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CURRENT AFFAIRS (JANUARY 2022)

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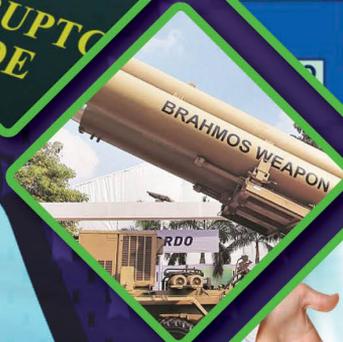
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AND
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CODE**





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PLUTUS IAS WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS 03-01-2022 to 09-01-2022

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CURRENT AFFAIRS

JANUARY 2022

CYBER CRIMES GS-3 TECHNOLOGY

Cybercrime is a criminal activity that involves any network devices that target individuals, companies and governments for direct financial gain or sabotage or disrupt the operation. Cybercrime is a major threat to two sectors identified under critical information infrastructure that include the financial system, Air traffic control, and telecommunications.

DIFFERENT TYPES OF CYBER CRIMES: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- **Malware**- also known as malicious software air refers to any kind of software that is designed to cause damage to a single computer, server or computer network. Ransomware, spyware, worms, viruses, Trojans are all varieties of malware.
- **Phishing**- it is the method of trying to gather personal information using deceptive emails and websites.
- **Denial-of-service attacks**-This attack is meant to shutdown a machine on the network, making it accessible to its intended users. Dos attacks accomplish this by flooding the target with traffic of sending its information that triggers a crash
- **Man in the middle attacks**- or eavesdropping attacks, occur when attackers insert themselves into a two party transaction. Once the attackers interrupt the traffic, they can filter and steal data.
- **Social engineering**-it is an attack that relies on human interaction To tricks users into breaking security procedures to gain sensitive information that is typically protected.

MEASURES TO BE TAKEN: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Real time intelligence is required for preventing and containing cyber attacks.
- Periodical backup of data is a solution to ransomware.
- Using artificial intelligence for predicting and accurately identifying attacks.
- Using the knowledge gained from actual attacks that have already taken place in building effective and pragmatic defence.
- There is a need to secure the computing environment and IOT with current tools, patches, updates and best known methods in a timely manner.
- The need of the hour is to develop core skills in cyber security, data integrity and data security fields while also setting stringent cyber security standards to protect banks and financial institutions.

One of the highest number of cyber attacks and threat have been detected in India and the country ranks second in terms of targeted attacks banking and telecom are the most attacked sectors, but manufacturing healthcare and retail have also faced the significant number of cyber attacks thus, there is an urgent need to make protective measures to tackle this menace.

Anshum Verma

NON-RENEWAL OF FCRA LICENSE OF NGO GS-2 INTERNATIONAL RELATION

Recently, the ministry of home affairs has cancelled the Foreign contribution regulation Act(FCRA), 2010 registration of various NGOs along with missionaries of charity groups. More than 4/5th of the applications of the 22000 Plus NGOs await scrutiny and hence will lose their ability to access international funding.

FCRA 2010: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Foreign funding of persons in India is regulated under FCRA act and is implemented by the ministry of Home affairs.
- Individuals are permitted to assess foreign contributions without permission of the ministry of home affairs but the monetary limit should be less than 25000.
- The act ensures that the recipient a foreign contribution adheres to the stated purpose for which search contribution has been obtained.
- Under the act organisations are required to register themselves every 5 years.
- Registered NGOs can receive foreign contributions for 5 purposes- social,educational, religious, economic and cultural.

FCRA AMENDMENT ACT 2020: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Prohibition to accept foreign contribution-The act bars public servants from receiving foreign contribution.
- The act prohibits the transfer of foreign contribution to any other person not registered to accept foreign contribution.
- The act makes Aadhaar number mandatory for all office bearers, directors, aur ki functionaries of a person receiving foreign contribution, as an identification document.
- The act states that foreign contributions must be received only in an account designated by the bank as FCRA account in such branches of SBI, New Delhi.
- The act proposes that not more than 20% of the total foreign fund received could be defrayed for administrative expenses. In FCRA 2010 the limit was 50%.
- The act allows the central government to permit a person to surrender their registration certificate.

CRITICISMS- TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

- FCRA prohibits NGOs from receiving foreign contributions for activities harmful to “public interest” or national security however they are ambiguous terms and are left to MHA officials to define.
- NGOs under scrutiny are related to work in sensitive areas like-pollution and climate change issues, human rights, child labour and human slavery, health and religious NGOs, particularly Christian and Islamic charities. It remains to be seen the positive outcomes after such action as government rationale behind it is not clear.
- The political parties are able to access foreign funds for their campaign through electoral bonds under the same FCRA that seeks to restrict funds of NGOs.
- It affects Article 19(1)(c) of the constitution violation of the right to freedom of speech and freedom of association constitutes human right violation.

- In April 2016 the United nation on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association analysed that the terms public interest and national security are too vague and give the state excessive discretionary power to apply the provision in an arbitrary manner.

WAY FORWARD

- Excessive regulation affects the working of the NGOs which help in filling the gaps where government aid fails to reach.
- The Government's move could result in an estimated 30% drop in international non-profit contribution.
- NGOs offer philanthropic help to the poorest and the most vulnerable and hence need to be given more autonomy.
- Without evidence that there is divergence in the utilisation of the foreign contribution, Hasty and stringent steps should not be taken.

Anshum Verma

DRAFT NATIONAL AIR SPORTS POLICY GS- 2 GOVERNMENT SCHEME

Recently, the government released a draft national policy for air sports in the country that will require the service providers and air sports equipment to be registered and will also be made liable for penalties.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE POLICY

- It proposes a two-tier governance structure for Air sports in the country, which will include an Apex governing body called the air sports federation of India and association for each air sport.
- ASFI will be an autonomous body under the ministry of civil aviation and will represent India at the lausanne- headquartered federation aeronautics international (FAI) and other global platforms related to air sports.
- ASFI will provide governance over various aspects of air sports including regulation certification competitions reward and penalties.
- ASFI will cover activities like acrobatics, micro modelling MH your build and experimental aircraft, ballooning, drones, gliding, hang gliding, paragliding, micro lightning, paramotoring, skydiving and vintage aircrafts.
- The association for each airports will lay down its safety standards for equipment, infrastructure, personnel and training and specify the disciplinary actions to be taken in case of non compliance.
- The non compliance will attract penal action by the ASFI.
- All persons and entities providing air sports service will be required to register as members of the respective air sports association.
- Key equipment used will also have to be registered.
- Popular air sports places like Bir-billing in H.P, Gangtok in Sikkim, Hadapsar in Maharashtra and vagamon in Kerala can be declared as a "control zone" for Air sports in order to ensure the safety of other manned aircraft.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE POLICY

- Schools and colleges will be encouraged to include their sports in their curriculum and their students will have the opportunity to participate in the FAI's international competition.
- The draft policy will promote domestic design, development and manufacturing of air sports equipment under the Atma Nirbhar Bharat.
- The draft policy will waive import duty on equipment for a few years.
- It will also request the GST council to consider rationalizing the GST rate on air sports equipment to 5% or less.
- India has the potential to be among the leading nations in the world of their sports. It has a large geographical expanse, diverse topography and fair weather conditions.
- India has a large youth population and also a growing culture for adventure sports and aviation.
- In addition to direct revenue from air sports activities, a multiplier benefit will be growth of travel, tourism infrastructure and local employment.
- Creation of air sports hubs across the country will also bring in their sports professionals and tourists from across the world.

CONCLUSION

The vision of the draft National air sports policy is to make India one of the top air sports Nations by 2030. It envisages to promote the country's air sports sector by way of making it safe, affordable, accessible, enjoyable and sustainable. The policy seeks to leverage India's potential for Air sports and places a strong focus on ensuring international best practices in safety.

Anshum Verma

Marine Conservation and Ocean Watch Goa (The Hindu, GS-1)

There have been multitudinous efforts to conserve terrestrial forests and territories. Still, the same can not be said for our abysses and seascapes. In recent times, littoral zones have been under increasing pressure due to population growth, unplanned developmental conditioning, increase in infrastructural growth, littoral lighting, tourism and other affiliated issues frequently leading to the destruction of littoral territories and biodiversity. Either, careless mortal and artificial gesture in littoral areas like the jilting of untreated waste and release of artificial backwaters into abysses, chemical runoffs, unbridled fishing, increase in bycatch and the general discourteousness for brutes of the ocean, contributes to the worsening of the marine ecosystems and its biodiversity.

Dead zones, as the name suggests, are void of marine life due to inordinate nutrient pollution leading to reduction in nitrogen and oxygen. The Bay of Bengal has one dead zone. There are over 400 similar linked dead zones around the world's marine waters. It's delicate to impute a single reason for this declination, further complicated due to the challenges in collating data related to marine diversity and its health that's frequently precious, taking specialised structure and moxie.

Marine conservation till now has been the least explored sphere of India's conservation primarily due to limitations of finances, lack of acceptable specialised moxie and the deficit of well- equipped ocean-going vessels to shoulder ecological study and monitoring. Notwithstanding the diversity of marine species, understanding of marine diversity, especially marine mammal diversity, are still in its incipient stages. Further challenges include incorrect species identification, limited geographic content and lack of detailed reporting.

MARINE STRANDING NETWORKS AND INDIA: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Marine ecologists have looked at marine stranding frequentness as openings to gain knowledge of marine ecosystems and its species. Marine stranding is a global miracle, and as defined by the oldest stranding response network, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries Service (Southeast Region Marine Mammal Stranding), it's as follows

. “ Marine creatures are occasionally stranded dead or alive on props. They may be sick, injured, trapped, entangled, disoriented, and unfit to return to their natural niche without backing. Stranding can be single or in mass. Mass stranding is when two or further creatures beachfront at the same time in close proximity to one another.”

Colorful stranding networks are functional in several regions of the world. Most records are grounded on media reports or are grounded on anecdotal and secondary information. This gap can be addressed by the creation and support of structured networks of first- askers who can continuously cover the bank.

OCEAN WATCH GOA: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

One similar structured network has been innovated in Goa. The Goa Forest Department has taken the lead in cooperation with International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) India, Drishti Lifesaving Pvt. Ltd. and Terra Conscious. The network, Ocean Watch Goa, established in 2017, is a first of its kind action to cover, respond and validate marine stranding along the Goa seacoast.

The lifeguards and sand drawing staff employed by Drishti LifesavingPvt.Ltd. provides effective and nonstop monitoring of the entire bank of Goa.

Ocean Watch Goa is an advance in marine conservation as in its two times of performing it has captured first-hand data of every stranding incident along the 102 km stretch of Goa's bank and proved it scientifically. The network has proved that inclusivity of stakeholders, in- depth exploration and proper attestation can lead to inestimable information that allows us to reshape policy opinions and issues. The Marine Stranding Network of Goa can evolve into wisdom that maximises the safety of creatures and the eventuality of understanding the ecology of stranding.

The public-private cooperation is a fairly new concept in India for addressing conservation- related challenges. Still, public-private cooperation and citizen wisdom have been encyclopedically recognised for their donation of dependable information that supports in developing new and advanced conservation operation strategies and tools. In India, Ocean Watch Goa is an encouraging illustration of such a cooperation for effective and effective conservation which has successfully been suitable to align the provocations and interests of all the stakeholders to meet its asked objectives.

WAY FORWARD

Effective marine conservation can only be achieved by stakeholders joining hands. There's a critical need to pool coffers (fiscal and mortal) and work collectively to ensure the sustainability of the network. While governments have the pivotal part of guarding wildlife and biodiversity through legislations, laws and allocation of finances to apply schemes, they don't have all the coffers to win the conservation battle alone. NGOs give the last afar outreach and enthusiasm, while the private sector can insure support not only financially but also through the active involvement of their help.

Learnings and recommendations from Ocean Watch Goa include the following

Need for precise detailing of places and liabilities among stakeholders who are part of the marine stranding network and its institutionalisation is a demand.

Need for fiscal coffers from government and private sector to ameliorate specialised structure to house and maintain live stranded/ injured marine creatures.

Need for expansive exploration in order to understand indigenous diversity, community behaviours and comprehensions related to marine ecology in further littoral regions for upscaling of the network.

Need to understand that stranding is an occasion to gain precious scientific information. The capacity of all stakeholders in dealing with marine stranding, thus needs to be enhanced to help in better operation and conservation opinions. The Hindu Analysis.

Similar enterprises can include original communities, original government, and business communities to inclusively and responsibility work towards addressing marine conservation and the challenges we face are seductive models and motorists of change. This new surge of addressing marine conservation in India needs to be valued and upscaled. It's also coincidental that the draft guidelines for addressing marine stranding in Indian beach fronts by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) also has a compass to include other stakeholders.

Swarn Singh

WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION(WTO) REFORMS GS- 3 INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION

The 12th ministerial conference of WTO took place from 13 November-3rd December in Geneva. The WTO is the principal forum for setting the rules of international trades for the past two and half decades, it has helped reduce barriers to trade in goods and services and created a dispute resolution system however, due to incongruence in consensus, WTO is under considerable pressure to achieve meaningful results. The committee is yet to find a solution to the issue of public stock holding. India has won that there is an attempt to drive a wedge between developing and least developing countries on public stock holding and sought a permanent solution on an issue that is critical for Procurement by agencies such as FCI.

CHALLENGES FACED BY THE WTO: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

1. Dispute settlement cases continue to be filed for time being and are being litigated a civil dialogue over trade issues persists.
2. Technical functioning is to educate for 21st century problems in critical areas the WTO has neither responded nor adopted not delivered.
3. Functioning of state enterprises engaging in commercial activities is distorting the principles of WTO, which prefers the private sector to operate in a market economy.
4. Many WTO members bear responsibility for the use of trade-distorting domestic subsidies. Agriculture and industrial subsidies have caused blockage in the system and prompted protectionist reactions in a number of WTO members.
5. Blockage and deadlock in the appellate body e stage of the dispute settlement system has halted the progress.
6. The WTO lost the critical balance between the organisation as an institution established to support, consolidate and kind economic reform to counter damaging protectionism, and the organisation as an institution for litigation based dispute settlement.
7. For years now the multilateral system for the settlement of trade disputes has been under intense scrutiny and constant criticism. The United States has systematically blocked the appointment of new appellate body members (judges).and de facto impeded the work of the WTO appeal mechanism.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

1. To accommodate conflicting economic models of markets versus state all WTO members will have to accept the operative assumption of a rules based order steered by a market economy, the private sector and competition.
2. WTO should recognise the food security concern will not disappear and has launched negotiation to address the intervening issues of agricultural subsidies and market access.
3. A credible trading system requires a dispute settlement system that is accepted by all.
4. WTO rules are outdated in a number of areas. New rules are required to keep pace with changes in the market and technology. Rules and discipline on topics ranging from trade distorting industrial subsidies to digital trade require updates.
5. Balance in organisation should be restored through serious negotiation in an open ended plurilateral manner that cannot be blocked by those who do not want to move ahead.
6. On the negotiating tables and issues related to the liberalization of the goods and services trade and of course guarantee for free flow of data across international boundaries all aim at facilitating expansion of business of e-commerce firms.

CONCLUSION

WTO should acknowledge that free trade has been an important engine of growth for developing countries in Asia, and it could be promoted in the global trading regime. The developing country should be allowed to limit imports more than developed countries, under special and differential treatment, then only a fair WTO reform could be achieved.

Anshum Verma

5G and India (GS Paper-III, Science & Technology) Source: Indian Express

CONTEXT

- The Department of Telecommunication (DOT) is going to meet senior officials from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Ministry of Defence and ISRO to work out on the final details of the 5G spectrum.
- Last year Department of Telecommunication had requested Ministry of defence to make 100 mhz in the frequency band of 3300- 3400mhz.
- The Department of Telecommunication stated that the cities of Gurgaon, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Mumbai, Chandigarh, Delhi, Jamnagar, Ahmedabad, Chennai, Hyderabad, Lucknow, Pune and Gandhinagar would be the first one to get 5G services in 2022.

TRIALS OF 5G SERVICES IN INDIA: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Three private telecom service providers namely Bharti Airtel, Reliance Jio Infocomm and Vodafone-Idea along with Telecom equipment makers like Nokia have been conducting trials at test sites in above mentioned cities.

WHAT IS 5G? TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

- 5G is the fifth generation Technology standard for broadband cellular network which has been termed as the successor of 4G network.

ADVANTAGES OF THE 5G TECHNOLOGY: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- 5G networks have **increased capacity** this can help reduce the impact of the load spikes e.g. that takes place during news events.
- It has the advantage of sending large amount of data at very **high speed** because it operates in the millimeter wave spectrum (30- 300GHz).
- 5G has **low latency** when compared to 4G networks which will eventually support new applications such as Artificial Intelligence and internet of things etc.
- With the aim of **Powering innovation**, the 5G network can connect with a whole range of different devices including drones and sensors.
- Less tower congestion, since 5G operates with more bandwidth and high speed it reduces the tower concession, a problem posed by 4G networks.

DISADVANTAGES OF 5G NETWORK: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

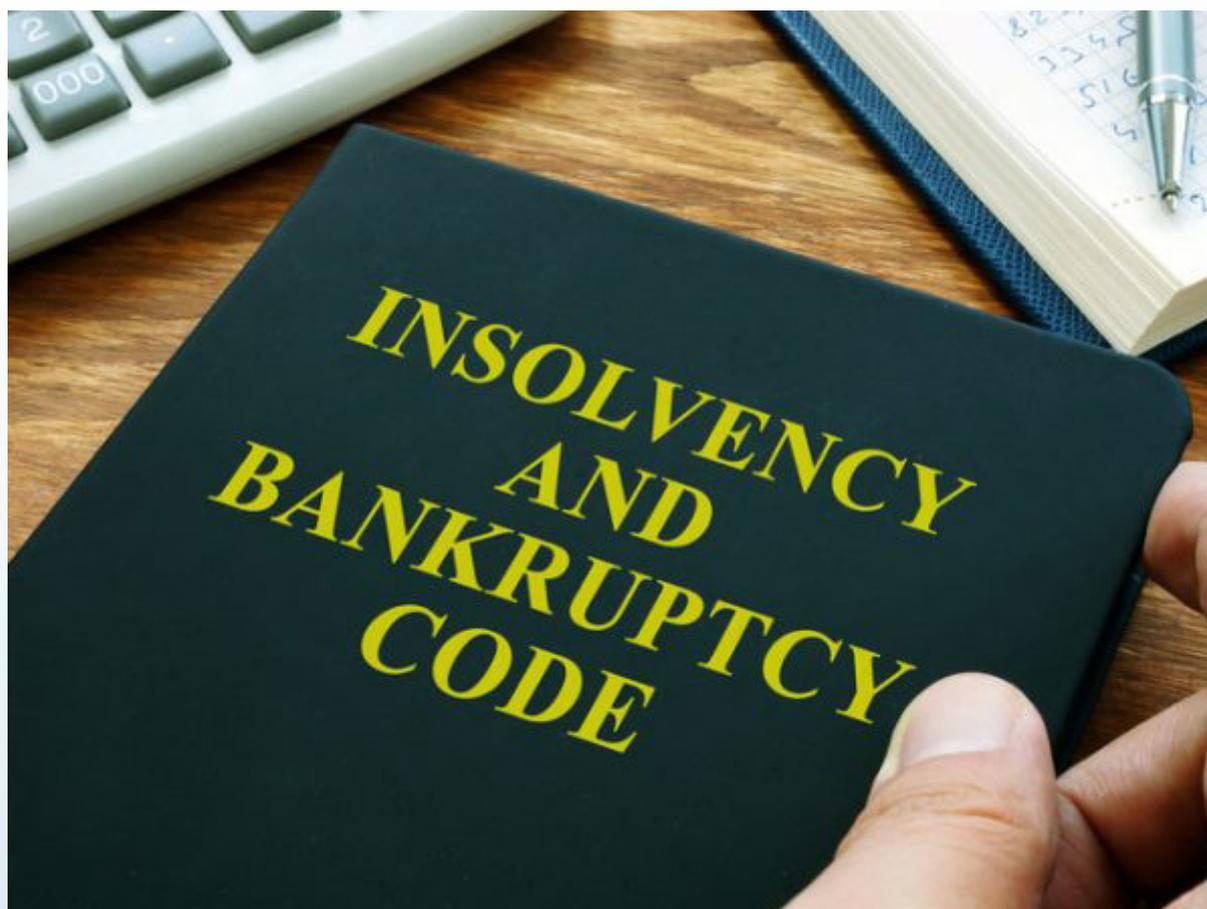
- **Limited coverage**, 5G is available only in the specific location and specially limited to cities. At the same time expenses for setting Tower stations are high.
- **Decreased broadcast distance**, another area of concern is that 5G does not cover long distance. It cannot travel as far as when compared to 4G. This requires more Tower coverage which makes it expensive.
- **Cybersecurity**, the increase to band, enables criminals to easily steal data making it prone to hacking. At the same time **lack of encryption** in the early phase of 5G is too much of a problem as it would impact companies because of hacking.
- **Miscellaneous**, Lower upload speed when compared to its download speed. Problem of heat of the device on which it is operating is another problem reported.

SIGNIFICANCE OF 5G TECHNOLOGY FOR INDIA: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- The importance of 5G Technology has been highlighted in **The National Digital Communication Policy 2018**. The policy mentions the need to expand broadband connectivity across the country. It talks about the necessity to explore and utilize the opportunities presented by the next generation network – 5G.
- 5G along with Internet of Things, Artificial Intelligence, big data shall be the critical enabler of the **fourth industrial revolution**.
- It will also boost the economy with the increased the connectivity between machines and various sectors which in turn would increase the efficiency.
- It is expected that it will be creating a cumulative economic impact of USD 1 trillion in India by 2035.

Swarn Singh

Understanding the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 and the Amendment done in 2021 (GS 3, Economics, The Hindu, Indian Express, PIB)



CONTEXT:

In 2016 Government enacted the Insolvency and Bankruptcy code 2016, an act of parliament to resolve the claims involving insolvent companies.

It is considered a one-stop solution for resolving insolvencies. Previous to this, Insolvency had been a long process, which did not offer an economically viable arrangement.

It is to be understood in a way that when a company declares itself insolvent, means it is unable to run the business in the backdrop of huge losses and would be interested in closing down. During this time the company would be unable to pay the loan amount back to the bank or interest to bondholders or profit to shareholders. The stakeholders would be unhappy with the performance of the company and could demand their share. The chances are that during the phases of losses, the company would be unable to give back the due share/contribution of different stakeholders. The Hindu Analysis.

On looking into the failing of the company, different stakeholders, especially the creditors, can file petitions against the company regarding the unfulfillment of its obligations as per the agreed agreement. (for example National Companies Law Tribunal is a special court to hear the cases of different stakeholders of a company especially the creditors).

Or the company itself can declare itself as insolvent and bankrupt. The company will then stop the business and will start the Liquidation of its assets through auctioning means selling the existing Assets and will be giving the money to the creditors and other stakeholders.

The other option available to the company is Insolvency Resolution that is to sell the whole business to another other party. The new party which has bought the business of the defaulted company or say bought the whole company itself, will be responsible to give the money of different stakeholders of the defaulted company especially the creditors.

On the declaration of bankruptcy, the process of liquidation of assets or the insolvency resolution process used to be very lengthy and time taken. During the said process time, which used to go sometimes like many years, the resources of the company would remain stuck and would not be utilized. The Hindu Analysis.

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy code 2016 introduces a **time bond process** to resolve insolvency. The code aims to protect the interests of small investors and has changed to the **debtor(companies)-creditor(banks) relationship**. This code was intended to tackle the bad debts/NPAs/Stressed Assets problems.

As per the school, when a company (debtors) defaults in the repayment of loans to the banks (creditors), the banks (creditors) gain control over the company's assets and take decisions to resolve insolvency. Under IBC, debtors and creditors both can initiate the recovery proceedings against each other, But the resolving C process has to be completed within 180 days. Hence it is a time bond insolvency process, but could be extended if the creditors do not raise objections. The overall concept of the time bond insolvency resolution is that the company's resources/assets/business/fund if not earning return, should be given (sold via auction) in the other hand of others who can better manage the said resources/assets/business/fund (of the defaulted company) and fulfill the obligations of different stakeholders, For example interest and principal payment to the creditors and bondholders, redemption of bonds and debentures on maturity etc.)

An amendment has been made in the IBC in 2021 (Insolvency and Bankruptcy (Amendment) Act, 2021) which introduces the concept of PIRP (Prepackaged Insolvency Resolution Process). Earlier it was mainly the creditors who can initiate the insolvency resolution process but After this amendment under PIRP, the corporate debtors can also initiate and prepare the resolution plan.

The Amendment brings forth the 'Pre-packaged Insolvency Resolution Process' ["PIRP"] as a method of tackling enterprises in duress, effectively serving as an alternative to the 'Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process' ["CIRP"] The Hindu Analysis.

As opposed to CIRP where apart from the corporate debtor itself, it is primarily the creditors of a company that can initiate the insolvency process,⁴ PIRP foresees application of initiation of resolution only by the Corporate Debtor ["CD"].⁵ In the latter, it is the CD that prepares a resolution plan that undergoes a two-layered approval mechanism i.e. first with the Committee of Creditors ["CoC"], and then the Adjudicating Authority.

The Significance of Australia Japan Historic Security Alliance

CONTEXT :

Australia and Japan will sign a treaty on 5th Jan to increase defense and security cooperation in a move that has been hailed as "Historic".

INTRODUCTION :

The US and Australia along with India and the Japan are also the member of a strategic dialogue known as "the Quad" and this new defense treaty between Australia and Japan will definitely make the Quad more Strong

and from the India's perspective, this treaty would definitely will make China anger

WHAT IS THIS LATEST TREATY BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND JAPAN:

Prime minister Scott Morrison of Australia and Fumino Kishida of Japan, signed a defense treaty through a virtual conference. After this Treat both nations will come more close to each other and in defense point of view this treaty will make Quad More Stronger. This defense treaty is not only limited up to defense only but it will be helpful in the mutual cooperation regarding the values, and commitment for the democracy. This treaty will definitely enhance the status of both countries Indo Pacific region

In September 2021, Australia also signed a so called Aukus trilateral security pact with the united state and Britain under which Australia would get help from Britain and US regarding the affairs of nuclear power submarine also

WHY CHINA IS UPSET WITH THIS DEAL :

Japan and China have been rivals for a long time and China will never want to increase the influence of Japan in the Pacific sea, therefore on the Aukus, China declared it as the threat for the peace and stability in the pacific sea. China also said that this type of treaty would intensify the arms race and undermine international non proliferation efforts. In Fact after this treaty, the influence of India would also increase in the Indian Ocean with the support of Australia and in the Pacific Ocean with the support of Japan.

SIGNIFICANCE FOR INDIA :

Presently India is facing the issue of China's aggression continuously. New Border laws of the Chinese definitely increased the worries of India. After the is treaty, Chinese aggression may be balanced and for the establishment of the peace in India, the balance of power between India and China must be required. Australian Prime minister stated that "Our cooperation also includes an expanding agenda for the Quad with India and the United States, and our shared technology-led approach to reducing carbon emissions,"

CONCLUSION

The Australia Japan Historical treaty definitely brought some new equations in Asia pacific regions. One side it would bring a palace of power in Asia and influence The QUAD over the Asia pacific region on the other side it could counter the latest Chinese aggression over India. This treaty would definitely be beneficial for India's perspective. Strategically, India would be more powerful as well as economically aslo. As described in Arthasastra of the kauliya, the basic principle of the forein policy is to protect its own interest and to secure its own territory. In this regard, This historic treaty between japan and Australia will be beneficial for India (Source : Indian Express)

Swarn Singh

WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION (WTO) REFORMS

The 12th ministerial conference of WTO took place from 13 November-3rd December in Geneva. The WTO is the principal forum for setting the rules of international trades for the past two and half decades, it has helped reduce barriers to trade in goods and services and created a dispute resolution system however, due to incongruence in consensus,WTO is under considerable pressure to achieve meaningful results. The committee is yet to find a solution to the issue of public stock holding. India has won that there is an attempt to drive a wedge between developing and least developing countries on public stock holding and sought a permanent solution on an issue that is critical for Procurement by agencies such as FCI.

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Swarn Singh

INDIA'S 5G LEAP

India's telecom sector which has revolutionised the digital space and facilities services- LED growth and quality of life has been estimated to be one of the top performers globally. The 5G network will shape the fourth industrial revolution, quality of service delivery, innovation etc by facilitating smart and developing society.

COMMERCIAL 5G NETWORK

Commercial 5G networks begin to be deployed in 2020 and are expected to reach 12% of world mobile connection and generate revenues Upto 1.3 trillion dollars by 2025 for operators.

The technology that 5G uses will improve data transfer speed at unexpected higher levels almost hundred times more and reduce latency Times helping mission critical services.

POTENTIAL OF 5G

- 5G has the potential to provide a wide range of benefits to the Indian economy as it will provide a new dimension to connect an autonomous system through to enhance artificial intelligence.
- Its use is a chance for policymakers to educate and empower citizens' businesses and transform existing cities into smart cities.
- 5G will enhance the IOT, smart agriculture, energy monitoring, smart grid, tele-health industrial automation, remote patient monitoring etc.
- It will advance digital regulation through a more data-intensive digital economy

CHALLENGES

- It is imperative to undertake an independent economy assessment for commercial viability for 5G deployment in India.
- India's telecom sector has also been in doldrums for the last few years.
- The Supreme court ruling on dues being shot by the department of telecommunication has exacerbated the financial condition of telecom companies.
- The number of telecom operators have reduced.
- In this scenario the huge investment required for 5G may add to the burden of limited operators.
- The trial run of 5G in developed countries such as Japan and the US revealed that the investment is very high.

GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

- The big telecom package along with the reforms announced by the government will create an enabling environment for investment in the sector.
- Steps such as moratorium on dues, redefining adjusted gross revenues, and reducing spectrum charge will help the telecom companies.
- FDI in the telecom sector under the automatic route along with this policy reforms augurs well for the sector to attract investment.

WAY FORWARD

- The immediate priority for India will be in-
 1. Identify users and population to be covered.

2. Analysis of the existing network operators
3. Identification of cities for the 5G roll out.
4. Working out an investment model and pricing based on externalities factors and usage of various sectors.
 - The deployment of 5G in India needs to be carefully planned after a cost benefit analysis by an independent expert which will create a level playing field.
 - Focus on companies having experience of ensuring telecom networks to remote areas and the potential to provide affordable coverage.
 - Sharing of available spectrum to maximise it efficiently used especially in rural areas, and spectrum allocation procedure that favour investment need to be considered.
 - As the deployment is expensive both the central and state governments may concern measures which attract investment through PPP and facility investment funds on a nominal interest basis.

Swarn Singh

Infrastructure in India

HISTORY

The model envisaged a dominant role of the state as an all-pervasive entrepreneur and financier of private businesses. The Industrial Policy Resolution (IPR) of 1948 proposed a mixed economy. Earlier, the 'Bombay Plan', proposed by eight influential industrialists envisaged a considerable public sector with State interventions and regulations so as to guard indigenous industries. The political leadership believed that since planning wasn't possible during a free enterprise, the state and public sector would inevitably play a number one role in economic progress.

India found out the design Commission in 1950 to oversee the whole range of designing, including resource allocation, implementation, and appraisal of five-year plans. The Five-Year Plans were centralised economic and social growth programmes modelled after those prevalent within the USSR. India's first Five-Year Plan, launched in 1951, focused on agriculture and irrigation to spice up farm output as India was losing precious foreign reserves on foodgrain imports. The First Five-Year Plan was supported the Harrod-Domar model with few modifications. By the end of the Plan in 1956, contracts were signed to start five steel plants, which came into existence in the middle of the Second Five-Year Plan.

The Second Five-Year Plan and therefore the Industrial Policy Resolution 1956 (long considered the economic constitution of India) paved the way for the event of the general public sector and ushered in the License Raj. The Second Plan focused on the event of the general public sector and rapid Industrialisation'. The Plan followed the Mahalanobis model, an economic development model developed by the Indian statistician Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis in 1953.

From the Second Five-Year Plan, there was a determined thrust towards substitution of basic and capital good industries. Hydroelectric power projects and five steel plants at Bhilai, Durgapur, and Rourkela were established with the assistance of the Soviet Union, Britain, (the UK), and West Germany respectively. Coal production increased enormously.

Power and steel were identified as the key bases for planning. In the second plan Germany was contracted to build a steel plant in Rourkela, while Russia and Britain would build one each in Bhilai and Durgapur, respectively. Nationalisation of 14 public sector banks was a major event during the Fourth Plan (1969-74) which had a huge impact on the Indian economy & infrastructure. The Indian National transportation

system was introduced and lots of roads were widened to accommodate the increasing traffic during the Fifth Plan (1974-78).

Infrastructure provisioning requires massive investments, often over a protracted duration of your time, including procedural delays and returns expected after an extended period of investment. Consequently, given the high fiscal requirements, particularly of large-scale infrastructure development projects, public investments alone might not be sufficient to fund infrastructure development in India. Consequently, time and again there have been recommendations to encourage private participation in infrastructure development through various forms of Public-private Partnerships (PPPs)

REAL ESTATE (REGULATION AND DEVELOPMENT ACT) [RERA]

Proactive measures, such as the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 (RERA), Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs), the Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Amendment Act 2016, higher tax breaks on home loans, the products and Services Tax (GST), land-related reforms, optimising development control rules, rationalising of the stamp tax and registration charges, digitalisation, etc., have also been introduced by the govt. Before RERA, the Indian land sector was largely unregulated till 2016, which led to several anomalies leading to various unfair practices, ultimately affecting the homebuyers adversely.

Responding to the demand and provide gap in affordable housing, the govt of India launched Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY)- Urban in 2015. The larger goal is to satisfy the housing needs of homeless urban poor and enable them to have decent pucca houses with basic infrastructure facilities by 2022. Based on demand assessment at the state level, the state has the mammoth task of constructing about 12 million houses under the EWS/LIG segment of the society so as to achieve the goal of Housing for All.

These initiatives will be effective in spurring housing and construction activities, providing huge relief to real estate developers. Also, these would attract private and foreign investments within the housing sector, having a positive multiplier effect on GDP and labour market.

The availability of encumbrance-free land within existing municipal areas for urban housing schemes isn't a simple task. Therefore, provision has been made to incorporate rural areas falling within the notified Planning/Development areas, under the ambit of PMAY (U). It would leverage the availability of additional land at a cheaper cost for the construction of affordable houses.

Bharatmala Pariyojana may be a new umbrella programme for the highways sector that focuses on optimising the efficiency of freight and passenger movement across the country by bridging critical infrastructural gaps through effective interventions like the development of Economic Corridors, Inter Corridors, and Feeder Routes, National Corridor Efficiency Improvement, Border and International connectivity roads, Coastal and Port connectivity roads, and Green-field expressways.

URBAN MASS RAPID TRANSPORT- DMRC

The concept of mass rapid transit for brand spanking new Delhi first emerged from a traffic and travel characteristics study which was administered within the city in 1969.

While extensive technical studies and the raising of finance for the project were in progress, the city expanded significantly, resulting in a two-fold rise in population, and a five-fold rise in the number of vehicles between 1981 and 1998. To rectify things, the govt of India and therefore the Government of Delhi jointly found out a corporation called the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) on 3 May 1995, with E Sreedharan as the Managing Director.

WAY FORWARD

The Introduction of 'MetroLite' or 'MetroNeo', as recommended by the Government, is mandated in cities

with lower capacity requirements. This is considering the significantly less capital cost which has a bearing on the overall funding requirement and commercial sustainability.

Over the short term, unbundled private participation for all new/expansions of existing metro systems may be taken up. Herein, various high capital expenditure components such as stations, rolling stock, maintenance facilities, etc., should be undertaken through long-term contract/concession for private investment. Also, securitisation of operational assets should be tested in the market. Innovative financing mechanisms to fund metro projects are required to be explored and Non-Fare Box revenue streams are to be augmented. Provisions have been made in Metro Bill to attract private investment.

The quality of structure development in India needs critical attention if the country intends to realise its profitable and growth eventuality. Structure development remains a crucial constraint in India's profitable development. Although investments in structure alone don't guarantee growth, in general, scholarly studies estimate that a strong association exists between the vacuity of structure vistles and profitable growth measured in terms of gross domestic product (GDP). In other words, artificial growth is contingent upon the development of other infrastructural installations similar as transportation, energy, and electricity, and dispatches. Still, structure development in itself remains both a fiscal and a nonsupervisory challenge. In order to do so, in addition to the available vistles for public investments, sweats must be made to adequately channelise the openings for private participation in the real estate/ casing sector.

Swarn Singh

United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and nuclear weapons

CONTEXT

- The five permanent members of the UN Security Council vow to stop the proliferation of the nuclear weapon.
- A Joint statement was issued by five most powerful countries of the world namely China, Russia, US, UK and France. It said that "the further spread of the nuclear weapons must be prevented as a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought".

CURRENT INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

- The rise of China and its growing tension with the US could escalate into conflict specially over Taiwan.
- China considers Taiwan as a part of one China and can even capture it by force if required.
- There has also been mounting tension between Russia and the US, a rare phenomenon seen since the Cold War. The issue is the rising deployment of Russia's military near the Ukrainian border.

A WELCOME STEP

- Russia welcomed the declaration and stated that such initiations would help reduce the Global tension.

WHAT IS NPT?

- NPT stands for Non Proliferation Treaty of nuclear weapons. The Treaty aims to prevent and control the spread of nuclear weapons and nuclear Technology for the purpose of conflict and war and to promote cooperation in the Peaceful use of nuclear energy.
- NPT includes three elements

- 1) Non-proliferation
 - 2) Disarmament
 - 3) Peaceful use of nuclear energy
- NPT was signed in the year of 1968 and came into force in 1970.

KEY PROVISIONS

- Those states that have devised nuclear weapons prior to 1 January 1967 were termed as Nuclear Weapons State(NWS) and the remaining countries were considered as the Non Nuclear Weapons States(NNWS).
- This implies that the state with the nuclear weapons will move towards disarmament and the states without the nuclear weapons will not acquire them.
- However the Treaty does not prevent or deny the rights of the states to use nuclear energy/ Technology for the peaceful purpose.

ISSUES RELATED TO NPT

- There was the failure of the disarmament process during the cold war period. The major power blocks rushed towards various nuclear and other weapons development during this period. Therefore the objective of heading towards the disarmament process met with a setback.
- The Treaty has also been categorised as the discriminatory one, which focuses entirely on preventing the horizontal proliferation and not on the vertical proliferation.

INDIA AND NPT

- India has always considered NPT to be a discriminatory one. The Treaty divides the world into two i.e. haves and have nots.
- India's stand since the beginning has been that either the five nation in the possession of the nuclear weapon shall either denuclearized themselves or every Nation shall have equal right to possess them.
- Therefore India never signed the Treaty.

WAY FORWARD

- The rising demand for energy has made many countries pursue energy independence. The countries are racing towards nuclear energy.
- The challenge for the international community lies in Reconciling the Nation's demand for being energy independent with non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.
- The world shall establish a nuclear weapon free zone which can help reduce the proliferation.(Source: The Hindu)

Swarn Singh

FRCA licensing Issues (GS Paper-II, Polity, Constitution, Governance and International Relations) Source: The Hindu

CONTEXT

The renewal of the license of Missionaries of Charity (order founded by Mother Teresa) was refused by the

Union Home Ministry, stating that some adverse inputs were noticed in the NGO.

BACKGROUND

- Ministry of Home Affairs canceled the license of about 6600 organizations to receive money from Overseas under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act 2010 between 2016 to 2020.
- Recently in 2020 FCRA Amendment Bill was passed by the Indian Parliament.

WHAT IS FCRA?

- The objective of the Act is to supervise and regulate the foreign funds and donations to the NGOs and ensure that such funds do not affect the internal security of the country.
- The act came into force in 1976 and was amended in 2010 and then in 2020.
- Ministry of Home Affairs is the nodal agency for the implementation of the FCRA.
- The union government has the ultimate power to declare an organization unfit to receive the foreign funding on the ground of being political in nature under article 5 of FCRA 2010.

LATEST AMENDMENT, FCRA BILL 2020

KEY PROVISIONS

- Public servants are not allowed to receive foreign funding.
- There is prohibition on the transfer of foreign contribution to any other person.
- The bill define the term person as an individual and Association or a registered company.
- Only FCRA accounts must be used for the deposition of the foreign contribution.

NEED FOR AMENDMENT

- Between 2010-2019 the inflow of the foreign funds increased and almost doubled. But the funds have not been utilized for the registered purpose. For Example, recently the license of 6 NGOs were suspended for allegedly using the fund for the religious conversion.
- There has been several instances of lack of proper maintenance of accounts and poor adherence to statutory compliance.
- These have adversely undermined the internal security of the country.

ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH AMENDMENT

- Several checks and caps on the administrative expenses would make the functioning of even the big NGOs impossible. This would also impact the livelihood of the workers associated with the NGOs.
- The NGOs are of diverse nature. And sometimes it may happen that in order to curtail the dubious activities of the organizations, the government may fail to recognise its diversity. This may hamper the competitiveness of the NGOs.
- The amendment also fails to comply with India's constitutional provision to protect fundamental rights to freedom of association, expression etc.
- It also does not resonate with the International laws. Example according to the United Nation Human Right Commission no laws should delegitimize activities in defense of human rights.

WAY FORWARD

- NGOs play a very pivotal role in the country specially in the area where the government fails to render

its duty.

- It must be noted and understood that the sharing of ideas and resources across the border is important for the development of the world as whole.
- The government shall adhere and stick to the ideas of Vasudeva Kutumbakam and shall not interfere and discourage the funding unless there is a strong reason for it.

Vivek Raj

Western disturbances and rainfall in India (The Hindu, GS-1)

CONTEXT-

The continuous rainfall across Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, north Rajasthan, west Uttar Pradesh in the last 3-4 were predicted by the Meteorological Department earlier itself. First, it was the jitters and now it's the rains. IMD predicted that after a shivering cold surge, two successive western disturbances are likely to bring downfall to the corridor of North India and the central corridor of India in the days to come.

WESTERN DISTURBANCES

Western Disturbances develop in the mid-latitude region (north of the Tropic of Cancer), not in the tropical region, thus they're called mid-latitude storms or extra-tropical storms.

Extra-Tropical Cyclones are also called downtime storms and blizzards.

It's a term given by an Indian Meteorologist for the rainfall miracle which is propagated from the West.

Western Disturbances are low- pressure systems, bedded in western winds (westerlies) that flow from west to the east.

The low pressure generally forms over the Mediterranean Sea and travels over Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan before entering India loaded with humidity.

These humidity-laden western disturbances ultimately come up against the Himalayas and get blocked, as a consequence, the humidity gets trapped and rush is participated in the form of snow and rain over Northwest India and occasionally, other corridors of North India.

A normal of 4-5 western disturbances form during the downtime season and the downfall distribution and quantum varies with every western disturbance.

The word 'Western' refers to the direction from which they appear with regard to India.

The word 'disturbance' is used because the air within the low- pressure systems tends to be unstable or perturbed.

Occasionally, when western disturbances come more violent in the Indian Region, they can extend indeed up to 15 degrees north, performing in downfall up to north Maharashtra, Gujarat, and the entire Madhya Pradesh to the south.

HOW WILL THE TWO WESTERN DISTURBANCES AFFECT INDIA?

IMPACT

North-West India receives most of its winter precipitation and pre monsoon rains from Western Disturbances only. This miracle is generally associated with a cloudy sky, advanced night temperatures, and unusual rain. If we go by some of the estimates say India receives almost 10% of its total periodic rainfall from these disturbances. Also disturbances bring snowfall and moderate to heavy rains in different parts of north india.

India is a rain-dependent country and while the southwest thunderstorm covers most of India, the corridor of North India doesn't get important rain from it. These regions depend upon snow and rain from western disturbance during the downtime season from November to March.

Rush during the downtime season has great significance in husbandry particularly for rabi crops including wheat, which is one of the most important Indian crops.

They start declining after downtime. These western disturbances move across North India in the month of April and May and sometimes thunderstorms in certain parts of northwest India are also activated by it.

During the thunderstorm season, western disturbances may sometimes beget thick clouding and heavy rush.

If the western disturbances are weak, will result in crop failure and water problems in north India states.

Strong western disturbances can help residents, growers and governments avoid numerous of the problems associated with water failure.

CASUALTIES

Since western disturbances aren't high-intensity rainfall systems, they aren't generally associated with disasters but in recent history, it's observed that this salutary rainfall miracle is decreasingly getting disastrous during the summer and thunderstorm seasons.

The 2010 rainstorm in Leh, in which 71 municipalities and townlets were damaged and 225 people failed was caused due to the western disturbances.

In September 2014, the Kashmir region suffered disastrous cataracts across numerous of its sections killing over 200 people and western disturbances were the cause of this.

Expert opinion on western disturbances is divided regarding the 2013 cataracts in Uttarakhand in which over 5000 people were killed, after three days of ceaseless downfall. While numerous believe that Uttarakhand cataracts may have passed due to relations between western disturbances and the summer thunderstorm, numerous others believe that western disturbances and thunderstorms occur in fully different time frames.

SIGNIFICANCE OF WESTERN DISTURBANCES

The western disturbances affect rainfall conditions during the downtime season up to Patna (Bihar) and give occasional downfall which is largely salutary for the standing rabi crops, (wheat, barley, mustard, gram, lentil, etc.).

Ritu

Unrest in Kazakhstan and its impact over Indian's Economy GS Paper 2 and Paper 3 Source : The Hindu, Indian Express

CONTEXT :

A Moscow military alliance dispatched troops to help quell mounting unrest in Kazakhstan and dozens people were killed who were demonstrating against the government of the Kazakhstan

INTRODUCTION

- Kazakhstan is a central Asian country of Turkic tribes. Earlier it was a member of the Soviet Union. It is oil rich country and now days it is facing the problem of huge protest against the government. Generally Kazakhstan was a stable but repressive country so protests are not common in this country. After 4th Jan

2022, Kazakhstan is burning in the flame of Chaos, thousands of people are killed and many are injured. As India's point of view stability in Kazakhstan is more required. Kazakhstan is India's largest trade and investment partner in Central Asia.

- The protest erupted in Kazakhstan because of the hike in the price of LPG which is generally used by the citizens in their cars as a fuel. In fact, after the amendment in national laws, first parliamentary elections were held in 2021 and the government was formed under the presidency of Kassym Tokayev.

RELATION OF KAZAKHSTAN WITH INDIA

- Kazakhstan is an energy rich central Asian country. India has bilateral economic relations with Kazakhstan also. India has good political relations with Afghanistan also. With the establishment of Afghanistan, India opened its embassy in Almaty in May 1992 and With the shifting of the capital Kazakhstan India opened another embassy in Astana in 1997.
- Although India has had a close cultural relation with Kazakhstan for thousands of years. India has already invited the Kazakhstan president as chief guest on the occasion of 26th January celebration (2009). Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi participated in the 17th SCO Summit in Astana on June 8-9, 2017.
- India was admitted as a full member of the SCO during the Summit. India and Kazakhstan actively cooperate under the aegis of Multilateral Fora including CICA, SCO and the UN organizations. Kazakhstan supports India's permanent membership in an expanded UNSC. India supported Kazakhstan's successful candidate for non-permanent membership of UNSC in 2017-18.
- There are almost 6000 (As per the report of Ministry of external affairs), most of them are students (3400) this shows that This country is the partner of Indians in knowledge imparting also.

WHAT SHOULD BE ROLE OF INDIA ON THE MATTER OF KAZAKHSTAN'S UNREST

Initially, India should not interfere in the internal affairs of the Kazakhstan. Kazakhstan is countering the unrest with the support of Russia and at any cost the president of Kazakhstan is not ready to negotiate with protesters because the government of Kazakhstan has already declared that these protesters or the armed bandit and the foreign militant. The Indian government should make the effort for the establishment of the peace in Kazakhstan. India should also appeal to the government of Afghanistan to protect human rights along with national security. Russia and most of the countries of the former USSR have been good friends of India, so India should maintain this relationship for a long time.

CONCLUSION

The deteriorating condition of Kazakhstan has also been a matter of concern for India because Kazakhstan has been a good friend, partner, and Indian for a long time. Any unrest or any political instability can adversely influence India's interest. therefore Government of India should keep its close eyes over the matter of Kazakhstan and support Kazakhstan as per the requirement

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Significance of Japan US defense Cooperation : In Special Reference to India and China (GS paper II) Source : The Hindu

CONTEXT :

Japan moved ahead with an expansion of support to U.S. troops as the allies held top-level talks on Friday over tensions with China and North Korea. The new agreement “will invest greater resources to deepen our military readiness and interoperability”

INTRODUCTION

After the second world war, Japan has been facing threats from the side China and North Korea. Japan was deprived from the right to wage war from any country and almost its security responsibility was transferred to the US therefore US – Japan defense cooperation is the byproduct of the defeat of the Japan during second world war. For the peace of Asia, the US – Japan security alliance is essential.

In Asia, to counter the Chinese aggression as well as North Korea, the defense sector of Japan must be independent and strong. Therefore the US – Japan defense treaty had been signed in 1951 but it took effect by 1960.

WHAT IS THE US JAPAN DEFENSE TREATY

This treaty allows US army to enter in any strategic important regions to protect them

Both nations are committed to defend each other

Both Countries would resolve any international dispute peacefully only

Japan should bear the cost of US army if deployed in the protection of the Japan

SIGNIFICANCE

- North Korea and China have been rivals of Japan for a long time. Both countries are anti democratic and aggressive. The Chinese concern is Taiwan which is enjoying its sovereignty but China does not recognise Taiwan as the independent country
- The new agreement “will invest greater resources to deepen military readiness and interoperability of both countries
- US – Japan Treaty must not only strengthen the tools which they have but also develop new ones,
- The allies were “evolving roles and missions of US and Japan both to reflect Japan’s growing ability to contribute to regional peace and stability
- Japan renounced its right to wage war after the Second World War and has since developed a close alliance with Washington, which is treaty-bound to defend the world’s third-largest economy.
- Japan increased the package for this treaty 5 % more so that they could show their common rivals that they will not be going to tolerate any aggression in the Indo Pacific region. The package comes amid growing tensions with China, which has stepped up incursions near the self-ruling democracy Taiwan.
- From the India’s perspective, this treaty would be helpful to counter Chinese aggression against India

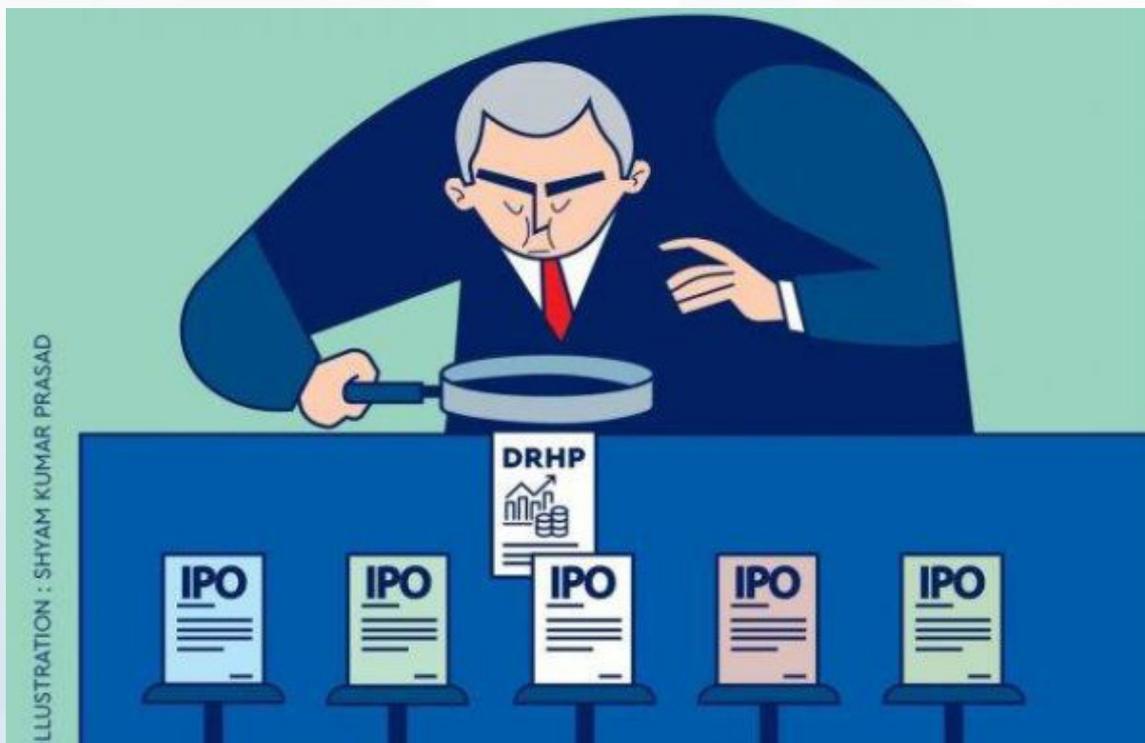
CONCLUSION

Beijing’s provocative actions keep raising tensions across the Taiwan Strait and in the East and South China Sea and North Korea’s missile programmes in which Pyongyang fired a suspected ballistic missile into the

sea are the incidents which had created the threat in South China sea. Similarly, the Chinese aggression over the territory of India (Building a bridge in disputed area in Arunachal region, Amendments border law a and allowing Chinese forces and civilians to protect its border). Along with these incidents happening during a month, the renewal of the US Japan Defense treaty is good news for India. Similarly Australia Japan Security Alliance is also in the favor of India's interest. Any how, for the national interest, Chinese aggression must be counter and it can be only countered by Japan, US, Australia as well as India which is essential for the peace in Asia

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

SEBI's new norms for the process of IPOs : Lets understand with examples (GS 3, Economics, The Hindu, Indian Express, Financial Express)



NEWS/CONTEXT:

Recently the regulator of stock market, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has announced the tighter rules for unlisted companies raising capital from the market (Retail investors/institutional investors/anchor investors/preferential investor) through the issuance of IPOs (Initial Public Offerings).

- As per the new rule the minimum Price band will be at least 105% of the floor price.
- SEBI has tightened norms for the sale of share via OFS.
- Shareholders who own more than 20% pre-issue cannot sell more than 50%. Those holding less than 20% pre-issue cannot offer more than 10% under OFS.
- The lock-in period is also increased from existing 30 days to 90 days for 50% of the portion of the pre issue shares. The existing 30 days lock in period shall continue for the 50% of the portion.

All these technicalities can be understood with examples : Supposedly a private limited company wants more capital which it can raise from the market through issuing Initial Public Offerings. Initial Public Offerings are new shares which are issued to the market /public. These can be bought by Individual Investors (also called as retail investors) or Institutional Investors (which are mostly banks, companies or Financial Institutions). After issuing IPOs, the company gets listed in any stock exchange and becomes a public limited company. It means that the company's shares are held with public or market people. In this process companies raise funds from the market and it will be said that the company went public.

But before issuing IPOs, companies issue Pre-IPOs (or generally said as Pre Issue). The investors which buy the pre issue of a company, are called as anchor investors. They are generally big Companies or Financial Institutions or NBFCs.

SEBI Requires that there should be a minimum price band of 105% of the floor price. (The price band is a range of price within which investors can bid).

After issuing a pre-issue (shares) the company issues IPOs in the market to the public (retail investors and institutional investors can buy). And then the trading of the share (shares hold by public or say IPOs) of the company in the market on the platform of a stock exchange, starts.

During this trading Anchor investors who acquired pre-issue shares can also become interested in selling their shares, if they don't want to retain their shares (This is called as offer-for-sale (OFS). If the anchor investors sell their shares on the very first day of the trading (after issuing IPOs), the share value of the companies on the first day of trading could fall like anything. To stop this sudden fall there is a concept of lock-in period, where anchor investors can sell their shares (pre issue shares through OFS) only after the completion of the lock in period. SEBI has increased the lock-in period for 50% of the pre issue share from 30 days to 90 days and for 50% of the pre issue share, it is still 30 days. Here SEBI simply wants that these larger investors like anchor investors should invest in the shares of the newly listed companies for a longer number of days.

As per the new rule the minimum Price band will be at least 105% of the floor price. Sebi simply has ensured that the minimum gap in the offer price band be such that the cap price is at least 105% of the floor price. This, again, is an interesting intervention by the regulator, particularly because issuers were not providing a 'real price band'. The change will now allow investors to have multiple price points at which they may bid for shares in an IPO.

SEBI has also put restrictions on the utilization of funds raised through IPOs, If the details of the utilization are not disclosed in the offer document. Now onwards credit rating agencies registered with SEBI(rather than scheduled commercial banks and public Financial Institutions) will monitor the utilization of funds raised through IP use by the company. The utilization report is required to be submitted before the audit committee every quarter rather than annually.

The new norms of the SEBI on public issuance is basically designed to keep the large shareholders longer in the company. It will limit the selling of shares by promoters for big shareholders and will minimize the volatility and the share price after listing.

Strict rules for the utilization of funds will control the opportunistic use of funds by the promoters. It ensures a better checks and balance on the funds raised from the market/public by the company.

MD. Layeeque Azam

The debate over Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, FCRA : Let's understand the issue (GS 3, Economics, The Hindu, Indian Express, PIB)



NEWS/ CONTEXT:

The Central home ministry foreign contribution Regulation Act registration of Missionaries of Charity. Earlier to this the ministry had issued a statement in which it was said that “some adverse inputs were noticed” and because of which the registration was not renewed.

Foreign contribution Regulation Act registration is mandatory to receive foreign donations. Missionaries of Charity like many other civil organizations and NGOs receive foreign donations to run its day to day business. The Missionaries of Charity is a Catholic religious congregation which was set up by Nobel Laureate Mother Teresa.

The UK Parliament also debated the issue And asked the British government whether it had raised the issue with India of blocking the Overseas funds for Missionaries of Charity and other NGOs.

At present there are nearly 6000 NGOs whose registration has ceased to exist from January 1 as the Ministry of Home Affairs had refused renewal application for registration. Some of the organizations that lost their registrations include the Missionaries of Charity, set up by Nobel laureate Mother Teresa, the Medical Council of India, the India Islamic Center, the Oxfam India Trust and Common Cause, which have filed several PILs against central legislation in recent times.

What is FCRA? Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976 was enacted in order to regulate the acceptance and regulation of foreign contribution or foreign hospitality. The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 repealed and replaced the FCRA, 1976.

The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 came into effect on first May 2011 along with foreign contribution regulation rules 2011.

Under FCRA 1976 there was a concept of the deemed prior permission in which if an application of prior permission is not disposed of within 90 days from the date of receipt of such application then the permission prayed in that application would be deemed to be granted. The deemed prior permission granted under FCRA, 1978 will remain valid for a period of 5 years from the date of commencement of the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, 2010 after which it will have to be renewed. There is no such concept of deemed prior permission in FCRA,2010. It has to be now proper prior permission.

The Origins of FCRA: The original FCRA was enacted in 1976 by Indira Gandhi led government during the Emergency. It is alleged that the government wanted to prohibit Electoral Candidates, Political Parties, Judges, MPs and even cartoonist from accepting foreign contributions/foreign funds/foreign donations so as to clamp down on political dissent. The inclusion of cartoonists suggests the same. The justification given for the law was to curb foreign interference in domestic politics. **This was the period of cold war era when both American and Soviets to secure their strategic interest meddled in the internal affairs of post-colonial nations.**

Both Congress and Bharatiya Janata Party pulled up by Delhi High Court in 2014 for violating the SCRA as they had expected contributions from the Indian subsidiaries of London-based multinational Vedanta. The high court ordered the election commission and the government to take action against both the parties. In the financial bill of 2016 (one of the various budget documents) a section Was added that amended the relevant sections of FCRA, 2010, So what was Hitler to a foreign company now became an Indian company. This amendment was brought with retrospective effect, and legitimized the FCRA violations by the two parties. This also opened the doors for all political parties to accept funding from foreign countries if it is channeled through an Indian subsidiary.

What is new in the FCRA 2010: Firstly the registration under the FCRA 1976 was permanent but under the new one of 2010, it expired after 5 years and has to be renewed afresh. Secondly, the new law put a cap on the proportion of foreign foods that could be used for administrative expenses which is 50%, thereby allowing the government to control how a NGO/ Civil society organization spends its money. is that while 1976 law was primary targeting political parties the new law of 2010 shifted focus to organizations of a political nature. Any organization which habit will engages itself bandh hartal restaurant railroad aur jail bharo in support of public houses can be considered as organization of a political nature. For example student union, Trade union, youth forums, worker unions, farmers organization, youth organization based on caste community religion language etc could be an count.

The essence of the Act of 1976 was to protect the values of a sovereign democratic republic whereas the Act of 2010 was for, to prohibit any activities detrimental to the national interest. Thus it (national interest) required certain associations, companies or individuals to be prohibited from accepting foreign contributions.

In a recent judgment in Indian Social Action Forum (INSAF) v. UOI, the Supreme Court has held on 6th March 2020 :“The object sought to be achieved by the Act is to ensure that Parliamentary institutions, political associations and academic and other voluntary organizations as well as individuals working in the important areas of national life should function in a manner consistent with the values of a sovereign democratic republic without being influenced by foreign contributions or foreign hospitality. The long title of the Act makes it clear that the regulation of acceptance and utilization of foreign contribution is for the purpose of protecting national interest. Candidates for election and political parties or office bearers of political parties are barred from accepting any foreign contribution. The legislative intent is also to prohibit organizations of a political nature from receiving foreign contributions.”

The Supreme Court differentiated between the nature of an organisations and further held that:

“A balance has to be drawn between the object that is sought to be achieved by the legislation and the rights of the voluntary organisations to have access to foreign funds...Prohibition from receiving foreign aid, either directly or indirectly, by those who are involved in active politics is to ensure that the values of a sovereign

democratic republic are protected. On the other hand, such of those voluntary organisations which have absolutely no connection with either party politics or active politics cannot be denied access to foreign contributions. Therefore, such of those organisations which are working for the social and economic welfare of the society cannot be brought within the purview of the Act or the Rules by enlarging the scope of the term 'political interests'...

...Support to public causes by resorting to legitimate means of dissent like bandh, hartal etc. cannot deprive an organisation of its legitimate right of receiving foreign contribution. It is clear from the provision itself that bandh, hartal, rasta roko etc., are treated as common methods of political action. Any organisation which supports the cause of a group of citizens agitating for their rights without a political goal or objective cannot be penalized by being declared as an organisation of a political nature. To save this provision from being declared as unconstitutional, we hold that it is only those organisations which have connection with active politics or take part in party politics, that are covered by Rule 3(vi). To make it clear, such organisations which are not involved in active politics or party politics do not fall within the purview of Rule 3(vi)."

By this verdict, the apex court has tried to strike a balance between organizations supporting public causes by restoring legitimate means of dissent and organizations having political objectives. The former cannot be denied to access to foreign contributions.

MD. Layeeque Azam





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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 Express¹

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 Mahbub

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 (CO₂) emission (production) → average per capita global CO₂ emission (production) is 4.6 tonnes
- Per capita material footprint → average per capita global CO₂ 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 CO₂ 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

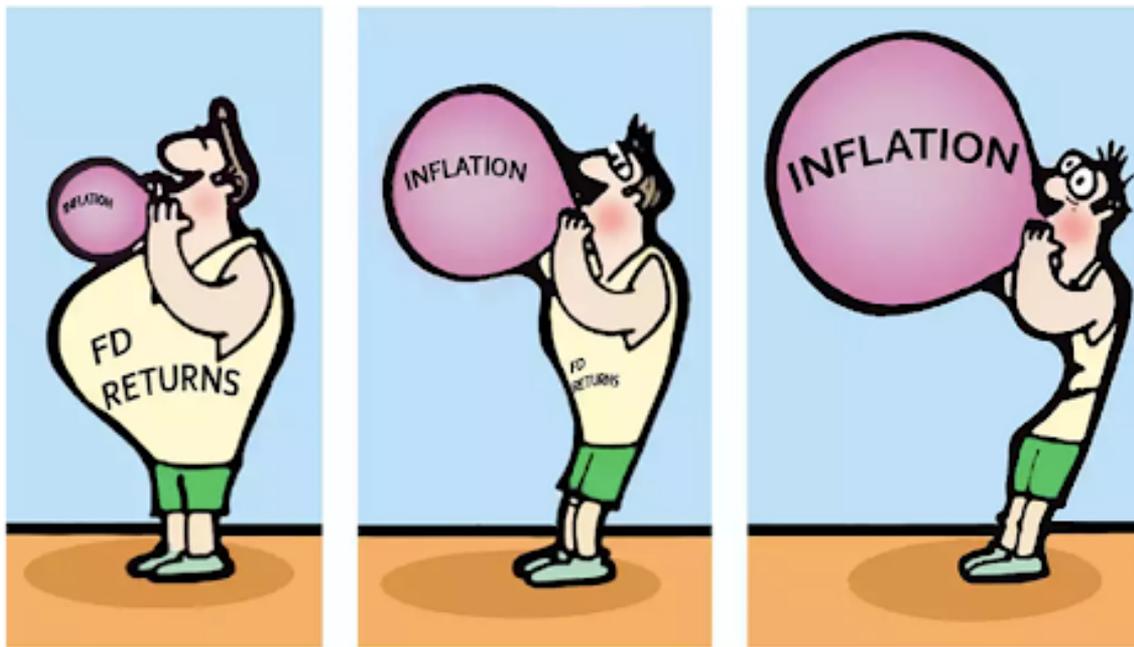
Swarn Singh

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.

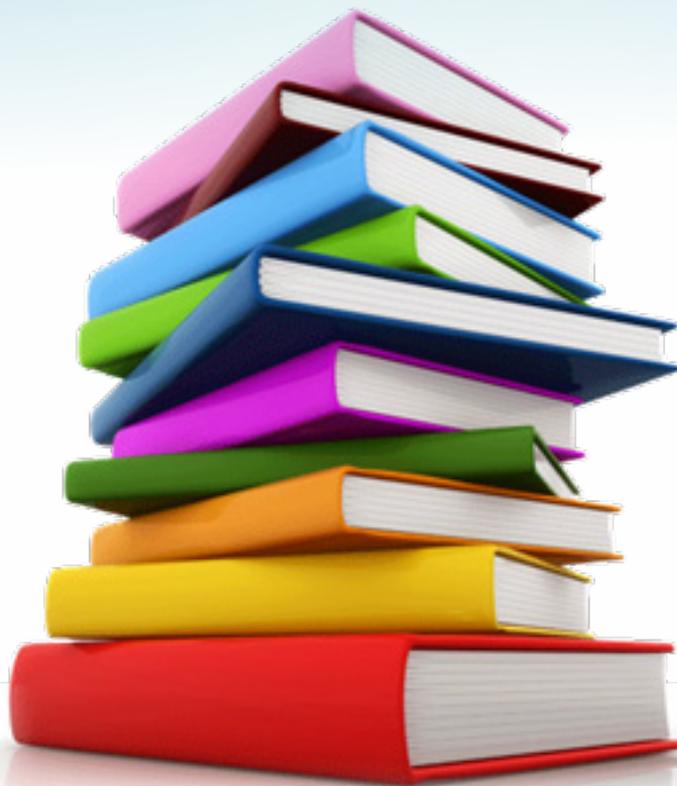
Socialism will be always relevant by the time people are having a crisis in managing basic needs of life. Even the capitalist government run their governance keeping social welfare at the center and calls themselves a welfare state. (GS 3, Economics, The Hindu, Indian Express, RBI)

MD. Layeeque Azam



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

CONTEXT:

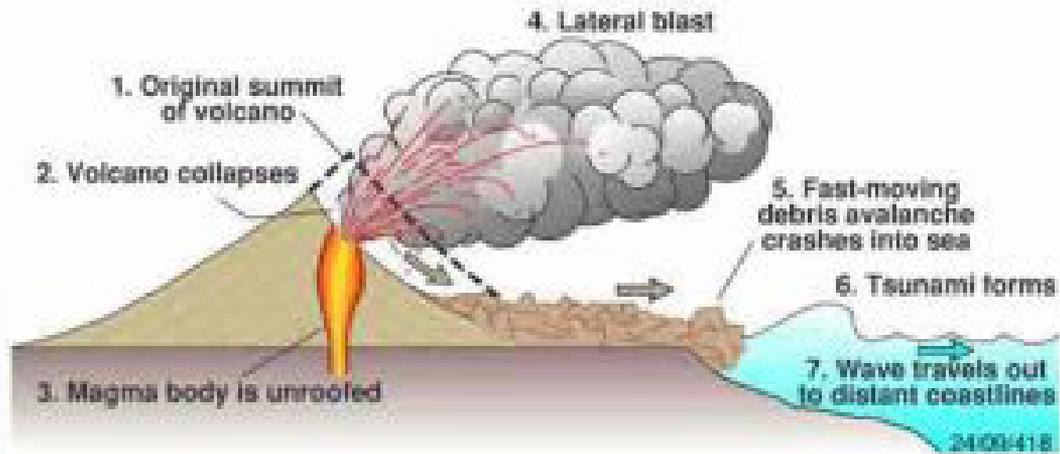
A massive volcanic eruption in Tonga That triggered tsunami waves around the pacific caused “significant Damage “ to the island nation’s capital and smothered it in dust.

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.

**Md Layeeque Azam,
Economics Faculty**



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JANUARY 2022

Amendment in Indian Administrative services (cadre Rule) 1954: Whether it is against federalism? An Analysis

CONTEXT:

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and Rajasthan chief minister Ashok Gahlot on 21st jan 2021 showed their protest against the decision of the center government regarding amendments to the Indian Administrative services (cadre) rules 1954

INTRODUCTION :

Central government has amended the cadre rule of the Indian administrative service which empowers the central government to appoint any officers of the all India services in the central government without any consent of the state government. Earlier, state governments generally used to send the recommendations for the officers of the All India services like IAS, IPS, IFS (Indian Forest services) to the appointments in the ministry of the central government

CADRE RULE OF ALL INDIA SERVICES (IAS, IPS, IFOs) : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

As per the old rule for the cadre of IAS officers (Rule-6 (1) of the IAS (Cadre) Rules-1954,), Any officer of IAS rank may be deputed for the services under the central government with the consent of the State Government. In other words, after mutual concerts of the state government and the central government, officers could be appointed in the central government's department. Although during disagreement between the center and state, the authority of the decision was in the hand of the central government. This was a long fulfilling the objectives of federalism in the Indian context.



Indian Administrative Service
भारतीय प्रशासनिक सेवा

WHY IS THE STATE PROTESTING AGAINST IT? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

In fact, Now the central government proposed the amendment in the cadre rule for the IAS officers which empowers the central government to bypass the state government in the affairs of the appointment of any IAS officer of the state in the department of central government.

This amendment could be misused and a sense of instability and ambiguity is likely to arise among the officers of the all India services. This is the real concern of all the states where a non-BJP government is in power.

In fact these officers are appointed to a very important post of the states and after this amendment a sense of insecurity and instability would also emerge. Deputation must be done after the recommendation of the state government

There would be confusion in the discharge of official responsibilities by those officers who are appointed in those states where the ruling party is against the ruling political party of central level. Because of such political pressure, the IAS officers would not work properly and in this way administrative efficiency would be affected. During the time of election, central government can misuse his power

CONCLUSION

Definitely, the amendment in the service rule for the officers of All India services regarding their depositions in the ministries of the central government is controversial because it is hampering the federalism of India which is the basic structure of India. Through this central government, on one side can control over the administrative authority of the state and on other side central government can use this power to influence the election. Therefore, if such amendments, definitely government should look into matter and the grievances of the states in this regards must be addressed

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

QUAD Grouping

(GS Paper-II, Polity, Constitution, Governance, Social Justice and International Relations) Source: Indian Express

CONTEXT

- Quad which was formulated in response to the 2004 natural disaster is once again helping tackle another world crisis – covid-19. In this regard the members of the Quad are unified to save the planet from environmental degradation.

KEY POINTS

- The United State hosted the first ever in person Summit of Quad at White House to address the climate degradation issue and partner on emerging technologies in 2021.
- To make the Indo Pacific region more resilient to changing climate, emphasis was laid on critical Information sharing and creating disaster resilient infrastructure.
- Member countries also agreed to provide assistance to Small Island Nations by building a new technical facility through Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure.

WHAT IS QUAD? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- It is a strategic dialogue between four countries namely – Australia, USA, Japan and India, with the objective of ‘free open and prosperous Indo Pacific region’. The common interest of all 4 member countries lies in the free and unhindered maritime trade in security.

BACKGROUND

- The group traces its origin to the 2004 Tsunami where these countries met and coordinated in the relief operation.
- Later they met in 2007 on the sidelines of the Asian summit where Japan’s Prime Minister Shinzo Abe mooted the idea of Quad.

QUAD AND CHINA: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- The objective of Quad countries is to promote free Maritime routes in the Indo Pacific region. There is a general understanding that it would not take on a military dimension against any country. However the opinion of China on Quad grouping differs and nevertheless China has branded it as emerging ‘Asian NATO’.

SIGNIFICANCE OF QUAD: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Promoting Maritime security, since each member shares the objective of free and open indo-pacific. They will collaborate in economic and development projects and at the same time promote critical Information sharing thereby increasing the awareness and Maritime security.
- The grouping provides opportunities to like-minded countries to work together on various development projects and promote common interest.
- Along with economic development, countries are working together to help save the planet from climate crisis and environmental degradation.

CHALLENGES: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Chinese rising economic power is an area of concern for Quad grouping because all the four members are dependent on China for the ratio of trade happening with it.
- Chinese claim over the entire south China sea is grave concern as it hampers the spirit of free Maritime sea. Along with this China also claims that since it owns South China Sea it has right to manufacture the island which was however rejected by the International Court of arbitration in 2016.
- Checkbook diplomacy of China – the project and funding like OBOR, Maritime Silk route, Unsustainable debt and project funding are being deployed to attract small Nations.
- The Chinese have further come closer to ASEAN with signing of RCEP(Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership).
- One of the weaknesses of Quad is the divergence in Geographic areas of maritime priority among four Nations.

WAY FORWARD: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- It is important for the Quad to have clear vision and exhibit openness. The members shall have clear strategy to promote free and open Indo-pacific.

- The Quad shall coordinate with Asian nations on the matter of regional importance along with building a robust regional consultation mechanism.
- A coherent strategy must be developed by all four members together to tackle China rather than acting in individual capacity and interest.

Vivek Raj

Environment and human development

GS-3 Environmental Degradation & Sustainable Development

The 2020 human development report of the UNDP titled “the next frontier of human development and the anthropocene proposed a planetary pressure- adjusted human development index to flag the interdependent issues that require the attention of policymakers. It further emphasised that the environment should be considered as an essential component to be factored in to measure human development.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE DUE TO HUMAN ACTIVITIES.

- The planetary boundary was introduced by a group of scientists across the world led by J.rockstrom of the Stockholm resilience centre in 2009.
- The concept highlighted that human induced environmental change can irrevocably destabilise the long term dynamics of the earth system, thereby disrupting the life supporting system of the planet.
- Global and local evidence indicates that biodiversity loss, climate change, land-use change, disruption of biogeochemical cycles and scarcity of freshwater availability are a threat and increase the vulnerability of society.
- The objective of the planetary pressure adjusted HDI/PHDI is to communicate to the larger society the risk involved in continuing with existing practice in environmental management, and enter a retarding effect that environmental stress can perpetuate on development.

IMPACT OF PHDI ON COUNTRY RANKINGS: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- After PHDI was imputed, the world average of SBI in 2019 came down from 0.737 to 0.683.
- Average per capita global CO2 emission is 4.6tonnes and the per capita material footprint is 12.3tonnes.
- Switzerland is the only country whose global ranking did not change with adjustment of planetary pressure although its HD value decreased from 0.955 to 0.825.
- Among 66 very high human development countries 30 countries recorded a fall in rent value which indicates their responsibility in combating the situation.
- The PHDI of India is 0.626 against an HDI of 0.645 with an average per capita CO2 emission of 2.0tonnes and material footprints of 4.6 tonnes, which is well below the global average.
- India gained in World ranking from 131st rank under HDI to 123rd rank under PHDI.

CHALLENGE FACED BY INDIA: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- India has 27.9 percent of people under the multidimensional poverty index ranging from 1.10 in Kerala to 52.50% in Bihar.
- The twin challenges of poverty alleviation and environmental safeguarding that former PM Indira Gandhi first articulated in her lecture during the Stockholm conference on human development in 1992 still remain unattended.

- The sustainable development goals have acquired a high priority in the content of the issue of Climate change and its impact on society.
- The assessment report of the IPCC 2021 emphasises on limiting global temperature rise at the 1.5 degree Celsius level and strengthening the global response to the threat of Climate change, sustainable development and effort to eradicate poverty.
- Cop 26 at Glasgow in 2021 further reaffirms these objectives.
- After chipko movement 1973 and silent valley movement 1970's there had been no subsequent awareness initiatives.

WAY FORWARD

- It is now well established that there are inter-dependencies of earth system processes including social processes and hence there is a need to have nature's best solution where people are at the core.
- People and the planet should essentially be considered a part of an interconnected social ecological system.
- For this integrated perspective at the local level India already has constitutional provision in the form of 73rd and 74th amendments.
- The advances in earth system science through remote sensors and geographic information systems will provide ways to mitigate the impact of human activities and improve life.
- Adoption of a decentralised approach, a plan for proper institutional arrangement and steps to enable political decision will further supplement the planning process.

Anshum Verma

Significance of India- German partnership : In Changing perspective of The world

CONTEXT:

German Navy frigate Bayern landed in Mumbai on Thursday, January 20, 2022. And in this a new chapter starts in the field of India Germany Partnership

INTRODUCTION

- Germany is the largest trading partner of India among all European countries. therefore this economical relation is now strengthened with the strategic relation as German Navy frigate Bayern reached Indian port
- India has had a strategic relation with Germany since 2001. Indo German strategic relationship has not strengthened with Inter- Governmental Consultations at the level of head of the government
- After the landing of Navy frigate Bayern in the Arab Sea near Mumbai, new dimensions of Indo German relationship. India and Germany both are the democratic countries now. After the second world war India was the first country who had declared its relation with the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany where the US influence was more).

SIGNIFICANCE OF INDO GERMAN RELATION IN CHANGING PERSPECTIVE: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- The Indo Pacific region is the most important region for India strategically. The Indo pacific region is the region where almost 65 percent of the world is inhabited. Obviously this region is economically as well as strategically important for India as well as Germany both.
- Obviously this region plays an important role in carbon emission and most of the carbon emission of the world is recorded from here. This is the big Challenge for those countries which are working for the environmental conservation
- India is the biggest country in the Indo pacific region in terms of paying capacity. Therefore, for Germany India would be economically beneficial. India has been a supporter of free and exclusive trade with European countries. In the perspective of Germany, As being democratic and responsible country of the world India is playing an important role in the resolving the global problems like climate change, food security, other global issues etc.,
- Germany companies can established their manufacturing unit in India because of liberal economic policies of India
- Earlier Indo German relationship was not too significant but in the changing scenario because of the rise of China as an authoritarian state, this bilateral relation became more significant. Earlier Germany also cheered China for its economical development because in German perspective, it would bring prosperity in Germany. However this inversely affected the economy of Germany. Parallely China is continuously increasing its influence in pacific sea also
- This ambition of China created a threat for Australia as well as the EU also. The antidemocratic nature of the China in Hong Kong completed Germany to see towards India as important and significant strategic partner in South China sea
- The changing paradigm of the international atmosphere compelled the European Union to change its economic and diplomatic policies in Asia.

THE MOST IMPORTANT REASONS FOR INDO GERMAN RELATIONSHIP ARE:

- The increasing tension between India and China recently. China is an authoritarian state while India is democratic. Having close economic relations with India would be more beneficial for the EU. The Hindu Analysis.
- It is commonplace in Germany to point to the flaws in Indian democracy, and thereby deem India an unworthy partner, at least in terms of shared values.
- Germany focuses on trade and investment as the main conduit to deepen its relations with India. This fixation, however, leads Germany (and the EU) down a cul-de-sac of labor and environmental standards, at the expense of macro-level values of liberalism. All these problems are surmountable.

CONCLUSION

- In this way, we see the India Germany partnership would be beneficial for both. For the EU, India would be more relievable in changing a global atmosphere. For the India perspective the global support is required to curtail the increasing influence of China in south China sea.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

India's challenge of WTO verdict on sugar

GS- 3 India's relation with International Organisation

India has filed an appeal with the appellate body of the World Trade Organisation disputing the world by the WTO dispute settlement panel on sugar subsidies. The WTO dispute settlement panel had ruled that India, by subsidising sugar producers, was breaking rules framed under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) which govern international trade.

WHAT IS THE WHOLE MATTER? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- India is the second largest sugar producer in the world after Brazil and it's estimated that more than 5 crore people depend on the cultivation of sugarcane alone for their livelihood.
- In 2019, Australia, Brazil and Guatemala complained against India at the WTO arguing that subsidies offered by the Indian government to sugar producers were against the rules governing international trade.
- According to these countries the subsidies exceeded the limit imposed by WTO trade rules.
- As per the WTO rules subsidies cannot exceed 10% of the total value of sugar production.
- The argument of India by this country is that the subsidy of India has led to increased production of sugar and caused the price of sugar to drop significantly in the global market.
- In December 2021 that WTO ruled that India sugar policy was favouring domestic producers through subsidies to the detriment of foreign producers.
- The WTO dispute settlement panel recommended that India withdraw its alleged prohibited subsidies under the production assistance, the buffer stock and the marketing and transportation scheme within 120 days from the adoption of this report.
- India has stated that the WTO dispute panel ruling has made certain "erroneous" findings about domestic schemes to support sugarcane producers and exports and the findings of the panel are completely unacceptable to it.

INDIA'S STAND: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- As per India's argument at the WTO, it does not offer direct subsidies to sugarcane farmers and does not break any international trade rule.
- However, the alleged country is claiming that the centre and the state government in India mandate the minimum price (FRP) at which sugar Mills can buy sugarcane from farmers.
- In August 2021 the centre set the FRP at rupees 290 per quintal and called it the highest ever FRP for sugarcane procurement.
- Individual states also set minimum Procurement prices that may be higher than the centres tries to adjust for conditions at the local level.
- Due to the high requirement price for sugarcane there has been the supply glut causing sugar prices to drop.
- This has further landed sugar mills in deep trap as consumer demand for sugar has remained stagnant.
- The low price of sugar has affected the revenue of mills, their ability to pay farmers and also force many mills to shut down.
- To help the sugar sector the centre has even mandated the compulsory blending of ethanol derived from sugarcane with fuels such as petrol and diesel.

- To reduce the debt burden the centre decided to reconstruct loans worth over 3,000 crore offered to sugar Mills by the sugar development fund.
- For the centre sanction fund to encourage sugar Mills to export sugar depending on sugar prices in the global market.

WAY FORWARD

- The WTO appellate body's decision will be considered final on the dispute.
- In case India refuses to comply with the decision it might have to face retaliatory action from other countries.
- This could be in the form of additional tariffs on Indian export and sugar stringent measures.
- Incidentally the appellate body is not functioning because of differences among member countries to appoint members and disputes already pending with it.
- The U.S. has further blocked the appointment of members.

Anshum Verma

Attorney General gives nod to the contempt of court proceeding (GS Paper-II, Polity, Constitution, Governance, Social Justice and International Relations) Source: The Hindu

WHY IN NEWS?

- Acting on a plea, KK Venugopal the Attorney General of India gave consent to initiate the proceedings for The Contempt of Court against Dharm Sansad leader Yati Narsinghanand over his remarks on the Supreme Court and Constitution.

WHAT IS CONTEMPT OF COURT?

- It is defined as any act/ offense that is being disrespectful towards the court of law and its officers including any form of gesture that undermines dignity, justice and authorities of the court.

LAW ON CONTEMPT OF COURT: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- The contempt of courts of civil and criminal nature is defined under the Contempt Of Court Act 1971 and lays down various procedures and power through which court could penalize the offense of contempt.
- The consent of the Attorney General/ Solicitor General is a prior condition required under Section 15 of The Contempt of the court Act 1971 to initiate the criminal contempt proceedings before the Supreme Court.

WHY IS THE CONSENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL REQUIRED?

- To save the time of the court, the Attorney General is given the responsibility and power of giving consent before taking cognizance of a complaint. In this sense consent of AG acts as a safeguards against frivolous petitions.

CONDITION WHERE THE CONSENT OF AG IS NOT REQUIRED: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- When a private citizen wants to initiate a case of contempt of Court against a person the consent of AG becomes mandatory.
- However when the court itself initiates a process of Contempt of Court the consent of the Attorney General is not required. Under article 129 the Supreme Court has the power to initiate the process of contempt of court.

WHO IS THE ATTORNEY GENERAL?

- AG is the highest law officer in the country, provided under article 76 of the constitution.
- The persons appointed for the post of AG must be-
 - a) citizen of India
 - b) judge of some high court for 5 years or advocate for 10 years in High Court
 - c) eminent jurist in the President's opinion
 - d) he/ she shall be qualified to be appointed as judge of Supreme Court.
- AG is appointed and removed by the president of India. He/ She holds the office during the pleasure of the president and can be removed anytime by him/ her.
- The constitution has not fixed the term of office of Attorney General.

DUTIES AND FUNCTION OF ATTORNEY GENERAL: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- As a highest law officer, AG acts as an advisor to the Government of India on legal matters.
- The president assigned the duties and the work of legal character to the AG which he /she is required to perform like-
 - a) to appear before the Supreme Court and high court as a representative of the Government of India.
 - b) to specifically represent the Government of India to Supreme court under article 143 of the constitution.
- He/She performs any other function granted under the Constitution and any other law.

RIGHTS AND LIMITATIONS OF ATTORNEY GENERAL: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- AG has the right of audience in all the courts in the territory of India, in the performance of his/ her official duties.
- Has the right to take part in proceedings of both the houses of the Parliament and in their joint sitting.
- The privileges and immunities available to the Member of Parliament are also granted to AG.
- He/she shall not provide advice against Government of India and shall not accept the post of director in any company without the permission of the Government of India.
- AG does not fall under the category of government servant and is not debarred from private legal practice.

Vivek Raj

The impact of school closure on children

SOURCE- THE HINDU

CONTEXT:

Amid the COVID Pandemic, when we decided to close schools for about 20 months. It only impacted our children. Schools are easy target for politicians as by doing so they want to be seen as being caring and sensitive, to “contain COVID-19”. This has brought us among the countries with the longest school closures during the pandemic.

This reaction is rather an emotional one and not have something to reason and fact. Even before the second COVID-19 wave, experts across the board advised that schools should be the last to close and first to open.

- It should be noticed that despite the hike in Omicron, most other countries have prioritised the opening of their schools, keeping the well-being of children in mind.
- The primary (emotional) “reason” being provided for school closure is to “protect children”. Let us pause for a moment and examine this reason with an analogy.
- As per the writer, data show that the risk of COVID-19 for those under 25 years is much lower than the risk from traffic accidents. So, school closures to “protect children” is as absurd as banning children from travelling in cars.
- The scientific reasons for schools as COVID-19 hotspots being the super-spreaders is very weak.

For example, a study in Spain looked at data from over 1 million children of all ages in schools, and found that the R-value (rate of virus spread) is well less than one for all schoolchildren.

R-value is as low as 0.2 for pre-primary children. So, the practice of shutting Anganwadis and primary schools is unscientific.

Sweden never closed its schools for children under 16, and there was no extra risk for teachers compared to other professions. Governments must rather look into the situations in crowded-

- Banks
- Markets
- Buses
- Trains
- Airports
- Malls
- Theatres

IS ONLINE EDUCATION A SOLUTION?

Online education can't replace physical classes, and children, specially in primary and pre-primary classes, can learn as well as socially and emotionally develop only through human interactions with teachers.

As per a detailed survey report from September 2021, the results of shutting down schools have been devastating.

The reading and writing levels of the students mostly children have declined. The learning issues can later be developed into mental health issues are concerning signals.

FOR EXAMPLE-

1. the U.K. (increases in mental health issues among kids).
2. American Academy of Pediatrics called a national emergency with respect to the mental health crisis among children.
3. In India, by neglecting mid-day meals, we have worsened cases of Malnutrition.

As per the 2011 Census, we had an estimated 10.1 million children in child labour. The extended school closure have further deteriorated the issues.

THE VACCINATION ARGUMENT ALSO DEFIES THE MYTH:-

- That they are safe only after children are vaccinated against COVID-19.
- The schools were open in other countries also even before adults were vaccinated.
- It is widely known now that the current COVID-19 vaccines, including the boosters also do not prevent infection or infact the transmission also.
- There is no case for linking schools and education to a vaccine still under clinical trial.
- The position of the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation can be used here and as per it, there can be no question of emergency authorisation of vaccines for children as there has been no COVID-19 emergency for children.

TO CONCLUDE :

- Education is a constitutional right. Closing schools for so long and providing a poor substitute with online education, have already violated the rights of children.
- Hoping that 2022 and the years to come prove normal for children in all respects, with a good schooling and better cherishable childhood.
- Undoubtedly, Children have suffered from such irrational restrictions and school closures. Let the schools be reopen and the children may get further chances to rejoice and learnings.

Rajeev Yadav

6th January : A significant day for revaluation of our achievement in the path of democracy

CONTEXT:

26th January 2022 is celebrated as the 73rd Republic day in the entire India. On this auspicious occasion, various cultural programmes are organized in Delhi as well as other parts of India. We have shown our army strength on this occasion

INTRODUCTION:

26th January is not a day of celebration of Republic day only but also a day of revelation and introspection of the achievements in the path of democracy. After the freedom of India, we adopted the path of democracy through which we could ensure social justice and after the 73 years of the adoption of the constitution how far we achieved our objectives of social justice, equality, fraternity etc, we should reevaluate in this regard. After revaluation of our achievements, if we find any flaws, we should remove those flaws

OBJECTIVES OF DEMOCRACY:

The term democracy is a tool in which the government of the people is run by the people, for the people. In a diverse country, democracy is beneficial for the majority people only because democracy is the number game and in this way the interest of only majority people would be protected in the democratic state. Therefore Democracy is not only suffice to fulfill its objective of welfare state without some fundamental rights to those people who are deprived or marginalized or those who are minorities (Linguistic or religious)

- The welfare of the all irrespective to caste, religion, race, region, language is the prime objective of democracy
- To establish social justice
- To establish fraternity or brotherhood
- To maximize happiness of the people
- To establish economic justice
- To uplift the socio economic condition of those people who are marginalized
- To reduce gender gap

ACHIEVEMENT : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- When India became independent in 1947, we got the India which has been exploited for more than 200 years. In this situation it was a big challenge how to integrate India and how to develop India. Inclusive development was the big objective and We can proudly say that in this regard we succeeded. After making a united and strong India where the spirit of separatism has now almost ended.
- We achieved great and commendable heights in the field of scientific development, in the field of economic development etc. Presently we are the largest democratic country in the world. We are one of the largest economies among all developing countries.
- Strategically we are one of the strongest countries in the world. We are atomic power, we have various arms, missiles, fighter planes of modern technology
- In Every field, presently we are ready to compete any country in the world. These are our achievement through democratic means
- Revaluation
- Despite being above achievement still there are many flaws in our democratic institutions, we should reform in those institutions.
- After 73rd years of our republic, inclusiveness in the development is still questionable
- Communal violence and gender discriminations are the big obstacles in our path of development.
- The Naxalite movement and some separatist movements are definitely big challenging tasks which should be tackled in democratic means

CONCLUSION

Definitely, we can proudly say we are the largest democracy of the world and we achieved many achievements through moving on the path of democracy. But still the problem of communal rights and recently the provocation of communal riots through hate speeches and vote bank politics through communal means are the big challenges in the path of India democracy. All of us should tackle these type of challenges and definitely these challenges can be tackled through democratic means easily. We should take oath on this auspicious day of 26th January that we will never promote hate speeches and communal violence and we will not encourage any means through which our fraternity or brotherhood is affected.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Food fortification

(GS Paper-II, Polity, Constitution, Governance, Social Justice and International Relations) Source: PIB

WHY IN NEWS?

- A Report published by Food Fortification Resource Centre (FFRC) of FSSAI has stated that more than 70% of India's population consumes less than half of the dietary allowance of micronutrients recommended daily.
- These deficiencies impact the Urban population along with women and children in rural areas.

WHAT IS FOOD FORTIFICATION?

- In order to address the issue of deficiency gap, the government has resorted to a cost effective strategy of food fortification with demonstrated health, economic and social benefits.
- Food fortification refers to the enrichment of food by adding vital micronutrients like vitamins, zinc, iron etc to it. It is generally done to balance out the deficiency caused due to the insufficient intake of vitamins and minerals.

WHY IS FOOD FORTIFICATION REQUIRED?

- As per the report of FAO 'The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021', 15.3% of the country's population is undernourished and India is home to highest proportion of stunted (30%) and wasted (17.3%) children below the age of 5 years.
- In the category of 'serious hunger' under Global hunger index, India ranked 94 out of 107 countries.
- According to the food ministry every third child in the country is stunted and every second woman is anemic. The prevalence of malnutrition among women and children poses a major obstacle in their development.

GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE ON FOOD FORTIFICATION: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- In order to address the malnutrition and deficiency issues, the Central government has approved the scheme of fortification of rice which shall be distributed through the Public Distribution system.
- Many state governments have already taken initiative towards food fortification including Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Tamilnadu, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra among others.
- Addition of food fortification to the social and nutritional security program of the country can play a vital role in addressing undernutrition prevalent in the country.

SIGNIFICANCE OF FOOD FORTIFICATION: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- It is one of the cost effective methods to enrich the staple foods with micronutrients which are consumed widely and can improve health of a large section of the population.
- According to Copenhagen Consensus ₹1 spent on the fortifications will result in ₹9 benefits to the economy.
- Food fortification is one of the safe methods to ensure the nutritional security of the people with no health risk.

- It does not alter the food habits of the people so in one way it is a socio- culturally acceptable method of addressing the nutrition deficiency.
- At the same time it does not change the characteristics of food like taste smell feel,touch.
- It can be implemented swiftly and can achieve better health results in a comparatively short span.
- Concerns associated with food fortification: The Hindu Analysis
- Although food fortification enriches the nutritional value of food it is in no way a substitute for a good quality diet which is required to supply adequate amount of energy.
- Due to low purchasing power and underdeveloped distribution channels the poor segment of the population will still fail to have access to the fortified food.
- Studies on impact of food fortification are still inconclusive and certainly not adequate before the major policies are rolled out.

WAY FORWARD

- Increasing the expenditure in agri R&D would help motivate the innovations of biofortified food which can alleviate malnutrition.
- Educating women can have a direct impact on improving the well being of child and mother.
- India needs a multi-pronged approach like access to safe drinking water sanitation and better education health facilities to eliminate the root cause of the complex problem.

Vivek Raj

Cyber Physical System, National Mission On Interdisciplinary Cyber Physical System (NM-ICPS) & Solutions in key sectors

CONTEXT:

New and emerging technologies are powering national initiatives in key areas with the help of solutions for people-centric problems being developed at the 25 innovation hubs across the country through the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS).

NEWS:

Recently ARTPARK at IISc Bangalore developed an AI-driven platform that helped Chest X-ray interpretation of images sent over WhatsApp brought early intervention through rapid screening of COVID 19, aiding doctors who have no access to X-ray machines. A team of scientists from IIT Bombay has developed a tapestry method for screening COVID-19 under Remedial Action, Knowledge Skimming, and Holistic Analysis of COVID-19 (RAKSHAK), an effort supported by the Technology Innovation Hub (TIH) at IIT Jodhpur.

AmbiTag, the first-of-its-kind Internet of Things (IoT) device that monitors ambient temperature during the transportation of vaccines, including Covid-19, medicines, blood samples, food and dairy products, meat products, and animal semen, has been developed by researchers at the IIT Ropar Technology Innovation Hub – AWaDH and its startup ScratchNest.

WHAT IS CYBER PHYSICAL SYSTEM:

Cyber physical system is an intelligent computer system in which a mechanism is controlled or monitored by

Computer Based algorithms, in which physical and software components are deeply intertwined. In simple words, a Cyber physical system is all about Controlling physical movement of anything, anywhere in the world through the internet, from anywhere in the world. The Hindu Analysis.

THE RAPID GLOBAL RISE OF THE CYBER PHYSICAL SYSTEM IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT AREAS TO BE ADDRESSED URGENTLY.

This is because of the fact that it poses unprecedented challenges from security to privacy, from spreading misinformation to downsizing the open thinking, from stressing the mental health to narrowing down the perception. At the same time it offers huge opportunities if we engage our resources in research, training and skill in robotics, digital manufacturing, deep learning, big data analysis, artificial Intelligence and the internet of things.

The sectors like agriculture, water, energy, health, environment, infrastructure, security, combating crimes, Financial system, Geo information system etc are in huge need of these technologies, as they are facing unprecedented challenges in the context of a rapidly changing world.

The government statement under Vigyan 2030 states that the cyber physical system should be taken up as a national mission as it can adjust the threat of jobs security and strategic requirements that the new industrial revolution poses.

The National Mission On Interdisciplinary Cyber Physical System (NM-ICPS) is the mission of the Government of India through which new and emerging technologies are being developed at 25 Technology Innovation Hubs across the country. These Technologies will be developed as solutions to two people centric problems. The Hindu Analysis.

The aim of the mission is to create a strong foundation and seamless ecosystem for Cyber physical system Technologies, By integrating and coordinating the nationwide efforts of private and government sectors.

It was approved in 2018 and it is being implemented by the Department of Science and Technology.

The goal of the mission is to make India a leading player in CPS technologies. Other goals are like, to achieve societal and commercial use of CPS technologies, employment generation, nurture startups and produce next generation technocrats.

The four major dimensions of National Mission On Interdisciplinary Cyber Physical System (NM-ICPS) are 1. Technology Development; 2. Innovation, Entrepreneur & Startup Ecosystem; 3. Human Resources and Skill Development; and 4. International Collaborations.

The National Mission On Interdisciplinary Cyber Physical System (NM-ICPS) is expected to act as engine of growth and its success can hugely benefit other national initiatives in education, health, agriculture, environment, strategic cum security, and industrial sectors, Industry 4.0, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and SMART Cities etc.

MD. Layeeque Azam

Faith-Based INDO-PAK tour groups

BACKGROUND :

To avoid the extra time in travel – Pakistan Hindu Council, (signed an MoU with Pakistan International Airlines) to facilitate faith-based tour groups, has asked that PIA charters from Karachi and Lahore be allowed to fly direct to Indian cities this week, with a view to also allowing reciprocal air charters from India.

LET'S UNDERSTAND : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

This faith based decision will be another very good initiatives among the others like :-

- The LoC ceasefire announcement in February
- The decision to reopen the Kartarpur corridor in November
- Government's nod for cricket under the T20 World Cup
- Other sporting events.

Even a simple proposal by the Pakistan Hindu Council, to India, for allowing pilgrims of both countries to travel by air to avoid long journeys seems a bigger achievement, under the current Indo-Pak relations..

Even during the peaceful times, Islamabad-Delhi ties are possibly among its lowest ever, with almost no political dialogues at a bilateral or multilateral forum for over five years now.

- India has stopped normal communications and cultural exchanges, after many terror attacks.
- Pakistan stopped almost all of its trade ties after the Government's moves on Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir.
- Most of the India-Pakistan exchanges are suspended practically.

BOTH SIDES HAVE : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Downsized their diplomatic missions.
- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, virtually the borders have been sealed for two years.
- An exception for faith-based travel have been considered.
- Religious exchanges are allowed to continue → (governed by a protocol signed in 1974)
- Mainly of Muslim pilgrims from Pakistan
- Hindus and Sikhs from India

Sikh pilgrims → from Indian Punjab to the Pakistani Punjab province

Indian and Pakistani pilgrims → crossing over at the Wagah/Atari border to travel further For example-

- **The Hinglaj Mata Mandir in Balochistan**
- **The Paramhans Mandir in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa**
- **The Ajmer Sharif dargah in Rajasthan**
- **The Nizamuddin Aulia in Delhi**

TO CONCLUDE :-

In an atmosphere filled with tensions, such people-to-people initiatives can only help build some goodwill.

While the Government has many reasons to deny the request, but it may wiser decision of the Government to give the proposal some a sincere consideration, and if possible, the nod too.

Rajeev Yadav

What is Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement : Let's understand



Multinational companies are operating across multiple countries/tax jurisdictions nowadays in the age of globalization. Many times they are supposed to pay taxes in two countries, one where they are registered and another where they are operating their businesses on the same income. This is creating the incidence of double taxation, which has also led to the misuse of certain loopholes in the taxing laws of different countries.

The foreign investors/shareholders are also facing the burden of a similar double taxation problem.

THE GOVERNMENTS ACROSS THE WORLD HAVE TRADITIONALLY SEEN THIS AS THEIR LOSSES IN TAX REVENUE.

Any country has its own international taxation laws which can be broadly divided into two.

First, when the income is earned in a foreign country by the resident individuals or domestic companies, means in respect of India the Indian company or Indian citizen has earned income outside the country.

On this income India can also take tax and the country in which this income is earned, obviously will take tax.

Secondly when income is earned in the domestic territory by foreign companies for foreign residents, means in respect of India, the foreign companies for foreign residents have earned an income inside India. Here on this income along with India the foreign country where companies are registered, can also take tax.

The implication of the taxation of foreign income (say in US) for one country (say India – resident country) is the same as the taxation (by India) of a non-resident for another country (say US – source country). This leads to double taxation on the same income, one by the resident country and second by the foreign country (source country).

THIS DUAL TAXATION HINDERS THE FLOW OF CAPITAL AND DEMOTIVATES THE FOREIGN INVESTMENT.

To avoid this the two governments enter the treaties of double taxation avoidance agreement. Under double taxation avoidance agreement, an individual (shareholder) or company will either pay taxes to only one country (source of income country) or will be eligible for the credit (Input tax credit to be given by the source country) on taxes paid by the resident country On the same income.

This rationalization in the taxation system is helpful in income tax recovery in both the countries, along with a rational and equitable allocation of taxing rights over a taxpayer's income between two countries. This kind of agreement potentially promotes free flow of investment, technology and International trade; and enhances the transparency.

There are various relief mechanism To avoid the incidence of double taxation.

BILATERAL RELIEF: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Section 90/90A of the Income Tax Act, 1961 contains provisions granting foreign tax credit under DTAA. When there is an agreement between two countries, relief is calculated according to mutual agreement between such countries. Bilateral relief can be granted by either of the following methods:

- **Deduction method:** The domestic country allows its taxpayer to claim a deduction for taxes, including income taxes, paid to a foreign government in respect of foreign source income.
This method does not fully avoid double taxation but just saves tax by the amount of Foreign Tax Paid x Domestic Tax Rate.
- **Exemption method:** The domestic country provides its taxpayer with an exemption for foreign source income. This method is more favorable if tax rates in domestic countries are higher than those in the source country.

CREDIT METHOD: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- **Ordinary credit:** Domestic country gives either full or partial credit of taxes paid in the foreign country. This means that the taxpayer will be taxed on the same sourced income and the tax is to be determined accordingly – but the taxpayer will pay a lower amount of taxes to the extent of credit available.
- **Underlying credit:** In this method, the taxes paid on the profits from which the dividend is declared can be claimed as credit against the taxes payable on the dividend income.
- **Tax sparing/holiday:** To incentivize economic activities, various tax exemptions are given, which help the assessee limit the tax burden. For example, deduction under Section 80-IB of Income Tax Act, 1961. Whenever the assessee is liable to taxation in their domestic country, credit will be allowed for taxes paid in the foreign country, but due to tax exemption in such foreign territory there will be no tax payment and no credit to balance of the taxpayer. Under this method, the domestic country will deem such exempt income as tax paid and credit of such taxes which are deemed to be paid in the foreign country will be allowed as credit in the domestic country.

UNILATERAL RELIEF FOR INDIAN RESIDENTS: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Some countries provide relief of taxes paid in the source country without any treaty between those two countries. This kind of relief is known as unilateral relief. In India, unilateral relief from double taxation is provided to Indian residents under Section 91 of the Income Tax Act.

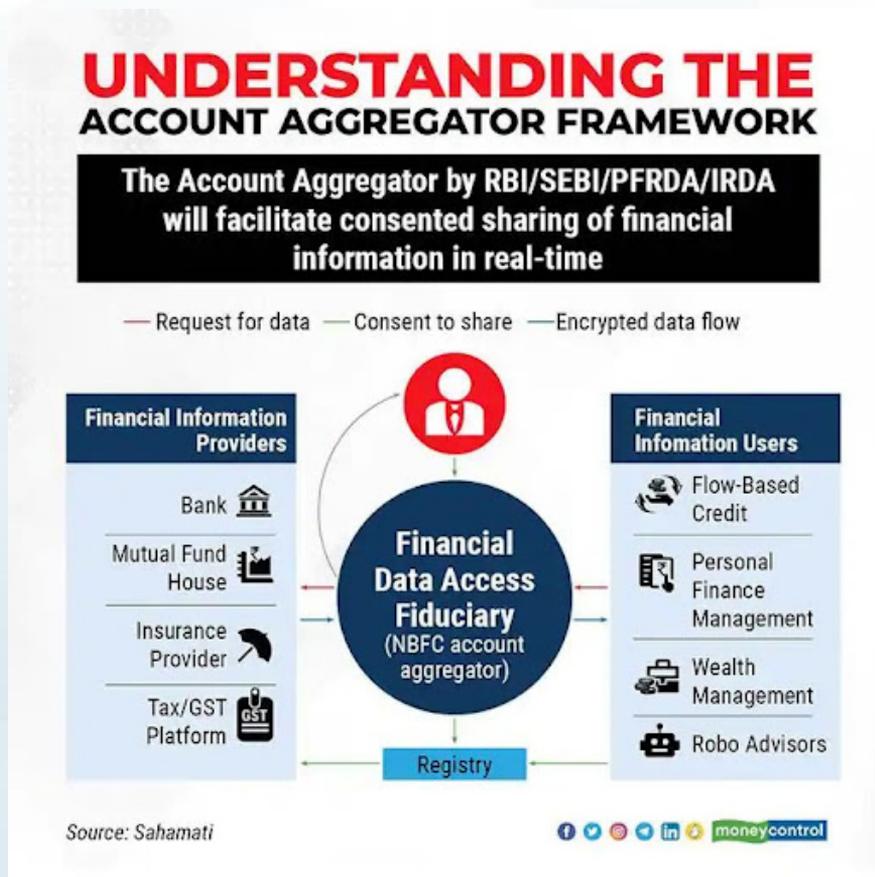
SOCIAL SECURITY AGREEMENTS

India has also concluded various Social Security Agreements (SSAs) to ease the social security obligations on cross-border / international workers. Under these SSAs, incentives such as detachment, exportability of pension, totalization of benefits, and withdrawal of social security benefits are available.

India has entered into SSAs with the 20 countries, like Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Japan, Switzerland, Netherland, Sweden, Norway, Germany, Hungary, France, Finland, Portugal, etc.

MD. Layeeque Azam

Account aggregator Network & the Credit Gap in India : Lets Understand



There is always a need for a developing country like India to fill the credit gap. Credit gap simply can be defined as, that businesses are unable to get the desired level of debt/loans/advances/credit/funds.

Many economic entities/Individuals could be having fund surplus and some could be having fund deficit. The credit gap for the fund deficit entity can be filled by intermediating it with the fund surplus entity.

At present the intermediation is done by banks and other Financial Institutions. The intermediation and thus filling the credit gap is having its limitation because of the fact that all fund surplus entities/businesses and all fund deficit entities/ businesses are not attached with the banking and financial system.

Hence what if there is an open online platform where the fund deficit entity can meet the fund surplus organizations. This is the concept of open banking which can empower millions of customers.

The Account Aggregator Network is a first step towards open banking in India.

On this network the customers/ businesses will share their financial data across institutions in a secure and efficient manner, which could be further accessed by others. The Hindu Analysis.

The entities which are sharing their financial data are termed as **Financial Information Providers (FIPs)**. These can be typically the banks, mutual funds, pension funds, and some NBFCs that represent the source of personal or business data.

The Institutions which are sharing their data are termed as **Account Aggregators (AA)**. Accounts aggregators required to take consent from the financial information providers that their provided data could be shared with customers.

The customers who seek Data information from the accounts aggregators are termed as **Financial Information Users (FIUs)**. Banks, Lending Agencies and NBFCs can be FIUs. The Hindu Analysis.

Thus Account Aggregators are in between the Financial Information Users and Financial Information Providers.

The Account Aggregators are a new class of NBFCs, came into being through an inter-regulatory decision by several regulatory bodies: the RBI, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI), Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) through Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC).

They (AA) need to get approval from the Reserve Bank of India.

The working of this intermediating system is fairly simple. There could be a network of account aggregators. An account aggregator develops an app. The users (public/entity/business) subscribe to the app, link with their FIPs and share the data with their linked FIP. The data is shared by FIP with an FIU. Presently only bank accounts can be linked. Later on mutual fund data, GST data extra are also expected to be included in the same.

The process of credit Risk assessment can be made simpler and easier for FIUs by Account Aggregator. The Hindu Analysis.

The account aggregator framework is poised to benefit individual and small business users in many ways. For example the under **Consolidated Dashboard** users can get an aggregate view of all his bank accounts in one place at a click of button. This can be his personal financial management usage. The users can have all the banking documents at one place.

Under **Single Digit Framework**, the account aggregators enable the user to share data with FIPs by consolidating his own data in one place and by providing a single digital framework to share it in real time.

Under **Controlled Data Sharing System** data will be shared only on users consent. Consents given could be revocable.

The **Consent framework** will be very simple, as the user will be knowing, with whom the data is shared and for what purpose.

In terms of **Data security** the user can breathe easy as the data shared is encrypted and only decrypted at the receiver's end. The FIUs will have to strictly adhere with Data Governance guidelines that are currently being framed to prevent misuse of data. The Hindu Analysis.

As the System is recently introduced, the number of users are limited, but as more users come into the account aggregator ecosystem, it will be a huge advantage for businesses, especially small businesses, in increasing their competitiveness.

MD. Layeeque Azam

Hurdles and challenges in the path of formalize the economy

GS Paper 3 Source : The Hindu Editorial

CONTEXT:

Since 2016 Government of India is doing many efforts to formalize the Indian economy up to maximum extent, for which the government brought demonetization of the currency, introduced GST, tax reforms, digitalization of financial transactions and enrolment of informal sector workers on numerous government Internet portals etc.

INTRODUCTION

The Government of India is trying its best to convert maximum informal sectors into formal sectors. Generally it has been assumed that formal sectors are more beneficial and more productive than the informal sector, and formal workers have access to social security benefits. But there are many hurdles in the path of such transformation.

In India more than 90 % laborers and employees are working in informal sectors and the share of informal sectors in the GDP of India is more than 50 % in the Indian economy. Because of the corona pandemic the size of the informal economy has shrunk by 15 to 20 % because of the adoption of GST, enhanced digitalization, and demonetization, a report by the State Bank of India's (SBI) economic research department has said. But the size of formal sector during this time has not increased in same ratio.

WHAT IS FORMAL SECTOR AND INFORMAL SECTORS OF ECONOMY: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Formal sector is the sector where the workers get all the benefits of the governments (Liker PF, social security, registration, insurance, fixation of the working hours, maternity leaves, annual leaves, weekly off, job security etc) While the informal sectors are those sectors where the workers are not having any right. They are not registered. An informal economy is the part of any economy that is neither taxed nor monitored by any form of government. Even though this informal sector plays an important role in Indian economy

WHAT MEASURES ARE OPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA FOR FORMALIZE THE ECONOMY: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- **Demonetization of Currency** – Even though this policy was brought to curtail the black money from the market so that informal sectors where the black money is invested could be finished and other informal sectors could be encouraged to be formalized but the results were not as per the prediction. This policy could not formalize the informal sectors even though it reduced employment from informal sectors also. many informal small business which were based on cash transaction could not survived and collapsed
- **Introduction of the GST**
- **Digitalization of Economy**
- Ease of registration of informal business on government portals
- Registration of the workers of informal sectors on government portals

HURDLES IN FRONT OF THE PATH OF FORMALIZE THE ECONOMY: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Persistence of the informal sectors of the economy is the symbol of an underdeveloped economy but It

does not mean that after finishing the informal sectors, formalization would be done. there are following hurdles in front of the path of formalization of Indian Economy

- **High illiteracy rate** : Government, through its effort, could not convince the informal business to register on the government portal because of the low level of literacy rate. Labor are also not aware about their rights so they also does not make any demand for the benefits of government schemes
- **Lack of faith towards the government**
- **Most of the informal businesses are of low investment and could not bear the burden of GST**
- Those informal laborers who are engages in non agricultural activities and those working in urban are also not aware regarding their rights and because of the inflation and the shrinking of the government sectors as well as increasing level of unemployment, Generally labors works on the conditions as the business need
- Red tapism is a big hurdle in the path of formalization of the economy. Informal business have fears of the government raid as well as various types of torturing, therefore they prefer informal business

CONCLUSION

Formalization of the economic sector is necessary and important steps but it should not be on the cost of the collapson of the informal sectors. Government should reform its policies and convince the people that formalization of the business would be beneficial for the economy. Laborers must be skilled and educated so that they can be aware regarding their rights. and the government should formalize the economy gradually without hampering informal sector sectors which can be done only by creating confidence between government and the informal labor and businessman.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Climate change forces Indonesia to relocate capital

The Indonesian parliament has passed a law approving the shifting of its capital from Jakarta which is slowly sinking to a site 2,000 kilometers away on Borneo island that will be named -Nusantara. This move was first tipped by President Joko Widodo in April 2019, citing rising sea levels and severe congestion on densely populated Java island. The largest islands in Indonesia are Sumatra, Java, Kalimantan (Indonesian Borneo), Sulawesi, and the Indonesian part of New Guinea known as Papua New Guinea. The Hindu Analysis.

Jakarta which lies on the northwest coast of Java,home to more than 30 million people has long been plagued by infrastructure problems and flooding aggravated by climate change. Experts have predicted up to a third of the city could be underwater by as soon as 2050.Jakarta has been Indonesia's capital since 1949 when the country gained independence. The city has become overcrowded and extremely polluted for the last few decades.Furthermore, Jakarta is the centre for governance, finance and trade and it has inevitably led to relentless construction in the city, due to which the water is not able to seep into the ground, leading to increased run-off in the city. Another reason to shift the capital from Java island to Borneo island has been the growing inequality in terms of finance and population density. Java Island (especially Jakarta region) which is spread across around 661.5 square km is immensely populated whereas East Kalimantan, spread across 127,346.92 square kilometers is a lot less populated than Java. The new capital, Nusantara will cover about 56,180 hectares in Kalimantan province on the Indonesian part of Borneo.

Indonesia is not the first country in the Southeast asian region to shift its capital. Malaysia moved its administration to Putrajaya from Kuala Lumpur in 2003. Myanmar also relocated its capital to Naypyidaw from Rangoon in 2006.

Though environmentalists have warned it could damage the present ecosystem in the region, where mining and palm oil plantations already threaten rainforests which are home to Borneo's endangered species. The Hindu Analysis.

Sea level rise is an increase in the level of water in the world's oceans due to the effects of climate change, especially global warming. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), 2021 report, the sea-level rise has been 3 times as compared with 1901-1971. The Arctic Sea ice is the lowest in the last 1,000 years. Eight of the world's 10 largest cities globally are near a coast, which is threatened by coastal flooding due to increasing sea level. Many coastal cities of the world have planned to adopt relocation as a mitigation strategy. Kiribati Island is planning to shift to Fiji. Indonesia had also launched a coastal development project called a Giant Sea Wall or Giant Garuda in 2014 meant to protect the city from floods. India is also vulnerable as we have 7,516-kilometer-long coastline including a 5,422 kilometers of coastline on the mainland and another 2,094 kilometers on the islands. So Sea level rise due to climate change is a global issue that needs to be tackled in a sustainable manner with all countries cooperating with each other.

Ritu

The nomination criteria of Independent External Monitors get modified by CVC

(GS Paper-II, Polity, Constitution, Governance, Social Justice and International Relations) Source: The Hindu

WHY IN NEWS?

- In government bodies the criteria for the nomination of Independent External Monitor(IEM) gets modified by the Central Vigilance Commission.
- The modification was adopted months after CVC issued revised standard operating procedure for adoption and implementation of the integrity pact clause aimed to prevent corruption in the public procurement.

WHAT IS AN INDEPENDENT EXTERNAL MONITOR (IEM)?

- The responsibility of the IEM is to check the documents and determine whether the parties have complied with their respective obligations under the pact.
- After reviewing and examining the contract related complaints they submit their recommendations to the concerned authority.
- IEM has the option to either submit their report to the chief executive of the concerned organization or in case if they find any serious irregularities under the provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act 1988 then they can directly report to the Chief Vigilance Officer and CVC.

WHAT IS INTEGRITY PACT?

- It is an agreement to not Resort to any corrupt practices in any aspect or stage of contract between the prospective vendors/ bidders and the buyers.
- The bidder gets disqualified and is excluded from any future business dealings in case there is violation of the clause of the pact.
- Integrity pact ensures the competitiveness, equity and transparency in the public procurement.

ABOUT CVC : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- The Central Vigilance Commission was established in the year 1964 on the recommendation of the Santhanam committee on prevention of corruption as the main agency for preventing corruption in the central government.
- CVC in 2004 was authorized as the Designated Authority by the government of India to receive written complaints for the disclosure of any allegations of corruption, misuse of office and can also recommend appropriate action.

COMPOSITION & TERMS: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- It consists of one Chief Central Vigilance Commissioner and not more than 2 Vigilance Commissioners.
- The appointment of the members of CVC is done by the President by warrant under his hand and seal.
- The tenure is of 4 years or until the age of 65 years whichever is earlier.
- They are not eligible for employment under the central or the state government after the completion of the tenure.

POWERS AND FUNCTIONS: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- It enquiry into the cases where the reference is made by the central government on a public servant who has committed offense under the prevention of corruption act 1988.
- CVC has the responsibility to exercise superintendence over the functioning of the Delhi Special Police Establishment(DSPE).
- It is also entitled to give direction to the DSPE for the purpose of discharging its responsibility under DSPE Act 1946.
- Rules and regulations concerning the Vigilance and disciplinary matters of the members of all India services and Central services are formed in consultation with the CVC by the Central government.
- It is not an investigation Agency the investigation is either done through chief Vigilance Officer in the government officers or through CBI.

LIMITATIONS OF CVC: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- CVC has often been cited as the powerless body where it does not have the authority to register the criminal cases against the government officials.
- At the same time it has neither the resources nor the power to take action on complaints of corruption.

CONCLUSION

- India's economy has emerged as one of the fastest growing and flourishing economies in the recent past. It has seen rapid growth in the investment and infrastructure within the country. The growing economy poses a great challenge for CVC to fight corruption.

The concerns in the CVC shall be addressed so that it is armed in a better way to tackle the corruption in the country.

Vivek Raj

The changing Winters

The winter of 2021-2022 has been unusually cold and unusually long in India especially in northern India. Mainly the days have felt colder and more chillier than normal. From december 2021 only the maximum temperatures across the North, Northwest and Central India regions have continuously remained below normal, resulting in 'cold day' conditions. In technical terms, this means more than just a day that is cold. A cold day is a day in which the maximum temperature falls below 16 degrees Celsius and this phenomenon is commonly seen during the winter months in the northern plains of India.

Also usually light to moderate intensity rainfall is commonly seen during winters in neighboring regions of North India. However this January we have has seen widespread rain across the central, northwestern, northern, eastern, and northeastern regions of India. Around 24 states or Union Territories have recorded rainfall varying from excess to large excess in January. On the other hand, december and january are known for the formation of dense fog across North India. But less fog is recorded this month. In this January, NCR region remained affected by fog for 252 hours against a normal of 292 hours. According to IMD officials, the ongoing winter has recorded the lowest fog hours in Delhi since 1991-92. The Hindu Analysis.

The Causes are a combination of Western Disturbances, La Niña, Cold Winds from Far North and Low-lying Clouds and Moisture. Western Disturbance originating in the Mediterranean, is an area of low pressure that brings with it sudden showers, snow and fog in northwestern part of India. This disturbance travels from the western to the eastern direction, that's why the name..Until 25th of this month, seven western disturbances had passed over India, all of them strong enough to cause widespread rain, and turbulent weather across large geographical areas. This caused hailstorms in northern Maharashtra, and heavy rainfall in Tamil Nadu. The western disturbances are usually associated with La Niña. La Niña represent periods of below-average sea surface temperatures across the east central Equatorial Pacific regions of the world. La Niña is indicated by sea-surface temperature decreased by more than 0.9 °C for at least five successive three-month seasons. Presently, moderate intensity La Niña conditions (cooler than normal sea surface temperatures in the equatorial Pacific Ocean) are prevailing. In India, the La Niña is normally responsible for cooler than normal winters and more than normal rainfall.

The cold winds from the far north of the country penetrate to lower latitudes after a western disturbance crosses India. This can reach up to even Telangana and Maharashtra to cold wave conditions. Also, along the Indo-Gangetic plains, the presence of low-lying clouds and the availability of moisture made it favorable for cold day conditions and is responsible for the additional chill factor experienced during the day time. The Hindu Analysis.

Any deviation from normal weather conditions has a huge effect on the life of the flora and fauna of the region. The colder winter and rains at unusual times than normal effects the life of the people as they have to cope with these adverse conditions. This all is linked to the global climate changes predominantly the global warming and its effects. To cope with it in a sustainable manner, we need a comprehensive strategy at a global level.

Ritu

Russia Ukraine Crisis : An Analysis in special context to India Russia Relation

CONTEXT:

For the last several days, it has been observed that Russia has mobilized its troops near the border of Ukraine and in return, Ukraine with the support of NATO is also preparing for war. But on 28th Jan 2022, it is said from the side of Russia that he does not want war but the west are ignoring his security concerns. War would be last option for Russia

INTRODUCTION:

Ukraine has been a part of the Russian empire for centuries which had disintegrated in 1991 during the disintegration of the USSR. When ex Ukrainian president Viktor Yanukovych showed its interest towards Masco and rejected an association agreement with the EU then a mass protest had erupted in Ukraine in 2014

The tension between Russia and Ukraine catalyzed after 2013 with the annexation of Crimea. In fact Ukraine is the neighboring country of Russia and Crimea has been part of Ukraine but Ukraine was inhabited by the majority of Russians which were oppressed by the government of the Ukraine. Therefore on this ground Russia annexed Crimea. After this incident the Russia Ukraine crisis had evolved and continued tending towards disaster. The Hindu Analysis.

For the last several days this situation has become more dangerous when Russia has mobilized its troops near the border of Ukraine. Against this step the Russia US also warned Russia not to invade Ukraine otherwise Russia has to face its repercussions.



WHAT IS THE ISSUE BETWEEN RUSSIA AND UKRAINE : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

After the losing of Crimea Ukraine wanted to be part of NATO. Russia is strongly opposing this step of the Ukraine because, Russia knows this thing very well if Ukraine would be the part of NATO, then Russia would never attack over Ukraine and his security issue s would be impacted. US warned Russia by last days that if Russia attacks over Ukraine, US will halt the opening of a key pipeline that would send Russian gas to Western Europe, if Russia invades Ukraine. In this way US will try to destroy the economy of the Russia

Germany also warns Russia that Germany will also impose some sanctions over the projects of Nord Stream 2 (It's a **new 1,200km (745-mile) gas pipeline running from western Russia to north-eastern Germany under the Baltic sea**. The €10bn (£8.3bn) project is designed to double the amount of natural gas flowing from Russia straight to Germany).

Nord Stream pipelines from Russia





SIGNIFICANCE OF RUSSIA UKRAINE CRISIS IN CONTEXT OF INDIA: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

India wants to keep good relations with Ukraine also. In 2014, Indian government congratulates the new presidents of Ukraine Mr. Petro Poroshenko when he won the election. By 6th March 2014, when the Crimean parliament passed a proposal of its independence, the Indian government issued a statement which indirectly supported the proposal of Crimea. Indian government officials said that all the internal issues within the Ukraine must be solved in democratic pattern and the broader issues of reconciling the various interests involved, and there are after all legitimate Russian and other interests involved, are discussed and negotiated.”

But nowadays the situation has changed. India is facing the challenges at the border of China as well as the border of Pakistan also. In this changing situation India also seeks the support of Russia. Last month Russian president Putin visited India. therefore as per the perspective of India, Russia Ukraine crisis should be resolved peacefully

Though India has been uncomfortable about the annexation of Crimea, Indian Russian relations have continued for a long time. Russia has been friend of India for long time and on many occasion Russia had supported India. Russia is also pleased with India because India, never openly criticized the Russian policy of Crimean annexation

CONCLUSION:

Russia Ukraine Crisis is not only the issue of Europe and NATO and Russia, this issue influences the interest of India also. The interest of India lies in the peaceful settlement of this matter otherwise it would be very difficult for India to clear its stand either in the favor of Russia or in the favor of NATO. India should make clear that all the issues and concern of the Russian security and the Ukraine’s internal problem should be resolved peacefully and with negotiation.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

India hosted the first India -Central Asia Summit (GS Paper-II, Polity, Constitution, Governance, Social Justice and International Relations) Source: The Hindu

WHY IN NEWS?

- Recently the first India -Central Asia Summit was hosted by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in virtual format.
- The meeting was attended by the heads of the states of Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan.
- The India- Central Asia Summit marked the 30th year of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Central Asian nations.

IMPORTANT HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SUMMIT: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Connectivity related concerns were raised by India with landlocked Central Asian countries.
- Emphasis was laid on the cooperation in the areas related to development, trade and connectivity defense and security and people to people contact.
- Some of the areas of cooperation include,
- Putting up Buddhist exhibitions in different Central Asian countries.
- Conducting joint Counter Terrorism exercise and holding Round table on energy and connectivity.
- The India Central Asia Summit was institutionalized and it was decided to hold summit every 2 years along with having regular meetings of several Ministries like foreign minister, Trade Minister, Cultural minister.
- New Delhi would become the home to India- Central Asia Secretariat.
- All the participant Nations retaliated with their strong support for peaceful Afghanistan with an inclusive government.

INDIA'S RELATION WITH : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Tajikistan : India has long standing cooperation in the area of security with it.
- Kazakhstan : Recently India expressed grief over the loss of life and property in Kazakhstan. From the viewpoint of India's energy security Kazakhstan plays a very important role.
- Uzbekistan : State governments in India are playing a very active role in strengthening Cooperative relation with Uzbekistan.
- Turkmenistan : It plays a vital role in India's vision of regional connectivity in Central Asia under Ashgabat agreement.

RELEVANCE OF SUMMIT FOR INDIA: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Geo- strategic importance : Central Asian countries are not immediate neighbors of India but they hold relevance because of their strategic location. Central Asia acts as an access point between Europe and Asia which hold extensive potential for trade commerce and growth. Therefore the Summit holds the symbolic importance of India- Central Asia relationship.

- Energy security: The demand for energy is growing and will continue to do so. In this context Turkmenistan's reserve, which rank fourth in the world can help India ensure its energy security.
- Competitive pricing : Spreading the source of procurement India can benefit from the competitive pricing and could easily get its 15% of the projected energy demand fulfilled by the time 2020's is completed.
- Trade : The Summit provides an opportunity for India to expand its trade with Central Asia which stood at only USD 1.4 billion in 2019.

WAY FORWARD

- Central Asia has been the area of India's civilizational influence. Buddhism made inroads to Central Asia through the Fergana Valley which also acted as the crossing point of Silk Route.
- In the current scenario where countries like China (Belt and Road Initiative) and Russia (Collective Security Treaty Organization) are painting the region through its own perception, it would be beneficial for India to give a cultural and historical perspective to the region.
- China's influence, although the Central Asian Nation shares a strong economic tie with China but they are very apprehensive of it. On the other hand, economic ties with India are minimal. India shall work to strengthen its economic ties with these nations to counter the growing Chinese influence in the region.
- At the same time India shall also work to arrest its fading soft power in these regions by formulating a value -driven cultural policy that can help rebuild India- Central Asia Bond.

Vivek Raj

Poverty, Wealth and their Caste Relation

Indeed while the country is mooting on the addition of data on gentries in the coming decennial tale, two reports released last month punctuate the growing injuries defying the underprivileged gentries. The first report named " Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (GMPI), 2021," published by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative and the United Nations Development Programme, reveals the high prevalence of poverty among the Scheduled Tribe (ST), Slated Estate (SC), and Other Backward Class (OBC) parts.

Accelerating these findings is the alternate report named " Each-India Debt and Investment Survey (AIDIS), 2019," published by the National Statistical Office, which highlights the disproportionately stingy means or wealth held by the STs, SCs, and OBCs. Together, these two reports, formerly again, bring back to the fore the issue of continued losses faced by these discerned groups.

The GMPI, 2021 notes that five of the six people living in multidimensional poverty in India are from underprivileged lines and gentries. Poverty situations were loftiest among the STs (50.6), followed by SCs (33.3), and OBCs (27.2). In discrepancy, the poverty position among the others (those piecemeal from the SCs, STs, and OBCs) was the smallest at 15.6. That is, poverty situations among the STs were further than thrice that of the other advantaged communities, while the poverty of SCs and OBCs was nearly double their situations. The Hindu Analysis.

The AIDIS, 2019 report, which collated data on ménage means or wealth (including land, structures, beast, ministry, transport outfit, deposits, shares, etc), notes that the distribution of wealth among social groups was indeed more slanted. It shows that in the pastoral areas, the ST and SC homes were the most underprivileged. Their average means of around 9 lakh each were just a little further than half the average means of 16 lakh for the pastoral homes as a whole. And worse still, the average means of ST and SC homes were only around one-

third of the average means of other homes, a group that includes all communities other than STs, SCs, and OBCs. Also, the average ménage means held by the OBCs in pastoral areas were around 16 lakh, which was analogous to the average means of the pastoral homes in general, but lower than two-thirds of the average ménage wealth of the others.

Unexpectedly, the distribution of wealth across social groups in the civic sector was indeed more slanted. Then, it's the SCs who were the worst off among social groups. Their average ménage wealth of 13 lakh was just about partial that of the 27 lakh equaled by the civic homes in general and around two-thirds of the average ménage means of 40 lakh held by the others. In discrepancy, the average means of 19 lakh held by the ST homes and 21 lakh held by the OBC homes in civic areas were around three-fourths of the average means of the total civic population and just about half of the other social groups. This easily shows that urbanization has clearly increased the difference in wealth between gentries. The Hindu Analysis.

An analysis of the distribution of house means or wealth across the countries shows that the wealth deficiency of the underprivileged gentries was expansive in both pastoral and civic sectors. In the pastoral sector, the means of ST homes were lower than the state or union home normal in 27 of the 36 countries and union homes. Also, the average means of SC homes were lower than the state/ union home normal in 29 authorities. In the case of OBCs, their house means were lower than the state or union home normal in 15 authorities. Still, when it comes to the means of the non-SC/ ST/ OBC groups, their wealth was lower than the state/ union home normal in 10 authorities.

The script was more disposed in civic regions. The average means or wealth of the ST homes were lower than the state/ union home normal in 24 authorities. The number of countries and union homes where the SC homes had lower-than-average means shot up to 30. The number of countries where the civic wealth of OBC homes was lower than the state/ union home average extended to 28. Still, in the case of non-ST/ SC/ OBC groups, the number of civic homes with lower wealth than the state/ union home normally drops hardly to nine.

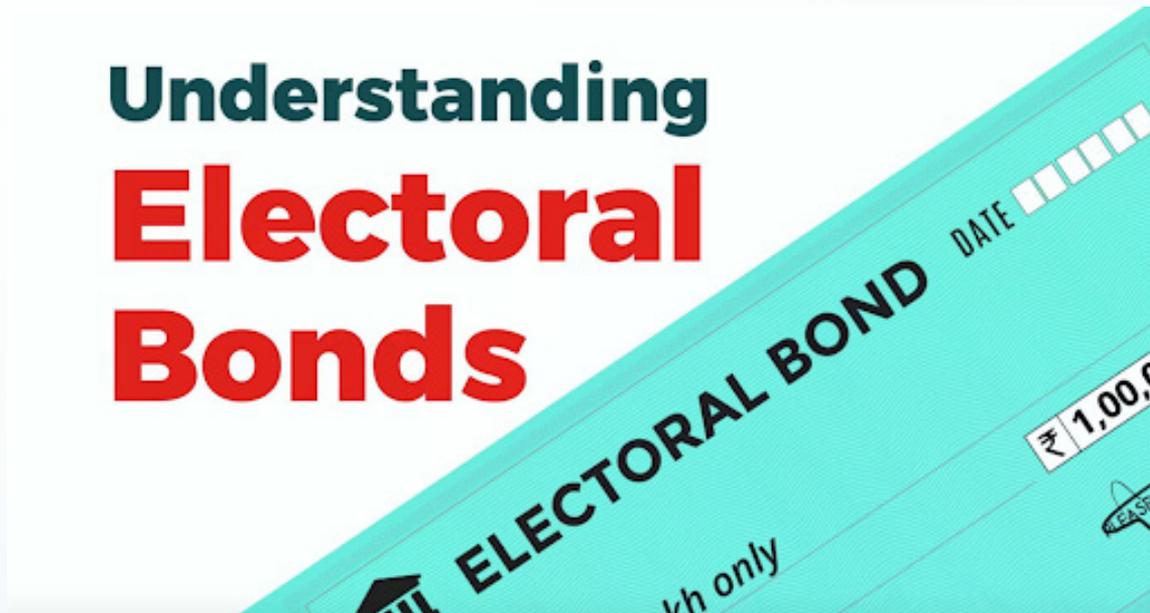
What makes similar expansive privation of wealth from the underprivileged gentries indeed worse is the intensity of privation. The figures for the pastoral sector show that the countries where the asset or wealth deficiency of the ST and SC homes was the loftiest, with their asset size lower than half the state normal, were Delhi, Punjab, Maharashtra, and Kerala, all fairly richer countries. And in the civic sector, the countries where the asset size of the ST and SC homes was lower than half the state normal are Goa, Delhi, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, and Jammu and Kashmir, nearly all of them located in the northern region. It'll not be unreasonable to conclude that the underprivileged gentries continue to be deprived of their licit claims on income and wealth, and that wealth poverties of the underprivileged gentries are the loftiest in civic areas, and both in the northern and richer countries.

Ritu

Let's understand the Transparency issue in Electoral Bonds

The essence of democracy lies in the transparent working of the democratic government, as for democracy we say "it is of the people, by the people and for the people."

Understanding Electoral Bonds



Recently the union government, prior to the election in five states, authorized the State Bank of India to issue and encash a new tranche of electoral bonds.

LET'S LOOK INTO THE PROCESS OF ELECTORAL BONDS : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

SBI on getting the notification from the central government starts issuing electoral bonds in denominations ranging from Rs1000 to Rs1 crore. These electoral bonds are bought by donors, mostly the companies. In this transaction the donor gets the bond and SBI gets the money. This bond then will be given to a political party. The political party to which the electoral bond is given, will submit it to SBI and will get the money from SBI, said as that electoral bond has been encashed now.

It is interesting to note that these electoral bonds are bearer bonds, meaning it will not carry the name of the buyer/ Donor. But this can be purchased only through a bank account (not by cash). The political parties will also be given money in their bank account.

It is little different from the practice where donors used to give money directly to the political parties. In this case donations have been made through the SBI/Banking system. Still the donations through electoral bonds are considered anonymous, because it will never be known to anyone that which donor has donated money to which political party.

Now the bigger question arises that how the people of the country will get to know which political party has got how much donations, as the donor as well as the political party are not obligated to disclose their donations.

Still there is one way to get this information. In essence it is like “match the following” as was suggested by late Union finance minister Arun Jaitley and recently said by the Supreme Court in an order while denying interim stay on the operation of electoral bonds.

The companies file these records of donations in their Corporate financial statements to the Registrar of the companies.

On the other hand the political parties in India are required to file a return with the Election Commission of India in which they mention how much money they got in donations.

Any voter interested in finding out the identity of Political donors, can look into the records of return filed by political parties to Election Commission of India and records of corporate financial statements filed by companies to companies of Registrar.

Now the very first thing is that The voters are not resources enough to get these records. and even if we assume that they a got these records, there is no attendant obligation on political parties to provide details to Election Commission of India/ Public on each donation received by them electoral bonds, as well as the companies are also under no obligation to disclose the name of the party to the home they made the donation. Thus it can never be that which Donor gave to which political party. The Hindu Analysis.

The Supreme Court of India has paid scant attention to the issue and has allowed the scheme to continue unabated. According to the court, since both the purchase and encashment of bonds are made through the banking system, all it would take for a person to glean the identity of a donor was for her to look through every corporation's financial system.

The debate arises here if it is really encroaching on “the right to know” under the right to freedom of expression which is guaranteed by the constitution.

Another concern came in picture with the amendments made in the electoral bonds which has done away with restrictions that were in place before the introduction of the scheme. Amendments have been made removing a previous prohibition that disallowed a company from donating anything more than 7.5 % of its net profits over the course of preceding three years. Similarly a mandate that allowed only three years old companies to make donations (so as to discourage people from using Shell Corporation to funnel money into politics) was also listed.

The government is of the view that first voters have no fundamental right to know how political parties are funded and second it helps eliminate the role of Black Money In funding elections. But in democracy a voter must know the identity of the backing of the political parties to choose one vote carefully. The supreme court also consistently held that voters have a right to freely express themselves during an election and that they are entitled to all pieces of information that give purpose and vigour to this right. The Reserve Bank of India also, reportedly advised the government against the skills introduction.

The worries over the electoral Bond are about its anonymity which befouls the basis of our democracy and prevents our election from being truly free and fair.

MD. Layeeque Azam