the issue as the Prime Minister recently held a meeting on cryptocurrency with senior officials. Separately in a meeting with Blockchain and Crypto Asset Council (BAAC), Standing committee on finance arrived at a conclusion that cryptocurrencies should not be banned but it should be regulated.
- The central bank of the country, the Reserve Bank of India reiterated its strong views against cryptocurrencies and doubted the number of investors trading on cryptocurrencies as well as their claim to market value. As per the RBI cryptocurrencies pose a serious threat to the financial and macroeconomic stability of the country. Earlier the the RBI had announced its intent to come out with an official digital currency in the backdrop of proliferation of cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin about which the central bank has many concerns. We have witnessed in the past decade that the the virtual currency/Private digital currency/ cryptocurrency have gained popularity, But the Government and the regulators across the globe have been sceptical about these currencies and apprehensive about the associated risks. It is to be noted that RBI's regulatory circular of April 6 2018 regarding the the prohibition on dealing in virtual currencies by banks and entities regulated by it, was set aside by the Supreme Court on March 4 2021. Then onwards we have witnessed a surge in cryptocurrencies and its popularity.
- Why the central banks are considering the cryptocurrencies as a threat to the financial stability: To understand this we have to look into different markets of cryptocurrency. There are basically two kinds of market. The first one is when you buy the cryptocurrency using the Fiat currencies for example rupees or dollar. The second market which is the real market where you buy goods and services using cryptocurrencies. The first market could be traced by the government and can be taxed as per the existing taxation laws or by bringing some changes in the existing taxation laws. For example if you buy 1 Bitcoin for 40 lakh rupees and sell it for 42 lakh rupees, you get a capital gain of 2 lakh rupees. Here 2

lakh rupees is your income and you need to pay capital gain tax on 2 lakh rupees. Here the government is likely to be happy. In addition to this, if anybody helps you in selling these cryptocurrencies and charges from you, they need to collect service tax under GST from you as they have provided services. Here also the government is happy. The provision of tax collection at source could also be applicable here. In case of tax collection at source, you while selling the said Bitcoin in 42 lakh rupees to anybody say X, will collect TCS from X as per the applicable rate and will submit it to the government. Here again the government is happy.

- (It is to note here Tax collection at source collected by you from the person X buying Bitcoin from you in 42 lakh rupees, is the part of the income tax of X. X can get the refund of the same while filing his income tax return. The point is that X should not be charged twice on the same income.)
- Now come to the second market in which somebody is buying goods and services using cryptocurrencies. It is to be noted here that cryptocurrencies are encrypted online records of all economic exchanges, using the blockchain technology. These online records are encrypted and cannot be deciphered by the government. What exchanges took place, what kinds of goods and services bought, how much income has been earned while buying and selling any goods or services against cryptocurrencies or what if somebody has kept their income in the form of cryptocurrencies, the government will not have any knowledge of these and it will be impossible to collect the tax. The government will not be happy. The above discussed feature of the cryptocurrency is the major reason for its popularity and demand among people across the world who don't want to pay taxes to the government or do not want the information regarding their economic exchange to be known to anybody, especially the government. which is most likely to be illegal like bribery, corruption, terror funding or evasion of tax etc. (with the increment in demand among the said section of people, its prices started increasing sharply. Looking into this many investors jumped into this market and started buying cryptocurrencies, Which further fuelled the prices of cryptocurrencies. People are today buying and selling cryptocurrencies to earn the capital gain) This poses a potential threat in terms of safety and security of a country.
- As we know RBI through its monetary policy makes a balance between inflation and growth by controlling the money supply. This money supply is essentially in terms of rupees. Hence through controlling rupees RBI tries to increase the GDP growth as well as tries to stabilize inflation. But what if the economic exchange took place using cryptocurrency as a medium of exchange in place of rupees, means all economic activities are happening but rupees are not involved. It implies that a parallel economy could be run using cryptocurrencies as money (medium of exchange) on which the Government or the RBI has no control. In this case RBI's monetary policy in terms of controlling rupees and hence controlling the economy will be ineffective. It seriously poses a threat to the financial stability of the country.

MD. Layeeque Azam

Significance of Domestic Workers Survey (GS Paper 1 and 3 : Society, Economy)

CONTEXT:

- By the Ministry of labour and employment, Government of India allowed to start Domestic Workers Survey by 22nd Nov 2021 and This survey would be completed within one year. Labour and Employment minister Bhupendra yadav flagged off this survey yesterday (22 Nov 2021)
- To know the real social economic condition of the domestic workers, the government of India has

decided to survey workers who are involved in various works at domestic level (Ex- Driver, gardener, Maid, Cook etc).

- This survey would be carried out by the Labour bureau at national and state level. Several parameters would be opted like whether the workers are engaged in formal employment or informal, whether they are migrant or non migrant, whether they are staying with their employer or they are staying separately, whether they were provided house rents or separately accommodation and fooding facility or not and several other socio economic factors
- This survey will also include some details of the numbers of household workers whether they are living in or out.
- The big Questionnaire is prepared by the Labour bureau. Among those questions, questions would be related to size of household, social group, monthly consumption expenditure and the nature of dwelling units. The other data would also be collected related to domestic workers like their age, social group, migrant status, duration of work and type of remuneration etc.
- Infact, Because of the cold 19 pandemic, the wage of the labourers had been impacted and many domestic labourers were either fired or their salary was reduced. We observed that the female domestic workers has to face many time sexula harassment and most of the time femmale deomec workers are found as rape cvictm. Therefore this survey would be conducted in states as well as in UTs aslo, covering approximately 1.5 lakh households in 742 dist. The result would be come by next year
- On the bases of the data received after this survey, the government would be able to know the real socio economic condition of the labourer and the level of their discontent. After this survey we will be able to find out the work place conditions of the female domestic workers also. and the government could take measures accordingly. Because of lack of data on the employment condition, it is very difficult to make exact policy and exact way of implementation
- In fact, in any society, prosperity can not be brought by increasing GDP only, there should be a minimal economical gap in any society. That is why we have opted for the path of inclusive growth (Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas).
- Definitely this survey would play a very significant role to opt various measures to resolve these problems and in this way we will be able to reduce their discontent. In fact, it is very important for the peace and stability of the society that one section of the society should not be deprived and discontented so that that section could create nuisance in the society. These type of study would be milestone in the history of the Survey

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

MICRO IRRIGATION TECHNOLOGY GS-3 ISSUES RELATED TO FARMING SECTOR, MODES OF IRRIGATION

India has traditionally been an agrarian economy, and thereby its water demand is dominated by irrigational needs. Given the spatio-temporal variability in rainfall in the country, the efficient use and conservation of water, therefore becomes necessary for assured irrigation. Water saving technologies like micro irrigation help to establish sustainable agricultural practices.

However, industries engaged in rolling on such sustainability technologies face a lot of challenges in its expansion owing to laxity in implementation of related schemes, red tapism, and inconsistency in subsidy reimbursement etc. These shortcoming have made such technologies less popular among the real beneficiaries.

Water Availability and Micro- irrigation

The water availability is dwindling day by day due to an increase in population. India's per capita availability of water is estimated at 1428k litres per year, which generally falls under water deficient category.

WHAT IS MICRO-IRRIGATION?

It is an efficient method of irrigation where the application of water takes place through drippers, sprinklers, miniature sprays of tiny streams on the soil by surface drip and micro sprinkler system. It is very efficient in tackling the increasing water scares and that is why it is being promoted by center and state government through various schemes. sprinkler irrigation and drip irrigation are the commonly used micro-irrigation methods.

WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF MICRO- IRRIGATION?

Increased Irrigation efficiency – Micro-irrigation ensures water use efficiency around 50-90%.

Water saving – Micro irrigation saves water and increases water use efficiency, and reduces the loss of water through evaporation, runoff, and percolation.

Energy Efficient – Reduction in water consumption leads to reduction in electricity wage as well.

Increased productivity – With efficient utilisation of water the yields are higher eg. upto 45% in wheat, 20% in grams and 40% in soyabean. it also makes multiple cropping possible.

Cost savings – The substantial reduction in irrigation eventually makes irrigation cheaper for farmers and hence increases their income.

CHALLENGES FACED BY THE MICRO-IRRIGATION INDUSTRY.

- Drip irrigation has not gained popularity yet, which is evident from the fact that only 4% of gross irrigated area and about 15% of its total potential is under drip-irrigation.
- Less participation by state govts – Except Gujrat and Tamil nadu, the schemes don't have an annual execution. The funds are not released on time and are usually distributed at the end of financial year, thus giving a very small window for distribution and this prevents a widespread participation by farmers and only few farmers are seen applying.
- Delayed reimbursement of subsidies – The final reception of subsidies is only possible after complete installation of the system many times there is unavailability of subsidy funds for installation.
- Financial challenges – Lower adoption rate can be traced back to the reduction in budget during the period (2013-16)
- Limited access to energy – Being an essential input of irrigation, it doesn't have widespread access among farmers.

WAY FORWARD

- Pradhan Mantri Krishi Yojana (PMKSY) and National mission for sustainable agriculture (NMSA) focus on farm water management and efficient uses of water.
- Per Drop More Crop – Focuses on enhancing water use efficiency and has Micro-irrigation as an integral component.
- Training and awareness programmes through print media, radio and tv channels and short duration films.
- Organisation of workshops, seminars and interactive meetings will be helpful to the farmers.

CONCLUSION

- The assessment of sectoral utilisation and methods of water conservation and management will make Indian agriculture more sustainable. The implementation of Micro-irrigation through participation of farmers and administration can help meet the objectives of water saving and its efficient utilisation.

Anshum Verma

The states and Union Territories have been asked to resume Mid Day Meal by the centre. (GS Paper-II, Polity, Constitution and Governance) Source: The Hindustan Times

WHY IN NEWS?

- The centre has asked all the union territories and States to resume mid-day meals for the children attending the school under the PM POSHAN scheme.
- During the pandemic schools were shut, disrupting the nutritional requirement of the children. To compensate the same state and UT's are advised to provide food security allowances to the eligible students.
- Under PM POSHAN (Pradhanmantri poshan Shakti Nirman) scheme,
- Students in primary classes (1-5) would be provided with 100 gram grains per working day.
- Students in upper primary classes(6-8) would be provided with 150 grams of food grain per working day.
- The scheme also covers, pre primary students supplementary nutrition for children in aspirational districts and those with high prevalence of anaemia.

WHAT IS MID DAY MEAL SCHEME?

- Mid day meal was launched in the year 1995 to provide better nutrition and one meal to all children in government and aided schools.
- It is the largest School meal programme in the world.
- It provides one cooked meal to the students upto class 8th in the school.

OBJECTIVE

- The scheme is designed to address the multifaceted problems of
 - ▶ Hunger and malnutrition
 - ▶ increase the enrolment and attendance in the school
 - ▶ improve socialization among castes -provide employment at the grass root level especially to the womens.

MID DAY MEAL RULES 2015

- Children should be provided with the cooked meals only in school under the scheme.
- If due to unavailability of food grains or due to any other reason,if food is not provided in schools the state government shall pay food security allowances by 15th of the succeeding month.

- The School Management Committee shall monitor the implementation of the scheme.

RECENT DEVELOPMENT

- Recently the existing mid day meal scheme has been renamed as PM POSHAN.

KEY FEATURES

- It provides for the Supplementary nutrition to the aspirational district's children and those with high prevalence of anaemia.
- State government is free to decide the diet of the children in school provided the Centre will not bear the additional cost on the menu.
- The provision for the nutri garden in the school so that children could experience nature and garden.
- The local women self help group and the farmers producer organisation would be encouraged.
- The scheme also provides for the inspection and the social audit by the students of the colleges and Universities.

SIGNIFICANCE

A case study on the Integrational Benefits of the Midday Meal Scheme reported;

- Children covered under the scheme show a long-lasting impact with better growth.
- Girls provided with the meal in school have children with better height to age ratio.
- Case of stunting was lower in the area covered under mid day meal in 2015.

ISSUES

- Fraudulent practices have been prevalent resulting in lower quality food.
- Instances of caste bias and discrimination are reported that children are made to sit as per their cast.
- Nutritional requirement of the children has been hampered due to covid-19.
- Despite being the world's largest School meal program it fails to address child hunger.

WAY FORWARD

- Community monitoring and social audit can help reduce the prevalent corrupt practices.
- Mid day meal data should be reported regularly to the centre by the state to curtail irregularities.
- There needs to be a timely transfer of food grains and funds to the state.
- Example of Bettiah district of Bihar can be replicated where mothers were made the quality monitors of the food cook under the scheme.

**BY : Vivek Raj
Swarn Singh**

US telling India that Unpredictable Policies are key impediments to Bilateral Trade (GS 3, Economics, The Hindu, Indian Express)

NEWS/ CONTEXT:

- U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai on Monday flagged India's 'unpredictable' regulatory norms, high tariffs and market access restrictions as key impediments to bilateral trade, emphasised America's continued interest in agriculture market access and conveyed that "worker-centric" policies will be the pivot for the Joe Biden administration's approach to trade policy.
- After a four-year hiatus, U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai is on a visit to India to revive the US-India Trade Policy Forum. She highlighted that India US relationship is a top priority for president by Biden but also pointed that the India-US bilateral trade never seems to quite live up to its significant potential.
- She highlighted that stakeholders in the US are not happy with the restrictive trade measures, market access restrictions, unpredictable regulatory requirements and high tariffs etc. She said that "these are issues where we intend to make progress on and they will be on the top of my list while I am here".
- There is a major shift towards a "Workers-Centric" focus in the US policy and President Biden is also convinced that actions and policies of the US government should look into how trade and trade agreements are affecting the lives of real working people, as per Katherine Tai.
- She also has shown interest in working closely with Indian government colleagues including Bhupendra Yadav, the Labour and Employment Minister on connecting trade more directly with working people.
- Sectors like services, digital economy, health related trade and agriculture etc. are having huge potential for growth in both the countries. Hence reviving the Trade Policy Framework can help trade relationship of the two countries along with other important engagements, as per Tai.
- Sustainability and climate change, vulnerable supply chain, promoting market oriented structures and principles are some shared challenges in front of India and the US. These are the areas that are ripe for closer collaboration now, Mrs Tai said, emphasising the US commitment to ensure a sustainable and robust trade partnership.
- Concerted efforts from our governments, civil societies, business and our people both workers and consumers, are the requirements for delivering results and further integrating of our two Economies, as per Mrs Tai.
- On the rejuvenation of the trade policy after languishing for four years, the Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal was also happy and expressed confidence that the two sides will be able to resolve issues in an amicable manner and send a message to the world that the U.S. and India are strong partners. He said that citizens from both our countries look towards India US partnership with great hope and optimism.
- Minister Piyush Goyal recently spoke at the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum annual general meeting and spoke of a trillion-dollar bilateral trade target between India and the U.S. by 2030. At present India-US bilateral trade is at \$150 billion.
- We need increased foreign investments from the U.S. to achieve such a target. It is indeed positive to see the U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai in New Delhi and the trading community are hoping that the revived Trade Policy Forum (TPF) could lay the foundations for an early harvest deal.
- Md Layeeque Azam, Economics Faculty

World Fisheries Day GS- 3 GOVERNMENT POLICIES & SCHEMES, AGRICULTURE & ALLIED SECTOR

Fish culture is an ancient traditional art in India. Over the decades, through “blue revolution”, this subsistence based tradition has been transformed into a scientific market driven, intensive and economic enterprise. Rising population coupled with inelastic land supply led the policy makers to look beyond the land frontiers and put consistent efforts to develop fishery sector to augment food security. The fishery sector is not only a source of protein substitution but also generates employment for a large segment of society and helps earn foreign exchange. Thus, India having 7500km long coastline and large inland land advantage has a huge opportunity to emerge as a well developed fishing country of the world.

Fishery– a) Marine fishery

1. b) inland fishery
2. c) Aquaculture

INDIAN SCENARIO

- India is the 3rd largest producer of fishes (commercial fishing) in the world with a global share of 8%.
- India is the 2nd largest in aquaculture production in the world
- India is the 4th largest exporter of fish in the world constituting about 18% of its agriculture exports worth 46,662 crore.
- According to the economic survey (2019-20) total fish production reached 14.2 million tonnes i.e 58% of its inland potential, and fishing, aquaculture and allied activities provide livelihood to over 14 million people.
- Fisheries sector has continued to register an annual growth rate of more than 10%.

SIGNIFICANCE OF FISHERY SECTOR

- India's geographical advantages like coastline, large Exclusive Economic zones (EEZs), extensive area under estuaries, backwaters, floodplain lakes, rivers, reservoirs, etc. and huge utilised area like swamps offers a great potential and is being tapped on which is evident from the fact that India's fish production increased from 0.75 million tonnes in 1951 to 8 million tonnes in 2019.
- There is a thousand fold increase in the value of marine products export. This is due to export oriented hatchery technology, cultural freshwater pearls and a disciplined post harvest chain in selected pockets of the country. Employment has risen with provision of assured livelihood to about 14 million people.
- Fishery sector provides nutritional security, as it is a rich and cheap source of protein which has consequently registered an increase in per capita consumption of fish.

CHALLENGES FOR FISHERIES SECTOR

There are inevitable problems associated with greater intensification of production.

- Population pressure coupled with commercial interest has failed to prevent over capitalisation of marine fishing capacity.
- Poor resource management has led to overfishing and depleted the onshore resources which further leads to scarcity and conflict between economic and ethnic groups.
- Haphazard growth and monoculture in inland fisheries leads to outbreak of epidemic diseases.
- Encroachment of fertile land for aquaculture would degrade the soil and groundwater quality.

- Market driven overharvesting, introduction of exocytic species and pollution will lead to extinction of the natural fish population.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE?

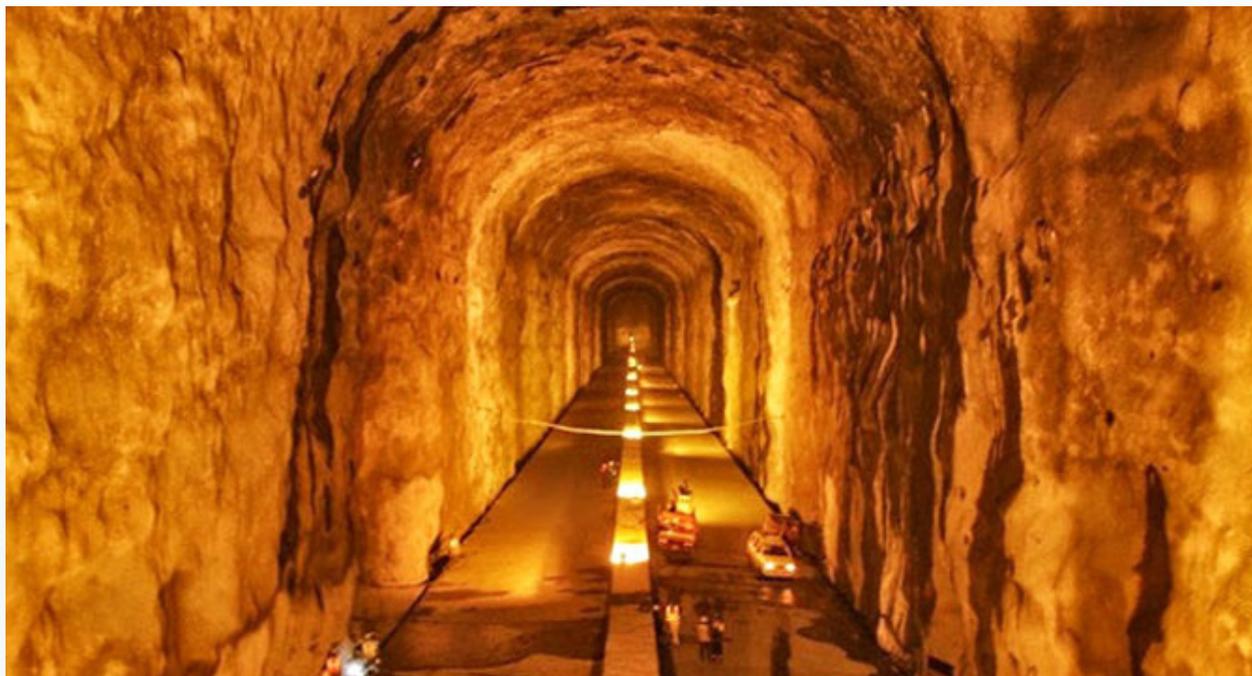
- ▶ Integrated fish farming is an ecologically sustainable option including fish polyculture, crop and livestock production involving on farm waste recycling.
- ▶ Multipurpose seaweed park will provide quality seaweed based products.
- ▶ Fish cooperatives can play a key role in the overall development at community level and support sustainable income generation.
- ▶ India aims to achieve the target of producing 22 metric tonnes of fish by 2024-25.
- ▶ In order to have balanced development, the govt has taken right initiatives through schemes like Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada yojana (PMMSY) Whereas it aims to double the incomes of fishers and fish farmers by 2024.
- ▶ Employment of fisher women in the fishing as well as post harvest sector has led to their economic empowerment.
- **Palk Bay scheme**- “Diversification of trawl fishing boats from palk straits into Deep sea fishing Boats” was launched in 2017 as a centrally sponsored scheme as a part of blue revolution.
 - ▶ Marine fishing policy 2004 emphasised on resource management and infrastructure development, post harvest operation and legislative support.
 - ▶ Fisheries and Aquaculture infrastructure development fund (FIDF). It attracts investment from the corporate sector in creation and management of fisheries infrastructure facilities in the country.
- **Kisan credit card**- Played a great role in providing financial aid to fish farmers.
- Marine product export development authority (MPEDA), established as a nodal agency in 1972 to work for fishery production and allied activities.

CONCLUSION

In an era of Globalisation and rising demands, the exploitation and cultivation of fishes have surpassed the natural regeneration capacity of sea and land and hence calls for sustainable fishing habits coinciding with SDG 15 (Life below water). Given the Indian scenario, obviously there is a scope for expansion in the fishery sector by evolving integrated approaches and developing economically and ecologically sustainable technology. Wrt- a) Fish breeding (b) Fish rearing (c) Fish marketing (d) Fish export. Clearly, it is time to focus on quality research and development, prioritising hygiene in processing centres and fishing harbours streamlined through legislative mandates. Further, fishing as an occupation for both men and women helps in societal cohesion and harmony.

Anshum Verma

India to release 5 million barrels of Crude Oil from Strategic Reserves (GS 3, Economics, The Hindu, Indian Express)



NEWS/CONTEXT :

- India is cutting shipments from Saudi Arabia by about 25% on the backdrop of OPEC+ extended production cuts, and has been most forceful about flexing its muscles as a major oil consumer.
- India is planning to get about 5 million barrels of crude oil from its strategic reserve which is the country's emergency stockpile. According to a government official, this is to cool off the international oil prices, along with the major economies like the United States and Japan.
- India stores 38 million barrels of crude oil (which is around 5.33 million tonnes) in underground caverns at three locations on the west coast and east coast. This will be the first time ever that India would be releasing crude oil stocks for such purposes. Out of 38 million barrels, about 5 million barrels will be released starting as early as 7 to 10 days, as per an official who said anonymously.
- The crude oil stocks will be sold to refineries of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL), which are connected by pipeline to the Strategic Reserves. As per the official we can even witness more release later.
- Earlier in the last week the US had made an unusual request to some of the largest Oil consuming nations of the world including India, China and Japan to consider the release of crude stockpiles, in a coordinated effort to lower down the global petroleum/ energy prices.
- This development took place after members of Organisation Of Petroleum Exporting Countries and its allies (OPEC+) had rejected the repeated requests to speed up the production.
- Last week during his visit in Dubai the Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri Set that high oil prices will undermine the global economic recovery. India is the world's third-largest oil consumer and importing nation and has been severely impacted by the relentless rise in international oil prices.
- "We are working on releasing stocks from our strategic reserves in coordination with other nations," the official said. "The release timing will depend on the U.S. making a formal announcement."

- It is to note here that OPEC and its other ally producers, which includes Russia, known collectively as OPEC+, have been producing 4 lakhs barrels per day to the market on a monthly basis. Many economic observers see this as not sufficient quantity to cool off the energy prices that had been rising as demand returns to pre-pandemic levels.
- We have already started witnessing the cooling down in crude oil prices in the backdrop of the threat of a coordinated release along with the new coronavirus-related lockdown in Europe. Brent crude fell to \$78 per barrel this week, from \$86.40 a barrel peak hit on October 26.
- Major economies like US, India and Japan believe that economies can witness unwanted inflation if the crude oil prices remain high and undermine the economic recovery from the covid-19 pandemic.
- The retail prices of diesel and petrol shot up to record levels earlier this month and the government had to cut taxes costing 60000 crore rupees in the revenue of this financial year.
- Along with India, Japan and China have also signalled their readiness for crude release.
- India has built 2.5 million tonnes of crude oil storage at Padur in Karnataka, 1.5 Million tonnes at Mangalore which is also in Karnataka and 1.33 million tonnes at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh.
- Half of the Mangalore storage has been given on lease to Abu Dhabi National Oil Company of UAE, the remaining is with state-owned Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd. (MRPL) whereas other State-owned firms and the government have stocked oil at the other facilities.
- While India stores 38 million barrels and Japan as 175 million barrels, the U.S. stocks 727 million barrels crude and oil products, as a part of their Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR).

**Md Layeeque Azam,
Economics Faculty**

Growing Chinese presence in Pakistan's port city Gwadar has led to the protest. (GS Paper-II, Polity, Constitution, Governance & International Relations) Source: The Times of India

WHY IN NEWS?

- Pakistan ports City Gwadar is witnessing massive protests over severe shortage of water, electricity as well as threats to livelihood from illegal fishing, against multi-billion project CPEC.
- Activists state that the needs of the locals are being denied.
- Gwadar is an integral part of CPEC project under the Chinese flagship program of Belt and Road initiative.

WHAT IS CPEC(CHINA- PAKISTAN ECONOMIC CORRIDOR)?

- It was launched in 2015 as a multibillion bilateral project between China and Pakistan. This project is an integral part of China's Belt and Road initiative.
- The project aims to promote connectivity across Pakistan by developing networks of highways, Railways and pipelines.
- The objective of the project is to link Gwadar port in Pakistan to Xinjiang province of China via Khunjerab Pass.
- The proposed projects would be financed by heavily subsidized loans by the Chinese government.

PAKISTAN INTEREST IN CPEC;

- The heavy investment by the Chinese would give a boost to the Pakistan economy by over 15%.
- It would help Pakistan meet its energy requirement which is considered to be the biggest breakthrough in the project, for example, Karot hydropower project and Karachi nuclear power plant.
- Pakistan critically lacks the basic infrastructure facilities. Investment by China is likely to uplift Pakistan's deteriorating infrastructure like for example construction of a railway network worth 10 billion dollar and construction of 2000 km of road in the country.
- The project also promises the huge employment opportunities in Pakistan.

CHINA INTEREST IN CPEC:

- This corridor would provide China with access to the Middle East and Europe and by shortening the route it would help China save millions of dollars.
- Functional Gwadar port would provide a link between Maritime Silk Road and Arabian Sea. This would help China easily import its crude and refined oil.
- In addition to the above mentioned profit China would gain huge strategic and geopolitical advantage in the Indian Ocean region.

ISSUES RELATED TO CHINA PAKISTAN ECONOMIC CORRIDOR:

- The project lacks transparency and accountability and is generally opined that it would be skewed in the favor of China heavily
- There is apprehension whether the project would create job opportunities for the Pakistan locals as Chinese are not partnering with local companies.
- The project may itself in future undermine the sovereignty of Pakistan and dictate its foreign policy especially against India.
- In the long run the presence of Chinese to various networks may influence the culture and pattern of thinking of Pakistan.

CONCERNS OF INDIA OVER CPEC:

- India is concerned over the project as it passes through Pakistan occupied Kashmir(a disputed territory) which in itself undermines the sovereignty of India.
- The heavy presence of Chinese near the border area of the country itself poses a serious security threat.
- Pakistan and China are now together trying to make Afghanistan join the CPEC infrastructure project.
- In the effort of the same, China has now proposed to construct Peshawar- Kabul motorway as an extension of CPEC in Afghanistan.
- Now these new initiatives have raised the already prevailing concerns of India over CPEC on economic, political and security fronts.
- India's foremost concern over Afghanistan joining CPEC is that the investment made by India in Chabahar port in Iran would be undermined.

WAY FORWARD;

- India must carefully calculate the potential benefits and possible concerns over belt and Road initiative and accordingly guide its future strategy.
- India can also make use of the Asia- Africa corridor which is India -Japan economic cooperation to

counter and balance the Chinese BRI project.

- With the changing political scenario in Afghanistan, India must very carefully design its relation with it, in a way that the advantage of China can be reduced in the area.
- India can focus on building relationships with its own strategic project like Bangladesh -China -India -Myanmar economic corridor(BCIM).

By :- Vivek raj Yadav

Swarn Singh

Introduction of Bharat Gaurav trains to tap the vast tourism potential of India (GS 3, Economics, The Hindu, Indian Express)



NEWS/ CONTEXT :

- Indian railways has announced theme based tourist circuit trains “ Bharat Gaurav Trains”, to showcase India’s magnificent historical places and rich cultural heritage to the people of the world and India, and to tap the vast tourism potential of the country.
- The Indian Railways runs the trains basically for goods and passengers. Under the Bharat Gaurav Schemes trains will run to enhance and support the tourism sector in India. With the help of professionals of the tourism sector, the Indian Railway will identify and develop various tourist circuits and it will run theme based trains.
- Features : Service Providers and Business Partners with Indian Railways can take these trains and they would be free to decide the themes. Any Organisation, Trust Companies, Cooperatives or the state governments can become the Service Provider and Business Partner with Indian Railways. They can decide the theme such as Ramayana trains, which could be touching all tourist places connected with Lord Sri Rama or like Gurukripa trains which could cover important places related to Sikh culture. These service providers and business partners can furnish or design the interior of coaches based on

their theme. Advertisement and Branding both outside and inside of the train is permitted. Service Providers can provide all inclusive packages to tourist customers, which means, along with train travel, it could be hotel accommodation, visit to heritage and historical sites, sightseeing arrangements or tour guides etc. Service providers will have full flexibility to decide their package cost based on the level of services they would be offering.

- Earlier in 2014-15, the Ministry of Tourism launched Swadeshi Darshan scheme which was a central sector scheme for integrating the development of theme based tourist circuits in the country. It is envisioned to synergise with other Central government schemes like Make in India, Skill India, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, etc with the idea of placing the tourism sector as a major engine for economic growth and job creation. The Ministry of Tourism also launched The National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive (PRASAD) within an aim of holistic development of identified pilgrimage centres. Later in 2017, the name of the scheme PRASAD was changed to PRASHAD (National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive).
- Important Data: As per India Brand Equity Foundation (IBEF), a government trust, the direct contribution of the tourism sector in the GDP is expected to record an annual growth rate of 10.35 % yearly between 2019 and 2028. In the year 2020 the Indian tourism sector has contributed 7.3% of total employment in the country which accounts for 31.8 million jobs, as per IBEF.
- In the Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Report 2019 prepared by World Economic Forum, India got the 34th rank among 140 countries.

**Md Layeeque Azam,
Economics Faculty**

Gender Based Violence : A burning social issue (GS Paper I : Social Issues)

CONTEXT:

World is celebrating today (25th November) the international day for the elimination of violence against women. A campaign called “Orange the world ” is run by activists. Orange is the colour symbol of the brighter future.

Gender based Violence is an act in which any wody commits crime because of the biases with another gender. We observe these crimes against women in large numbers. Gender based violence is a serious act of human right violation. This is a threat towards humanism also and in civilized society these types of crime should not be permitted. It has been observed that one women out of three has been victed of such violence either victem of domestic violence or victim of sexual harsment in her entire life. This is very big issue which should be brought in public debate

The international day for the elimination of violence against women is celebrated after the 16 days of International Human rights day. In fact activism against the crime committed towards women was concluded on this day (2008). Therefore this date is celebrated as International day for the elimination of violence against women.

UN Secretary-General and UN Women since have been running this campaign since 2008 and the objective of this complain was to prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls from each and every countries of this world. The another tool used by this campaign is to promote awareness and advocacy and create opportunities for discussion on challenges and solutions.

The crime against women is not a new thing, women have been victims of domestic violence as well as gender based violence for a long time as our society has been male dominated society and the cultural feudalism is still practised, therefore it is necessary to raise our voice against such crime.

Violence against women is also an incident of human right violence. Among the incidents of human right violation, most of the cases are related to crime against women. These crimes are related to intimate partner violence (battering, psychological abuse, marital rape, femicide), sexual violence and harassment (rape, forced sexual acts, unwanted sexual advances, child sexual abuse, forced marriage, street harassment, stalking, cyber-harassment), human trafficking (slavery, sexual exploitation), female genital mutilation; and child marriage. The above crime should be reduced otherwise we will leave a large part of the population in the process of development.

Many international agencies including UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) are doing their best against gender based violence to tackle this issue.

Definitely this problem or issue is the burning issue not for Indian context but also up to international level. In India orthodox society had approved and recognised this crime which can be resolved only through reform in the society. Education may be one of the strongest tools to tackle this problem. If women will be educated and would be provided property rights and through this way they would be empowered. The crime against women can be prevented only through making them strong by providing education.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019 (GS-3 CYBER SECURITY, GOVERNMENT POLICIES & LEGISLATION)

- A draft bill on the protection of personal data of individuals was designed by the Srikrishna committee and was submitted to the Ministry of Electronics and IT in 2018. It also has the provision for the establishment of a Data protection authority.
- A joint parliamentary committee was set up to scrutinize the personal data protection bill 2019, has recently finalized and adopted, after more than 2 years of deliberations by a majority. Though it awaits to be tabled in the upcoming winter session of the parliament. However, with few dissenting notes, the draft bill is seen falling short of parameters in the protection of the right to privacy of individuals against complete misuse by the state, especially with the retention of clause 35.
- Significance of Personal Data Protection Bill 2019
- Commonly referred to as the “Privacy Bill”. The Draft bill on Protection 2019 is a landmark legislation meant to regulate various entities using individuals’ data inside India.
- Personal Data Bill 2019 Proposed the formation of a Data Protection Authority, which would regulate the use of Users personal data by social media companies and other such organizations within the country.
- Draft Protection Data bill 2019 is also expected to set data localization norms for companies that retain user data.

CLAUSE 35 AND HOW IS IT AGAINST RIGHT TO PRIVACY

- Clause 35 is considered as an exemption whereby the government is allowed to keep any of its agencies beyond the purview of law in the name of “Public order”, “Sovereignty”, “Friendly relations with foreign states”, “Security of the state”. The main contention lies in the fact that 2018 Draft bill allowed exemption only in the pretext of the “ Security of the state” which is widely accepted even in the Europe General

Data Protection regulation but exemption on account of “Public order” is Susceptible to misuse by the State. Also, selection of the Chairperson and members of the Data protection Authority seems to be in diversion with the Shrikrishna committee recommendation.

- Further, the 2018 bill also called for a law to provide for “Parliamentary oversight and Judicial approval of non-consensual access to personal data”, which is seen to be lacking in the 2019 draft bill.
- These unregulated powers given to the state through Clause 35 stands in the way of ensuring article 19 and 21, which has been ensured by the K.S. Puttaswamy judgement 2017 on privacy.

CONCLUSION

- Given the crucial role played by data in this new era, there is a need to have a legislative backing and clear and precise rules and regulations, transparency, independent authority and effective redressal mechanism, so that individual rights are not affected. Though the JPC is Functioning in a democratic manner, there is further need to close the loopholes and make the draft bill 2019 in consonance with 2018 bill.

Anshum Verma

INDIA-US TRADE TIES

GS-2 Bilateral ties with other nations, Effects of Policies on India's Interest.

Post India's structural reforms the bilateral relationship between India-US has deepened and strengthened exponentially. India's trade relationship with the US is underscored by trade-surplus on India's part, which is to the dislike of the US. consequently many trade obstacles cropped up but with the revival of India us trade policy forum a much needed space for negotiation is expected by both countries, to enhance bilateral trade. The US seeks an expanded trade relationship with India that is reciprocal and fair. There are certain issues which stand in the way of realization of these objectives-

- Market access restriction
- High tariffs
- Unpredictable regulatory requirement
- Restrictive trade measures
- Withdrawal of exemption from generalized system of preferences.

As both countries are willing to make progress in such issues, the relaunch of the Trade policy forum(TPF) can be seen not only marked with opportunities but also as the first such initiatives under the Biden administration.

In the light of the recent 12th ministerial level meeting of the India-US TPF, Many breakthroughs have been appreciated to establish a strong and resilient bilateral trade between the two countries.

INDIA-US TPF HAS 5 FOCUS GROUPS

1. Agriculture
2. Investment
3. Innovation and creativity
4. Services

5. Tariff and non tariff barrier

MEASURES TO IMPROVE THE BUSINESS ECOSYSTEM

- Two way services trade has started and FDI caps have been raised which has resulted in increase in bilateral FDI.
- India took initiatives of various economic reforms such as-
 1. FDI in the insurance sector has been liberalized.
 2. Retrospective provision in income tax has been eliminated.
 3. “Single Window System” has been launched to facilitate investment.
- A resilient and secure supply chain is to be created in critical sectors of trade and technology.
- In order to promote growth in the digital sphere, which is estimated to be worth 100 Billion dollars trade. Some foundational issues have begun to be sorted like digital service tax, cross border data flows and common cellular standard.
- In the field of cyberspace India-US should come together for 5G,6G and Artificial intelligence
- In the field of health sector there is a need for US-INDIA to cooperate and provide a global health architecture.
- To enhance the investment in Research and development the government needs to adopt market based approaches on innovative medical products.

CONCLUSION

A robust India-us trade and economic partnership can address global challenges while working in collaboration Their constructive engagement in the multilateral trade bodies like WTO,G20 and OECD will enhance the bilateral trade relationship. The coming together of two democratic in the trade front is required to assert the establishment of a rule based global trading system among market economics, also in the Indian context market oriented reforms should continue to be implemented through transparent means, which will decrease trade tension with the US.

Anshum Verma

Impact of Lockdown on art and culture (GS Paper 1: Art and Culture)

CONTEXT :

A painting of Renowned artist Ramchandran entitled ‘Subaltern Nayikas & Lotus Pond’ is exhibiting in Exhibition which shows that Indian art and culture is overcoming from corona pandemic for almost two years

Art and culture are very significant elements for any country and the first time the British East India company had understood its significance therefore Asiatic Society of Bengal was established in 1784 by Warren Hastings. In independent India, our government was also aware of the significance of Indian culture. Many provisions are also given in our constitution regarding the protection and preservation of Indian culture

Art 29 is also related to preservation and protection of the culture of minorities. Minorities are given the right to conserve their distinct language, script etc.

Art 49 also discusses the protection of monuments and places and objects of national value. Simultaneously, Article 51 A (f) explains about the duty of every citizen is to preserve the rich heritage of Indian culture. Government of India is also preserving our ancient art and culture through various acts like The Ancient and Historical Monuments and Archaeological sites and Remains (Declaration of National Importance) Act 1951, Antiquities and Art treasures Act 1972 and Public Record Act 1993 and promoting through various awards like Bharat Ratna and Padma awards. Apart from the efforts of Government many private institutions are doing good works regarding preservation of the ancient art and culture.

IMPACT OF CORONA PANDEMIC

But during this corona pandemic, the effort of the government definitely impacted. Many artisans had left their professions and they shifted their profession. The areas and museums which were developed as tourist places were badly impacted during this pandemic. Private art galleries and museums are facing the problem of fund scarcity. Venue based sectors like performing arts, museum art galleries, festivals and cinema were more influenced sectors from corona.

In metropolitan areas, because of the corona, many people associated with museums and various cultural activities, theatre (Apart from the artist who) had lost their jobs. Many other sectors which had directly and indirectly associated with various arts were impacted during this period.

Again government is trying to promote and uplift art and cultural activities because government is very well aware with the significance with art and culture. Government of India is funding and promoting to organise many cultural fairs and festivals to revive cultural activities because through this sector Government can not only boost tourism sector but also boost entire economical sector.

Government is intended to increase the amount of fellowship in the field of various cultural activities and also start new fellowships also. Government is giving several relief to film industries for the shooting and other activities. In the matter of entertainment tax, the government is also giving some relief to the festivals and cultural organisations, fairs and other cultural activities. To promote art and their artists, this year the government of India has awarded many artists and social workers with various Padma Awards.

Definitely, Indian art and culture had to suffer in this corona pandemic and the government of India is again trying to revive it to boost the Indian economy.

Question for Prelims– Provision of Constitution related to protection and preservation of culture

Mains: *Discuss the significance of culture. How the art and culture were impacted during this corona pandemic and discuss the measures taken by the government to revive art and culture.*

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

The concept of Ram Rajya reflected in Indian Constitution (GS Paper II)

CONTEXT :

India is celebrating 72nd constitution day on 26th Nov because on this day, our constitution was adopted and enacted by the constitutional assembly on 26 Nov 1949. The ideals of Ramrajya are reflected in our constitution therefore the picture of Rama along with Sita and Lakshman is there on the page of Fundamental Rights because in the Ramrajya fundamental rights of every citizen were very well protected.

INTRODUCTION :

Ramrajya is not a religious concept it is a political concept and refers to a public welfare state where the rights of Public were protected up to extreme level, where the democratic value system was established and it ensured the happiness of all the people (Happiness index was at its height).

Ram Rajya can be equated with the concept of golden state or Eutopia (Author – Thomas More during Renaissance Period of Europe). The concept of Ideal state was an imaginary concept given in the book Utopia but In Indian context, RamRajya was the concept of an ideal state where the Kings had to accept the decision of the public. King could not take any decision without the consent of the public.

Even Though this is also an imaginary concept and no state can meet with this concept but at least this concept shall be inspiration for our democratic system

Our National Movement was also fought for bringing Ramrajya where there should not be any type of discrimination, any type of exploitation (Social, political, religious and economical), any type of oppressive administration. This concept ensures Justice, equality, fraternity, freedom of every citizen of the state without any discrimination.

This concept follows the concept of *प्रजासुखे सुखं राज्ञः प्रजानां तु हिते हितम् । नात्मप्रियं हितं राज्ञः प्रजानां तु प्रियं हितम्* (The happiness of the ruler lies in the happiness of his subjects. It is not what the ruler likes that matters, but only what people like.) described in Arthashastra and similar instruction was given to Yudhishthir in Santiparva of the Mahabharata

REFLECTION OF ELEMENTS OF RAMRAJYA IN INDIAN CONSTITUTION :

In Preamble where we assure to provide Justice (Social, economical and Political), Equality (of status and of opportunity) and to promote among them all FRATERNITY assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the Nation. All these exist in the concept of Ramrajya also

The fundamental right where we are provided some rights guaranteed by state and the nature of directive principles of state policy is reflection of social justice (Gandhian style) is reflection of the concept of Ram Rajya. Ram Rajya is envisioned as that state of governance where the ruler is wise enough to place the good of the people above the interest of his own.

Criticism of RamRajya : Some scholars criticise the concept of Ramrajya on the following ground

1. Rama expelled Sita (Downgrade and pathetic condition of women)
2. Killing of Smbook (Who was dalit saint)

In fact, the concept of Ram Rajya is an ideal and inspirable concept (Which is not the historical truth) and it can be also justified that the expulsion of Sita was the compulsion of Rama as he was bounded with Rajdhrama (A type of constitution) Ram did not expel Sita (His wife), he expelled Sita (A Mahishi, a constitutional post and one person was against this). Similarly Rama was bound by the Rajdhrama in the act of killing of Sambook (To protect Chaturvarna system). The main concern is that Rama was bound to follow the Raj dhrama (A type of constitution) and how the Rajdhrama of that time is not the subject of debate.

CONCLUSION

On the basis of the above description, the concept of Ram Rajya is a secular concept and reflects in the ideologies of our constitution makers like Ambedkar and our constitution is the replica of the concept of Ram Rajya. This is our duty to follow the instructions of the constitution and to implement those elements.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

PRADHAN MANTRI GARIB KALYAN ANNA YOJANA GS – 3 FOOD SECURITY, GOVERNMENT SCHEME, BUFFER STOCK

The Union cabinet approved the extension for the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana(PMGKAY) for a period of another four month from december 2021 to March 2022. It is considered as the world's largest food security Scheme.It is a food security welfare scheme announced by the government in march 2020. Its primary objective is to provide free food grains to the eligible beneficiaries covered under the national food security act.

Nodal Agency– PMGKAY is a part of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package to help poor fight the battle against covid-19. Its nodal ministry is the **Ministry Of Finance**.

It was initially announced for a three month covering 80 crore ration cardholders. Now schemes enter into fifth phase.

- Phase 1 – April-june 2020
- Phase 2 – July-nov 2020
- Phase 3 – May-june 2021
- Phase 4 – July-nov 2021
- Phase 5 – Dec 2021-March 2022

Eligible Beneficiaries received 5kg of food grains and 1kg gram per month through a Public distribution system(PDS). Food needs to be provided to all the beneficiaries under PDS for Antyodaya anna yojana(AAY) and priority household ration cardholders.

ELIGIBILITY

- Families belonging to the below poverty line(BPL)-Antyodaya anna yojana and priority household categories will be eligible for the scheme.
- Household headed by widows or terminally ill persons or disabled persons or persons aged 60 years or more with no assured means of societal support.
- Marginal farmers, craftsmen, slum dwellers, carpenters, blacksmith, porters, coolies, rickshaw pullers and people earning their livelihood on a daily basis in the informal sectors,HIV positive persons etc.

CHALLENGES

Certain groups of daily wages and informal workers may be left out. Even in a regular pandemic whether or not access to nutritious food is essential or not, access to affordable and safe food should not be an uncertainty for any section of the society.

EXPENDITURE

Government already spent 2.7lacs crore(1-4 phases) of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana(PMGAY) and the government will be incurring an expenditure of 53344.52 In fifth phase.

Anshum Verma

Kashi Prasad Jaiswal and his Hindu Polity

(GS paper I / History optional Paper I : Historiography)

CONTEXT :

Today (27 Nov 2021) is the 141th birthday of great historian, Philosopher and lawyer Kashi Prasad Jaiswal. His famous book “Hindu polity” became the most inspirable book for the Indian historian during the British Period because in this book, he countered that ideology of western historians in which it was propagated that India had learned about political institutions and ideas from the west and there were anarchical states that existed in Ancient India

INTRODUCTION :

K.P jaiswal was a great lawyer and then historian born in Mirzapur Uttar pradesh on 27 November 1881. He graduated from university of Allahabad and after he went to England for higher education and after returning to India, he worked as a lawyer in calcutta high court. with the request of of Sir Asutosh Mukherjee, he started research on ancient Indian political system and concluded that, the british 's concept for ruling over India was that India was not fit for self rule or swaraj because India had nver practised any democratic rule and autocratic and despotic rule were the fundamental characteristics of ancient Indian political system. In his book Hindu polity, he emphasised that, there were democratic rules (Not absolute but we can see the collective decision making process in ancient India) and several political institutions existed in ancient india. The concept of Gana Rajya and sangh rajya could be seen in ancient India also. Vaishali ganrajya was one of the oldest Republics of the world.

WORK OF K.P JAISWAL :

He wrote more than 120 research papers and 11 books which were published by renowned publications and journals. His famous books are Hindu Polity and History of India, 150 A.D. to 350 A.D. He was expert in numismatics and did research over many Gupta and Mauryan could therefore he was invited for the conference organised by Royal Asiatic Society, London. He was elected as the president of Numismatic Society of India also

SIGNIFICANCE OF HIS FAMOUS WORK HINDU POLITY :

During the first decade of the 20th century was the period when, a flame of national movement was burning among Indians(Even though in a limited aspect) after swadeshi movement. The British were ruling over India not only by power but also through several propagandas. They had declared that they were ruling Indians to teach about rule of law, about democratic value systems and about political institutions and modern political ideas. After 1917, when Tilak and Annie Besant had launched the Home Rule league, by publishing this book (Hindu Polity), the flame of nationalism was definitely increased. Through This it was scholarly proved that we are sufficiently capable to run our own administrative system, we are ready for swaraj and this self rule is not new for Indians. For a long time, even in ancient India, we have practiced democratic elements in our administrative system. Through this work, nationalism was enhanced. Therefore K. P Jaiswal could be credited for ennobling nationalism also.

CONCLUSION :

Definitely the scholarly work on our ancient India during the British period was a tough task and these were our nationalism historians who tried to find out the element existed in our ancient India through which the

glorification of ancient culture could be enhanced. This work of jaiswal eliminated the concept of British superiority over administrative and political knowledge

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Ayushman Bharat- PMJAY has led to an increase in the insurance coverage, finds NFHS survey. (GS Paper-II, Polity, Constitution and Governance)

WHY IN NEWS?

- 5th edition of National Family Health survey showed 12.3% increase in the health insurance over the last edition which indicates the impact of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY)
- The survey found out that its coverage in urban areas is 38.1 % and in rural sector is 42.4 %.

KEY FEATURES:

- PMJAY was launched in 2018 and is the world's largest Health Insurance which is fully financed by the government.
- The aim of the scheme is to help economically vulnerable sections of the society who are in the need of Healthcare facilities.
- The objective of the scheme is to cover 10 crore families or 50 crore beneficiaries who mostly belong to poor or lower middle income groups, through a Health Insurance Scheme covering 5 lakh per family.
- PMJAY is a step to ensure cashless and paperless access of the service to beneficiaries at the secondary and tertiary Health Care Centre.
- The nodal agency for its implementation is National Health Authority.

PROVISIONS:

- It does not include any restriction on family size, gender or age.
- It covers the expenses of up to 3 days of pre hospitalization and 15 days post hospitalization plus the transportation cost.
- The reimbursement given to the public Hospital is on par with the private hospital.
- Its funding is provided by the centre and the state in the 60:40 ratio for all states and UT with their own Legislative Assembly. 90:10 for the North East states, Jammu and Kashmir Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. It is 100% centrally sponsored for union territory with no legislative assembly.
- The beneficiaries are identified by the latest Socio-Economic Caste Census data.

SIGNIFICANCE OF PMJAY:

- It helps poor families by providing them with better Healthcare facilities without falling into the Trap of debt.
- The robust mechanism with the large coverage of the scheme lays the foundation for the wide reforms in India Healthcare system.
- Its packages include provisions like pre-hospitalization and post hospitalization cost including

transportation cost, helping the out of pocket people.

- As per the latest economic survey PMJAY has contributed to the improvement of the health outcomes on many parameters in the state implementing it.
- States implementing the scheme have had greater success in expanding the coverage of Health Insurance. This resulted in the reduction of infant and child mortality rate, improved the family planning and greater awareness about HIV.
- The scheme is backed by the robust IT mechanism which stores the data about the beneficiaries and related treatment which can be used for the grievance redressal if need arises.

ISSUES:

- Inadequate health capacities of the public sector cause for the collaboration with the private sector Hospital.
- The scheme was criticized on the grounds that the private sector has been given a very important role to play but their regulation is very marginal.
- Many private hospitals which are generally established for profit, see the government offer as unviable.
- There is a chance of fraud and addition of potential unnecessary treatment by the private hospitals to increase their reimbursement.
- The centre and the state both are key in providing the funds to the scheme. It becomes necessary to streamline the existing State Health Insurance Scheme to PMJAY.

WAY FORWARD:

- The recent success story of PMJAY provides opportunities for the Indian Healthcare system to pursue a systematic Reform to meet its Universal health coverage aim.
- In order to ensure universal coverage, more resources need to be infused into the health infrastructure which certainly need to be accompanied with effective governance to ensure the sustainability and effectiveness of the scheme.

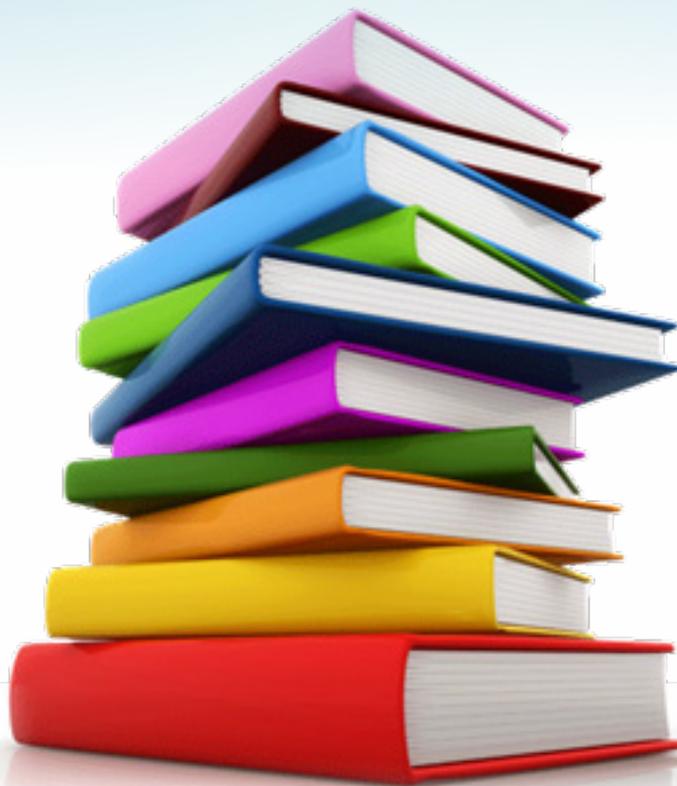
By Vijay Raj Yadav.

Swarn Singh



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Qawwali : A Medieval form of Art (GS Paper I : Art and culture)

CONTEXT:

By last week, an exhibition is going on in Delhi where the picture of the qawalls of 700 olds have been displayed by Sufi Kathak Foundation

INTRODUCTION :

- Qawwali is the medieval art of music which is similar to the Bhajan sung by Hindu. Similarly Qawallies are sung by the Sufis to praise God. Qawwali was pure religious art of medieval India and it became famous during the 14th century after Amir Khusrou.
- Qualli is terme derived from qaul which means to speak. Qawwalis are sung as a prayer form of God by Sufi.
- There are one or two vocalists in Qawalli and In chrus 10 -15 singers used to sing with hand clapping. The main singer uses Harmonium and other artists may use Dholak or tabla or any other musical instruments.
- Qawwali takes place in the mehfil-e samā' (a type of gathering on any auspicious occasion). Amir Khusrou, the poet contemporary to Muhammad Bin Tughlaq was the founder of Indian Qawalli in persian Hindi language. Besides Amir Khusrou, poet Rumi and Hafez also composed many Qawwalies A musical genre Qawwalies are similar to Hindustani classical music. It draws from the same pool of melodic frameworks (ragas) and metric patterns (talas) as classical music, and it uses a formal structure similar to that of the khayal song genre. Like khayal, qawwali performances feature a mixture of evenly paced metric refrains and rhythmically flexible solo vocal improvisations, which make extensive use of melisma (singing of more than one pitch to a single syllable).
Development : This music became popularized outside of India during the 19th century mainly in South Asian Countries. It was not popular beyond South East Asian countries but after 20th century it spreaded in entire world Singers of Indian subcontinent (Pakistani) Haji Ghulam Farid Sabri and his brother Maqbool Sabri spreaded this qawalli to America also during the decade of 1970s. With the effort of Nusrat fatesh Ali Shah and it became globally recognised form of the music After globalization the nature of the Qawwali has changed. Now this can be sung at any non religious place and on any occasion and this is not necessary with traditional rhythm. Moreover, the musical forms, instrumentation, and texts often are adjusted specifically to satisfy the tastes and expectations of international audiences. India and Pakistan both agreed to work together for the development and flourishing of this cultural tradition of Qawwalies. This is listed with the heritage list of the UNESCO

CONCLUSION

This Qawwali is the cultural heritage for India as well as Pakistan also. Now we see the declining phase of the Qawwali in India because of the new form of music (Rap songs). This is the duty of all art lovers to protect and preserve this musical tradition of India. Sufi Kathak Foundation is doing well in this regard. The work and efforts of the curator of the foundation Manju Chaturvedi is really appreciable. She has been working for more than 25 years to flourish this traditional kawwali.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Blue Economy and the O-SMART Scheme (GS 3, Economics, The Hindu, Indian Express)

NEWS/CONTEXT:

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has recently approved the Continuation of O-SMART (Ocean Services, Modelling, Application, Resources and Technology) Scheme for the period of 2021-26. O-SMART is a central government scheme that addresses ocean development activities in the field of resources, services, technology, science and observation along with the technological assistance to **tap the potentials of the Blue Economy.**

The Blue Economy is the sustainable use of resources available in the ocean for improved livelihood and jobs, ocean ecosystem health. It focuses on greening of ocean development strategies for higher productivity and ocean health conservation. It encompasses maritime transport, fisheries, tourism, renewable energy, climate change, waste management and renewable energy. Blue economy also emphasizes on integration of ocean economy with environmental sustainability, social inclusion with innovative business models. Blue economy is reflected in the 14th Sustainable Development Goals, which calls to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) has rolled out the Draft Blue Economy policy for India in the public domain. The draft blue economy policy document outlines the vision and strategy that can be adopted by the Government of India to utilize the plethora of oceanic resources available in the country.

With an Exclusive Economic Zone of over two million sq-km and 7,517-km long coastline, India has a unique maritime position. It presents a huge opportunity to tackle food security, poverty and unemployment.

In the post Covid crises, the resources in these areas can spur India's economic recovery. It gives high return on investment.

A high-level panel for a sustainable ocean economy, co-chaired by the Norwegian Prime Minister (PM) found that investment of one dollar in key ocean activities yields five dollars in return, often more. With the spread of coastline across nine coastal states, 12 major, and 200 minor ports, India's blue economy supports 95% of the country's business through transportation and contributes an estimated 4% to its Gross Domestic Product (GDP). All sectors in the blue economy like Aquaculture, Fishing, Fish Processing, Marine Tourism, Shipping and port activities have the potential to employ a large workforce. New sectors like Marine Biology, Offshore wind, biotechnology, ship breaking and ship building etc are also on rise.

The blue economy in India will get strength from the continuation O-SMART scheme, mentioned above.

Way Forward : At International platform A High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy commissioned a new report that proposes a roadmap for economic recovery from COVID-19 that utilizes opportunities in the ocean economy and ensures investments help catalyze progress towards a sustainable

ocean economy that delivers effective protection of ocean ecosystems, sustainable production and equitable prosperity — in essence, a “sustainable and equitable blue recovery.”

The report proposes a set of five priority opportunities for governments to consider for the immediate investment of stimulus funds to support a sustainable and equitable blue recovery from the coronavirus crisis. **These are Invest in Coastal and Marine Ecosystem Restoration and Protection, Invest in Wastewater and Sewerage Infrastructure For Coastal Communities, Invest in Sustainable, Community-led Marine Aquaculture (Mariculture), Provide Incentives to Stimulate Investment in Zero-emission Marine Transport, Provide Incentives to Catalyze Sustainable Ocean-based Renewable Energy.**

In International Cooperation under India-Norway Integrated Ocean Management Initiative, officials and researchers are cooperating on improving the governance of resources in the ocean through marine spatial planning.

In addition various Universities and technical institutes of the country should offer courses and train personnel in the field of blue economy.

MD. Layeeque Azam

Suspension of MPs from Parliament : Any disciplinary Action or Crushing the voice of opponents (GS Paper II : Indian Constitution)

CONTEXT:

Yesterday, during winter session of the parliament 12 MPs of opposition party were suspended from Rajya Sabha for their misconduct as satiated by the chairperson of Rajya Sabha Venkaiah Naidu (Vice President)

INTRODUCTION:

In the Indian parliament there are two houses Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. During the session of parliament, the proceedings of each house is headed by the Chairperson (For Lok Sabha, speaker is the chairperson and for Rajya Sabha, vice president is the chairperson) and this is the responsibility of chairpersons of both houses to run the house smoothly. therefore they are empowered with certain powers to suspend the member of parliament for any misconduct described in their rule book.

For Lok Sabha through rule 374 and 374 A are given. Rule 374 A was incorporated in 2001. According to rule 374, a speaker can take any disciplinary action against any member of the parliament if that member violates and dishonors the chair. Speaker can suspend any member through the motion. even though speaker can terminate this suspension also through same procedure and as per the rule 374A states that Notwithstanding anything contained in rules 373 and 374, in the event of grave disorder occasioned by a Member coming into the well of the House or abusing the Rules of the House persistently and wilfully obstructing its business by shouting slogans or otherwise, such Member shall, on being named by the Speaker, stand automatically suspended from the service of the House for five consecutive sittings or the remainder of the session, whichever is less: Provided that the House may, at any time, on a motion being made, resolve that such suspension be terminated.

Similar power was given to the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha through rule 255. Chairman may name of the member of Rajya Sabha who misconducts or does any misbehavior against the chair and can suspend the member by a motion

This was not the first time when these members of the houses were suspended. During UPA period many time Mira Kumar had taken such strong decision and suspended 18 MPs of Andhra Pradesh those were demanding the separate state of Telangana Even though during the period Rajeev Gandhi 63 members of opposition party were suspended

Generally on the name of smooth running of the house, presiding officers of any houses curved the voice of opponents and in this way definitely democracy suffers

CONCLUSION

In fact, It is undoubtedly that presiding officers of both houses should be empowered with certain power to run the houses smoothly but the rule should be more elaborative in its nature on the violation of which these strict actions must be taken but there is some scope to reform in the status of chairperson (mainly speaker). Just like the British parliamentary system, speakers should resign from political parties and the Vice president should also work in an unbiased manner. Through these types of reforms our democracy would be strengthened. Opposition is the main tool to curb the authoritative nature of the state. The voice of opposition must be listen and appreciated but on other way this opponent must be constructive in it nature

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

NFHS-5 REPORT CARD (India's health ?)

CONTEXT :

The latest National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) data for 2019-21, has been released.

FUNDAMENTALS :

The National Family Health Survey (NFHS)– It's a large-scale, multi-round survey conducted throughout India, in a representative sample of households

NFHS-

provides state and national information for India on :

- Fertility
- Infant and child mortality
- The practice of family planning
- Maternal and child health
- Reproductive health, nutrition, anaemia, utilization
- Quality of health and family planning services

Each successive round of the NFHS has had 2 specific goals:

1. To provide essential data on health and family welfare needed by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and other agencies for policy and programme purposes,
2. To provide information on important emerging health and family welfare issues.

REPORT : There are remarkable improvements, in view of very little expenditure on health and education as a share of India's GDP.

KEY RESULTS FROM NFHS Phase 2 (conducted between January 2020 and April 2021) :-

The report has been a **mixed verdict**.

The report card on the state of India's demographic and health trajectory, reveals improvement in several dimensions such as :-

[On comparing NFHS-5 with NFHS-4 (2015-16)]

- Educational attainment
- Population has stabilised
- Institutional deliveries
- Vaccinations
- Infant mortality
- TFR(2.1)

The **positives** of the report should be admired, under the following circumstances :-

1. Given the abysmal state of India's health infrastructure, which has been tragically apparent since the COVID-19 pandemic hit.
2. Given how little India spends on health and education as a share of GDP.

The biggest positive headline news from NHFS-5 is-

The total fertility rate i.e. the average number of children born to a woman during her lifetime- TFR – **falling** over time and is now just below the replacement rate of **2.1**. (true across all States of India). There is absolutely no evidence to justify tying welfare support measures or holding elected office to the number of children.

DATA ON SEX RATIO-

Nationally, there are 1,020 adult women per 1,000 men for the first time.

THE SEX RATIO AT BIRTH (SRB)-

The natural SRB is 105 boys to 100 girls, which typically stabilises to a 50-50 adult sex ratio. The natural SRB translates to 952 girls per 1,000 boys.

NATIONALLY-

The SRB has improved from 919 (2015-16) to 929 (2019-21), but it is still short of the natural SRB.

MAJOR STATES WITH LOW SRBs:

- Uttar Pradesh
- Haryana
- Punjab
- Rajasthan
- Bihar
- Delhi
- Jharkhand
- Andhra Pradesh
- Tamil Nadu
- Odisha

- Maharashtra

STATES WITH A WORSENING SRBs:-

- Maharashtra
- Tamil Nadu
- Odisha

Anaemia and malnutrition

A key health indicator that has **worsened** –

The incidence of anaemia in all the States of India. :

Under-5 children → from 58.6 to 67%

Women → 53.1 to 57%

Men → 22.7 to 25%

NOTE: 20%-40% incidence of Anaemia → moderate.

Incidence of Anaemia varies in Indian States from-

39.4% → Kerala

79.7% → Gujarat

Except Kerala, all States are in the **severe** category.

However, comparing the changes in anaemia (pre-COVID Surveys) to the later phase, the increase in the former is on average higher than the increase in Phase 2 States.

Phase I states- Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Kerala, Maharashtra, West Bengal

Phase II States- Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Punjab, among others.

There are other instances of clear differences between Phase 1 and Phase 2 results.

There has been **an overall improvement** in the three indicators of malnutrition:

- **stunting** (low height-for-age)
- **wasting** (low weight-for-height)
- **underweight** (low weight-for-age)

These factors generally prevent children from reaching their physical and cognitive potential.

There has been an **anomaly** in the overall reduction (in the National estimates)-

Phase 1, several States revealed a worsening in one or more of these factors

Phase 2, none of the States showed a worsening.

NOTE- Phase 2 survey could have been affected due to COVID-19

An **increase in the proportion of overweight children, women and men** has also been found.

Lack of adequate nutrition is also measured by micronutrient deficiencies, i.e. lack of vitamins and minerals.

Notes of caution-

Based on comparisons between NHFS-4 and NHFS-5 to the improvements between the two previous rounds- **the rate of progress has slowed down.**

→ Though, the data for 2nd Phase of NFHS-5 have been collected during the COVID-19 pandemic, but as the evidence on anaemia shows, the deterioration in public health indicators cannot be attributed fully to this pandemic.

THE NHFS-5 SURVEY ALSO FOCUSES ON :-

- Women's empowerment
- Autonomy and mobility indicators

The survey **shines** a spotlight on women's reproductive health, and reveals that **caesarian births have increased dramatically**.

In private health facilities, 47.5% births are by C-section (14.3% in public health facilities).

All Governments, National and State should prioritise health as a matter of concern. The survey highlights deep **inequalities** in health outcomes. An action plan to improve India's health needs to be inclusive, firm in its commitment, and backed by solid resources.

Rajeev Yadav

NEED FOR MAXIMUM SUPPORT POLICIES INSTEAD OF MSP GS-3 MARKETING OF AGRICULTURE, SUBSIDIES IN AGRICULTURE

A major chunk of India's population depend on agriculture and allied sectors for their livelihood, yet the share of income they receive remains meager. This calls for structural reforms in the agrarian sector, which would emphasis on spherical development. The recent withdrawal of three farm acts has again brought fore the need to rethink the process not only to maximise farmers income but also to diversify the agricultural sector in a holistic manner.

In the name of farmers welfare, MSP for selected crops, fertilizers subsidy, government regulated marketing and controlled distribution of agricultural products through the agency of FCI, underlines the neglected approach which is evident from the fact that even after the 7 decades of independence small and marginal farmers are still not well equipped to improve their life standards. In fact, green revolution which was supposed to provide a Trickle down effect, further widened the hiatus between the big farmers and small farmers. Mere policies alone can't be blamed but also the political environment which is more tilted towards vote bank rather than effective policy implementation.

WHAT ARE THE ISSUES WITH MSP?

- **MSP is available only for 23 crops** – This limited choice obstructs the farmers from diversifying their investment to other crops which could yield more in monetary terms e.g Horticulture.
- **Dominance of Wheat and Paddy** – In the context of food scarcity it was a revolutionary initiative, but in present it must be realised that India has passed that phase and the overproduction of these two crops are only incurring losses to the government which is ultimately borne by taxpayers.
- **Economic Unsustainability of MSP for Wheat and Paddy** – MSP of paddy is increased by 280% and MSP of wheat is increased by 230% but their market price remains lower. which acts to FCI economic burden and has reached 3 lacs crore.
- **Ineffective implementation of MSP scheme** – As per shanta kant committee(2015), only 6% of farmers received MSP and remaining are still deprived of such benefits.
- **Allied sectors do not get MSP** – To double the farmers income animal husbandry and fisheries should also get some sort of government intervention in the form of MSP, being demand driven sector, it has more potential to receive higher yields.

WHAT IS THE ALTERNATIVE TO MSP?

- **Sustainable farming** – Govt has started moving towards “ Zero Budgeting Natural Farming” but given the diverse agro-climatic zones, The method should be suitable to the region so that benefits could be maximised. There should be incentives on organic fertilizers and bio-fertilizers. Urea should be included in Nutrient based subsidy.
- **Equity based resource distribution** – Every farmer should have equal access to support structures and government designed economic packages. Subsidy and waivers should be replaced by incentives based payment which would motivate farmers to adopt effective cultivation methods.
- **Adaptation to climate change** – Farmers need to be given training in terms of resources skills knowledge, mode of production, value addition and marketing for eg. local seed banks.
- **Promotion of allied activities** – small scale industries, food processing centres etc help in value addition and provide employment.
- **Involvement of local public institutions** – A decentralised approach would attract more rural populations towards sustainable agricultural practices and make them skilled and employed thus improving their quality lives.

CONCLUSION

Thus a holistic and integrated approach will make a difference and transform the agrarian sector in a positive manner. Policies should be designed to be more supportive and accessible to every farmer. An equity based initiative could alone bring structural reforms in the agricultural sector and thus add quality to the lives of small farmers by enabling them to access education, health etc.

Anshum Verma

Ayushman Bharat- PMJAY has led to an increase in the insurance coverage, finds NFHS survey. (GS Paper-II, Polity, Constitution and Governance) Source: Hindustan Times

WHY IN NEWS?

- 5th edition of National Family Health survey showed 12.3% increase in the health insurance over the last edition which indicates the impact of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY)
- The survey found out that its coverage in urban areas is 38.1 % and in rural sector is 42.4 %.

KEY FEATURES:

- PMJAY was launched in 2018 and is the world's largest Health Insurance which is fully financed by the government.
- The aim of the scheme is to help economically vulnerable sections of the society who are in the need of Healthcare facilities.
- The objective of the scheme is to cover 10 crore families or 50 crore beneficiaries who mostly belong to poor or lower middle income groups, through a Health Insurance Scheme covering 5 lakh per family.
- PMJAY is a step to ensure cashless and paperless access of the service to beneficiaries at the secondary and tertiary Health Care Centre.

- The nodal agency for its implementation is National Health Authority.

PROVISIONS:

- It does not include any restriction on family size, gender or age.
- It covers the expenses of up to 3 days of pre hospitalization and 15 days post hospitalization plus the transportation cost.
- The reimbursement given to the public Hospital is on par with the private hospital.
- Its funding is provided by the centre and the state in the 60:40 ratio for all states and UT with their own Legislative Assembly. 90:10 for the North East states, Jammu and Kashmir Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. It is 100% centrally sponsored for union territory with no legislative assembly.
- The beneficiaries are identified by the latest Socio-Economic Caste Census data.

SIGNIFICANCE OF PMJAY:

- It helps poor families by providing them with better Healthcare facilities without falling into the Trap of debt.
- The robust mechanism with the large coverage of the scheme lays the foundation for the wide reforms in India Healthcare system.
- It's packages include provisions like pre-hospitalization and post hospitalization cost including transportation cost, helping the out of pocket people.
- As per the latest economic survey PMJAY has contributed to the improvement of the health outcomes on many parameters in the state implementing it.
- States implementing the scheme have had greater success in expanding the coverage of Health Insurance. This resulted in the reduction of infant and child mortality rate, improved the family planning and greater awareness about HIV.
- The scheme is backed by the robust IT mechanism which stores the data about the beneficiaries and related treatment which can be used for the grievance redressal if need arises.

ISSUES:

- Inadequate health capacities of the public sector cause for the collaboration with the private sector Hospital.
- The scheme was criticized on the grounds that the private sector has been given a very important role to play but their regulation is very marginal.
- Many private hospitals which are generally established for profit, see the government offer as unviable.
- There is a chance of fraud and addition of potential unnecessary treatment by the private hospitals to increase their reimbursement.
- The centre and the state both are key in providing the funds to the scheme. It becomes necessary to streamline the existing State Health Insurance Scheme to PMJAY.

WAY FORWARD:

- The recent success story of PMJAY provides opportunities for the Indian Healthcare system to pursue a systematic Reform to meet its Universal health coverage aim.
- In order to ensure universal coverage, more resources need to be infused into the health infrastructure

which certainly need to be accompanied with effective governance to ensure the sustainability and effectiveness of the scheme.

Swarn Singh

8.4% Growth in Q2 GDP, Recovery appears patchy (GS 3, Economics, The Hindu, Indian Express)



NEWS/CONTEXT:

In the July to September quarter (Q2) for the current financial year (2021-22), India's gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 8.4% as per the National Statistical Organization. Last year the same quarter witnessed 7.4% contraction due to covid restrictions.

The First quarter of the current financial year (2021-22) saw a growth of 20.1%, while the first of this year has recorded 13.7% growth. India is likely to record double digit growth for 2021-22. The government is hopeful of a fast recovery, but the economists are not fully convinced.

REAL COMPARISON :

All the comparisons done above regarding growth are with respect to the previous financial year 2020-21. The year of 2021-21 was full of covid restrictions and lockdowns. The production in the year 2020-21 was very low, around 135 lakh crore in comparison to 145 lakh crore in the precovid financial year of 2019-20, calculated on the prices of base year (2011-12). If the GDP of FY 2021-22 is compared to 135 lakh crore, it will obviously show a greater growth percentage. **It is called Base Effect.** Percentage shows high because of the low base. Hence to get a real picture, the GDP of FY 2021-22 should be compared to the GDP of FY 2019-20, not with FY 2020-21.

In this way the absolute GDP in the second quarter (Q2) of FY 2021-22 was 0.3% higher than pre pandemic levels (compared from Q2 of FY 2019-20) reflecting that there are still many worrying areas.

The private consumption spending still languishes below preCOVID levels along with activity in employment intensive sectors like construction and contact intensive sectors like retail and hotels. The base effect of negative growth last year also helped nudge the GDP numbers up, most independent economists saying. Although the Chief Economic Advisor said the base effect by itself does not make the recovery 'less noteworthy'.

Investments from the Government, continued to remain the key growth drivers while private consumption is yet to show a decisive recovery.

Only gross fixed capital formation, on the domestic demand side, emerged positive in Q2 over the 2019-20 level. Private final consumption expenditure, in terms of its magnitude, is still lower. Even if the pace of recovery is sustained in the next two quarters, India's GDP for the year is expected to be only marginally higher than that in 2019-20 (by around 2%) as per CARE Ratings economists.

Investments and Demands are yet to see a meaningful and durable pickup. Improvements in these are expected to be gradual and limited, given that even before the pandemic, the domestic economy was grappling with low demand and subdued investment climate.

Understanding GDP as National Income and its calculation : GDP is a widely considered and accepted measure of National Income. Generally it is defined as the money value of all productions of final goods and services in the country in one financial year, simply say what a country produces (capital goods/Infrastructure, consumer goods or services) in one year, is its income in one year. Theoretically this national income will be equal to national expenditure against all final goods and services, meaning whatever is produced will be bought (expenditure). Also whatever is produced is actually the income of somebody. For example if a pen is produced and sold for Rs 100. Rs 100 will be distributed among all stakeholders who were engaged in the making of the pen. Here the money value of production is equal to income of people engaged. At the same time somebody who buys the pen will do the expenditure of 100. Here to note that the value of production which is 100, is equal to income of people and also equal to expenditure of people.

In the same fashion a country's national income (GDP) can be estimated through **Income Method** (by adding income of all individuals and organizations in the country), through **Production Method** (by adding value of all produced final goods and services) and through **Expenditure Method** (by adding all expenditure by private or government in buying final goods and services).

The National Statistical Office (NSO) while calculating National Income (GDP) through Final Expenditure Method adds Private Final Consumption Expenditure (PFCE), Government Final Consumption Expenditure (GFCE), Gross Fixed Capital Formation (expenditure against Infrastructure either by private or government, generally said as private investment and government investment), Change in Stocks, Valuables (like paintings, stone and jewellery etc.), Exports (added), Imports (subtracted as it is not produced inside the country), and adjusted with Discrepancies.

**Md Layeeque Azam,
Economics Faculty**

STUBBLE BURNING AND NCT POLLUTION (GS-1, Geography)

CONTEXT-

The contribution of stubble burning in neighboring states like Punjab, Haryana and UP is playing a major role in the spike in Delhi pollution.

The stubble burning and farm fires has added almost 1/5th to the city's PM-2.5 pollution level in november

month. This data is given by one of the air pollution monitoring systems- SAFAR(System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research).

What is stubble burning-Paddy stubble burning in stateslike Haryana, Punjab,UP etc around Delhi, on the starting of winter every year, increases the level of PM 2.5, creating a health problem especially respiratory.

WHY BURNING LOOKS LIKE THE ONLY OPTION?

Due to constraint of time and to save on costs of stubble disposal, farmers in Punjab, Haryana and UP burn their combined harvested fields to prepare it for sowing of next season crop.

WHAT HAPPENED WITH STUBBLE BURNING?

Smog gets concentrated as cold weather and low winds in this season trap the smoke particles near the ground surface. However, stubble burning is only one of the many factors responsible for this smog.

OTHER FACTORS ARE-

- Vehicular emissions, especially from heavy vehicles, which contribute more to pollution. According to some studies road dust accounts for almost 35% of PM 2.5 in the air.
- Power plants, industries and domestic cooking.
- Solid waste burning either by municipal or by households
- Dust from construction sites and areas

ALTERNATIVES TO STUBBLE BURNING-

- Stubble straw can be used by Biomass energy plants for generating power like biochar
- Using a Happy Seeder Machine, which can drill the wheat seeds into soil and deposit the straw over the sown area as soil cover.
- The paddy straw chopper-cum-spreader machine can be used to chop paddy straw left behind on mechanically harvested paddy fields. It cuts the stubble or straw into pieces and spreads it around the farm in a one go, so the showing of next crop becomes easy
- Residual can be used along with sugarcane residue and leaves to make a rich quality of organic manure.
- Pit decomposition in the farm itself with microbial application along with nitrogen enrichment will accelerate the process.
- The IARI has developed a solution it has named 'Pusa', which can decompose crop residue into manure by accelerating the decomposition process. These agents act on the stubble to make it soft and ploughable, break down its molecular components and release the nutrients into the field.
- Crop diversification from rice to other less residual crops.

There is an ardent need to address this issue in a more wholistic manner. Considering most farmers are small and marginal, the Government needs to provide them with either financial incentives or other modes of disposal. Meanwhile, in regions in and around NCT Delhi, measures must be taken to mitigate other pollutants through public transportation, ban on old diesel vehicles, banning heavy vehicles entry to the city even in the night time and polluting industries, vacuum cleaning of road dust etc.

*pollutants monitored by SAFAR are-

PM2.5,PM10, Ozone, Carbon Monoxide (CO), Nitrogen Oxides (NOx), Sulfur Dioxide (SO2), Benzene, Toluene, Xylene, and Mercury.

Swarn Singh

EWS Quota in Government Services and Educational Institutions (GS Paper II : Social Justice, Constitution)

CONTENT:

On the advice of the honorable supreme court, the Central government had formed a committee of three members to revisit the criteria for determining the economically weaker sections (EWS) in terms of the provisions of the explanation to Article 15 of the Constitution.

INTRODUCTION:

In 2019 to establish social justice, Government of India approved a 10% reservation in government jobs and educational institutions for EWS quota (Economic weaker section) EWS quota means those persons who do not belong to SC/ST/OBC but they are economically backward and they need government support in this regard. In EWS quota, Those persons whose or their family income is not above 8 lac annually are eligible under EWS quota. In every government services and educational institute 10 % seats would be reserved under this Quota. The Government of India had approved that this would be over and above the existing 50% reservation for SC/ST/OBC categories.

This Bill was approved by the president on 12 January 2019 and this was the 103rd amendment of the constitution. Through This act several articles of the Indian constitution were changed like article 15(6) and 16(6). many state cabinet had also provided their acceptance over this Quota

The term EWS (Economically Weaker Section), (EBC)Economically Backward Class and Most Economically Backward Class (MEBC) are different in their nature and provisions. EWS would be defined by the centre government while the other two would be defined by state government

There has been debate regarding the income limit of this EWS section for a long time and the supreme court has also given some advice related to the criteria of eligibility for this section.

Now the government has formed a committee of three persons Finance Secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey, Member Secretary ICSSR Prof VK Malhotra and Principal Economic Advisor to the Indian government Sanjeev Sanyal.

The committee will re-evaluate the parameters of EWS Quota This committee will also examine various approaches so far followed in the country for identifying economically weaker sections, and recommend criteria that may be adopted for identifying EWS category in future.

Actually the supreme court has been hearing regarding this matter in the NEWS section. The plea regarding the parameter of EWS was filed by a Students challenging the Centre and Medical Counselling Committee (MCC) July 29 notice providing 27 per cent reservation for Other Backward Class (OBC) and 10 per cent for EWS category in the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET-PG) admissions for medical courses for the current academic year. After filing this plea court had agreed On September 17 to hear this matter on providing 27 per cent reservation for OBC and 10 per cent for EWS category in 15 per cent UG and 50 per cent PG All India Quota seats (MBBS/BDS and MD/MS/MDS) with effect from the current academic session 2021-22.

SIGNIFICANCE :

Definitely inclusive growth is the fundamental objective of any welfare state. In the process of development these economical section would not be left behind, for this identification of real EWS is necessary therefore Govt formed this committee

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

SAVING GIRL-CHILD GS-1 SOCIAL EMPOWERMENT, ROLE OF WOMEN, FEATURES OF INDIAN SOCIETY

India's struggle with child marriage continuous from pre- independence times. Despite making laudable progress in the fields of education, Science and technology, legislative provision, public awareness etc. issue of child marriage yet remains to walk a long mile before getting eradicated. poverty, gender inequality, domestic violence, crime, exploitation, increase in population etc. are the devastating consequences of child marriage. It is unfortunate that during pandemic, child marriage registered an increase, which needs to be tackled at society level, national level and global level.

CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES

As per UNICEF India is the home to the largest number of child brides in the world, with at least 1.5 million girls under 18 getting married each year.

- **Poverty and illiteracy** – Considered main culprit behind the propagation of child marriage. The socio-economic position pushes numerous adolescents in the clasp of under age marriage. In the name of security mostly girl children are married off thus depriving them of the opportunities like Right to Education and chances of personal growth.
- **Societal outlook** – Responsible for dragging the immature girls into the responsibilities of married life. As there are beliefs that girls are only supposed to take up the role of wives and their children(prefer male child) which would mean increasing helping hands to run the house. Hence giving education to girl children is often considered a wasteful investment in the lower strata of the society.
- **Lukewarm responses from government institutions** – Education for all upto the age of 14 years is a remarkable initiative, but without ensuring suitable provision like hygienic toilets within the premises of school, accessibility of sanitary napkin, water supply, meal provision etc, such initiative can never be implemented in letter and spirit. Actually these are some reasons due to which adolescent girls voluntarily choose to drop out and get married to lessen family burden.
- **Lack of Sex Education** – Many families still are of the belief that an unmarried adolescent girl stepping out of house could bring to shame to their honour. Also adolescents without any awareness and up in troubles like teen pregnancy. Thus sex education not only to children but also to their guardian will play a crucial role in breaking a taboo and making a society a safer place.

WAY FORWARD

- In free India, it was in 1978 when child marriage restraints(Amendment) act was enforced to raise the age of marriage for girls from 15-18 years and Boys from 18-21.
- UNICEF is helping India to prevent child marriages. It has reached 33 million parents and community members to create awareness.
- Prohibition of Child marriage act 2006 has been put in place to tackle the problem. State governments are asked to provide conditional cash transfer to curb the practice of child marriage.
- India is a party to U.N convention on the elimination of all forms of discriminations against women, and banning of child marriage will be a strong step forwards it.
- 24th January is celebrated as the “National Girl Child Day” to promote sensitization and awareness of the girl child.
- The SABLA scheme launched in 2010 is working towards empowering adolescent girls by improving their nutritional and health condition.

CONCLUSION

The issue of child marriage is embedded in multi dimensional social, economic, cultural and community related aspects. It is widely acknowledged that child marriage denies a child the basic rights to good health, nutrition and education. yet the interplay between socio-cultural factors and poverty and inequality, makes it challenging to get rid off such a serious issue. In addition to the empowerment measures, community engagement along with cultural awareness, will pave the way towards delaying the child marriage, It will further help each child exercise their basic human rights.

INDIA: OPPORTUNITIES FOR SPACE STARTUPS

CONTEXT :

PRIVATE PLAYERS are going to take the next lead in the space race this time.

BACKGROUND :

The launch of Sputnik in 1957 was a kickoff of the great space race of the 20th century, by the Soviet Union.

- It was a competition between the world's great powers, the capitalist United States and the socialist Soviet Union.
- The space race is once again on, this time private players are on the power field to take the next leap for mankind and democratise space usage to build commercial value of importance.
- These developments are providing huge opportunities in India, for original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) in the space sector. Thus it's a promising venture for global investors.

According to a report, last year, the Government of India created a new organisation known as **IN-SPACE** (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre).

IN-SPACE :

- It's a "single window nodal agency" established to boost the commercialisation of Indian space activities.
- A supplement to the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), the entry of the Non-Government Private Entities (NGPEs) in the Indian space sector has been promoted by the Agency.
- The agency will also felicitate the private players, a swift on-boarding, in the sector through encouraging policies in a friendly regulatory environment.
- The agency will also felicitate the private players, by creating synergies through already existing necessary facilities.

CASE OF INDIA :- Today, the space economy, currently is a \$440 billion global sector.

- The share of India in this- hardly less than 2% in the sector.
- Though, India is a leading space-faring country with end-to-end capabilities to make satellites.
- India- develop augmented launch vehicles.
- India- deploy inter-planetary missions.

In FY21, total early-stage investments in space technologies → \$68 billion.

India → **4th** place with investments in about 110 firms (total approx \$2 billion)

OBSTACLES-

The extensive **brain drain** in India (increased by 85% since 2005)

REASONS for the lack of independent private participation in space –

- Due to the **policy bottlenecks** (that create hindrances for private space ventures and founders to attract investors, making it virtually non-feasible to operate in India)
- The absence of a framework to provide **transparency and clarity in laws**
- **Licences**
- **Liability**
- Insurance and indemnification clarity, in case of a mishap

For example- space operators are required to hold insurance of up to AUD\$100 million under Australian space law.

Like in France, where there are 4 obtainable licences in addition to case-by-case authorisation, with lack of clarity surrounding costs”, similarly India should also devise and legislate.

As a part of the system:- Currently, many private entities are involved in equipment and frame manufacturing by –

- Outsourced specifications
- Leased licences

Indian space private companies need to generate their intellectual property for an independent product or service. This will help open the door to global markets.

Mature space agencies such as –

- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) → U.S.A.
- China National Space Administration (CNSA) → China
- Roscosmos (Roscosmos State Corporation for Space Activities) → Russia

All these take the support for complex operations beyond manufacturing support, such as sending crew and supplies to the International Space Station, from **private players like –**

- Boeing
- SpaceX
- Blue Origin

These companies have brought the revolution in the space sector by-

- reducing costs
- turnaround time
- innovation and advanced technology
- For such purposes, NASA and the CNSA award a part of their annual budget to private players.

Until 2018, SpaceX was a part of 30 missions of NASA, getting over \$12 billion under contract.

TO CONCLUDE –

- With ISRO being the guiding body, India can now evolve as a space start-up hub for the world
- The sector in India is in the embryonic stage with limitless possibilities.
- Already **350 plus start-ups** such as AgniKul Cosmos, Skyroot Technologies, Dhruva Space and Pixxel have established firm grounds for home-grown technologies with a practical unit of economics.

Rajeev Yadav

Significance of (Assisted reproductive Technology (regulation) 2021 Bill (GS Paper II : Polity and Governance)

Source : The Hindu

CONTEXT:

The lower house of the parliament of India (Lok Sabha) had passed ART (Regulation) bill on 1st of Dec 2021 and it was proposed to establish a new national registry and registration authority for all clinics and medical institutions and hospitals and medical professionals serving in this filed through this Bill

INTRODUCTION:

Assisted Reproductive Technology Bill was introduced in Lok Sabha in the month of September 2020 by the government but the house transferred this bill to standing committee of parliament and these committees amended in some portion of this bill again it was passed by Lok Sabha by 1st Dec 2021

This bill seeks to regulate and supervise ART clinics and ART banks, prevent misuse, adopt safe and ethical practices and so on.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THIS BILL :

- Registration for every ART clinic and banks would be mandatory and without registration any Clinic would be treated as illegal activity. On the basis of registration central database would be prepared
- There must be certain prerequisite conditions for the registration of any ART clinic like they should have certain standards (specialised manpower, physical infrastructure, and diagnostic facilities).
- After Each five year this registration would be renewed
- Registration and Screening of every gamete donor would be mandatory and the work of collection and storage of semen, and provision of oocyte donor can only be done by a registered ART bank.
- A bank cannot supply gamut of a single donor to more than one commissioning couple (couple seeking services).
- Those part which are going to opt service of ART clinics must have to take insurance coverage in the favour of the oocyte donor (for any loss, damage, or death of the donor)
- Proper medical check up must be done before any embryo implantation.
- The child born through this process may be considered as a biological child and that child would enjoy every rights and privileges of a natural child. DNA test would be completely prohibited in future for the identification of that child
- National and State Boards for Surrogacy constituted under the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2019 will act as the National and State Board respectively for the regulation of ART services.
- Any medical practitioners or any medical institute of clinic would be charged fine and imprisonment if they violate any rules of this act. They will be punished with imprisonment between five and ten years, or fined between Rs 10 lakh and Rs 25 lakh, or both.

SIGNIFICANCE :

Present day it has been observed that many clinics and hospitals related to ART are running in the country without any formal registration. This act would definitely regulate these hospitals and clinics.

Even though this law would not be applicable and would be relaxable on lesbians, bisexual or transgender people (LGBTQ community) and single men for exercising the right. At the time of debate our minister of Health Mansukh Mandaviya also assured that the government would help those poor people also who want to take help from ART clinics.

This would be a big step for the government and it will blow a flame of light in the houses of those poor persons who can not take help from the ART clinic because of Huge cost of this process.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Big opportunity for local bodies (GS-2, Polity)

CONTEXT :

The Department of Expenditure, the Ministry of Finance, has allocated the health grant of ₹70,051 crore (to be released over five years, from FY2021-22 to FY2025-26)

In early November 2021, ₹8,453.92 crore were released to 19 States, as a health grant to rural and urban local bodies, as recommended by the Fifteenth Finance Commission.

This grant is for plugging the gaps in the primary health-care infrastructure in rural and urban areas.

Out of ₹13,192 crore to be allocated in FY 2021-22 :

- Share of rural local bodies (RLBs) → ₹8,273 crore
- Share of ULBs → ₹4,919 crore It is significant
- The allocation in FY2021-22 → relatively small

It would be 2.3% of the total health expenditure.

GOOD INTENTIONS GONE WRONG

In 1992, as part of the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments, the Panchayati raj institutions and urban corporations and councils areas were transferred the responsibility to deliver primary care and public health services.

The PRIs continued to receive funding for primary health-care facilities under the ongoing national programmes.

The government funding for urban primary health services was not channelled through the State Health Department and the ULBs did not make an equivalent increase in allocation for health.

THE REASONS :-

- Resource crunch
- Lack of clarity on responsibilities related to health services
- Completely different spending priorities

The National Rural Health Mission was launched in 2005, to support the primary health-care system in India and enhance the impact of RLBS not spending on health.

IN 2017-18, OUT OF OF THE TOTAL ANNUAL HEALTH EXPENDITURE IN INDIA.:-

The contribution of the ULBs in India → 1.3%

The contribution of RLBS in India → 1%

Both urban and rural India need more health services; however,

THE CHALLENGE IN RURAL AREAS :-

the poor functioning of available primary health-care facilities

THE CHALLENGE IN URBAN AREAS :-

It is the shortage of both, the primary health-care infrastructure and services.

CHALLENGES –

- Urban India has only 1/6th of primary health centres in comparison to rural areas.
- Urban primary health-care services are weaker than what is available in rural India.

FOR EXAMPLE-

- Regular outbreaks of dengue and chikungunya
- People facing struggle to undergo to seek COVID-19 consultation
- testing services issues in 2 waves of the covid pandemic

THE PROBLEMS FURTHER COMPOUNDED BY FOLLOWING FACTORS :-

- The low priority given to health
- The insufficient funding for health
- Lack of coordination between a multitude of agencies responsible for different types of health services

FEW YEARS AGO, SOME REPORTS OF DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS STATED :-

- Refusal to allocate land for the construction of mohalla clinics
- Demolition of some of the under-construction clinics

IN THE 15TH FINANCE COMMISSION HEALTH GRANT –

- The urban share is nearly **five-fold** that of the annual budget for the NUHM
- Rural allocation is **one-and-a-half-fold** that of the total health spending by RLBs in India

IMPORTANT STEPS TO BE TAKEN :-

1. the grant to be used as an opportunity to sensitise crucial stakeholders in local bodies (elected representatives and the administrators), on their role and responsibilities in the delivery of primary care and public health services.
2. Awareness of citizens about the responsibilities of local bodies in health-care services should be enhanced, to enforce the accountability.
3. Greater role of the Civil society organisations in raising awareness about the role of Local bodies in health, and developing local dashboards to mark the progress made in health initiatives.
4. Fifteenth Finance Commission health grants should not be treated as a 'replacement' for health spending by the local bodies.
5. Mechanisms, be institutionalised, for better coordination among multiple agencies working in rural and urban areas.

6. Local bodies remain 'health greenfield' areas. The young administrators in charge of such RLBs and ULBs and the motivated councillors and Panchayati raj institution members need to use this opportunity to develop some innovative health models.
7. Prior to the novel coronavirus pandemic, a number of State governments and cities had planned to open various community clinics in rural and urban areas. The funding should be used to revive all these proposals.

The Fifteenth Finance Commission health grant has the potential to create a health ecosystem which can serve as a much-awaited launching pad to mainstream health in the work of rural and urban local bodies.

Rajeev Yadav

Understanding Stock Exchange and News like Sensex goes up, Nifty moving down etc. (GS 3, Economics, The Hindu, Indian Express)



CONTEXT :

While reading news of the economy section in almost any newspaper or elsewhere we go through market news reading like Sensex moving up or showing bullish trends or Nifty witnessing fall or forming a bearish trend, etc. What are all these about or how it affects the economy, who gets the gain or how the companies whose shares are traded would be affected by bullish or bearish trends? In this article we will be understanding the dynamics behind.

Business Organizations/Companies/Corporations/Firms need funds to run their business activities. Apart from banks and their revenues from business activity, there are other ways of generating funds too. One of the ways is to issue shares (IPOs & FPOs) in the market to the public. Lets understand the fund raising process with an example. Supposedly a private limited company X has issued some shares to the market/public for the very first time. These shares will be called as IPOs (Initial Public offerings) as this is the first time the said private company offers market/people to become the owner of the company with the equivalent

weightage of the IPOs they would be buying. It is said as the Company went public and now this company will be called as Public Limited Company. In our example, say A has bought the IPOs issued by the company X. This market where IPOs are sold and bought is called Primary Market. Hence we can say A has bought IPOs from Primary market. Company X got the money and A got the IPOs (New Shares). Now if A wants to sell the IPOs, She/he can sell it in the Secondary market (stock exchange). Say A has sold the same shares (Now it will not be called as IPOs) to B in the stock exchange. Here B got the share of company X and A got his money. There could be some change in price between what A had paid to the company and what A received from B. Accordingly A will be having profit or loss in the buying and selling. It is to note here that in the transaction of shares of company X between A and B, Company X is getting nothing. Company X has already got the money from A. Earlier A was the owner and one after selling shares to B, B has become the owner of the company with equivalent weightage of her/his share. The same shares which are in the hand of B rightnow could be sold to C and further could be sold to D, meaning trading of this share started. Various Stock Exchanges like BSE, NSE, LSE etc, provide the trading platform. Companies after issuing IPOs, are required to register in these stock exchanges (listed) so that the public/market can trade (buy and sell) their shares. Indices like sensx and Nifty show the extent of demand of these shares in the Bombay Stock exchanges and national Stock Exchanges respectively. If more people want to buy shares and less people want to sell, it means there is more demand for shares. Sensx or Nifty will go up in this case. It could be understood in a way that if the company's prospect is good, earning profit or likely to do good in future, everybody wants to become the owner of the company and would be wanting to buy shares or if they have, they won't be selling. Accordingly Sensx or Nifty go down if more people are selling shares of the company in a fear that shares price can go down in future as companies either are not doing good at present or could face losses in the future. You won't like to become the owner of a company which is facing losses, as the value of shares of the company owned by you will come down.

STOCK EXCHANGE AND NEWS LIKE SENSEX GOES UP, NIFTY MOVING DOWN: TODAY'S CURRENT AFFAIRS

Sensex/Nifty – Sensx comprises 30 largest traded company's shares of BSE, whereas Nifty is a pool of 50 most traded company's shares in NSE in terms of Free Float Market Capital (FFMC). FFMC is calculated by multiplying the number of shares with the current value of shares which is held among the public (excluding the shares of core owners or institutional owners). It means FFMC is the capital which is given by the public to the company (on the face value of shares) and at the same time this much capital on the basis of shares are being traded (buying and selling) at the platform of stock exchange. Now Sensx is calculated by dividing the FFMC at Current price by FFMC at base year price multiplied by 100. Base year for NSE is 1995 and for BSE is 1978-79. Hence essentially Sensx or Nifty or any index of any stock exchange compares the current prices of shares with the prices which were at base year and thus shows the trend of the market and business.

They both give an opinion as to where the market is headed on a particular day. The direction which the Sensx of Nifty companies' shares go in on a particular day usually represents where the other companies are going will go. It won't be true everytime. Investors just get an overall idea of the general trend of the business and economy of the country. But it's not true that this happens everytime. It just gives you an overall idea of where the general market trend is.

(FPOs – If the same private limited company X, which became public limited after issuing IPOs, needs more funds, can issue new shares, which is called Further Public Offerings or FPOs. This share will be sold in the Primary market, not in the Stock Exchange. It means the Public/market will be buying these new shares (FPOs) from the company directly.

As in the above example the shares are issued and traded, similarly Bonds, Debentures, Securities or Derivatives are issued and traded and collectively called the Financial Assets. The market of shares/stocks is

said as Equity Market while market of bonds/debentures/securities/ derivatives or any debt instruments is termed as Debt Market and both combinedly called as Financial market.

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Omicron : Is it a new threat for India ? (GS Paper III) Current Affairs GS Paper I GS Paper III Science and technology

CONTEXT :

The new variant of coronavirus omicron is spreading rapidly in African countries mainly in South Africa and two suspects of this variant are caught from Bengaluru also.

OMICRON: TODAY'S CURRENT AFFAIRS

INTRODUCTION :

Omicron is a new variant of corona virus and this is found in South Africa and spread rapidly in Europe also. For India, this is a big threat because India has not gotten rid of the old Delta virus completely and the threat of the new virus has saken the government of India.

- The Omicron variant of SARS-CoV-2 is more dangerous than the earlier variant of coronavirus. This is not because of the death threat but in terms of spread ness. It was due to higher R0 value (2.0) and its multiple mutations and 2.0 is the highest infectivity value till now of any variant. The delta variant which has created devastation in India was of only 1.64 R0 value. Therefore our doctors are showing more concern towards this variant
- On the basis of clinical data of this new variant of coronavirus, it is concluded that coming one two weeks are going to crucial for India and since the main characteristics of this variant is 'intense fatigue' and rapid infection able which are the cause of concern (Threat)
- On the bases of primary evidence it may be said that it would not affect those people in which nature antibody has formed but it could bypass vaccine (Even it is also not sure but all doses of vaccine must be more effective)
- This virus has many thousands of mutations and all the mutations are not the cause of concern only few mutation are our concern so our medical expert should keep their close eyes over this new variant of coronavirus

MEASURES MUST BE TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT:

- Government should put restriction over international flight and should test (RT PCR and Genome sequence) of all the passengers who are travelling from abroad
- Government should update and arrange medical facilities in their hospitals
- Government should restrict huge gathering of pub like like political rallies, religious function where the huge gathering (Gathering of more than 5000) is possible
- Government should ensure the both doses of vaccination for all the people of India (100 % vaccination)
- Government should make mandatory vaccination (With out vaccination nobody would be allow to enter in any office, market and other public places and if anybody violets this, must be highly penalized

- Without vaccination, travelling must be prohibited

MEASURES MUST BE TAKEN BY PUBLIC

- There are some duties of us which must be paid to prevent our country from the impact of this new virus
- We should not violate the guidelines of the government up to maximum extents
- We Should not organise functions of huge gathering up to maximum possibility
- We should follow all the instructions and guidelines of the Government

CONCLUSION

After the detection of the B.1.1.529 variant in South Africa, India must consider this variant as the variant of concern but we should not be panic. We must opt for some protective measures and follow the guidelines of the government. After learning from the poor management during Delta variation, government definitely is ready to encounter with the coming situation and this is the duty of all the citizen to support the government

Questions Related to Prelims – Omicron is related to–

For mains- *There are various variants of coronavirus and in this situation what measure should be adopted by the Government of India ? Discuss in detail*

In this article we provide all information about “Omicron” Today's Current Affairs.

Point of disorder in legislature (GS-2, Polity)

CONTEXT:

Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu has suspended 12 Opposition Members of Parliament from the Rajya Sabha for the entire winter session of Parliament. This extreme action of the chairman has turned the spotlight on the use of disruption of proceedings as a parliamentary tactic.

Both the Government and the Opposition should demonstrate the cooperative tendencies and make the debates constructive. Taking the opposition into consideration, the Government must show its inclusive approach and let the debates and discussion enrich.

The absence of the Opposition will only leave the Government unchecked.

The Government and the Opposition should try and find out a middle path out of this situation.

A GUIDING PRINCIPLE OF PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS TODAY'S CURRENT AFFAIRS IS –

The Government, which is in the majority, will always have its way, and the minority, which is in the Opposition, will have its say. The minority should also have a meaningful contribution and taken into consideration.

Whereas it has been found that principle has been violated in India for several years now. Upto 2014, as the principal Opposition, the Bharatiya Janata Party disrupted Parliament and rendered a majority government dysfunctional for years.

After coming to power since 2014:-

- BJP has played with parliamentary processes in a way that the Opposition has been opted out
- Bills are passed in a haste

- Scrutiny of Bills by committees has been minimised
- Debates have reduced

The decision to suspend Members for their conduct seems retaliatory

The punishment is only worsening the conflict, and not facilitating debate in any way.

- Disruption of proceedings
- suspension of MPs undermine parliamentary democracy equally

Parliament is the platform where the executive is held accountable to the representatives of the people. That is where people's representatives raise matters of public concern and seek the Government's attention.

The trend of weakening that process in the name of efficiency is-

- Undermining the spirit of democracy
- It is also landing the Government itself in a difficult spot

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES ARE :-

- a barometer of public mood
- To be respected by the party in power and the Opposition.

It was Arun Jaitley of BJP, who theorised on the legitimacy of disruptions as a parliamentary instrument. It is time to delete that idea.

The Government must make amendments to restore the Parliamentary functioning by deferring to parliamentary mechanisms, and also through informal channels of communication with the Opposition.

In this article we provide all information about Point of disorder in legislature Today's Current Affairs.

Rajeev Yadav

Women Labourforce and Crime Against Women GS – 2 ISSUES RELATED TO WOMEN, GENDER, EMPLOYMENT

As per the new fertility trends the **national fertility rates have fallen**. Women's education has increased over the past few years and both have contributed to the rise in the participation of women in the paid labour force elsewhere in the world. However, the trend does not follow in India.

Women Labourforce and Crime Against Women GS – 2 ISSUES RELATED TO WOMEN, GENDER, EMPLOYMENT: Today Current Affairs

India's **Female Labour Force Participation Rate (FLFPR)** has witnessed a decline from 31.20% in 2011-12 to 24.45% in 2018-19. Fear of sexual abuse (broadly categorising crime against women) along with other factors like societal norms, domestic responsibilities, limited economic opportunities and lack of supportive infrastructure etc contribute a major reason for women dropping out of the labour force.

FEMALE LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION IN INDIA

- **Falling FLFPR:** India's female labour force participation rate (FLFPR) is confusing its economy. Though the total output in the country has more than doubled and the participation of women has increased by 25% over the last two decades, the **number of women in jobs has declined by 10 million**.
- **Gender Parity Indices:** Global indices and gender empowerment measures by international organisations has showcased a hazy picture. **India ranked 140th of 156** countries, compared to its 98th

position in 2006 in The **Global Gender Gap Index, 2021**. India's FLFPR has also been **falling from** (24.5% in 2018-19) which is well **below the global average of 45% FLFPR**.

- **Data on present Employment and Education levels: Right to Education Act, 2009** has helped India close **gender equality at the primary level**. The 2020's decade has witnessed an increase in the rate of women enrolling in higher education. When more women pursue **higher education**, more are expected to enter the job market.
- **Link between FLFPR & women labour market:** It is proved from the data collected that shows strong correlations between a falling FLFPR and barriers that obstruct women's labour-market choices.

CRIME AGAINST WOMEN- THE HINDU ANALYSIS

NCRB Data: According to the study conducted on **Crime in India** published by the **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)** and assessed crimes that obstruct women from stepping out to work and raise perceptions of lack of safety. The results showed a falling FLFPR by 8% however the crime against women has tripled to 58%.

State Related Data on Crime Against Women: The states of Sikkim, Meghalaya, Himachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh **maintain a high FLFPR against a lower rate of crime** in comparison with other states and Union territories. The states of Assam, Bihar, Delhi, & Tripura, had the lowest FLFPR, and also had among the highest crime rates.

WAY FORWARD

- **The SAFETY Approach:** A **comprehensive mechanism** is needed that involves the **state, institutions, communities and households** to address the challenge of women's mobility. Adopting a 'SAFETY' framework in framing policies that focuses on **Attitudes, Services, Focus on community, Empowerment** of women, **Transport** and other infrastructure, and Youth interventions.
- **Breaking the aniarhial norms of Keeping Women Indoors:** The public focus on violence outside is not only misjudged in the context of women's employment, but the continuous thrust to keep women indoors also completely masks the fact that the bulk of violence against women is perpetrated by those known to them for eg the close family members.
- **Significance of Women Participation:** Achieving gender equality could increase India's GDP by \$770 billion by 2025. This opportunity predominantly hinges on women participating in the labour force. The world bank estimates that **India's GDP would be 27% greater if women participated in economic activities** in huge numbers equal to those of men.

In this article you will get all information about Women Labourforce and Crime Against Women GS – 2 ISSUES RELATED TO WOMEN, GENDER, EMPLOYMENT. Today's Current Affairs.

Anshum Verma

The role of Romesh Chandra Majumdar in Indian Historiography (GS Paper I, History Optional paper I)

CONTEXT :

Today is the birth date (4 Dec) of great nationalist Historian Romesh Chandra Majumdar whose work on ancient Indian culture is really appreciable and he paced up Nationalist approach of historiography during the mid 20th century.

INTRODUCTION:

Romesh chandra Majumdar was a great historian born in Gopalganj (Bangladesh) and after graduating with history honors, he was appointed as the lecturer of History at Dhaka and his work on trade and commerce in ancient India is the most appreciable work His thesis entitled “*Corporate Life in Ancient India*” played a most significant role in the establishment of new concept in ancient Indian culture. His other research work on “*South and South East Asian History and Culture*”. He was appointed as first principal of College of Indology, Banaras Hindu University also.

ROLE OF R. C MAJUMDAR IN ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW APPROACH OF INDIAN HISTORIOGRAPHY : TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

The first quarter of 20th century was the witness of the nationalist approach of historiography, in which our ancient historian like KP Jaiswal, Sham Shastri and other indologist were praising strong political elements existed in ancient India so that they could counter British in this principle that in India political institutions and ideologies were absent. But most of these historians ignored the social and economical elements of ancient India and R. C Majumdar filled this gap.

He stated that Ancient Indians lived in very prosperous conditions and this material prosperity were gained through international trade and commerce. In his book *Corporate life in ancient India*, he proved that after 6th century BC, trade and commerce in India flourished rapidly and during the later Mauryan period these corporate sectors of ancient India (Nikam) were strong economical and social institutions and sometimes, they were superior to kings also. Our ancient Indians had an adventurous spirit also and this was the reason ancient India established economical and cultural relations with the far east and west also.

The emergence of the guild and Shreni system was well described by R. C Majumdar and gradually those became more powerful institutions and they influenced the social system as well as the political system of ancient India. Therefore the concept of Europeans that Indians were rich in spiritualistic culture, not in materialist culture, was very well countered and proved false. He also wrote the book on freedom Struggle of India also.

For the 1857 revolt he stated that “Neither it was for, nor it was national nor It was freedom struggle ” and he criticised openly the decision of Mahatma Gandhi when Gandhiji ji meged Non Cooperation movement with Khilafat Movement. He stated that Congress Muslim League Agreement, Lucknow session of Congress in 1916 had laid the foundation of partition of India.

Some time he also criticised the superstitious concept of Nationalist historians also like Hindu polity of K.P jaiswal was also criticised and He said that Ancient Indian Republican should not be compared with modern concept of republicans

CONCLUSION

We Indians should not forget the role of R.C Majumdar in History. He was the person who established a new concept of History. He proved that Gupta age was the classical age and ancient Indians were residing in very prosperous conditions, so that we could feel proud towards our ancient culture.

In this article you will get all information about. Today's Current Affairs. Role of R. C Majumdar in establishment of new approach of Indian Historiography : Today Current Affairs

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

TWO REVOLUTIONS, SAME DATE BUT DIFFERENT PURPOSES (GS PAPER II & III)

CONTEXT :

November 26, 2021 is celebrated in Gujarat as the **100th birth anniversary of Verghese Kurien**, the leader of India's 'white revolution'.

TWO REVOLUTIONS, SAME DATE BUT DIFFERENT PURPOSES TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS:

November 26, 2021 also marked 1 year of a **non-violent protest** to force the Indian government to withdraw the new farm laws, to undo the policies of the green revolution.

The Government's new policies intended to **double** incomes of small farmers, which have been languishing while stock markets are soaring.

The protesting farmers feared that the new policies will benefit the corporations to make more profits and marginalise the small and medium farmers further.

The Government must explore new ways and devise the new policies to increase farmers' incomes.

TWO REVOLUTIONS BUT DIFFERENT PURPOSES- THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- **The purpose of the green revolution** → to increase the output of agriculture, prevent shortages of food.
- **The purpose of the white revolution** → to increase the incomes of small farmers in Gujarat.

The following two leaders had a vision of a cooperative movement of Gujarati farmers for increasing their incomes-

- Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
- Tribhuvandas Kishibhai Patel

The Green revolution → a **technocratic enterprise**, driven by science and the principles of efficiency.

The White revolution → a **socio-economic enterprise**, driven by political leaders and principles of equity.

Today AMUL is known for-

- One of India's most loved brands
- Respected internationally for the quality of its products
- Known for its efficiency of its management
- Known for its successful competition with the world's largest corporations and their well-established brands

Kurien and his engineering compatriots in the organisation were compelled to develop solutions indigenously. V. KURIEN took the challenge at a time when Indian policy makers, influenced by foreign experts, had declared that Indians could not make it.

EQUITY WAS KEY

Kurien's accounts also fought the political battles for-

- 'Make in India'
- 'can-do' spirit
- innovation of Indian engineers

The enterprise achieved its outcome of empowering farmers because the governance of the enterprise to achieve equity was always kept in the foreground, with the efficiency (of its production processes) as a means to the outcome.

The green revolution's aim was to –

- increase outputs by applying scientific breakthroughs
- use methods of management

It required inputs-

- chemical fertilizers
- large dams
- irrigation systems
- avoiding diversion of land use to other “non-essential” crops

fundamental changes in economics and management sciences are needed to reverse the degradation of the planet that has taken place with the application of modern technological solutions and management methods for the pursuit of economic growth.

THE GUIDELINES

The first insight is:

Inclusion and equity in governance

Increase in the incomes and wealth of the workers and small asset owners in the enterprise must be the purpose of the enterprise

The ‘social’ side of the enterprise is as important as its ‘business’ side.

Solutions must be ‘local systems’ solutions, rather than ‘global (or national) scale’ solutions.

The resources in the local environment (including local workers) must be the principal resources of the enterprise and whose well-being it must nourish by its operations.

Science must be practical and useable by the people on the ground.

Sustainable transformations are brought about by a steady process of evolution, not by drastic revolution.

In this article you will get all information about TWO REVOLUTIONS, SAME DATE BUT DIFFERENT PURPOSES. Today's Current Affairs.

Rajeev Yadav

Today Current Affairs 4 December TWO REVOLUTIONS, SAME DATE BUT DIFFERENT PURPOSES (GS PAPER II & III)

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