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CURRENT AFFAIRS



PLUTUS IAS WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS 29-11-2021 to 05-12-2021

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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.

**Md Layeeque Azam,
Economics Faculty**

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 Bengluru also.

OMICRON: TODAYS 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 patriarchal 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 paved 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.

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Rajeev Yadav

Today Current Affairs 4 December TWO REVOLUTIONS, SAME DATE BUT DIFFERENT PURPOSES (GS PAPER II & III)

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Women Labourforce and Crime Against Women GS – 2 ISSUES RELATED TO WOMEN, GENDER, EMPLOYMENT

Diksha Shukla