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CURRENT AFFAIRS



PLUTUS IAS WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS 17-01-2022 to 23-01-2022

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CURRENT AFFAIRS

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Under Sea Volcano Eruption in Tonga : A Geological Phenomenon and its impact

CONTEXT:

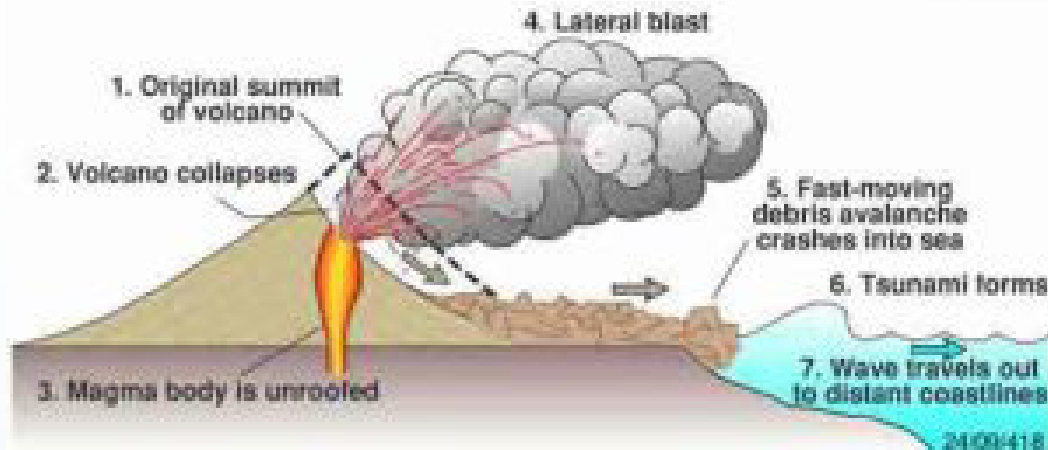
A massive volcanic eruption in Tonga That triggered tsunami waves around the pacific caused “significant Damage “ to the island nation’s capital and smothered it in dust.

INTRODUCTION:

- A kingdom of multiracial habitant Tonga had suffered from volcanic activities. This country mostly covers tropical rainforest and white beaches and coral reefs. Its capital Nuku’alofa is very beautiful and its main island Tongatapu is protected by lagoons and lime stones. There is constitutional monarchy in this country
- The volcano activity is a geological phenomena and by 16th Jan 2021 we observed a submarine volcano erupted in Tonga which brought the tsunami in the pacific sea. Volcano activities are not on surface only many volcanic activities occur inside the sea which becomes the main reason of the Tsunami
- In Fact these volcanic activities are seen on the rift where crustal plates are being formed. These Rift Zones are found on the ocean basins of the earth (Sea floor spreading centers). These are the places where these tectonic plates are moving away from each other. These sea floor spreading centers are lying below 2000 meters. Therefore we see these volcanic activities inside the sea and could not be seen from the surface of the ocean

BASIC REASONS OF VOLCANIC ACTIVITIES UNDER THE SEA

- Deformation of Earth’s Crust
- Explosion Due to reaction between volatiles in the magma and water which generates a significant quantity of steam.
- When unlimited supplies of water gather near to the submarine volcanoes and because of the lava erupting onto a shallow sea floor or flowing into the sea from land, it may cool so rapidly that it shatters into sand and rubble. The result is the production of huge amounts of fragmental volcanic debris.
- submarine eruption occurs as a consequence of a magma plume rising through the Earth’s crust overlying an area of melting in the Earth’s mantle. These volcanoes are known as hotspot volcanoes
- Recent studies have revealed the presence of spectacular, high temperature hydrothermal plumes and vents (called “smokers”) along some parts of the mid-oceanic volcanic rift systems. This is other reason of violent activity



EXAMPLE OF THE SUBMARINE VOLCANIC ACTIVITIES

- Perhaps the most famous submarine volcano is Krakatau, a submerged caldera located between Java and Sumatra.
- Metis Shoal, a submarine volcano near the Tonga Islands, has erupted nine times since 1851

IMPACT OF VOLCANIC ERUPTION IN TONGA

- The eruption was too much powerful that it triggered the Tsunami that folded pacific coastline from Japan to America
- The capital Nuku'alofa s suffered significant damage
- Damage of surveillance, suspension of the flights
- Impact on humanitarian supply
- Peru has to close 22 ports as a precautions

CONCLUSION

Volcano is a type of natural disaster. Submarine volcanoes are more dangerous in comparison to volcanoes on the surface of earth because these submarine volcanoes become the causes of Tsunami which generally brings more significant damage. The incident of the volcano eruption in Tonga impacted not only Tonga but many other countries. On the humanitarian ground USA also proposed support to Tonga. Conclusively, it can be said that these natural disasters are inevitable but we can reduce their influence over the loss of humans at least if we predict it earlier

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

India appeals WTO against its ruling on domestic sugar and sugarcane subsidies (GS Paper-III,Economic Development) Source: The Economics Times

WHY IN NEWS?

- India recently appealed the trade dispute settlement panel of WTO against its ruling on the domestic sugar and sugarcane subsidies stating that the panel has committed “certain errors of law”.

WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

- Countries like Australia, Guatemala and Brazil claimed that India's export and domestic subsidies are against and inconsistent with the WTO articles – Agreement on Agriculture and Agreement on subsidies and countervailing Measures (SCM) and GATT(General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs) article XVI, which relates to subsidies.
- Countries complained that the domestic support to sugarcane producers by Indian government are inconsistent with the Agreement on Agriculture because the support exceeds the de Minimis level of 10% of the total value of sugarcane production.
- At the same time the three countries also alleged India's export subsidies under marketing and transportation scheme, production assistance and buffer stock scheme are inconsistent with the WTO provisions.
- India was also accused of failing to notify its annual domestic support for sugarcane and sugar, subsequent to 1995- 96 and its export subsidies since 2009-10. Australia maintained that these were in contravention and inconsistent with the SCM Agreement.

INDIA'S STAND

- The provisions of the Article 3 of SCM agreement are not yet applicable on India and the country has eight years phase out period to eliminate export subsidies, argued India.
- India took stand by stating that the countries complaining against the domestic support for sugarcane have failed to meet their "burden of showing" how Indian domestic support violates the various provisions of the agreement on agriculture.
- India said that it is the mill owner and not a government who pays the mandatory minimum price therefore it does not constitute market price support.

PANELS RULING

- It upheld India's domestic support and export subsidy measures to be in violation of the international trade rules.
- The panel recommends India to bring its various support mechanism measures into conformity with WTO rules and obligations under the Agreement on Agriculture and SCM Agreement.

WTO AND DISPUTE REDRESSAL

- In 1995 the World Trade Organization was established. It replaced the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs(GATT). It is the only Global International Organisation that deals with the rules of trade between Nations.
- WTO is guided by five principles:
 - A) Trade without discrimination
 - B) To promote free trade through negotiations.
 - C) To ensure productivity through binding and transparency
 - D) Promote fair competition
 - E) To encourage development and economic reforms
- WTO has 164 members along with 23 observer governments. If any member feels that a particular trade measure is against the norms of WTO, then according to the rules of WTO the country has the right to file a case.

- Initially in order to resolve the dispute a bilateral consultation is undertaken but if in case it does not resolve, either party can approach the dispute settlement panel.
- Rulings of the panel can be challenged in WTO's Appellate Body. It was established in 1995 and it has its seat in Geneva Switzerland. It has the final authority over the dispute settlement.

Vivek Raj

CHALLENGES IN INDIA TO REAP THE DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND GS- 3 POPULATION RELATED ISSUES

India has one of the youngest populations in the aging world. Since 2013 India's working age population has grown larger than the dependent population. The hope is that as the young Indian population enters the working age, it will lead to higher economic growth.

HEALTHCARE PROVISION

Health care provision in India is grossly inadequate and access to health care is highly inequitable the same was highlighted by NFHS-5

Lack of efficient public healthcare and burden of out of pocket health expenditures.

In effective functioning of PDS, growing economic inequalities and lack of nutritional awareness, pose challenges in combating malnutrition.

STATE OF LITERACY

- Basic literacy in the overall population has progressed modestly.
- The state of functional literacy and professional scale is poor.
- Indian graduates have low employability and do not meet changing economic structure and support global competitiveness.

RISING INEQUALITY

- Dese growing inequality across social groups and income groups which translate itself into poor socio-economic mobility.
- Lack of socio-economic mobility hinders human capital development and traps a large section of the population in the vicious cycle of poverty.

LACK OF SKILLING

- According to a National sample survey out of the 470 million population of working age in India, only 10% receive any kind of training or access to skilled employment opportunities.
- The huge mismatch between demand and supply in the skilled work force and employment opportunity could strain the economy in the long run.
- There is a disconnect between India's rate of technological growth and ability to distribute the gains from it.
- Use of technical advancement has been concentrated in few sectors and benefit accrued by a few elitist sections of the society.

JOBLESS GROWTH AND FALLING FEMALE LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION.

- India's high growth rate phase (2004-05 to 2010-11) has created significantly fewer jobs as compared to previous decades of economic growth.
- About 47 percent of the population is dependent on agriculture.
- Majority of the workforce is employed in the unorganised sector.
- Show show culture factor and rising family income have been the main reason for the decline in India's female labour force participation.
- A significant proportion of qualified women drop out of the workforce for reasons ranging from no suitable jobs in the locality to female responsibilities and marriage.

WAY FORWARD

- Multipronged approach is imperative to reap the demographic dividend.
- The gap in the expenditure on social infrastructure like health and education should be closed by strengthening the delivery mechanism of the government initiative.
- As recommended by the national health policy 2017 and the national education policy 2020, India needs to increase its spending on health and education to at least 2.5 % and 6% of GDP respectively from its current level.
- India has to invest more in human capital formation at all levels, from primary education to higher education, research and development as well as vocational training to increase the skill set of its growing working age population.
- Bridging the gender gap in education, skills development, employment and reducing social inequalities prevalent in the society to enhance human capabilities.
- There is also a need to engage with the youth and create an enabling environment for entrepreneurship.
- Social policies for each state must be differentiated to accommodate different rates of population growth.

Anshum Verma

Pandit Birju Maharaj : A kathak legend

CONTEXT:

A Kathak legend Pandit Birju Maharaj has passed away by 17th February 2022. He has left a rich legacy behind him

INTRODUCTION:

A complete artist Pt Birju Maharaj who lived music in its entirety transcended to a heavenly stage on Monday. He spread Kathak to the entire world.

WHAT IS KATHAK :

- Kathak is a classical dance of India among 8 forms of classical dances. The Kathak term is derived from kathakar (Storyteller). A style of dance in which the expression of the face tells the story. This style of dance had developed during Bhakti period and the people dances in front of the god on the rhythm of bhajans

- The stories related to Indian folks, epic are communicated through this style of dance. The rhythmic foot movement, hand gesture, facial expression and the eye work are the means through which dancers explain about the story.
- This performing art is related with the period of Mahabharata and it is popular mainly in Northern India. There are various schools related to kathak called gharana like Jaipur Gharana. Banaras gharana and the Lucknow gharana

ABOUT PT BIRJU MAHARAJ :

- Birju Maharaj was born in Handia (Allahabad Dist, Uttar Pradesh) in 1938. During his life he was awarded various awards like Padam Vibhushan, Kalidas Samman etc. He received honorary doctorate from various universities of India including Banaras Hindu University. He was related with the Lucknow Gharana of Kathak
- He was inspired by the rhythm of nature. Every time he took the stage, It seems that the almighty was dancing through him.
- Be it the movement of ants, a river in spate, a bird feeding its young or the earth motion on its axis, there was nothing that escaped the kathak maestro's dancing eyes
- His face expression and the movement of eyes during dance was ultimate
- The stage was a canvas for Pt Birju Maharaj where he painted the Krishna and Radha's divine romance that would dissolve in space only to be replaced by a new one
- He was trained by his father Achchan Maharaj and uncles Lachhu Maharaj and Shambhu Maharaj. He also taught in Bhartiya Kala Kendra and in Kathak Kendra,
- The journey from Brij Mohan Nath Sharma to Birju Maharaj was not easy, in fact for this he had to work hard and he had to refine the dance form and took it out of the narrow lanes of Aminabad to international proscenium
- He would often cycle to teach at Sangeet Bharati and perform for hours in private gatherings

CONCLUSION

The death of the Pt Birju Maharaj is the loss of the entire Art family. He was a legend and carried forward this traditional art to next generations. He was not only an artist but a good person also> He served Indian art for his entire life and protected cultural Heritage. Definitely he made kathak popular in the entire world. The credit to revive kathak in modern India definitely should go to Maharaj Ji. He was a person who painted a divine romance on stage. The vacant place of Pandit ji in the field of art can not be fulfilled

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

India and Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)

WHY IN NEWS?

- The South Korean trade Minister said that it is a regret to see India's absence from RCEP.
- India did not join RCEP which came into effect on January 1st 2020.

WHAT IS RCEP?

- It is a free trade agreement between ASEAN countries and Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand and China.
- It is the largest free trade agreement in the world in terms of volume of trade.
- It aims to make easy accessibility of products and services of each of the member countries to be available across the region.
- It will also help the companies to reduce its time and cost by eliminating the need for separate requirements to export in each country.

WHY DID INDIA NOT JOIN RCEP?

- India's trade deficit with China is already very high. It is higher than that of the remaining RCEP members put together. This free trade agreement would allow more Chinese good to flood the Indian market without proper safeguard and further accentuating the trade imbalance.
- India has unfavorable trade balance with most of the member countries of RCEP. Trade has increased post free trade agreement with South Korea, Japan and ASEAN countries but mainly saw the rise of import then export from India.
- India has raised concerns for its domestic industry. New Delhi has been apprehensive about lowering and eliminating tariffs on products like dairy, steel etc. Example, Tariff on Dairy products in India is on an average 35% and for the RCEP bound countries they have to reduce the current tariff 0% within next 15 years.
- India also had concerns about the rules of origin. Rules of origin basically determine the source country of the product. Now the current provision of RCEP does not prevent Rerouting the product from the source of origin to another country. In the absence of it, India would lose revenue on the products where it could maintain higher tariffs.
- India also put forward the demand for the Auto triggered mechanism. It states that the import of the products crossing the threshold limit would allow India to raise tariffs on that product. However the other members of the RCEP were against it.

WHY SHALL INDIA REVIEW ITS DECISION?

- By withdrawing from the world's largest free trade agreement India blocked itself from the opportunity of accessing 30% of the global economy and over 2.2 billion world population.
- The ongoing covid-19 pandemic scenario has impacted the global economy severely. In this situation where the economy is declining, RCEP can help and re-energize the economic activities.
- India shall not perceive RCEP as only trade significant but shall also view it as a strategic move necessary to safeguard its own interest and interest of many other countries.

CONCLUSION

- Considering the importance of India in the world and its economic value in Global trade, RCEP has left the door open for India, inviting it to be an observer member.
- India shall review its position on RCEP, given the Global economic scenario in present and in the near future. (GS Paper-II, International Relations)

Vivek Raj

Confrontation between the governor and the state governments.

The relationship between the governor and the CM has always remained delicate. This is due to the colonial inheritance of the office of governor, which was that of a ruler of province and was answerable ultimately to his majesty the king in fact even in the constitutional assembly debates the office of governor was expected to be as powerful as the colonial era. The legal luminaries like BR Ambedkar wanted the governor to have discretionary power to ensure that state governments work in subordination to the union government.

DISCRETIONARY POWER OF THE GOVERNOR

- Thus, the governor was given discretionary power prescribed by or under the constitution unlike the President.
- Article 163 is actually the exact imitation of section 50 of the Government of India Act 1935 (H.V.KAMATH)
- The incorporation of the provision of 1935 Act has introduced a vagueness about the actual power of governor with respect to the elected government in a democratic setup.
- From Shamsher Singh case 1974 to Nabam Rebia case 2016, the supreme court has emphasised that the governor can in the exercise of executive power of the state act only on the aid and advice of the council of ministers "save in a few well known exceptional situations".

RECENT CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNOR AND THE STATE GOVERNMENT IN MAHARASHTRA IN KERALA

- **Maharashtra**
- The governor refused to accept the date of election of the speaker recommended by the state government consequently the assembly could not select the speaker.
- It must be stated here that the constitution has not assigned any role of the governor in the election of the speaker under article 178 which is exclusively the job of the house.
- It is the only house rule which says that the governor shall fix the date as such has no significance.
- Under the procedure followed in all assemblies the government fixes the date and calls the secretary of the families who forwarded it to the office of the governor for his signature.
- After the date is formally approved by the governor which is duty bound to do-the members are informed about it.

IF THE GOVERNOR DOES NOT APPROVE THE DATE CAN THE ELECTION BE HELD?

- Fixing the date by the governor is not of any constitutional importance, the election by the house is the important thing.
- In case the governor struck the way of election the house can amend the particular rule which empower the governor to fix the date.
- It can provide that the secretary on receiving the date from the government shall notify the member of the same.
- **Kerala**
- The State governor, having reappointed the VC of Kannur University in accordance with the law, made an allegation against the Kerala government that he was under pressure from the government to

reappoint the VC.

- It must be stated here that the governor had acted perfectly in accordance with the law in appointing the incumbent VC.
- Under the university act an incumbent VC is eligible for reappointment.
- I want the governor as chancellor to not be required to act on the advice of The council of ministers in the matter of appointment of VC.he could have rejected the suggestion from the government.

CONCLUSION

- The governor is a high constitutional authority. The governor needs to function in accordance with the constitution and be a philosopher and guide to his government.
- The constitution does not allow him to be a parallel government nor does it make him personally responsible for his actions as governor.
- Confrontation taking place in an opposition-ruled state shows that political expediency has overtaken constitutional propriety.
- Pandit Thakur Das Bhargav says”governor will be a man above party and he will look at the minister and government from a detached standpoint”.

Anshum Verma

India Maldives Relation : Significance in Changing Political paradigm GS – Paper II

CONTEXT:

parliamentary speaker and former president of the Maldives Mohammad Nasheed wanted to ensure the power of his ruling party Maldivian Democratic party (MDP) so that he could continue the propaganda against India. Abdulla Yamin is continuously campaigning against India.In Fact, the ongoing campaign “India out” against in Maldives is being supported by the government of Maldives on the ground of democratic desires of the people

INTRODUCTION:

India and Maldives have had bilateral relations for a long time in political, economical and cultural. For 2-3 years anti Indian sentiments had flourished. Many Indians are residing in these countries for a long Time Most of them are doctors, nurses and technicians, teachers, construction workers, tailors, etc. Indians are the second most populated racial group among all expatriates. Almost 25 % of teachers working in Maldives are Indians who are teaching in middle and senior secondary schools of Maldives. As per the date of the ministry of external affairs of India, more than 400 doctors are residing in Maldives.

REASON OF CHANGING PARADIGM OF INDIA MALDIVES RELATION

- In fact, The increasing Chinese influence in Maldives is the main reason for deteriorating relations between India and Maldives. Recently Chinese foreign minister Wan Yi visited the island.
- The region behind India out campaign is because of the repayment of the debt to India without any rebate. This made Maldives angry
- Influence of Pakistan is another reason for anti India sentiment

- In fact, the people of Maldives is seeing Indians as the threat for their culture, for their economy also
- A lot of anti-India rhetoric was used during that time because the Maldivian government was pro-China,
- The Waheed government, preceeder of the Yameen government, was “anti-India”. Although the Yameen government’s tilt in favor of China was clear
- Even though the policy of India First is there in Maldives., but it is also going to revise
- Government of Maldives also pointed out some reasons for being against India those are
- two Dhruv Advanced Light Helicopters (ALF) that were given by India to the Maldives in 2010 and in 2015, both of which were used for ocean search-and-rescue operations, maritime weather surveillance and for airlifting patients between islands, and were based in Addu Atoll and at Hanimaadhoo. These helicopters were for humanitarian purposes only, Government of Maldives blames that India is creating its military presence because these choppers are military choppers
- As per their blame India is not following the defense treaty in which India will train the defense personnel’s of Maldives. India is increasing its military influence in This way
- In 2019, local media of Maldivian raised the question over UTF project and spread this rumor that through this India was going to settle a naval base in the region of Maldives and Government of Maldives strictly clarified in this regard that it would not give any permission for the foreign naval base

CONCLUSION

In Fact because of the influence of China, the bilateral relation between India and China is deteriorating. In Fact Maldives media is also using the orthodoxic and fundamentalist and communal nature of the Indian government in this regard. Deteriorating relationship with Maldives would bring the threat against Indian communities which are residing in Maldives. Therefore government of India should take positive steps in this regard so that the India Maldives relationship could be improved.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

HATE SPEECH GS-2 Freedom of speech & expression

Recently the supreme court agreed to hear a petition asking for legal action to be taken against the organizer of the Haridwar Dharm sansad held in Uttarakhand, where calls to violence were made against other communities. The rising frequency of hate speech combined with lack of legal or social consensus around what constitutes”hate speech”has provided an opportunity to make legislative reforms.

WHAT IS HATE SPEECH: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- There is no legal definition of hate speech in the Indian legal framework owing to the ambiguity surrounding it.
- Supreme court in Pravasi bhalai sangathan versus union of India 2014, describe hate speech as “an effort to marginalise individuals based on their membership in a group”and one that seeks to delegitimize group members in the eyes of the majority, reducing the social standing and acceptance within society.
- Further hate speech is a speech that target people based on their identity and cause for violence or discrimination against people cause of their identity.
- Speech made for the direct call to violence – such as taking up arms and killing Muslims aur statements

made by persons with influence having the likelihood to breach peace, cannot be protected under the right to free speech.

- It must be noted that no society can survive for long when incitement to violence is normalised, and enjoys legal impunity.
- Hate speech create a environment that strength the existing prejudice and deepens extant discrimination.

CHALLENGES

- The legal provision in India is ineffective and deficient to deal with the challenges of hate speech.
- The commonly invoked laws in such a situation are section 295A(Blasphemy) and section 153A of the IPC however the hate speech is neither Blasphemy nor enmity between the classes.
- Hate speech is never direct; rather the statements are worded with the right degree of ambiguity, which can easily be denied later, indirect speech of this kind is known as a “dog-whistle”.
- Dog whistle enables escape the legal scrutiny as had been in the Haridwar case digital and social media has become a platform for further propagation of hate speech.

POLICIES AND SUGGESTIONS: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- In campaign against hate speech vs the state of Karnataka the high court held that the IPC illegalise speech that are intended to promote enmity for prejudice is the maintenance of harmony between different classes.
- The supreme court in Pravasi bhalai sangathan, underlined the impact hate speech can have on the target groups ability to respond and how it can be a stimulus to further attacks.
- Section 153C was drafted to cover an offence committed when any person uses threatening words which are intended to cause fear or commends hatred for the purpose of inducing violence through words, spoken aur return visible representation of sign on the ground of race caste religion sex gender identity and other characteristics.
- Section 505A should include provision penalising causing of fear alarm or provocation of violence.
- There is a need to have a specialised legislation that will govern hate speech propagated by the internet especially social media.
- Australian federal law can be a guiding reference where internet service providers are accountable for providing offensive material.
- Amendment is required in Indian penal code and information technology act.

CONCLUSION

Hate speech should be recognised as a reasonable restriction to free speech, then only fissiparous communal and separatist tendencies can be checked. It is important to secure fraternity so as to ensure the dignity of the individuals and the unity of the nation.

Anshum Verma

Women Reservation in Panchayat

In order to bolster women empowerment, increased political awareness, self-confidence, and involvement in development and social issues can be achieved by giving reservation to women in Panchayati institutions of the region. The 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Acts, 1992 proved to be catalytic, introducing quite

15 lakh women into leadership positions in India's local administration. These amendments, among other things, handed over the batons of power to the population at the panchayat level with one-third reservation of seats and crucial positions within the panchayat for women.

In addition to the above, these amendments also made it indispensable for all states to hold gram panchayat and municipal elections and empowered these bodies to undertake development activities at the local level. As of now, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Tripura, Uttarakhand, and West Bengal have increased their reservation benchmarks for women in their PRIs to 50%. States like Karnataka have quite 50% women representatives in PRIs, which is implicational the fact that more and more women are now emerging victorious in wards that were not reserved for them. The Hindu Analysis.

However, within the majority of cases, increased political representation has not translated into actual transfer of power. Women in PRIs act merely as a rubber stamp, while their husbands actually call the shots. These sarpanch/pradhan/mukhiya-patis (husbands) encourage women to file for nominations and later discourage them from involving themselves in governance. Women are nothing more than proxies. They do not attend panchayat meetings and continue to have a lack of agency. Those who do, face trivialisation and ostracisation by male members of the panchayat. Several reasons could be accorded to the same; the most important being the lack of literacy. The high prevalence of illiteracy among rural women is one of the most pertinent reasons for proxy politics in those areas. It is because of this impediment that women stand as mute spectators instead of being involved in policy formulation and the tasks of the gram panchayat. As per Census 2011, only 58% of females in rural areas were literate as compared to 77% of their male counterparts. This proportion was further abysmal for women belonging to the Scheduled Castes, with literacy rate among them being 53%, as against 72% among males. Another important obstruction towards ameliorated female leadership in panchayats is the male-dominated fabric of the society and the subsequent "all-men" institution that act as impediments for women working or coordinating with them in a participatory development approach. This is one of the crucial reasons why men tend to look after the panchayat work related to government approval, thus sidelining women and, subsequently, becoming "pradhan pati." It, therefore, entails that political empowerment does not necessarily mean only putting power in the hands of women but also creating an ecosystem where they can sustain and coordinate with others, thus building their political network to the next level. Financial constraints, pre-defined gender roles, and notoriously low salaries and incentives are some other factors that hinder the active participation of women in rural governance and policy making.

Investing in women's right to political participation is a necessary precursor to achieving global gender equality and democratic governance. A spiraling body of research suggests that women legislators outperform their male counterparts in the policymaking arena. Evidence suggests that female leaders play an important role in improving the quality of representation of both males and females, are more productive and active, are more efficient in fundraising and effective allocation of resources, and are more inclusive and gender-sensitive. It is imperative to adopt both the trickle-down and the bottom-up approaches in order to encourage the active participation of women in policymaking. In addition to fixing quotas for women in parliamentary and legislative assemblies, there is a need to increase awareness and recognition of the importance of women's participation in the political process at the community level and ensure greater involvement of marginalized women, including indigenous women, women with disabilities, and those belonging to minority communities. The Hindu Analysis.

Ritu

Pegasus : A controversial Spyware and Threat for Internal security

CONTEXT :

Justice Minister of Israel pledged a full investigation into allegations that the controversial Pegasus spyware was used on Israeli citizens including people who were protesting against the former government (Prime minister Netanyahu)

INTRODUCTION :

The Pegasus spyware is a controversial spyware which is used for hacking mobile and computer. In Fact this spyware is used by the security agencies for the security purpose but In India there are many allegations over the Indian government that this spyware is used in the hacking of information of the citizens of India including big leaders, ministers and other big journalists. Now Israeli Government is ready to probe this allegation. Now This things crates moral pressure on Indian government that it must be probed allegations against it in India also

WHAT IS PEGASUS :

Pegasus is a surveillance product made by the Israeli company NSO that can turn a mobile into a pocket spying device. Presently this is the subject of controversy that this spyware is being used in some countries on their citizens

HOW PEGASUS WORKS :

Generally, the Pegasus system is fed in the targeted mobile phone or in a computer and it can be fed through any app. Once the spyware is fed it will work automatically and even after the switching off the mobile it will work and it can not be uninstalled once it is inserted in the mobile or computer

WHAT IS CONTROVERSY IN INDIA AND HOW IT IS A THREAT FOR INTERNAL SECURITY : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

As per the declaration of the NSO and media reports, In India, the mobile phones of some VIPs of India including cabinet ministers, Journalists, Officers of defense sector, and other most important persons are infected with Pegasus. Who used this spyware in the mobiles of these VVIPs, this is still subject of investigation. As per the NSO, It sells this spyware only to the government. It does not sell this to any private agencies. Then it seems more dangerous in the context of internal security because, Generally Indian government has denied that the government had used it for any purposes besides security. Then who Did This ? This is a big threat to the internal security of India. If the government used it then this is the violation of the right to privacy of any citizen. It is a big threat to Indian democracy also.

STAND OF SUPREME COURT ON THE ISSUE OF PEGASUS: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Our honorable Supreme court also instructed the Indian government that the right to privacy of Indian citizens must be protected. SC had formed a committee by former SC judge R V Raveendran to look into the allegations. SC instructed to committee to submit its report with in eight weeks and committee will also give its recommendation regarding the making of frame work so the right to privacy of the Indian citizen could be protected

On October 27, a three-judge bench of Chief Justice of India N V Ramana and Justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli set up the three-member technical committee, to be overseen by Justice Raveendran.

CONCLUSION :

The Pegasus issue has now become the issue of every democratic country. This must be proved whether the Pegasus is being used for hacking the mobiles and computers of citizens to crush the voice of the protest against the government or not. If it is used by security agencies for security purposes, then Ok but if it is used for crushing the voice of opponents then it is a big threat for democracy and if the government of India is not aware with this then it is the more dangerous condition for the internal security of India. The government of India must take appropriate action in this regard.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Extended Range of Brahmos : A new milestone in the field of defense sector

CONTEXT:

In the supersonic cruise missile BrahMos some new increased indigenous content with its extended range and improved performance is now tested. By 20th Jan 2021 This missile with increased features were successfully tested from the Integrated test range, Chandipur of the coast of Odisha

INTRODUCTION :

Indian missiles are used for various purposes in Indian Defense Strategy. These missiles are not only for our rivals China and Pakistan but to strengthen the Indian defense sector for International peace. We never believe in aggression first and on the other hand we have to protect ourselves from the aggression of our traditional enemies.

For the sovereignty of any country the defense sector must be strong. Peace and stability always lie in the hands of the strong country. Therefore, we also focus on the defense sector. Missiles are the main strength of any country. Those countries which have more advanced missile systems are powerful countries of the world. There are many missile in Indian Fleet like *Nirbhay, BrahMos, Sagarika/Saurya, Agni V, Agni IV, Agni III, Agni II, Agni I, Prahara, Dhanush, Prathvi II, Prathvi I.*

BRAHMOS : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The first version of Brahmos is prepared by India and Russia. This is a short range, ramjet power and single warhead missile. It is a supersonic missile which can attack against cruise missile and the ship missile

The term The BrahMos is derived from Brahmaputra and Moscow rivers and earlier based on Russian cruise missile SS- N- 26 (3M55 Oniks/Yakhont / Bastion)

A joint venture of DRDO (Defense Research and Development Organization) of the Ministry of Defense, Government of India and Russia's Mashinostroyenia Company was set up in 1998.

In 1998, a joint venture was set up between the Indian Defense Ministry's Defense Research and Development Organization and Russia's Mashinostroyenia Company.



BRAHMOS HYPERSONIC VARIANT: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

BrahMos missile is being prepared for its hypersonic version by Russia and India jointly. Simultaneously, India is modifying it with ingenious technology as well as its increased range.

The new missile followed a modified optional trajectory for enhanced efficiency and improved performance. The missile with modified controlled system has been fine tuned to achieve an enhanced capability. The highly – maneuverable missile cruise at supersonic speed for its maximum range and all mission objectives were met. The flight test was monitored by all the sensors of the range instrumentation, including telemetry, radar and the electro optical tracking system deployed across the eastern coast and the down range ship.

The missile is capable of being launched from land, sea, sub sea and the air against surface and sea based targets and has been long inducted by the Indian armed forces.

CONCLUSION :

Definitely the date of 21st Jan 2022 is the witness of a milestone in the defense sector with the advancement of the BrahMos missile. These developments in the defense sector will be helpful for the stretching Indian Army as well as to counter the Chinese aggression. For the last 2 years China is continuously showing her aggression near LAC. In the last few days one Indian citizen from the border of LAC was abducted by Chinese PLA. In such tense situations, definitely this test of missile with upgraded feature is commendable

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

The Ordinance Raj

The issue of the misuse of ordinances has once again come in the public eye in the specific context of the three farm laws. These laws, affecting the lives and livelihoods of more than half of India's people, were passed by way of ordinance, and now, in the face of strong protests, they have been repealed. Though parliamentary approvals were sought and received for these laws eventually, the whole episode has revealed something disturbing about the state of India's democracy.

The ordinance-making power in the Constitution is not a necessary feature of the Westminster form of parliamentary democracy that India has adopted. It is a relic of the Government of India Act, 1935 that

was nonetheless retained by the Constituent Assembly. While sufficient safeguards were introduced into the Constitution to try and ensure that such ordinances do not become the default mode of lawmaking, the experience of the Indian republic since 1950 has suggested that even these measures have not had the intended effect on the political executive.

Ordinances have been and continue to be issued on matters all and sundry and repromulgated even when they fail to receive parliamentary approval. If one were to see the average number of ordinances in a year, the pattern is one of steady increase since the 1990s and an even sharper increase in the last decade. Issuing such ordinances is not a common practice in the Westminster form of parliamentary democracies. Only two other countries with such a form of government have provisions related to ordinance making—Pakistan and Bangladesh. The common factor between the three countries is obvious—the Government of India Act, 1935. The Hindu Analysis.

The misuse of ordinances is not only at the union government level but also at the state level. The repeated repromulgation of ordinances and their excessive use was first seen in the states and has only spread to the union government level. As far back as 1986, in *Dr D C Wadhwa and Ors v State of Bihar and Ors*, the Supreme Court quashed ordinances that had been repromulgated by the governor of Bihar without placing it before the state legislative assembly. Even as recently as in 2017, in *Krishna Kumar Singh and Anr v State of Bihar and Ors*, the Supreme Court has attempted to restrain the ordinance-making power of the executive, yet to no avail as the number of ordinances continue to rise every year. Despite the strong words of the Court, these judgments have had little impact on the executive's impulse to overuse ordinances.

No justification has been offered at any point as to why any of these ordinances have been issued—either passing or repealing the farm laws. There is nothing in the ordinances that even hints at a basis for the emergent situation, which it is trying to address. Even as the Supreme Court, in *Krishna Kumar Singh*, has repeated that it is necessary to show why it must take immediate action, the political executive has in no way attempted to offer any reasons for the same.

To properly understand the motivations and thinking behind the overuse of ordinances, it is important to see this phenomenon as part of the anti-democratic “toolkit” that has been developed over the years in India by political parties, especially the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party. The use of money bills for non-finance-related laws, the mass suspension of the members of the opposition, the appointment of partisan speakers of legislatures, and the use of money power to incite defections among legislators, among other practices, have gained currency across the political spectrum in the last few decades. The Hindu Analysis.

Although reasonably free and fair elections continue to be held at regular intervals at the union and state levels, the true health of India's democracy can be gauged by what happens in between such elections. In a democratic system, popular elections only dictate who may govern in accordance with the norms and practices of the Constitution. They cannot be and can never be, considered to be *carte blanche* for showing contempt towards democratic practices and institutions that are necessary to create and maintain a healthy democracy. The Hindu Analysis.

When B R Ambedkar delivered his “grammar of anarchy” speech in the Constituent Assembly in 1949, he had in mind methods of protest, such as civil disobedience, non-cooperation, and satyagraha and how they might be detrimental to a constitutional democracy. When constitutional democracy is being subverted from within, its forms being made hollow by those who swear an oath to protect the Constitution, it is perhaps not surprising that people are being forced to resort to such methods that might cause inconvenience to the people as well as the government. Whether it was the Shaheen Bagh sit-ins or the farmers' protest, they exposed the widespread loss of faith in democratic institutions. We hope this serves as a wake-up call to the political class to take the forms and practices of constitutionalism seriously.

Ritu

ISFR 2021 and our reforestation progress

The National Forest Policy, 1988 envisaged 33% of the geographical area under forest and tree cover and two-thirds of the area in hills under forests. The India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2021—released by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change—shows an aggregate rise in the total forest area, although the natural forests have declined by 1,582 sq km. The alarming feature of the forest profile is the reduction in forest cover in north-eastern states, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and Himachal Pradesh owing to anthropogenic factors such as the felling of trees, shifting cultivation, developmental activities, and natural calamities like landslides. The Hindu Analysis.

Against the Conference of the Parties (COP26) target—nationally determined contributions—of increasing the additional carbon sink of 2.5 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂) to 3 billion tonnes of CO₂ by 2030, the forest's carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) should increase. The forests are classified based on the canopy density as, (i) very dense forests (VDF)—3.04%, with tree canopy density of over 70%, (ii) moderately dense forests (MDF)—9.33%, which are also called the “natural forests,” with tree canopy density of 40%–70%, and (iii) open forests—9.34%, with tree canopy density of 10%–40%. The per hectare carbon sink provided by VDF is the highest in the tropical and subtropical climate across India, implying that each hectare of VDF has the largest carbon stock owing to its larger canopy. The Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020 published by the Food and Agriculture Organization finds that India ranks 10th in the forest area globally. The average annual net gain in forest area in India was 0.38% over the 2010–20 period, which is third in the global rank. The Hindu Analysis.

A detailed aggregate analysis reveals that there is a rise of 501 sq km in VDF, which are protected or reserve forests; and a rise of 2,621 sq km in open forests. The tropical dry deciduous forests are spread in the largest area, with the share of open forests, MDF, and VDF in descending order, respectively. The MDF found in tropical moist deciduous forests are the next largest stratum that provides CCS owing to their size. However, the Himalayan dry temperate forest has the highest carbon stock potential in their VDF (331.12 thousand tonnes of carbon stock per hectare) compared to the VDF of other forest strata as well as the aggregate CCS, and these forests need conservation positively; plantations and TOF (trees outside forests) provide the lowest CCS, although they are easy to grow and maintain. In absolute terms, the tropical dry deciduous forests followed by the tropical moist deciduous forests provide the maximum CCS owing to their size.

Mangroves (0.15% of our geographical area)—the blue carbon ecosystems with three to four times higher CCS compared to any forests on land—have increased by a minimal 17 sq km and are unable to offset the loss of the MDF of 1,582 sq km. Of the total forest cover (21.71%), 35.46% is prone to forest fires with 2.81% being extremely vulnerable. The rise of forest area compared to 2019 in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana is attributed to reforestation, conservation measures, and agroforestry, although the fast-growing varieties like plantations and bamboo are unable to match the natural forests due to both the lack of biodiversity and CCS. In keeping with our climate change mitigation commitment, compared to 2019, an increase of 79.4 million tonnes in the carbon stock of the country is registered.

The increase in forest cover is registered by five states: Andhra Pradesh—647 sq km, Telangana—632, Odisha—537 sq km, Karnataka—155 sq km and Jharkhand—110 sq km, whereas the north-eastern states, with the largest share in the total forest cover, have suffered loss of forests to the following extent: Arunachal Pradesh—257 sq km, Manipur—249 sq km, Nagaland—235 sq km, Mizoram—186 sq km and Meghalaya—73 sq km. Surprisingly, seven megacities—Greater Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad and Chennai have 509.72 sq km of forest cover, which is 10.21% of the geographical area; among these megacities, only Delhi has VDF and its MDF and open forest are the largest. The Hindu Analysis.

In the ISFR 2021, for the first time, the forest cover of tiger reserves is assessed revealing that 74.51% of tiger reserves comprises the forest cover—22.01% VDF, 35.95% MDF, and 16.55% open forests. The carnivores

depend on prey populations as well as undisturbed, continuous, non-fragmented landscapes. Hence, the increase in tiger corridors (11,575.12 sq km or 0.43% of the country's geographical area and 1.62% of the country's total forest cover) from 2011 (2008–09 data) to 2021 (2019–20 data) looks promising. However, out of the 52 tiger reserves, only 20 of them have shown an increase in forest cover and the remaining 32 have shown a decline. The lion habitat in the Gir National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary has also shrunk its forest cover by 33.43 sq km (2.52%) from 2011 to 2021. This is alarming because numerous river streams originate either from tiger reserves or the catchment area is surrounded by these reserves. The loss of tiger or lion reserves implies the loss of these wetlands that support rich floral and faunal biodiversity.

Ritu

Significance of Amara jawan Jyoti in Indian History: An Analysis

CONTEXT:

The iconic Amar Jawan Jyoti, which was inaugurated after the 1971 Liberation War of Bangladesh by former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, was removed on Friday

INTRODUCTION:

Amar Jawan Jyoti is not only a symbol of the tribute which we are paying to our martyrs who had sacrificed during the Bangladesh war but also is the symbol of Indian cultural Heritage.

The removal of *Amar Jawan Jyoti* and its merging with the flame at the National War Memorial (NWM) is somehow the change in traditional culture or destruction of our cultural heritage. Cultural heritage is the legacy of tangible and intangible heritage assets of a group or society that is inherited from past generations. Transformation or and modification in the traditional value system is just the destruction of cultural heritage. Cultural Heritage is the symbol of our identity. Its destruction means an effort to eliminate our identity and value system. Amar Jawan Jyoti is the recognition of our bravery, our sacrifices, our pride. And the removal and its merging with the national war memorial is definitely an effort to transform our cultural value system. Instead of AMAR jAwan Jyoti, construction of statue of Subhash Chandra Bose is not any alternative of objectives of *Amar Jawan Jyoti*

HISTORY OF AMAR JAWAN JYOTI: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Amar Jawan Jyoti is an Indian memorial constructed after the Indo-Pakistani War of 1971 to commemorate the martyred and unknown soldiers of the Indian Armed Forces who died during the war.

This Jyoti is underneath India Gate and is the symbol of the nation's tribute to those soldiers who had given their lives in various wars after independence

This eternal flame has been burning for 50 years without being extinguished. But by 21 Jan 2022, this Jyoti was finally put off and merged with another flame at the national war memorial.



HOW IT IS RELATED WITH OUR TRADITION AND CULTURE : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

In our traditional value system, the soul is eternal and it never dies and the flame is the symbol of the souls of the martyrs. Extinguishing the flame for a single moment is considered as disrespect towards the martyrs. Just like two souls can not be merged, two flames can also not be merged, one flame has to be extinguished. Once this flame has been established neither it should be removed from that place nor it should be destroyed until or unless big inevitable reason. This flame is related to our emotions and sentiments. Just like, removal of one temple /any religious places from one place and merging with another temple/ religious place is the act of dishonor to a religion, similarly This Jyoti is also associated with the emotions of every Indian citizen.

WHY GOVERNMENT WANTS TO REMOVE THIS JYOTI : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

In fact, Central Vista programme is the main reason for the removal of this Jyoti but the government explains that this Jyoti is situated underneath India gate which is the symbol of colonial period so Amar Jawan Jyoti from here should be substituted. Another big reason may be political. Since this Jyoti was established by Smt Indira Gandhi in the memory of victory of Bangladesh War, because of the political rivalry and to reduce the credit of Smt Gandhi ji, this identity is being shifted.

WHAT IS THE REASON OF PROTEST AGAINST THIS DECISION OF GOVERNMENT: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Government explained that India gate is the symbol of colonial period and it was built during 1931 and it is dedicated to those soldiers who had sacrificed in the war to protect the British imperialism. India gate is the symbol of colonialism but we can not forget the sacrifices of those Indians who fought for British rule. Since at that time also, they were paying their duties and obeying the British Government. From this perspective, sacrifices should not be undermined because the concept of patriotism varies as per the governments. They

also fought to protect India from other enemies. Most of the British officers who had served India after 1947 and 1950 who did their commendable job. So India gate may be shifted but the martyrs whether they were of British period (If they are Indians) or from any other time period must be honored.

WHAT IS THE ALTERNATIVE: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Because of the big protest by the opposition party, mainly congress, the Government should not remove this Amar Jawan Jyoti. If it is transferred, it should be extinguished and both different flames should be burning in the new national War memorial. making the statue of Subhash Chandra Bose is not the alternative of the shifting of Amar Jawan Jyoti

CONCLUSION

In This way, We conclude that All of us should respect our culture, our traditional value system. Because of political rivalry we should not divide Martyrs in this way so that the martyrs of the particular regime is greater than the martyrs during the regime of the rival political party.

This is not nationalism in reality. To respect the culture, emotions of citizens and the well being of the citizens irrespective of religion, caste, creed is the real nationalism. Traditional value system or cultural Identity is most significant for the providence of any nation. Therefore it must also be preserved

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Let's Understand the Issue of Deputation of IAS/IPS officers



The Central Government has proposed changes in the service rules regarding deputation of cadre officers mentioned in clause 6 of the in The Indian Administrative Service (Cadre) Rules, 1954.

The proposal has come because of the fact that states are not sending sufficient numbers of IAS officers for deputation to the central government, which is affecting the functioning central government.

(Cadre refers to a state or group of states/union territories to which an officer of an All India Service like IAS or IPS may be posted.)

It is to note that states are required to send IAS officers as per the Central Deputation Reserve (CDR) obligations, which are not being met and much lesser.

In case of any this agreement regarding the deputation IAS cadre to centre, the state governments are having override powers. The proposed changes in Indian Administrative Service (cadre) Rules, 1954, is about to take away the powers of the state government.

According to the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) the number of IAS officers deputed to the Centre has gone down from 309 in 2011 to 223 at present.

The insufficient number of IAS officers at the Centre is affecting the functioning of the central government as the Centre needs the services of these officers to get fresh inputs in policy formulation and program implementation.

These officers get vast field experience (of administration, maintaining law and order, execution of policies, collection of taxes etc.) while serving as SDMs and DMs at sub-division and district level and understand the ground reality. After getting field experience for around 18 years they are moved to State Secretariat and Central Secretariat where they work for state government and Central Government respectively in their respective policy planning and formulation.

To utilise their vast field experience the centre requires the state to depute these officers to the Central Government insufficient number as per the Central Deputation Reserve (CDR) obligations.

The states reportedly have a shortage of officers in their cadre and that's why they are not able to prescribe sufficient numbers.

The movement of officers from State to Centre and from Centre to State is beneficial for the professional growth of officers as well as it provides better coordination between centre and state for the effective program implementation.

According to DoPT's proposal, sent to chief secretaries of all state governments on January 12, "in specific situations where services of cadre officer(s) are required by the central government in public interest, the central government may, seek the services of such officer(s) for posting under the central government... and the state government concerned shall give effect to the decision of the central government within the specified time".

It further states that "wherever the state government concerned does not give effect to the decision of the central government within the specified time, the officer(s) shall stand relieved from cadre from the date as may be specified by the central government".

Thus the proposed rules which are problematic, are that the states shall give effect to the centre's decision regarding the deputation of officers within a specified time and in some specific situations in the public interest, States would have to depute certain officers whose services are sought by the central government.

During covid pandemic the states were much dependent upon the bureaucracy. Thus the central government must address two questions. First, whether deputation to the central government be done at the cost of a state requirement and second, what about if a particular officer is reluctant in moving. It has been reported that officers do not like the top don't culture in the central government offices, given it is stiff and a little rigid, whereas they enjoy and prefer the relative autonomy at the state level (being SDMs, DMs and Secretaries at the State Secretariat).

In regard to the essence of federalism in the Constitution, there is an urgent need to formulate balanced rational rules so that services of these officers(IAS/IPS) could be best utilised by the States as well as Centre and not at the cost of one another.

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