



# **PLUTUS IAS Weekly**

## **CURRENT AFFAIRS**



**PLUTUS IAS WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS 10-01-2022 to 16-01-2022**

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

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



# CURRENT AFFAIRS

## JANUARY 2022

### Jallikattu : Cultural Heritage or an evil? (GS paper I, II)

Source : The Hindu

#### CONTEXT:

With a steep rise in daily cases of COVID 19, Administrative authority of Tamil Nadu have banned the conduct of Jallikattu on the eve of Pongal

#### INTRODUCTION :

- Jallikattu, also known as Eru thazhuvuthal or Sallikkattu or Manju virattu is a cultural event practiced in southern India mainly in Tamilnadu on the occasion of the Pongal. This is a type of Bull fight. A man has to fight with bulls and to control bulls.
- As per the tradition, It is described in Tamil literature (Sangam Literature) and it has been popular in tamilnadu among the warrior classes.
- The term Jallikattu is derived from the words Jalli and Kattu which means coins or packages. After winning in this game, a person would be awarded with money. In Indian culture, the tradition of fighting with animals like elephants, even lions, bull have been popular for a long time. During ancient period, for the entertainment purposes a game related to fighting with animal was popular, we see various seals and inscription in this regards
- As per the Tamil tradition, during the time of Chola kings, the Naykas had to participate in such games in an open field in front of the king. The fighting man had to tie this bull. Sometimes, during this game, persons were injured and died.

#### WHAT IS DISPUTE: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Honorable SC, banned this Jallikattu in 2014, many tamil people protested against this decision and demanded government to lift this ban so that they could perform their rituals
- During this game, many times Bull runs towards the mob and during the processes of jumping barriers bulls are wounded. Besides, the life of man is also at risk.
- Bulls are generally provoked with the use of various wines, alcohol and with other drugs which are also injurious to health of the bull
- Some organizations and agencies which are fighting for welfare of the animals like
- People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) and Federation of India Animal Protection Agencies (FIAPA) have been opposing this jallikattu for a long time.

- Some incidents happened in which many people had been killed. Therefore Judiciary banned over such game

### **DECISIONS OF THE COURT REGARDING JALLIKATTU: THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

- In May 2014, the apex court banned the practice.
- In 2016, High Courts of Andhra Pradesh had lifted the ban from cock fighting therefore many people protested in the favor of their cultural practice
- Gujarat High Court also banned on some practice of the bird fighting

### **CONCLUSION**

As per the above discussion, our culture is the fundamental right but; such cultural practice should not be performed at the cost of Human life. Because the basic element of any culture is humanism.

Cultural heritage is our identity and we must preserve this culture but there should be scope of little reform if required for the well being of humanism.

Although this Jallikattu has been performed for a long time in Indian culture and people have shown their caliber to defeat the bull, nowadays there must be some changes in the fight of Bull. It should be ensured that no casualties would be there (man and animal both). In fact, during ancient time this game was organized to check the braveness of the warrior class but presently the time has been changes so up to a certain extend the changes in this game must be welcomed by the community in which this game is performed

**Dr. Anshul Bajpai**

## **A Bill that could alter the mediation landscape**

### **CONTEXT:-**

The huge pendency of cases in India.

### **WHY IN NEWS:-**

The Chief Justice of India (CJI), N.V. Ramana, while speaking at the India-Singapore Mediation Summit in July 2021 had said that mediation should be made mandatory as a first step in dispute resolution and that a law should be framed in this regard.

As per N.V.Ramana, a movement should be launched to make the mediation popular since its cheaper and quicker mechanism in dispute resolution.

He further added that courts should be the last option of resolving the disputes. So, exploring the options of alternate dispute resolution are advisable.

### **EXPRESSED IN THESE LAWS: THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

**In India, mediation has been found as legitimate in specific laws like-**

- The Code of Civil Procedure, 1908
- The Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996
- The Companies Act, 2013
- The Commercial Courts Act, 2015

- The Consumer Protection Act, 2019

### **India still has no standalone legislation yet.**

- Madras High Court took an initiative, the Tamil Nadu Mediation and Conciliation Centre, which is India's first court-annexed facility with a mediation centre in every district, inaugurated in 2005. The result of which has been in the form of a significant reduction in the pendency of such cases.

### **BILL SCOPE: THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

The introduction of The Mediation Bill, 2021, in Parliament, in December 2021, seeks to 'promote mediation (including online), and provide for enforcement of settlement agreements resulting from mediation.'

In civil or commercial disputes cases → to settle by mediation

Criminal offences disputes, involving allegation of serious and specific fraud, fabrication of documents, forgery, impersonation and coercion → Some clauses in it also are dealt in mediation. Ex. Section 7, Section 44 of the Bill.

→ Any settlement so arrived at, however, shall not be enforceable as a judgment or decree of a civil court.

The provisions of the Act shall not have overriding effect.

→ Similarly, local dispute having the potential to create a law and order issues and registration of a criminal case or cases, should be avoided through community mediation.

Through mediation- PRIMARILY the civil and commercial disputes are resolved, but it has huge scope to relieve some of the pressure on law enforcement agencies.

The law to prevent the sexual harassment of women at the workplace has probably been kept out of its scope so that an internal or local complaint committee is able to take up conciliation and close the case locally without involving a third party and detailed procedure.

POLICY is to promote friendliness between the parties, to restore peace.

### **COURT'S VIEW- THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

The Supreme Court of India has held that if there is composition of an offence during investigation, the parties can either approach the court or the police.

The police, on verification of the truth, genuineness and voluntariness of the composition, may record the statement of the victim and recommend to the Magistrate to accept the negative final report.

The Magistrate after giving notice to the complainant can make an appropriate decision in the matter accepting the composition.

In other cases, appropriate orders may be passed by the court, and leave granted to compound the offence. The Hindu Analysis

Thus, under both conditions, if a dispute is resolved amicably, including through mediation, it may result in its compounding under the CrPC.

Keeping in view the recommendations of the Law Commission in its 243rd report, Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code, relating to cruelty by the husband or his relatives, can also be made compoundable.

It is having far-reaching consequences in resolving matrimonial disputes.

A spin-off from the Mediation Bill is its potential to help relieve some of the pressure on law enforcement agencies

**Rajeev Yadav**

# **Kerala keep the top spot in NITI Aayog's Health Index (GS Paper-II, Polity, Constitution, Governance, Social Justice and International Relations) Source: The Hindu**

## **CONTEXT**

- Kerala remains at the top spot consecutively for 4 years in NITI Aayog Health Index and Uttar Pradesh hits the bottom of the report.
- NITI Aayog along with the World Bank Ministry of Health and Family Welfare together commissions the health index.

## **THE HEALTH INDEX AND THE STATES PERFORMANCE: THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

- Kerala remained at the top place and was followed by Tamil Nadu and Telangana at second and third place respectively. Uttar Pradesh gained the lowest rank 19. Bihar and Madhya Pradesh were the second and the third worst performers respectively.
- Among smaller States Mizoram topped the index and Nagaland was ranked at the bottom.
- Dadar and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu ranked top, and Andaman and Nicobar were at the bottom among the Union Territories.

## **WHAT IS NITI AAYOG HEALTH INDEX: THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

- It is a report that ranks all the states and the union territories based on their year-on-year incremental change and overall performance in health.
- The index is designed as a tool to systematically measure and understand the Nation's health performance.
- It was the fourth edition of the health index published by the NITI Aayog.
- In order to ensure the fair comparison states and union territories are ranked in three categories. These are Larger states, Smaller states and Union territories.

## **SEVERAL PARAMETERS TO RANK STATES: THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

- The index is based on several indicators under three domains – health outcome, governance and information and key inputs and processes.

For example health outcomes include parameters like sex ratio at birth, under 5 mortality rate, neonatal mortality rate.

## **GENERAL OBSERVATION: THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

- State with good level of investments in Primary Health, nutrition and education are able to achieve high scores in the health index.
- Union territories and the states with the lower level of development in general have the edge in incremental progress.
- Example Kerala as the top performer in the index shows comparatively lower level of incremental increase.
- The index reveals that many states did very well in one domain suggesting that there was scope of improvement in other domains, which needs a specific target intervention.

- For example 47% of the states showed the highest performance in health outcome and governance and information but only one state had the highest performance in the key Input and process domain.
- The health index points towards the interstate inequalities on several parameters example health and education.
- Both the centre and the state government needs to scale up their budget and investment on health in order to address the persistent inequalities.

### **SIGNIFICANCE**

- The health index has set the trend and conducive environment for the Cooperative and competitive federalism to flourish and accelerate the health outcomes.
- The index is also nudging the states, Union Territories and the central ministries to focus more on output and outcome based measurement of the annual performance.
- The regular and annual publication of the index will not only bring accountability of the stakeholder into the public domain but will also ensure speedy development towards Sustainable Development Goals agenda 3.

Vivek Raj

## **PM Security Breach : Responsibility must be fixed rather than Political benefits GS Paper III, Internal security Source : The Hindu, Indian Express<sup>1</sup>**

### **CONTEXT :**

SC to constitute panel to probe PM Security Breach. A Bench led by Chief Justice of India (CJI) N.V. Ramana indicated that ongoing inquiries by both Punjab and center would have to stop for the time being

### **INTRODUCTION**

The incident of security lapse on 5th Jan 2021 during the PM visit of Punjab is a big incident. Not only the government of India but each citizen of India is eager to know the reason behind such a security lapse and responsibility must be fixed. The Punjab government has formed a committee to investigate, simultaneously, the central government also formed a committee. The Punjab government opposed the committee formed by the center government because of the fear of biases. Therefore the honorable supreme court has formed a committee headed by one of its former judges to inquire into the matter.

### **WHAT IS THE MATTER? THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

Our prime minister Narendra Modi visited Punjab to address a public meeting. He could not reach the place and had been stuck in a traffic jam because some protesters had stopped the way of the PM convoy.

This is not the general and ordinary issue. This security issue raised the questions on capability of our security agencies like RAW, IB, SPG etc as well as the Punjab police. Therefore this entire incident must be investigated and find out the truth

Unfortunately, our politicians started to take advantage of these incidents. Rather than forming any committees to probe this incident, they started to gain political mileage in the coming election.

This issue is not a political issue. This issue is related to our internal security. After expending crores of the rupees, if such type of flaws founds in the security of PM, must be really a subject of concern

### **THE ACTION OF SC: THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

The Honorable supreme court wants to investigate the reasons for this security lapse and so that responsibility could be fixed. Therefore, court ordered that all the officers who are related with this investigation, DGP of Punjab the IG, National Investigation Agency would be part of the committee headed by ex Judge of Supreme court

Although a show cause notice has been issued from center to its concerning officers mentioning disciplinary action against them for the security lapse.

### **WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SECURITY OF PM: THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

SPG is the only institution responsible for the security of the prime minister. The SPG Act allows the constitution of an armed force for providing 'proximate security' to the Prime Minister of India and the former prime ministers and members of their immediate families. It came into force on June 2, 1988. As per the SPG act, SPG can take action against Punjab police

### **CONCLUSION**

The issue of the prime minister's security is not only a small domestic issue, this blurred the defense condition of India in front of the world community. Therefore, the responsible person behind such an incident must be exposed and executed. Unfortunately our politicians are trying to take advantage of such a serious issue in the coming election, they are raising this issue in public rallies and defaming India at international level. First, the Government should stop such political allegations only for political benefits, and then the government should support this committee formed by the honorable supreme court under the leadership of a retired Judge investigating and fixing the responsibility in such a security lapse. Definitely for internal security responsibility must be fixed through this committee.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

## **Urjit Patel, the former RBI Governor has been appointed as AIIB vice president. (GS Paper-II, Polity, Constitution, Governance, Social Justice and International Relations) Source: The Hindu**

### **CONTEXT**

- Beijing-based Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) appoints ex -RBI Governor Urjit Patel as Vice President.
- Mr. Patel replaced the former Gujarat chief secretary DJ Pandian, to serve a 3-year term as one of the multilateral Development Bank's five Vice Presidents.

### **WHAT IS AIIB? THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

- It is a multilateral Development Bank established by the AIIB Articles of Agreement in the year 2015. It began its operation in January 2016.
- The bank aims to improve the social and economic life in Asia. It invests in the sustainable infrastructure

and other productive sectors with the aim to connect people, service and market to impact the billion lives and build a better future.

- In terms of shareholding China is the largest Country in the AIIB.
- AIIB is headquartered in Beijing (China).

### **PRINCIPAL ORGANS OF AIIB: THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

- Board of governors: each member country appoints one Governor and one alternate Governor to the board of governors. They serve at the pleasure of the appointing members.
- Board of directors: They are responsible for directing the bank's general operation. They exercise all the powers delegated to it by the board of governors.
- Senior management – the president of the staff is elected by the AIIB shareholders for the term of five year and can be reelected once.
- International advisory panel – the president and the senior management are supported by the International Advisory Panel on the bank strategies and policies as well as on the general operational issues.

### **CONTRIBUTION AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF AIIB: THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

- The bank was granted the status of the permanent observer in 2018 of the United Nation General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.
- The bank has been able to Mark and expand its presence in the international capital markets going to its sound financial standing. This has been recognised by the major rating Financial Institutions. It has received AAA rating with the stable Outlook from Standard & poor's, Moody's and Fitch.
- The Bank's achievement can also be counted from its expanding membership. AIIB along with 57 founding members began its operation in 2016 and by the end of the 2020 it had 103 approved members. These member countries together represent 79% of the Global population and 65% of the global GDP.

### **AIIB AND INDIA: THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

- India has been granted more loans by AIIB than any other member of the bank.
- India is the second largest shareholder in the Asian Infrastructure and Investment bank.
- 28 project amounting to USD 6.7 billion has been funded by AIIB in India.
- During covid-19 pandemic AIIB supported the public health initiative and infrastructure. It has recently emphasized green projects in India.
- In the month of October 2021 India has applied for the loan in order to procure 667 million doses of covid-19 vaccine from AIIB and Asian Development Bank (ADB). The AIIB is expected to lend USD 500 million under the ADB's Asia Pacific Vaccine Access facility initiative.
- For the expansion of the Chennai Metro Rail system AIIB approved a loan of USD 356.67 million to the Indian government.

**Vivek Raj**

## **LEGAL AGE OF MARRIAGE (CHILD MARRIAGE) GS-2 ISSUES RELATED TO WOMEN**

The recently introduced prohibition of child marriage amendment Bill 2021, today is the age of marriage for women from 18 years to 21 years has been referred to the parliamentary standing committee on education, women children youth and sports. According to the government the proposed law will ensure equal chance for women in higher education and access to jobs and help improve maternal mortality rate and nutritional levels.

### **INDIA AND MINIMUM MARRIAGEABLE AGE: THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

- For Hindus The Hindu marriage Act 1955 sets 18 years for women and 21 years for men as the minimum age.
- In Islam the marriage of a minor who has attained puberty is valid.
- The special marriage Act 1954 and the prohibition of child marriage Act 2006 also prescribed 18 and 21 years as a minimum age of of consent for marriage for women and men respectively.

### **STEPS TAKEN BY INDIA TO REDUCE GENDER GAP: THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

- India has ratified the convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women in 1993.
- Article 16 of this convention is strictly for B child marriage and asks government to identify and in force the minimum marriage age for women.
- Since 1998 India has at National legislation exclusively on human rights protections in consonance with the universal declaration of human rights 1948.

### **CHALLENGES BEFORE INCREASING LEGAL MARRIAGEABLE AGE: THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

- Applicability on Muslim women-since Muslim community lacks the codification of personal laws and hence are deprived of the legal security which every other minority section has access to, hence there is demand for amendment to bring Muslim community under the Ambit.
- Inconsistency between improvement of nutritional status and maternal mortality rates an increase in the age of marriage-anaemia is not affected by age of marriage and is the major culprit for maternal mortality rates. Also a poor Naresh woman does not become better Naresh just by being married off 3 years later.
- States like Punjab Haryana do have higher than average marriageable age but also have skewed sex ratio. Clearly the link between marriage and other social economic parameters is not established unless other factors are taken care of.
- The study showed that the prohibition of child marriage Act is not being used to stop communities from holding under age marriage rather than use by parents of a girl who is in a so called elopement or love marriage that they are exposed to.
- It is unlikely to benefit financially dependent women.

### **ADVANTAGE OF INCREASING LEGAL MARRIAGEABLE AGE: THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

- Protection of women against early and child marriage will protect the basic rights.
- Takeover laws will bring equality and gender parity.

- The law will facilitate women empowerment.

## CONCLUSION

- Whenever a progressive laws introduced in a society it is bound to face resistance from some section of society but that should not stop the law from bringing desired form in the society, however the issue lies in the effective implementation of the law unless that improve the problems will remain to stay whether the age of marriage for girls is 18 to 21 years. Further the law is necessary but not sufficient, as long as the commercialisation of education continues the poor especially women and girls are deterred from accessing education again of the districts village Aaj and smaller towns does not have health facilities the women will be excluded from accessing various scheme and programs targeted at their health improvement does a multidimensional reform is required to reap the benefit of higher marriageable age.

Anshum Verma

## Hate Speeches : Must be stopped during election

### CONTEXT :

A three-judge Bench led by Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana is scheduled on Wednesday (January 12) to urgently hear a petition seeking the arrest and trial of people who made hate speeches, inciting violence towards Muslims, at the Haridwar Dharma Sansad.

### INTRODUCTION :

We generally observe, during the time of elections, some politicians try to polarize majority people on the name of religion because religion is the only tool through which we could be united. Therefore, during the last days some religious organizations delivered hate speech and called for genocide of the minority people. After filing the case against, the role of local police looks also suspicious in this regard. Therefore honorable supreme court had to intervene in this matter and a Bench was appointed to hear this matter.

Generally Laws related to hate speech are not very effective and efficient. Therefore honorable supreme court must review these laws related to hate speeches and SC will definitely give some clear interpretation over the hate speeches. Honorable court must fix the role of administration in such incident and should punish the officers related to investigation of matter of hate speeches

Nevertheless, this growing incidence of hate speeches, especially those targeting minorities, in combination with the judicial ambiguity has provided an opportunity to chart legislative reforms.

### WHAT IS HATE SPEECH: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Hate speeches is the term used by media where a group of the people or individual abuse against a particular community or religion and appeal for the genocide. It is not necessary, this hate speech is given only in a clear word, sometimes indirectly, the call for conflict between two communities also comes under the category of hate speeches.

Hate speech is neither defined in the Indian legal framework nor can it be easily reduced to a standard definition due to the myriad forms it can take. Black's Law Dictionary has defined it as "speech that carries no meaning other than the expression of hatred for some group, such as a particular race, especially in circumstances in which the communication is likely to provoke violence."

All the speeches which provoke for the violence against any community or religion or race are hate speeches

### **WHAT IS POLARIZATION OF VOTE: THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

The polarization of vote means the gathering or accumulation of the vote or concentration of the vote on a particular ground. Through hate speeches, the fear of a particular community is generally created among the people. It is shown that two communities are having mutually conflicting and contradictory interests. The interest of one community can be protected only after the abolition of the interest of another community. In this way, generally, it is declared that polarization is only a tool for survival, if the people of a particular community will not come together, they will be destroyed.

### **SIGNIFICANCE OF HATE SPEECHES IN DEMOCRACY AND ELECTION: THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

In democracy, the support of the majority of people is necessary because democracy is the number game and in the politics of the number game, maximum numbers must be assured. Therefore most people would try to polarize on the name of religion or race. Aggression is the tool to bring all the people together easily therefore, our politicians related to the majority community generally take help of the hate speeches in elections. There are many examples in Indian politics.

### **WHAT IS THE ROLE OF ELECTION COMMISSION IN HATE POLITICS: THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

This is the moral and constitutional duty of the election commission to conduct free and fair elections and stop every such unfair means used by the politicians for political benefits. The election commission should not only be unbiased or neutral in practice but also its neutrality should be visible and it is the duty of the election commission to show its credibility. Election commission can do this thing only by stopping such hate speeches directly or indirectly (Where it is said that, the election is the fight between 80 % and 20 %).

### **WHAT IS THE ROLE OF JUDICIARY TO STOP HATE SPEECHES: THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

In Indian penal code, hate speeches are not clearly defined and even it is not a criminal offense also. The current legislative set-up has several provisions to criminalize offenses which can be characterized as hate speech. The High Court of Karnataka, in Campaign Against Hate Speech v. The State of Karnataka (2020), was of the opinion that the Indian Penal Code illegalises speeches that are intended to promote enmity or prejudice the maintenance of harmony between different classes. Specifically, sections of the IPC, such as 153A, which penalizes promotion of enmity between different groups; 153B, which punishes imputations, assertions prejudicial to national integration; 505, which punishes rumors and news intended to promote communal enmity, and 295A, which criminalizes insults to the religious beliefs of a class by words with deliberate or malicious intention, contribute to combating hate speeches.

The Supreme Court should analyze the matter related to hate speech directly or indirectly. If hate speeches are related with communal violence must be stopped

### **WHAT MEASURES MUST BE ADOPTED TO STOP HATE SPEECHES: THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

The following measures should be adopted to stop hate speeches

1. Intellectual and responsible citizens should come forward to stop such speeches. They should completely boycott those persons and organization who delivers such hate speeches
2. Election commission should take strong action against it whether the hate speeches given directly or indirectly

3. Honorable SC, should keep its close eyes over these hate speeches and by suo moto action SC should instruct the administration to take strong action against hate speeches
4. Political parties also should avoid such communal organization because, country is first, election is secondary. They can win elections through fair means also.

## CONCLUSION

As per the above analysis that our politicians and all the citizen and responsible person as well as judiciary should keep their close eyes closed over hate speech. They and their organization must be socially, politically boycotted and should be executed strongly. The stability of the country must be our priority. Winning elections or only political gains should not be our priority. Our country would be strong and prosper through organized efforts of each citizen so every dividing effort must be boycotted.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

## INDIA-CENTRAL ASIA AND OTHER POWERS (IR)

### CONTEXT:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is going to host 5 Central Asia leaders at the Republic Day Parade on January 26, highlighting the prominence of the Central Asian region in India's security.

Developments of concern for India's continental security interests-

- The collapse of American military power in Afghanistan
- The incorporation of Kabul by the Taliban
- The advancing influence of Pakistan and China.

In India's continental strategy, the Central Asian region is an important link, witnessing progress over the past two decades, promoting-

- connectivity
- security and defence cooperation
- adding to India's soft power and boosting trade and investment.

### FOCUS ON EURASIA: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Rise of China

- The withdrawal of the United States/NATO forces from Afghanistan.
- The rise of Islamic fundamentalist forces.
- The changing dynamics of Russia's role ex. in Kazakhstan.

Related multilateral mechanisms, like —

- Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)
- Collective Security Treaty Organisation
- Eurasian Economic Union

All have set the stage for hiking the geopolitical competition on the Eurasian landmass.

Nature of new competition, practised by China and other big powers is like-

- To weaponise the resources and geographical access as dominating form

India need to evolve the effective continental strategy, to deal with it.

### **SOME COURSE CORRECTION: THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

During the past decade, India's maritime vision and ambitions have grown dramatically, proof is-

- The National Maritime Strategy
- The Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR) initiative for the Indian Ocean Region
- Major initiatives relating to the Indo-Pacific and the Quad

It was also a response to the dramatic rise of China as a military power.

That said, maritime security is important to keeping sea lanes open for trade, commerce and freedom of navigation, resisting Chinese territorial aggrandisement in the South China Sea and elsewhere, and helping littoral states resist Chinese bullying tactics in interstate relations.

To strengthen deterrence against Chinese unilateral actions and the emergence of a unipolar Asia→ India seeks diplomatic and security policies alongwith latest developments

The notable feature is that- Chinese willingness and capacity for military intervention and power projection are increasing by leaps and bounds in the maritime domain as well as expanding on the Eurasian continent via its Belt and Road Initiative.

Like ASEAN, centrality is key to the Indo-Pacific and Eurasia.

**Border, connectivity issues**→ with Pakistan and China.

Increased militarisation of the borders with Pakistan and China

- The Ladakh sector
- Permanent deployment on the Siachen Glacier

India has been facing over 5 decades to a land embargo by Pakistan, though technically not at war.

The India's marginalisation of the Eurasian continent in terms of connectivity should be reversed.

### **EXPLAINING CASE OF THE U.S. : THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

The following developments will have intense consequences for Eurasian security-

- The ongoing U.S.-Russia confrontation relating to Ukraine
- Russian opposition to future NATO expansion
- The broader questions of European security, following the demise of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty.

The bottom line is clear – the U.S. would be severely stretched if it wanted to simultaneously increase its force levels in Europe and the Indo-Pacific.

If a major conflict erupts in Central Europe, pitting Russia, Ukraine and some European states — it will stall any hopes of a substantial U.S. military axis to the Indo-Pacific.

Russia and China do not need to be alliance partners to allow for coordinated actions relating to Taiwan or Donbas.

### **TO CONCLUDE-**

Going forward, it is clear India will not have the luxury of choosing one over the other; we would need to acquire strategic vision and deploy the necessary resources to pursue our continental interests without ignoring our interests in the maritime domain.

This will require a more assertive push for our continental rights —

- working with our partners in Central Asia
- with Iran and Russia
- SCO
- Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU)
- Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO)

Striking the right balance between continental and maritime security will, perhaps be the best guarantor of India's long-term security interests.

India need to define its own parameters of continental and maritime security having its own interests in mind.

**Rajeev Yadav**

## **Urjit Patel, the former RBI Governor has been appointed as AIIB vice president**

### **CONTEXT**

- Beijing based Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) appoints ex -RBI Governor Urjit Patel as Vice President.
- Mr. Patel replaced the former Gujarat chief secretary DJ Pandian, to serve a 3 year term as one of the multilateral Development Bank's five Vice Presidents.

### **WHAT IS AIIB? THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

- It is a multilateral Development Bank established by the AIIB Articles of Agreement in the year 2015. It began its operation in January 2016.
- The bank aims to improve the social and economic life in Asia. It invests in the sustainable infrastructure and other productive sectors with the aim to connect people, service and market to impact the billion lives and build a better future.
- In terms of shareholding China is the largest Country in the AIIB.
- AIIB is headquartered in Beijing (China).

### **PRINCIPAL ORGANS OF AIIB: THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

- Board of governors: each member country appoints one Governor and one alternate Governor to the board of governors. They serve at the pleasure of the appointing members.
- Board of directors: They are responsible for directing the bank's general operation. They exercise all the powers delegated to it by the board of governors.
- Senior management – the president of the staff is elected by the AIIB shareholders for the term of five year and can be reelected once.
- International advisory panel – the president and the senior management are supported by the International Advisory Panel on the bank strategies and policies as well as on the general operational issues.

## **CONTRIBUTION AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF AIIB: THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

- The bank was granted the status of the permanent observer in 2018 of the United Nation General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.
- The bank has been able to Mark and expand its presence in the international capital markets going to its sound financial standing. This has been recognised by the major rating Financial Institutions. It has received AAA rating with the stable Outlook from Standard & poor's, Moody's and Fitch.
- The Bank's achievement can also be counted from its expanding membership. AIIB along with 57 founding members began its operation in 2016 and by the end of the 2020 it had 103 approved members. These member countries together represent 79% of the Global population and 65% of the global GDP.

## **AIIB AND INDIA: THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

- India has been granted more loans by AIIB than any other member of the bank.
- India is the second largest shareholder in the Asian Infrastructure and Investment bank.
- 28 project amounting to USD 6.7 billion has been funded by AIIB in India.
- During covid-19 pandemic AIIB supported the public health initiative and infrastructure. It has recently emphasized green projects in India.
- In the month of October 2021 India has applied for the loan in order to procure 667 million doses of covid-19 vaccine from AIIB and Asian Development Bank (ADB). The AIIB is expected to lend USD 500 million under the ADB's Asia Pacific Vaccine Access facility initiative.
- For the expansion of the Chennai Metro Rail system AIIB approved a loan of USD 356.67 million to the Indian government.

Vivek Raj

## **PM Security Breach : Responsibility must be fixed rather than Political benefits**

### **CONTEXT :**

SC to constitute panel to probe PM Security Breach. A Bench led by Chief Justice of India (CJI) N.V. Ramana indicated that ongoing inquiries by both Punjab and center would have to stop for the time being

### **INTRODUCTION**

The incident of security lapse on 5th Jan 2021 during the PM visit of Punjab is a big inciendent. Not only the government of India but each citizen of India is eager to know the reason behind such a security lapse and responsibility must be fixed. The Punjab government has formed a committee to investigate, simultaneously, the central government also formed a committee. The Punjab government opposed the committee formed by the center government because of the fear of biases. Therefore the honorable supreme court has formed a committee headed by one of its former judges to inquire into the matter.

### **WHAT IS THE MATTER? THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

Our prime minister Narendra Modi visited Punjab to address a public meeting. He could not reach the place and had been stuck in a traffic jam because some protesters had stopped the way of the PM convoy.

This is not the general and ordinary issue. This security issue raised the questions on capability of our security agencies like RAW, IB, SPG etc as well as the Punjab police. Therefore this entire incident must be investigated and find out the truth

Unfortunately, our politicians started to take advantage of these incidents. Rather than forming any committees to probe this incident, they started to gain political mileage in the coming election.

This issue is not a political issue. This issue is related to our internal security. After expending crores of the rupees, if such type of flaws founds in the security of PM, must be really a subject of concern

### **THE ACTION OF SC: THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

The Honorable supreme court wants to investigate the reasons for this security lapse and so that responsibility could be fixed. Therefore, court ordered that all the officers who are related with this investigation, DGP of Punjab the IG, National Investigation Agency would be part of the committee headed by ex Judge of Supreme court

Although a show cause notice has been issued from center to its concerning officers mentioning disciplinary action against them for the security lapse.

### **WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SECURITY OF PM: THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

SPG is the only institution responsible for the security of the prime minister. The SPG Act allows the constitution of an armed force for providing 'proximate security' to the Prime Minister of India and the former prime ministers and members of their immediate families. It came into force on June 2, 1988. As per the SPG act, SPG can take action against Punjab police

### **CONCLUSION**

The issue of the prime minister's security is not only a small domestic issue, this blurred the defense condition of India in front of the world community. Therefore, the responsible person behind such an incident must be exposed and executed. Unfortunately our politicians are trying to take advantage of such a serious issue in the coming election, they are raising this issue in public rallies and defaming India at international level. First, the Government should stop such political allegations only for political benefits, and then the government should support this committee formed by the honorable supreme court under the leadership of a retired Judge investigating and fixing the responsibility in such a security lapse. Definitely for internal security responsibility must be fixed through this committee.

**Dr. Anshul Bajpai**

## **Hongkong is moving towards more authoritative administration: An analysis Source : The Hindu GS Paper II**

### **CONTEXT:**

Hong Kong will draw up a host of new national security crimes.

### **INTRODUCTION:**

After the patriot elections held in Hong Kong, the government of China is continuously increasing its control over Hong Kong. The current national security law defines four crimes- secession, subversion, terrorism and

colluding with foreign forces- and offenders can face up to life imprisonment

But by 13th of January 2021, Chief Executive Carrie Lam confirmed this thing that her government would create local legislation as per the art 23 of Hong Kong's mini constitution, which calls for the city to pass its own security laws

### **WHAT IS ARTICLE 23 OF HONG KONG'S MINI CONSTITUTION: THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

Article 23 of the mini constitution of Hong Kong provides the right to legislative Assembly of Hong Kong to make any security laws for the city against the national security law. But through these security laws, the government of Hong Kong would try to crush the voice of the people of Hong Kong.

The first time the Legislative of Hong Kong brought some security laws in 2003 which were overwhelmingly protested. In fact the government of China is tying its control over Hong Kong through these security laws.

### **HISTORY OF HONG KONG: THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

- After the First opium war, Hong Kong was brought under the control of China after the Nanking treaty and by 1898 Hong Kong was given on lease to Britain for 99 years which had ended in 1997. Therefore Hong Kong was returned to Britain by 1997.
- During the British period Hong Kong became familiar with democratic institutions and ideas therefore after 1997. Some special and important rights were given to people of Hong Kong but the right of the election of its chief executive was in the hands of Beijing. Beijing elects the chief executive of Hong Kong through a committee of 1200 people. In this way, China extended its influence in Hong Kong.
- On the grounds of National security, Hong Kong passed some rule in 2003, through which the control of China automatically increased. By the last months of 2021, the elections for the legislative assembly of Hong Kong were conducted which was declared the assembly of patriots only. Very few people participated in this election. Therefore on the ground of patriotism, China is increasing its influence in Hong Kong and continuously curbing the civil rights of the people of Hong Kong

### **SIGNIFICANCE OF LOCAL LEGISLATION: THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

Even though China reorganise the concept of one nation two administration which means Hong Kong has its own mini constitution, therefore China, gradually wants to curb the rights of the people of Hong Kong on the ground of Patriotism. Therefore first the patriotic legislative assembly was formed and now Local legislative assemblies are passing the more national security offense so that on the ground of national security the right of the public could be curbed. Even though Ms Lam did not outline what the new crimes would be. But the specific offense Article 23 lists are treason, secession, sedition, subversion and theft of state secrets. It also prohibits any foreign political organizations from conducting the activities in Hong Kong or local political organizations establishing ties with similar overseas bodies.

### **CONCLUSION**

In fact, Hong Kong was brought under the control of China in 1997 and it would be enjoying its mini constitutional autonomy up to 2047. After that Hong Kong would be brought directly under the control of China but it would be difficult to merge the administration of Hong Kong, which had enjoyed several rights and of democratic elements, with the main administration of China suddenly. People of Hong Kong could protest on a large scale. Therefore it is a gradual way to transform the administration of Hong Kong as per the administration of China on the grounds of patriotism so that after 25 years it could be easily merged with mainland China.

**Dr. Anshul Bajpai**

## India's journey towards becoming global agricultural powerhouse

India is efficiently feeding and managing nearly 18% of the world population with only 2.4% and 4% of global land and water resources respectively. Efforts like agricultural and land reforms, progressive and inclusive policies, and application of 'Science and Technology' at the groundlevel pushed-up productivity, production, and quality of agricultural products at a remarkable pace. As a result, India is now the largest producer of milk, jute and pulses and ranks as the second largest producer of rice, wheat, sugarcane and cotton in the world. It also holds the second position in global fruit and vegetable production with a high rank in the production of mango, banana, papaya, and lemon.

India's agriculture sector is now a proud entity with global acclaim, but the situation at the time of independence was quite deplorable. In addition to recurrent famines, the country lost major wheat and rice growing areas to Pakistan due to partition. Around 1950-51, India produced around 50 million tonnes of foodgrains, which was not enough to feed the population of 350 million. To save its population from hunger, India resorted to the import of foodgrains which ultimately led to 'ship to mouth' living. Indian leadership realising the critical importance of agriculture in the National Food Security Act (NFSA), proclaimed 'everything can wait, but not agriculture'. Hence, a slew of measures was initiated mainly to improve and extend irrigation facilities and bring in a 'scientific temper' in agriculture and allied sectors.

### **TOWARDS SELF-RELIANCE: THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

After independence, Indian policy planners accorded top priority to agricultural development with the ultimate goal to make the country self-reliant in staple foodgrains, i.e., wheat and rice. Accordingly, several specific initiatives were taken in the first Five Year Plan to uplift agricultural growth along several verticals. Big irrigation projects were launched and land titles were given to actual cultivators under land reforms. Co-operative credit institutions got a boost due to better financing and an initiative was taken up to bring institutional changes in the agriculture support system. Consequently, an era of high-yielding varieties of crops began with new dimensions such as multiple cropping, a package of good agricultural practices, an extension of modern farm practices and irrigation facilities, and a newer approach towards post-harvest technologies. During the post-Green Revolution period, policy planners focussed more on research, extension, education, input supply, credit support, marketing, price support, and institution building. This new strategy has enabled the country to increase the production of foodgrains by 5.6 times, horticultural crops by 10.5 times, fish by 16.8 times, milk by 10.4 times, and eggs by 52.9 times from 1950- 51 to 2017-18. As per fourth advance estimates, for 2020- 21, total foodgrain production in the country is estimated at a record 308.65 million tonnes. Horticulture production is expected to reach a record level of 329.86 million tonnes in 2020-21. Thus, India has travelled a long journey from being a famine-afflicted and food-scarce nation to a proud food- surplus nation.

### **TOWARDS CREATING MILESTONES: THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

Since the post-Green Revolution period, agricultural R&D mainly focused its efforts on issues that were critical to sustaining food security and efficient use of natural resources. In attempting so, an array of improved varieties of various crops were developed with desirable characteristics, such as high-yield potential, resistance to pests and diseases, tolerance to biotic and abiotic stresses, and better nutrition. The nation harvested a record 110 million tonnes of wheat during 2020-21. In rice, other than high-yielding, specific varieties were developed to perform well under drought or water-logged conditions. Basmati rice varieties, developed by IARI, won worldwide acclaim and popularity due to their uniquely exquisite aroma, flavour, texture & taste. To attain self-reliance in oilseeds production, agricultural R&D was oriented towards increasing per hectare

productivity by various S&T interventions. The recent introduction of exotic oil palm as an oilseeds crop by developing production technologies suitable to Indian conditions has shown promise. Earlier, the introduction and popularisation of soybean in suitable regions have successfully contributed to the kitty of edible oils. Due to consistent efforts, oilseed production in the country has reached a record of 36.10 million tonnes during 2020-21. Special intervention made to raise the production and productivity of pulses has led to record production of nearly 26 million tonnes in 2020-21. A mission mode approach was adopted to raise the production of horticultural crops mainly by the introduction of new varieties, improved package of agricultural practices, expansion of the area, and regeneration of old/unproductive orchards. Currently, India ranks number one in the productivity of banana, grapes, papaya, cassava, and green peas.

During the 1950-1960s, just like foodgrains, India depended heavily on the import of milk to meet national demand. To attain self-reliance, Operation Flood, was launched in 1970 that addressed production and productivity issues with major reforms in the marketing of milk and milk products. The efforts paid dividends and in 1998, India became the largest producer of milk in the world, surpassing the USA. The transformation, widely known as 'White Revolution', is still making waves with current milk production of nearly 200 million tonnes and per capita milk availability crossing 400 gm per day. Advances made in animal breeding, reproduction, health, and nutrition have made seminal contributions in sustaining the white revolution. Similarly, the targeted programme of 'Blue Revolution' transformed the fisheries sector with an all-time high production of nearly 14.16 million tonnes between 2019 and 2020. On the global map, India is the second-largest aquaculture-producing country and the third-largest fish producer.

### **WAY FORWARD**

Despite splendid growth, Indian agriculture is facing some major challenges such as small and fragmented land holdings, post-harvest losses, and poor market infrastructure. In recent times, the Government has launched several new schemes and programmes to address such issues by adequate fund allocation and devising innovative measures that include cutting-edge S&T interventions. For example, Artificial Intelligence and Machine learning are paving the way for intelligent farming, and the use of IoT-enabled sensors to prevent excessive use of harmful chemicals. Specialised drones and robots are poised to revolutionise modern farming. Drones, aerial as well as groundbased, and satellite imagery are helping farmers to remotely monitor crops, diagnose issues, and also make informed decisions regarding crop protection and nutrition. Digital transformation is changing the face of agriculture and farmers by providing the right knowledge, resources, and technology on a real-time basis. Online marketplaces (e-Mandis) and regular market updates are empowering farmers to maximise their income. Recent thrust and support to agri-startups are helping the promotion of agriculture as an enterprise. Integration of resources, technologies, knowledge, and policies is paving the way for better agriculture and a brighter tomorrow.

## **Treating the planet well can aid progress – Environment**

### **CONTEXT:**

The Human Development Report 2020 of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), titled as "The Next Frontier – Human Development and the Anthropocene" has suggested a planetary pressure-adjusted Human Development Index (HDI).

### **BACKGROUND:**

From the time period, the UNDP has taken up the calculation of the HDI driven by the insights of Mahub

ul Haq and blended by Amartya Sen in 1990, there have been adjustments such as inequality-adjusted HDI. Besides, there was calculations of several other indices, to raise the issues, warranting the policymakers' attention.

### **SUCH AS-**

- Gender Development Index,
- Gender Inequality Index,
- Multidimensional Poverty Index

Factors to be considered in measuring human development-

- The environment
- The concept of the planetary boundary

Both global and local evidence suggest that, followings are warning and they increase the vulnerability of society –

- Biodiversity loss
- Climate change
- Land system/land-use change
- Disruption of biogeochemical cycles
- Scarcity of freshwater availability

The purpose of the planetary pressure adjusted HDI, or PHDI, is-

- To communicate to the larger society the risk involved in continuing with existing practices in our resource use
- Environmental management
- The decelerating effect that environmental stress can maintain on development.

### **IMPACT ON COUNTRY RANKINGS: THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

On adjusting planetary pressure, the world average of HDI in 2019 fell from 0.737 to 0.683.

This adjustment has been worked out by considering –

- Per capita carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emission (production) → average per capita global CO<sub>2</sub> emission (production) is 4.6 tonnes
- Per capita material footprint → average per capita global CO<sub>2</sub> emission (production) is 4.6 tonnes

The global ranking of several countries changed, in a positive and negative sense, with planetary pressure adjustments, with an exception of Switzerland, with only the HDI value of 0.955 has come down to 0.825 after the necessary adjustment.

Among 66 very high human development countries-

30 countries recorded a fall in rank values-

- minus 1 for Germany and Montenegro
- minus 131 for Luxembourg.

In India's case,

- The PHDI is 0.626
- HDI of 0.645
- with an average per capita CO<sub>2</sub> emission (production)

- material footprints of 2.0 tonnes and 4.6 tonnes

India gained in global rankings by eight points (131st rank under HDI and 123rd rank under PHDI), India's per capita carbon emission (production) and material footprint are well below the global average.

### **CHALLENGES IN INDIA, SDGs: THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

- India's natural resource use is not efficient
- Growing environmental problems
- The onslaught on nature as witnessed from a number of ongoing and proposed projects.

India has 27.9% people under the Multidimensional Poverty Index

- 1.10% in Kerala
- 52.50% in Bihar

A sizable section of them directly depend on natural resources for their sustenance.

Kerala → HDI value of 0.775 (above the all-India average).

Several summits have taken place, since the Stockholm conference. The latest is the adoption of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) with a particular target to meet by 2030.

**Human-induced climate change** has emerged as an important issue of global deliberations (SDG).

### **THE SIXTH ASSESSMENT REPORT (AR6) OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE (IPCC) 2021- THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

- Stress on limiting global temperature rise at the 1.5° C level
- Strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change
- Sustainable development
- Efforts to eradicate poverty

### **THESE WAS REITERATED IN THE CONFERENCE OF PARTIES (COP) 26 AT GLASGOW IN 2021.**

The first and second SDGs-

- No poverty
- Zero hunger

As per, NITI Aayog (2020-21), out of 100 points set for the grade of Achiever-

India scored-

- 60 (Performer grade, score 50-64) for no poverty
- 47 (Aspirant grade, score 0-49) for zero hunger, with wide State-level variations.

India's score in the SDGs –

8 – Decent work and economic growth → 61 (performer)  
An integrated perspective is necessary as social and environmental problems cannot be addressed in isolation anymore)

- 9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure → 55 (performer)
- 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production → 74 (front runner)

### **CHALLENGE-**

- To bring human development including social and economic systems into the ecosystem,

- Biosphere building on a systematic approach to nature-based solutions

**Local level involvement** is also needed in order to get the desired results and meet the objectives.

### **TO CONCLUDE : THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

There are wide gaps in managing the environment.

Well-known modern-day people's movements for environmental protection in India

- The Chipko movement (1973) in Uttarakhand
- The Silent Valley movement (the late 1970s) in Kerala

Subsequently, there is now widespread awareness about the environment and several initiatives both at the level of the government and the community.

**Rajeev Yadav**

## **Agri-Tourism in India**

Agriculture is a mainstay of the Indian economy being deeply rooted in the Indian culture. The concept of agri-tourism is not very new; however, it is gaining importance and growing in the recent years. Agri-tourism is being promoted for the development of rural areas in the developed countries of the world since past decades and it is being considered as a vital factor which can positively influence economic, environmental, demographic and sociological aspects. It is being encouraged in the areas having high biodiversity and landscape diversity.

Agri-tourism provides the urban tourists an experience of rural life by opening up the farms to them. Agri-tourism combines agriculture-based activities and tourism aspects that brings visitors to the farms, where they not only enjoy the vacation and leisure but also understand and appreciate the activities performed by the farmers, who in turn get an opportunity to maximize their profit and employment potentials on farm products and services. Agri-tourism is presently getting popularity as producers emphasize diversification in agriculture and an increase in profit; urban visitors prefer touring to rural areas to experience the peaceful rural environment.

Farm visits, farm stays and trail visits have been a preferences of many tourists in recent times to experience something different as compared to traditional sightseeing at the places of tourists' interest. The rural economy gets substantial boost from the union of agriculture with tourism sector resulting in agritourism.

The term 'agri-tourism' is alternatively used as agro-tourism, farm tourism, agricultural tourism, agritainment. It is also viewed as a part of rural tourism. The urban people who tour the farms, prefer to stay at farm house, engage in farming activities, enjoy different rides like animal rides, bullock cart ride, and tractor ride, eat local food, purchase farm fresh fruits and vegetables, experience and understand the local art and culture. The farmer maintains both farm and home for stay of urban tourists, brings innovations to attract new tourists, sells farm produce at a remunerative price, and earns a livelihood all year round. Farmers offer a number of services to the tourists. These, however, vary from one farm to other. The products and services include accommodation, entertainment, therapies at farms, farm retailing, catering, participatory mode of farming etc.

Agri-tourism is another realm of tourism sector that has potential to grow immensely across the globe, including India. Agriculture make significant contribution to India's GDP and thus the backbone of Indian Economy. Agri-tourism would increase the share of agriculture in national GDP thereby providing additional source of income along with conventional agriculture and tourism industry. This becomes further crucial because around 90 million farmers (80 percent of them are small and marginal farmers) covering

6.25 lakh villages are responsible for feeding our entire nation and thus they have the most urgent need for income diversification along with additional income generation. Agri-tourism has a potential to reduce the uncertainty of farming or agri-entrepreneurship/ agri-businesses by generating additional income.

### **PROGRESS IN INDIA: THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

In India, as per Census of 2011, about 69 percent of total population resides in villages and 62 percent of population depends on agriculture for their livelihoods. The tourism sector in India generated about 37 million employments, thereby contributing about nine percent of total employment in 2015. Tourism sector has been expanding that can be facilitated through agriculture under agritourism. Ecological beauty, water bodies and traditional handicrafts of the region enables the tourism in rural areas. Rural tourism was initiated during 10th five-year plan. Rajasthan and Kerala took early advantages of this initiative. Later on, Maharashtra became the most progressive state in implementing agri-tourism at different districts. Agri-tourism Development Corporation (ATDC) was established in 2004.

### **A WAY TO INCREASE INCOME: THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

Agri-tourism provides a potential option to farmer to increase his/her income. A farmer needs to expand farm operation so as to create interests of the tourists. Arrangements of selling the farm produce as farm fresh immediate after harvesting, processing of produce in front of tourists, value addition of the produce and on-farm marketing, not only draws attention but also provide the farmer immediate income. Direct selling of farm produce develops new consumer niches in that particular area. Creating the avenues of tourists interests and involvements in the farming activities like harvesting of the produce, parks with gardens, food parks, agri-museums, etc. gives different sources of income. Establishment of agri-preneurship using the farm produce as resources, creates agri-business and employment opportunities. Thus, agri-tourism can provide additional income through several forms like i) farmers' market, where tourists can purchase farm products, (ii) picking up own products, where tourists harvest produce by themselves, (iii) local food, where tourist prefer to have local flavor in breakfast, lunch, dinner, (iv) participation of tourists in different farm activities and other entertainment activities like animal rides, bird watching, etc., and (v) experiencing rural life through local tours at different rural settings.

### **BENEFITS: THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

Agri-tourism benefits all its stakeholders in several ways. Among the different stakeholders, farmer is at the centre of agritourism network. This helps in establishing new consumer market niches, which are more aware of local agricultural products, thereby enhancing farm revenues. This also guides in maintaining agricultural land in an efficient and effective manner, involving family members directly or indirectly in different activities, improving farm livelihood, creating farm recreation opportunities, developing entrepreneurial as well as managerial skills and establishing agri-entrepreneurship and sustaining the agriculture and agri-businesses. There are several strengths of agri-tourism in terms of its feasibility even among small farmers. It doesn't require large land holding and farmers of age group between 30 to 60 years, having a higher level of education, are operating most of the agritourism centres. Out-migration from rural to urban areas for seeking livelihood has been an emerging issue that can be addressed with the promotion of agritourism.

### **CHALLENGES: THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

The establishment of agri-tourism faces certain challenges like attractions, accommodation, recreational activities, entertainment programmes, food arrangements, safety and security aspects, medical facilities, and risks and liabilities in case of accidents. Development of agritourism needs continuous efforts in different stages, viz., land development (knowledge centre), developing accommodations and other facilities (farm

stay), developing enterprise (processing, value addition and marketing farm produces) and other required infrastructure development for establishment of agrotourism centre. Some of the major challenges in up-scaling and promoting agri-tourism include lack of farmer's knowledge, lack of training opportunities to learn about agritourism and absence of infrastructure support. Identification of potential farmers and entrepreneurs who can implement agritourism projects requires skilled advisory services. Moreover, establishing and managing agri-tourism is a challenging task for farmers and agricultural entrepreneurs in the absence of a good planning and understanding of management practices. Farmers are to be given advisories to make them understand the importance and create desire to diversify their agricultural businesses into agritourism to provide value added products and services that meet the need of tourists. Quality and complexity of services as well as cooperation amongst the stakeholders are challenges to implementation of agri-tourism. Agri-tourism network involves farming, medical facilities, transportation, safety aspects, media and communication, tourism agencies, government and hospitality industry. The coordination between all aforesaid services providers determines the successful implementation of agri-tourism.

## **CONCLUSION**

Farmers convert their farmland into desirable destination for the tourists to get multifaceted unique experiences starting from staying in rural setting and enjoying the natural environment to learning/ education through participation and recreation. It is becoming increasingly popular in different states of India. Agri-tourism offers benefits to farmers, farm families, rural communities, tourists and tourism operator. It is important to provide advisory services and building capacities of the farmers, who are the nucleus of agritourism industry, to implement, manage and sustain the agri-tourism centres. It is vital to create information on the available agritourism centres across different states of the country to draw attention of the potential tourists. Agri-tourism needs to be an integral part of available tourism packages, and its further promotion in India, will contribute in strengthening Indian economy in general and rural economy in particular.

Ritu

## **The significance of India's financial assistance to Srilanka in specific reference to India Srilanka bilateral relation GS Paper II** **Source : The Hindu**

### **CONTEXT:**

India on Thursday (13th January) confirmed a \$400 million currency swap with Sri Lanka while deferring another \$500 million due for settlement to the Asian Clearing Union (ACU), in a move aimed at helping the island nation witnessing an unprecedented economic crisis.

### **INTRODUCTION:**

Srilanka is facing the problem of an economic crisis. Therefore She seeks financial support from China. From a strategic perspective Sri Lanka is a very important country for India. By providing financial assistance to Srilanka, India wants to reduce the influence of China on Srilanka

India and Srilanka, both are culturally similar countries and the Indian cultural relationship with Srilanka is too old as 2-3rd century BC. Tamil people have been culturally related with sri lanka for thousands of years

## INDIA SRILANKA RELATIONSHIP: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

India has had a very close relationship with Sri Lanka for a long time in each field (Political, economical, intellectual and religious also). As per the mythological texts of India Sri Lanka was conquered by lord Rama and during the historical period Asoka had extended his relationship up to Sri Lanka also. Buddhism from India reached Sri Lanka through various means (through ambassadors, merchants and the Buddhist monks). And this India Sri Lanka relationship is continuing up to now in a very cooperative way. India supported during the time of Tamil crises when LTTE group challenged Sri Lankan government. Even though we had to lose our ex prime minister Rajeev Gandhi.

Sri Lanka is a member of BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) and SAARC where India is also playing an important role. Therefore for India, Sri Lanka is a good neighbor as well as a good friend

## SIGNIFICANCE OF SRI LANKA'S COOPERATION: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

For India Sri Lanka is not a neighboring country only it has its geopolitical significance also. Sri Lanka is an island country and China is spreading its influence through huge investment in Sri Lanka. China is trying to strengthen herself in the Indian ocean. From the time the pandemic struck last year, China has topped the charts in providing crucial and timely support to Sri Lanka — by way of over \$ 2 billion in loans and a currency swap, and Sinopharm vaccines totalling over a million in donation, and about six million for procurement so far.

This is significant, because in Sri Lanka's Sinhala nationalist political landscape, resistance to the "imperialist" West, and "interventionist" India is a popular political position, dominating rhetoric in the country's Sinhala-majority south, since its Independence in 1948, through its civil war years, and the decade after. But the growing skepticism of China, in public discourse and the media – including cartoons alluding to the dragon or Chinese flag – is relatively new.

## CONCLUSION

In the words of Atal Bihari Bajpai – We can change our friend but we can not change our neighbor. Therefore, the policy of cooperation is the fundamental of Indian foreign policy. During the pandemic, if Sri Lanka is facing economic problems, therefore it is the duty of India to provide Sri Lanka financial assistance. In this way, on one side India is fulfilling his duty or morality and on the other side Chinese influence in Sri Lanka would also be curtailed

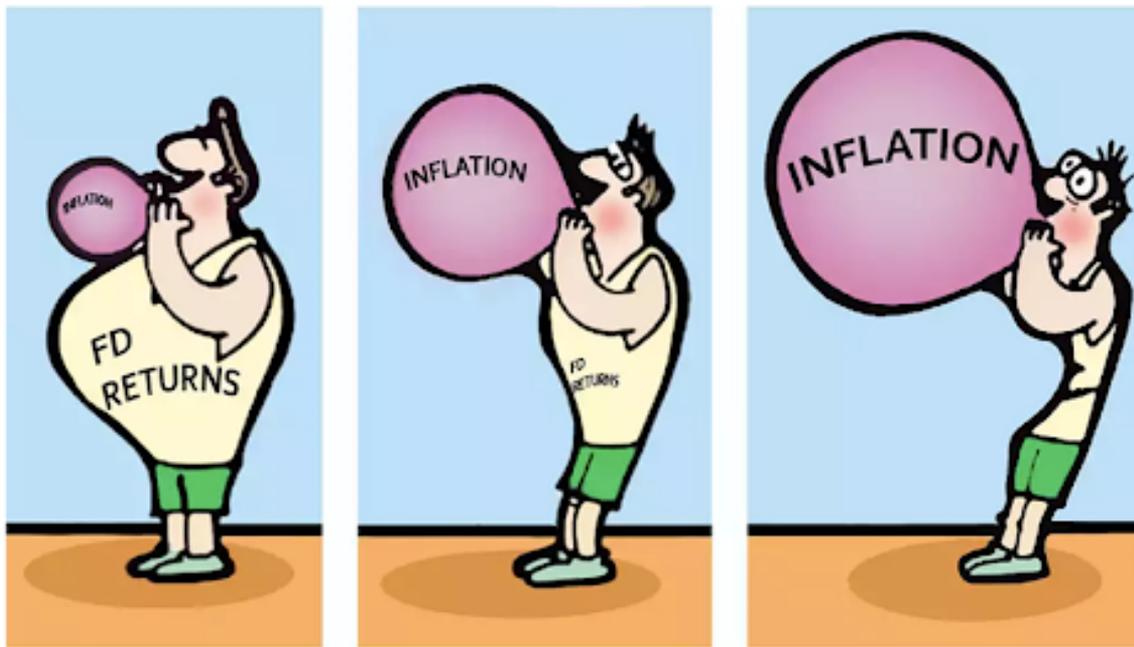
Swarn Singh

## Let's look into Current Inflation and its effect for a developing countries like India (GS 3, Economics, The Hindu, Indian Express, RBI)

### NEWS/ CONTEXT:

Retail inflation is on rise for the third consecutive month in December 2020-21. In December 2021 it was at 5.59 % which is slightly less than the 6% upper ceiling of the RBI. The rise in inflation is basically because of an uptick in food prices. The Hindu Analysis.

In days to come also because of heavy rainfall in some states and state wise Covid restrictions, supply chain disruptions can take place and thus surge in the prices of food items.



**Retail inflation is basically inflation in terms of consumer price index. Retail inflation reflects the inflation in the prices of goods and services which are bought by consumers to consume.** And because of the fact that consumers buy from retail markets it is called retail inflation. It is calculated in the name of consumer price index – Rural, Urban and Combined

Due to pandemic restrictions post covid, inflation could be witnessed in almost all manufactured products basically because of reduced supply in the market out of reduced production.

**If we look into the situation of inflation in the US, its surge to 7% in December on a year on year basis, which is the highest since 1982.** It is mainly because of the increased expenditure by the Americans post pandemic as most of them got healthy pay increments. Increased expenditure has put up side pressure on aggregate demand and this higher aggregate demand creates inflation (**Demand pull Inflation**). Aggregate demand on domestic goods and services increased also because of the fact that Americans cut back on travel and commuting these days. However now this inflation is off setting the pay increment and making it difficult for lower income families to manage the basic needs. The Federal Reserve is about to accelerate its interest rate hikes. This has put huge pressure on the US government to the needful as higher inflation damages the popularity of any government drastically.

**We have seen huge protests broke out in Kazakhstan these days basically over fuel price hike,** although public resentment was building up against the ruling elite but the fuel price hike triggered the protest. The Hindu Analysis.

**In another paper released by Reserve Bank of India, It is said that households are changing their savings portfolio with respect to bank deposits, as future inflation is expected on a higher side.** Inflation expectations play a vital role in regulating household consumption behavior and consequences.

**Firstly,** during high inflation periods people will not have much left to save because now things are costly. More money would be going into consumption. Hence their capacity to save in banks comes down.

**Secondly**, even if they save in a bank the interest rate which will be given by banks on savings will be offset by higher inflation. It means the real interest rate, which is the interest rate adjusted with inflation, can come down to negative. For example if on saving a bank gives 4% interest per annum and the inflation is 7% yearly, The real interest rate will be 4% minus 7% which comes as -3%. So overall all the households who are saving are going into losses. If they have other alternatives, say for example keeping savings in terms of Gold, say which gives at least more than inflation rate, say for example 9% then their real interest rate will be +2%.

**From a country's perspective (macroeconomic perspective) it is better that savings should come in the banking system. Because banks can mobilize these savings into investment by lending to someone, which ultimately can create capital formation. Thus the country will get infrastructure or other capital formation which will enhance our future production and future productivity.** Domestic savings is the most important determinant for the growth of a developing country like India. These favorable things / constructive investments will not happen for the country and economy in case people invest in commodities such as precious metals, jewellery and the like or other unproductive assets.

**The paper titled 'Taking Cognisance of Households' Inflation Expectations in India' submitted to RBI also says that in the case of a developing economy like India, it is desirable for households to save in financial instruments like debt and equity or Bank deposits which can be used further into production enhancing activities.** It is to note here that similar to India, inflation expectations are biased and not efficient in other countries too such as England, US, Newzealand, Japan, Russia, South Africa etc. The Hindu Analysis. Hence the jobs of the government, especially of the developing countries like India are to control inflation and make the investment in debt, equity or Bank deposits more attractive.

**MD. Layeeque Azam**

## **Significance of India UK talks for complete FTA (Free Trade Agreement) GS Paper 2, Paper 3 Source : The Hindu**

### **CONTEXT:**

Piyush Goyal, honorable minister of Commerce and Industry, Government of India started new negotiation for the FTA(Free Trade Agreement) with Anne Marie, Trade secretary of UK. The FTA will be a comprehensive FTA and this negotiation would be completed within this year

### **INTRODUCTION :**

In the era of globalization FTA is a tool to open the borders of countries for export and imports without any restriction. In other words, through FTA business of two countries would be merged and the flow of goods and raw material would be easily done beyond the borders without any restrictions. In the Era of globalization, FTA is necessary, at least with those countries from where we require technologies and we exports our services and good

### **WHAT IS FTA : THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

A Free trade Agreement (FTA) is an agreement between two or more countries where the countries agree on certain obligations that affect trade in goods and services, and protections for investors and intellectual property rights, among other topics. While the specifics of each FTA vary, they generally provide for the reduction of trade barriers and the creation of a more predictable and transparent trading and investment

environment. This makes it easier and cheaper for Indian companies to export their products and services to trading partner markets.

### **WHERE IS INDIA IN FTA : THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

India has FTA with approx 15 countries including Japan, Australia etc. But The FTA of India's with any country does not mean that in all economic sectors FTA is there, This FTA varies country by country. With some countries India has multilateral FTA, which means FTA in all sectors, with some countries India has FTA in limited goods and services. Recently India had come out from Regional Comprehensive economic partnership RCEP. In this way, FTA had opted out with Japan, Australia and China in 2019. Infact, Indians are seeking FTA as per its own requirement. Where Indian companies are capable of fighting with the companies of other countries, definitely India should have FTA.

Now India is negotiating for an FTA with the European Union, Arab countries, Australia and Canada. India had signed FTA with Association of SouthEast Asian Countries (ASEAN), The republic of Korea, Japan and Malaysia

### **INDIA UK FTA: THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

India has multi dimensional economic partnership with export growth in leather, textiles, jewelry, and proposed agri products. After the negotiation with the UK, it will cover both goods and services. As per the various sources it is assumed that this bilateral trade would be of approximately 50 billion dollars and is expected to be doubled within 10 years. This type of discussion on FTA is going on with UAE, Australia, Canada and Israel

Infact, India will be the world's third largest economy with a middle class of almost 250 million shoppers. The UK is seeking to benefit from this new huge market. For the British, Indian culture is close to British culture. Therefore FTA would be beneficial for both countries

### **SIGNIFICANCE:**

Definitely FTA enlarges the market and economic activities and FTA would be beneficial for India with developed and developing countries, provided India's economy should be strong to compete with their economy. Find the context of Britain, definitely it would be beneficial, because in future India would be the country of youth which could generate the huge services and these services would be exported to developed countries and Since India would be the largest market therefore it could consume the products of the UK.

Therefore, this FTA is going to be beneficial for both UK and India

### **CONCLUSION:**

In fact, before the FTA, India should make itself economically strong so that our economy could compete with developed economies. If we were just consumers, our resources would be easily drained to these countries therefore, we should make our population skill first and should create huge human resources, through FTA these human resources would be consumed in the world. FTA is beneficial with those countries whose economic nature is similar and complementary for the economy of India.

**Dr. Anshul Bajpai**

# Suspension of MLAs from Legislative Assemblies : Rights of Speaker and Constitutional Provisions

## CONTEXT:

In Maharashtra legislative Assembly, 12 MLAs are suspended by the speaker for more than 1 year. Therefore suspended MLAs had to go to SC and hon'ble SC is ready to hear this matter and prima facie SC comment that this suspension is worse than expulsion. Any seat can not be vacant for more than 6 months as per the constitutional provision. Therefore in this regard suspension looks unconstitutional.

## INTRODUCTION:

In Maharashtra, because of political biases, the speaker has suspended 12 BJP MLAs on the ground of violence of the code of conduct of Assemblies. But the question is whether the speaker has the sole right to take any decision regarding suspension. For how long this suspension would be continued, whether the supreme court should intervene in this matter on the ground of constitutional violation of the State government. On these parameter honorable SC is ready to hear this matter and in near future we will get a fresh verdict on this issue

## WHAT IS THE POWER OF SPEAKER ON THE SUSPENSION OF ANY MEMBER FROM THE HOUSE : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

On the grounds of misconduct and the violation of the rules of the legislative assemblies of any state, the speaker on behalf of the houses has discretionary power to take action against MLAs. During last month it has been observed that generally speakers used this power to crush the voice of the opposition even though up to some extent the members of the houses had also violated the rules of the houses also.

Article 212 (1) of the constitution of India prohibits the interference of the high court in the affairs of the houses. As per the provision "The validity of any proceedings in the Legislature of a State shall not be called in question on the ground of any alleged irregularity of procedure". Therefore, many times it has been observed that during the process of suspension the law of Natural justice is generally also violated.

As per the Article 194 of Indian constitution, the house has empowered that any member who transgresses these privileges can be suspended through the inherent powers of the House.

In the case of Maharashtra, in the absence of the regular speaker, through a resolution passed by the houses 12 members were suspended. On this ground, these suspended MLAs appealed to court that the procedure of suspension is unlawful but as per the rule of assembly, either speaker solely or on the behalf of the house take any disciplinary action against any member of the house

## MAX TIME FOR WHICH MEMBERS CAN BE SUSPENDED : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Even though there is nothing written in the constitution in this regard but as per the The Representation of the People Act, 1951, no constituent assembly should be vacant for more than 6 months. Within six month through byelection, new members should be elected from that constituency. Therefore on the grounds of constitutional provision suspension of any MLA should not be beyond six month. These member can be expelled from assembly but on the ground of misconduct in the election on which Election commission has authority

## **CONCLUSION :**

For running democratic institutions smoothly, executive, legislative and the judiciary must be separated to each other. Even in the case of Indian governance, executive and Legislative are not separated completely, however our lawmakers should try to separate these institutions up to maximum extent. Speaker should not be the member of any political party and in future also that the speaker should not join any political party so that the speaker would be unbiased.

Even Though Judiciary is separated from executive but Judiciary is also the guardian of the constitution and it is the responsibility of the judiciary to protect the fundamental structure of the constitution, therefore Judiciary has to interfere in legislative and executive also. The suspension of the MLAs for more than six month is unconstitutional and the government of Maharashtra must end these suspensions

**Dr. Anshul Bajpai**

## **Governance paradigm in rural India**

Rural India has long been considered the spine of India's economy. Agriculture isn't just the most important contributing sector to the economy but also ensures food security during a constantly growing and developing country. Beyond food and economics lies another major (although understudied) dimension of sustainability and environmental conservation, of which the agri-economy is the primary stakeholder. Effective and efficient governance may be a key ingredient in ensuring all-round development of rural areas at par with the urban ones. As a result, the need for an all inclusive and sustainable development for rural areas has been felt much more strongly in recent years, bringing issues of rural governance to the forefront of policy discourse in our country.

This year the state is marking 75 years of its independence with the 'Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav' campaign under which several celebrations and developmental initiatives are being undertaken for 75 weeks ending 15th August 2023. In this context, this piece unpacks the transformation of rural India over seven decades by specifically examining the governance and repair delivery frameworks to trace the progress made so far and the challenges that lie ahead.

### **RURAL INDIA OVER THE YEARS- THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

To comprehensively understand the rural India of today, we must go back in time to our independence period and see how far the nation has come in the past 74 years. At the time of independence, the newly formed nation inherited an impoverished population, a famine and drought prone geography and a ravaged economy. However, the miracles of Green Revolution and later the Operation Flood in milk helped the economy leapfrog from being food grain and milk deficient to currently being among the largest producers and exporters of agri and dairy produce globally.

However, rapid urbanisation within the previous couple of decades thanks to increasing industrialisation and mobility, have contributed in diminishing dependence on agriculture and by extension, its rural areas. Particularly the rural governance and ease of living mechanisms, which have seen neglect, complacency and a lack of awareness and enthusiasm finally leading to mass migrations of workers and labourers from Indian villages to cities.

### **GOVERNANCE AND SERVICE DELIVERY INITIATIVES AND REFORMS: THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

Several continuous measures, programs and initiatives aimed at bridging the rural-urban divide have

been implemented across multiple levels, with renewed vigour in the last seven years. Beginning with the implementation of the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to transfer monetary benefits directly into the accounts of beneficiaries (mostly rural residents) to opening over 40 crore bank accounts of the unbanked, mostly rural people, under the Jan Dhan Yojana and later combining their synergies under the Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile (JAM Trinity) to make sure seamless delivery of public services, rural India has been undergoing a silent revolution.

Another notable initiative has been the setting up of Common Service Centres (CSCs) under the Digital India Mission, across rural India, to deliver essential public services to rural folk in one place. Currently, over 4,12,000 CSCs are operational in our rural areas.

Through the introduction and implementation of schemes like PM-KISAN and Public Distribution System (PDS) subsidies, money is directly transferred into the accounts of millions of farmers enabling them to utilize this money for their benefit. This has contributed to plugging leakages and corruption to unintended/fake beneficiaries and saves many rupees of public funds from going into the wrong hands.

The role of Khadi both as a rural institution and as a common thread binding all of India, is very important yet very often ignored. The last 6-7 years have seen Khadi becoming a mass movement, turning from a loss-making entity to a highly profitable one, recording gross turnover well over Rs.5,000 crore last year despite the pandemic.

Other Government flagship schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY Bharatmala Pariyojana, Sagarmala Pariyojana, and Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) all focus on multiplying connectivity and mobility among our rural territories by different means of transport. Enhanced connectivity, besides boosting economic opportunities, also exposes avenues for social and community development also. It increases urban-rural engagements and reduces the divide between 'Bharat' and 'India' as rural and concrete India are commonly known, respectively.

Homelessness and abject poverty are two of the foremost significant characteristics of rural India for an extended time. To address the issue of homelessness, a major chunk of which is in the rural areas, the government launched the PM-Awas (Gramin) Yojana aimed at providing houses to the eligible rural population in the country so as to achieve the PM's objective of "Housing for AIL" The scheme seeks to provide other facilities to make it an aspirational home for the beneficiaries through convergence with other schemes like Swachh Bharat Mission and PM-Ujjwala Yojana for providing LPG connections.

To help rural areas avoid the trap of debt and property disputes that have for long hampered land acquisition and monetisation for infrastructure and development projects, the govt launched the Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas or SVAMITVA, as a tool to hold out large-scale mapping and surveys of rural properties using advanced drone and satellite technologies, and pave the way for employing a property as a financial asset by villagers for availing loans and other financial benefits.

The use of technology for inculcating formalisation in rural governance has similarly been replicated within the newly launched e-SHRAM portal of the Ministry of Labour, which seeks to onboard millions of unorganised workers from across the country on one portal and help prepare one National Database of Unorganised Workers (NDUW) within the country.

The initiatives, programs and schemes mentioned above are multi-pronged in their approach and wide in their reach. While all of them address different, but interconnected issues to make rural India more economically attractive and socially sustainable.

## **CONCLUSION**

The journey of rural India since Independence has been nothing short of miraculous. It has transformed itself from being an agrarian geography largely unaffected by the benefits of India's post1991 economic marvel to one becoming increasingly entrepreneurial, and connected with the rest of the country thus,

playing a proactive role in the larger India growth story. But, the story neither begins nor ends with economic transformation only; rather, social and economic transformations have complemented each other in making rural India's development truly all-inclusive. The focus of this article, however, was the governance paradigm in rural India and how governance reforms have accelerated social and economic change in our rural areas. Government initiatives and schemes such as OBT, JAM, PMAwas Yojana (PMAY), CSCs, PM-KISAN, SWAMITVA, Ayushman Bharat, PM-KVY, PM-GSY, UOAN and PMUY, have been touched upon and examined to demonstrate that public service delivery in rural areas has indeed become more targeted and transparent on the back of effective governance leading to significant ease of living benefits for rural residents and by extension, enabling them to be more engaging and active contributors in the broader Indian growth paradigm that leaves no one behind.

Ritu

## Socialism still relevant amidst rising Inequity and Hopelessness?



In recent times we have been witnessing the rise in nationalism and authoritarianism, which is weakening the essence of democracy across the globe. Economies are growing but not achieving their essential objectives, which have to be like, equitable distribution of resources, reducing inequality and poverty, provisioning of a minimum standard of living for all and ultimately the material happiness for all.

**According to the world inequality report 2022, in India the top 10% are holding 57% of the total national income, while bottom 50% are holding just 13% in 2021.** The report termed India as a 'poor and very unequal country, with an affluent elite

The trickle down to those below has diminished. With every Global recession starting from 2008 to Covid crisis, the rich get richer and the poor find difficulty even in managing even the basic needs.

Democracy and Secularism are getting weaker while the economy is getting unsustainable and unpredictable. **It is to understand that the economic shape of a country depends on political structure but prior to that Political structure in almost every instance has been defined by the economic outcome. The Hindu Analysis.**

Economic despair across the globe, which has been the outcome of liberal economic system (free market system/ Capitalism), has been feeding the nationalist, authoritarian and identity political structure. The stories which started with liberalism are producing anti-liberal societies.

Western capitalist economies until the 1970s got their public health and educational infrastructure built and strengthened their social security systems with the help of higher taxes. Even in the field of technology the government spent huge amounts of money. But then taxes on incomes and wealth for the top have been reduced regularly. The justification given says that the animal spirits of wealth creators (capitalists) must not be dampened, otherwise The pie will not grow and there will not be enough to share. The tax for the rich is now less and the pie has not grown but the richest few are having most of it, eating and hoarding. In the case of India taxes on the income and wealth of the rich are still high. In the US the corporate income taxes 21% while in India it is 30%.

Governments are becoming handicapped without resources/ money to provide public goods (roads, parks, education, health, public transportation etc). For the phone stopped government, privatization/disinvestment (selling of public assets to the private party), asset monetization (giving public Assets on rent to the private party), and selling of public Enterprises are becoming another ideological imperative in economics. The justification given here is that there will be efficiency in delivery of services in case public assets go in the hand of a private party. It is basically the ethical question of equity, Because of the fact that when any services provided by a private party/ market, will no doubt be better in quality but at the same time will be costly. In this situation rich people can even buy more goods and services with their increased income. For example the wealthier people's children can have better education and health services and will have greater access to opportunities in the future also. The gaps between rich/haves and the poor/have-nots will become larger.

History is repeating itself. The countries which started practicing liberal economic policies, promoting free market system, free trade and privatization have witnessed the return of nationalism and authoritarian governments, which are being elected across the globe democratically. Their governments are even challenged by the re-emergence of socialism. Actually people in hopelessness (out of capitalism/ free market system) are looking for messianic saviours by the authoritarian/totalitarian nationalist government sometimes or by socialist stance of the government. The Hindu Analysis.

Socialism will be always relevant by the time people are having a crisis in managing basic needs of life. Even the capitalist government run their governance keeping social welfare at the center and calls themselves a welfare state. (GS 3, Economics, The Hindu, Indian Express, RBI)

**MD. Layeeque Azam**