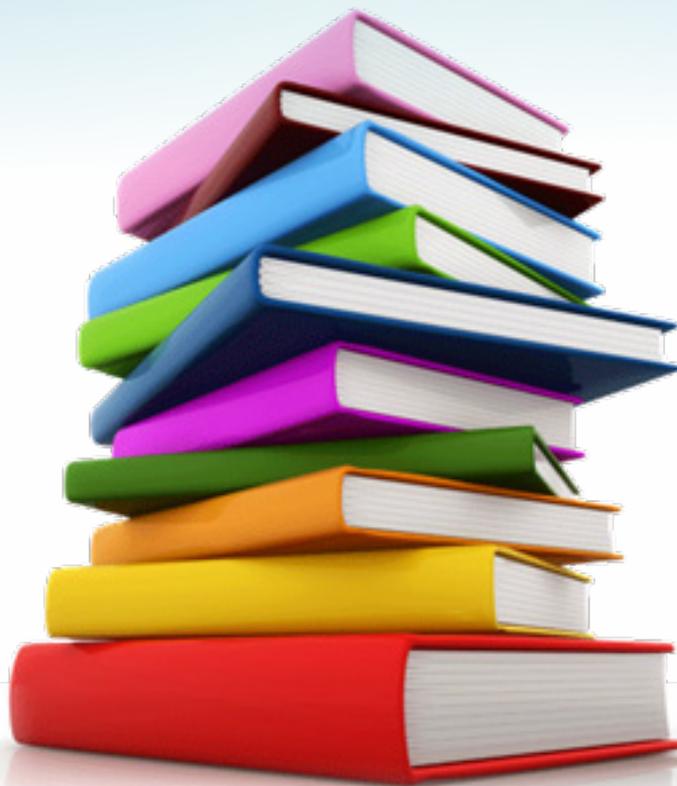




# **PLUTUS IAS Weekly**

## **CURRENT AFFAIRS**



**PLUTUS IAS WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS 07-02-2022 to 13-02-2022**

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# CURRENT AFFAIRS

## FEBRUARY 2022

### What is Macroeconomic Stability

In an economy Inflation, Forex rate, GDP growth rate, Export and Import, Consumption and Investment are macroeconomic indicators, as they will be seen collectively for the whole country and the whole economy. These indicators should be consistently favorable to the country for the economy, then it will be called as macroeconomic stability.

#### TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

In case of inflation it should not be very much as well as should not be very much low. High inflation affects the poor more because the marginal utility of money for them is high. So a high rate of inflation should not be favorable for any economy because even if there is no absolute poverty in any country, it will be having relative poverty for sure. For a country like India which is having a sizable population of absolute poor, higher rate of inflation should never be persisting.

At the same time if inflation goes negative (which is called deflation) the economy can face slow down, recession or depression. Actually in case of deflation, The producers in the economy do not go for higher levels of production or say they slow down the production, as they assume the deflation is a sign of reducing demand. And when demand is decreasing nobody would be taking risks by producing more. The Economy can witness slow down because of the action or better to say inaction of producers. Hence the tolerable Band of inflation is kept between 4 to 6% in terms of CPI combined. If the RBI and the monetary policy committee is successful in keeping the inflation rate between 4 to 6% then it will be said that we are having macroeconomic stability (in terms of inflation).

Second most important macroeconomic indicator is GDP growth. GDP growth should be on the higher side as much as possible but at the same time should be consistent. The real GDP growth indicates that the country has produced more goods and services that previous year. The increased goods and services will result in the enhanced standard of living of the people of the country. The GDP growth on the higher side makes sure that employment levels are on the higher side. More than employment, more will be the money in the hand of people, more the money in the hand of the people more will be the aggregate demand, more will be the aggregate demand producer would be producing more, producer would be producing more by hiring more people and this cycle should go on. The growth rate of GDP should be towards achieving the potential growth the economy can have, or the economy should grow at least by the previous year's percentage growth. When the economy goes like this it will be said that the economy has macroeconomic stability (in terms of consistent GDP growth). But sometime the unforeseen situations like fall down Of major Financial Institutions, or covid kind of unprecedented situation makes the economy go towards slowdown and recession, And here the government plays important role in recovering the economy by doing more expenditure some time on the basis of printing money (which is called as deficit financing). The Hindu Analysis.

Forex rate means the price of Dollar in terms of rupees in the Indian context, should be stable so as to

favor the Indian economy. The depreciation of rupee or the appreciation of rupee, both are not very much favorable for the Indian economy. In case of depreciation of rupee our imports become costly and in imports the major is crude oil. So because of this petrol and diesel prices in the country increase which results in inflation. Today Current Affairs.

Hence in the Indian context the depreciation of rupee results in inflation.

The depreciation of rupee also makes our exports competitive in the international market, But looking into the fact that the Indian industry is not that vibrant we are not producing export surplus. Hence the good outcome which we could have, could not be achieved.

But when it comes to China, the depreciation of Yuan benefits Chinese exports a lot because they are able to produce a lot more export surplus. The Chinese economy favors the depreciation. The Hindu Analysis.

## **TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

At the same time when it comes to appreciation of rupee, our products in the international market become costly. It can result in reduction of exports from India and Dollar earning of India could be less.

Hence Stable Forex rate favors the Indian economy and RBI tries its best to keep the Forex rate stable as it is one of the mandates.

In any case export should be higher than import then it will be said as macroeconomic stability. but in the case of India, import is higher than export. The Trade balance of India that is nothing but export minus import of goods, is deficit for long.

Consumption and Investment both should also be on a higher side for better macroeconomic stability. The portion of investment should be on the more as it results in capital formation or asset creation, especially for a developing country like India.

**MD. Layeeque Azam**

## **Growth of organic farming**

Organic farming is estimated to become 75000 crore Market by 2025. The Indian organic market is expected to grow at an annual rate of more than 20% however India's share in the global organic market is just 1%.with merely 0.4 % of total agricultural land under organic cultivation the industry has a long journey ahead.

## **TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

### **NEED OF ORGANIC FARMING: THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

- With the increase in population there is a need to stabilise agriculture production and increase it further in a sustainable manner.
- Green revolution with high input use has reached a plateau and is now sustained with diminishing returns of falling dividends.
- Agrochemicals are neither renewable nor abundant and may also cause heavenly forex in future.
- Organic farming can significantly cut down the cost of production.
- Organic agriculture in India will continue to grow and play a larger part in safely feeding 1.5 billion Indians in 2030.
- FAO suggested that organic agriculture in chances agro ecosystem health including biodiversity biological cycle and soil biological activities.

## **ADVANTAGES OF ORGANIC FARMING: THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

- Organic agriculture contributes to poverty alleviation and food security.
- Increase yields in low input areas.
- Increase small scale farmers income and reduce cost.
- Produce safe and varied food.
- Provide safe ecosystem services and be sustainable in the long term.
- Farmers in India's poorest region are recording record rice yields growing organically.

## **GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES TO PROMOTE ORGANIC FARMING: THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

- Mission organic value chain development for North East region (MOVCD). The scheme also aims to develop certified organic production in a value chain mode to link cross with consumers and to support the development of the entire value chain.
- Paramparagat krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY): under PKVY, organic farming is promoted through adoption of organic villages by cluster approaches and participatory guarantee system certification. Certification schemes: participatory guarantee system, National programme for organic production, soil health card scheme.
- Agri export policy 2018.
- One district one product
- Prime minister formalisation of micro food processing enterprises.
- Zero budget natural farming.

## **CHALLENGES: THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

- The cost of organic food products are relatively high owing to small volumes. According to the Indian council of agricultural research productivity on an average by 6.7 % in the first year and the government needs to have a plan in place to support farmers during the transaction.
- High demand and low supply has further created an inflationary pressure on organic food products.
- Specialised farmer training cost hire processing and inventory holding cost and increased holding cost, logistic and distribution cost to the price of end products.
- The absence of organic food products across all segments in the market is a concern.

## **WAY FORWARD**

- Supply demand mismatch can be East fundamentally by making organic production mainstream with location specific hybrid production strategies.
- Investment in achieving operational excellence bi companies will facilitate lowering the cost of organic food products.
- The government must rope in agriculture scientists and international research institutes to develop organic herbicides.
- People across all income groups should have access to organic food.
- In order to sustain consumer trust, maintaining an accurate auditory stream and preventing cross-contamination with conventional goods would be crucial.

**Anshum Verma**

# Requirements in the The Ancient Monuments and the Archeological sites and Remains (AMASR) Act 1958: An Analysis

## CONTEXT:

The 100 meter radius around centrally protected monuments where construction is prohibited could be replaced with site specific limits to be decided by an expert committee, as the Union Culture Ministry was working on amendments to the relevant Act

## INTRODUCTION:

The protection and preservation of our ancient monuments is the duty of the state and even it is our fundamental duty. The preservation and the protection of ancient monuments was started by the state from the period of Curzon. After Independence India The Ancient Monuments and the Archeological sites and Remains (AMASR) Act 1958 is there according to which 100 meter radius of protected area is declared as prohibited area. It means no construction can be done within this prohibited area and the 300 meter radius of the protected monument is declared as the regulated area. It means some building under some guideline can be built in these areas. Today Current Affairs.

But now the government wants to amend this Act. Earlier this act was amended in 2010. Government has constituted a Parliamentary standing committee in this regard as per the reports of this committee there was no specific reason for the 100-meter and 300-meter limits.

## TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

### WHY THE AMENDMENT IS REQUIRED IN ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES AND REMAINS (AMASR) ACT 1958: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

This bill was again amended and a new Bill Ancient Monuments and Archeological Sites and Remains (Amendment) Bill, 2017 was introduced and provision was added that in regulated areas, some construction could be done after the permission of the government. But It will incense the interference of the Builder Mafia therefore It should be amended. Today Current Affairs.

However in this new bill, it has been also stated that, the prohibition in restricted area also creating obstacle in front of some public welfare policies of the central government In this Bill, it is clearly tries to define Public welfare works of the central government so that there would not be any restriction on those works and these prohibition areas must be site specific. This amendment will bring drastic change in tourism because only government works should be carried out around monuments so that Land Mafia would not encroach in such types of prohibited and regulated areas. The amendment bill is passed in Lok Sabha and still is to pass in Rajya Sabha.

The proposed amendment would change section 20 A of the act which refers to the prohibited area, to rationalize the prohibited and regulated areas. Expert monument committees would decide the prohibited area around a monument.

## CONCLUSION : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The protection and preservation of ancient monuments is not only the duty of the public but also it is the responsibility of the state to protect our cultural heritage. These monuments are the symbol of our cultural

heritage. Therefore their protection is required. But, in changing scenarios, some changes are also needed in the current bill so that prohibited areas near the protected monument should be decided by a committee of experts related to the monument and Government works should be allowed in the prohibited area after the recommendation of the committee, if the works are for public causes.

**Dr. Anshul Bajpai**

## **INDIA'S FIRST CRYPTOCURRENCY INDEX**

India has the Bombay Stock Exchange and the National Stock Exchange for equities, but now India has its own crypto index, which will monitor the performance of the 15 most traded crypto currencies that are listed on crypto exchanges globally. The IC15 index launched by Global Crypto Super App, will serve as a benchmark on digital markets that will have a diversified representation across the increasingly varied crypto currencies market places.

### **TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

#### **WHAT IS THE CRYPTO CURRENCY INDEX? THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

The crypto currency index known as IC15 has been launched by the Global Crypto Currency Super App Kryptowire.

- It is a rule based broad market index by market capitalisation, which tracks the performance of top 15 widely traded liquid crypto currencies, in terms of market capitalization.
- The index includes a governance committee.
- It comprises leading domain experts, academicians and industry practitioners.
- These experts will monitor and administer the rebalancing of top 15 cryptos every quarter.
- The base date is 1 April, 2018 while the base value of the index is set at 10000.
- This index captures over 80% of market movement.

#### **HOW IS IC15 CONSTRUCTED? THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

The index will select cryptocurrencies from the top coins based on market capitalisation. The eligible cryptocurrency should have traded on at least 90% of the days during the review period and be among the 100 most liquid cryptocurrencies in terms of trading value.

The crypto currency should be in the top 50 in terms of the circulating market capitalisation too.

#### **WHAT IS THE MAIN OBJECTIVE BEHIND THE INDEX? THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

- The index enables crypto enthusiasts, investor's and investment managers to monitor the performance of crypto currencies in the global markets.
- IC15 is the first index in India that can act as a benchmark of the cryptocurrency market and the performance benchmark for fund manager's for creating index linked products like index funds, ETFs etc.

#### **OBJECTIVE – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

- Insights of crypto mining the true benchmark and mirror of the underlying crypto market.
- Presenting an easy solution to follow for having a diversified portfolio.

- Acting as a performance benchmark for fund managers.
- Uniquely positioning the index for efficient derivatives trading in the cryptocurrency trading marketplace.

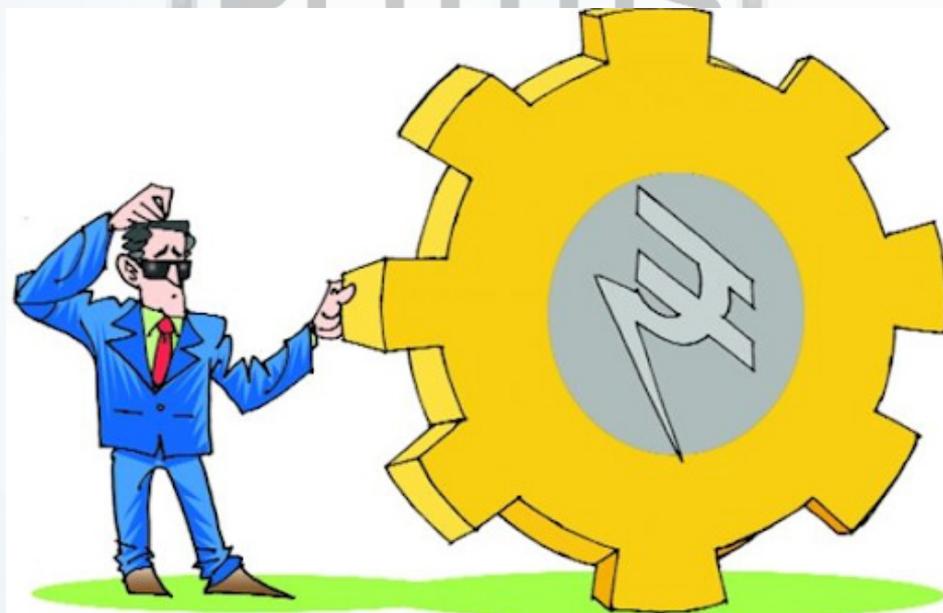
### **HOW DOES INDIA BENEFIT FROM A CRYPTO INDEX? THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

- Index based investing leads to diversification which is better than investing in individual tokens.
- A crypto index would track some of the top cryptocurrencies by market cap and hence eliminate the random tokens with no fundamental value or viable use case.
- Indian investors are traditionally more risk averse compared to our western counterparts.
- A crypto index would be an ideal benchmark for Indian investors dwelling in the cryptocurrency market.

Creating a balanced cryptocurrency index in India would serve as the foundation for different types of financial products such as crypto ETFs and funds. This will help provide a benchmark standard for fund managers.

**Anshum Verma**

## **The Indian GDP data and its Revisions**



The GDP for a country is defined as the money value of all final goods and services produced in its domestic territory during a period of time. In India the Central statistics office compiles the GDP data for a financial year and for a quarter.

The GDP compilation is a complex exercise which requires huge amounts of data from several sectors of the economy. The data collection is time consuming and thus GDP estimates for a given financial year are released in a sequence of revised estimates depending on different levels of data availability.

The Central Statistics Office releases 6 GDP estimates for a given financial year over a period of two years and 10 months. These estimates are said as First Advance Estimate (1st AE), Second Advance Estimate (2nd AE), Provisional Estimate, First Revised Estimate (1st RE), Second Revised Estimate (2nd RE) and Third Revised

Estimate (3rd RE). The Hindu Analysis.

## **TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

We can understand this by taking a financial year as an example. Supposedly CSO is compiling GDP for the financial year 2021-22.

It will present 6 GDP data at different points of time for the same financial year 2021-22. Today Current Affairs.

CSO will present two Advance Estimate before the completion of the financial year in the month of Jan (1st AE) and Feb (2nd AE) 2022, one Provisional Estimate after the completion of the financial year in the month of May (PE) 2022 and three Revised Estimate in the January month of subsequent years of 2023 (1st RE), 2024 (2nd RE) and 2025 (3rd RE). Remember all these six estimates for the same financial year 2021-22.

Advance Estimates are initial estimates, which are more relevant for various stakeholders as they are available within the financial year. However the true picture of the economy in terms of the magnitude and direction of growth unfolds over the entire revision cycle.

The First Advance Estimate of GDP is presented in the month of January before the presentation of the Budget on 1st Feb, so that the Central Budget can use this data in its allocation of expenditure. The Hindu Analysis.

The Advance Estimate uses 7 to 8 months data (and then projected for full year) on high frequency indicators that are assumed to capture the level of economic activity in each sector. The Provisional Estimate is the first full year estimate as it is based on 12 months of data on all sectoral indicators. Many Scholars have argued that data revisions contain both “news and noise” about the economy’s growth performance.

As initial estimates are compiled with incomplete data or proxies based on high-frequency indicators, there is likely to be more noise in these estimates. Gradually with data availability, the extent of noise is expected to diminish, and the revised estimates start to reflect ‘news’ about the state of the economy.

The revisions in GDP data play a crucial role in policy formulation and business decisions. Advance Estimation of GDP is important for macro economic assessment, while the revision cycles help us to understand the genuine macroeconomic fluctuations. Today Current Affairs.

RBI earlier has raised concerns about the numerous revisions in the gross domestic product data by the Central Statistics Office, as this confuses analysts about the economy.

**MD. Layeeque Azam**

## **The emerging issue of the Wearing Hijab : How far is it relevant for Individual freedom or How far is fundamentalism?**

### **CONTEXT:**

In Karnataka, Recently an issue related to Hijab wearing has emerged. Some school Muslim students were restricted their entry in the class by school authority because of wearing Hijab. Now this issue has been converted into politics and many right wingers political parties and students organizations had opposed this. To counter the Hijab the student union of the right wing political ideology also wore saffron stoles

## TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

### INTRODUCTION

The issue of wearing Hijab in Karnataka is a burning issue. In this regard but nobody should compel the students to wear Hijab. Girl has the right to protect her interest through wearing a Hijab but it should hamper the interest of the school (Public interest). If school authority thinks that there must be a proper dress code and in that dress code Hijab the school of Karnataka, a conflicting issue is being raised by some politicians for their political benefits and that issue is related to the wearing of *Hijab* by Muslim students. The right wings ideological student union's view is that at any cost they would not allow anybody to enter in school with fundamentalist dressing pattern. If Muslim students wear Hijab they should go in the schools managed by the Muslim management.

- In fact, dressing is the fundamental right of any person and nobody can be deprived from this right. Article 21 of the constitution provides the right to life which means the right to life in a dignified manner. Art 25 of the constitution also states that every person has the right to practice his religion and free to wear clothes as per the religious practice, provided this practice does not hamper communal harmony in the society. State can impose the restriction on the grounds of uphold "public order, morality and health". Today Current Affairs.

### PREVIOUS DECISIONS OF THE COURT IN THIS REGARDS: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- In the case of *Amnah Bint Basheer v. CBSE* (2015), The Kerala High Court stated that the CBSE could not prevent a Muslim girl from writing her exams while wearing a hijab, because hijab is an "essential practice" in Islam and that girls deserve the right to protect and practice her religious values.
- But in another case of *Fathima Tasneem v. State of Kerala* (2018), the verdict of High court is very important in which High court stated that court could not tell schools to allow Muslim girls to wear hijabs.
- On the ground of above two decisions it can be concluded that schools should not interfere in the matter of individual dressing pattern until or unless it does not harm any communal harmony and any social ritual.
- Wearing Hijab is not a big issue. If any student willing wear Hijabs nobody should have any object is not allowed, then the girls should not wear this Hijab

### WHAT ARE "PUBLIC INTEREST" AND "PUBLIC ORDER" AND "ESSENTIAL PRACTICES": THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Public Interest reflects the sense of the collective interest, not interest of majority only. The welfare or well-being of the general public irrespective to religion, caste, creed, race is the public interest. Public interest does not mean the interest of a particular community only.
- majoritarian Hindu supremacist demands that Muslim women can only study with their peers from other religions if they erase any appearance of 'Muslimness'. Muslim women wearing Hijab should go in Muslim religious school. This is not absolutely in the public interest. These types of activities have the agenda of segregation and isolation of Muslims. These activities would encourage separation in future which would be dangerous for the integrity of India as a nation. Public interest is served here only by nurturing diversity in educational institutions.
- Public Order means the state of normality and security that is needed in a society and that should be pursued by the state in order to exercise constitutional provision. If Turban wearing is not objectionable and no public order is being disturbed and how this Hijab will disturb public order.

- Essential practices are those practices which are fundamentals of any religion. Saffron is not an essential practice of Hinduism because Hinduism has never been practiced as a religion. While hijab is the practice described in Islamic text just like turban wearing is the essential practice for Sikh people

## CONCLUSION

In fact, the issue of Hijab wearing has been raised only for political purposes. Actually the elections are going on in some states and therefore on the grounds of religion some political parties are seeking the polarization of the votes. But all of us should be aware of such types of conspiracies of the political parties. We are Indian and unity in diversity is the fundamental feature of Indian culture. We have to maintain it.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

## Kunming declaration

Cop15 of the United nation convention on biological diversity was held virtually in Kunming, China.

## OBJECTIVE

### TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

- To develop and adopt a post 2020 global biodiversity framework and replace and update the strategic plan for biodiversity 2011 to 2020 and Aichi biodiversity targets.
- The framework will include a set of global goals, targets and indicators that will guide conservation, protection and Restoration and sustainable management of biodiversity and ecosystem for the next 10 years.
- The first draft of the global biodiversity framework was released in July 2021, containing 21 targets for 2030 and four goals to achieve humanity's "living in harmony with nature" vision by 2050.
- Parties will reconvene in 2022 for further negotiations and to come to a final agreement on the post 2020 GBF.

### KEY OUTCOME OF COP15: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Adoption of Kunming declaration-the declaration called for urgent and integrated action to reflect biodiversity consideration in all sectors and the global economy.
- More than hundred Nations including India made commitments to ensure the development, adoption and implementation of an effective post 2020 GBF.
- Reverse the current loss of biodiversity.
- Ensure that biodiversity is put on a path to recovery by 2030 at the latest.
- 30 by 30 target-efforts and commitment of many countries to protect 30% of their land and sea areas by 2030.
- Kunming biodiversity fund-China established a fund with approx 230 million dollars to support projects for protecting biodiversity in developing countries.

### MAJOR TARGETS OUTLINE IN THE DRAFT GBF: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- 50% greater reduction in the rate of introduction of invasive alien species.
- Nature-based contribution to global climate change mitigation effort of at least 10Gt CO<sub>2</sub> per year.

- Reduce subsidies and other financial programs that harm biodiversity by at least 500 billion dollar per year.
- All mitigation and adaptation efforts avoid negative impacts on biodiversity.
- Reducing nutrient loss to the environment by at least half and pesticides by at least two third and eliminating the discharge of plastic waste.
- Conservation of at least 30% of land and sea areas globally
- 200 billion dollar increase in international financial flows.

### **KEY ISSUES RELATED TO POST 2020 GBF: THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

- Difficulties in multilateral cooperation for conservation of cross-border land Ocean areas.
- Presently commercial benefits of digital sequence information are not covered by benefit sharing mechanisms.
- Lack of ambition and urgency.
- Current financial mechanisms fall short of the estimated 700 billion dollars needed annually to halt biodiversity decline.
- Lack of convenient mechanisms to track collective ambition or to regulate and take stock of progress.

### **WAY FORWARD: TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

- Area based conservation measures should be expanded to cover key diversities areas while recognising the rights and roles of indigenous peoples and local communities.
- Global targets must be measurable underpinned by science and have explicit outcomes, so that their implementation and impact can be monitored and assessed.
- Targets within the framework should be aligned to existing commitments related to climate, land, sea etc.
- Government should make an effort to raise and contribute additional investment in nature.

**Anshum Verma**

## **Centre-State Relations in the light of amendment to IAS Cadre rules (GS Paper-II, Polity, Constitution, Governance, Social Justice and International Relations)**

**Source: The Indian Express**

### **WHY IN NEWS? THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

Recently the central government has proposed the amendment to Rule 6 of the IAS (Cadre) Rules, 1954 which has attracted controversy between Centre and States on the political lines.

## **TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

### **CENTRE-STATE RELATIONS WITH RESPECT TO ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES: THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

- India being a quasi-federal country, the executive is organized between the Centre and States.
- As per Article 309 of the Constitution, the Centre and States are empowered to maintain services for running their respective administration.
- The Centre and States have the power to exercise full control over their services independently of each other.
- To maintain the harmony between them, Sardar Patel envisioned the creation of the All-India Services.
- Article 312 of the Constitution provides for the administration of All-India Services unlike a central or state service.
- The Centre determines the recruitment and allotment of cadre and the states determine the work and posting.
- So, we can say, All-India Services have been carefully balanced between the Centre and the States

### **IAS (CADRE) RULES, 1954: TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

- The Rule-6 (1) of the IAS (Cadre) Rules-1954 deals with central deputation in the IAS.
- According to these rules, All India Services officers are available for central deputation through a consultative process involving the Centre, the States and the officers concerned and in case of any disagreement, it is the Central Government who decides the matter.
- Every year, the States use to prepare an “offer list” of officers who had opted for central deputation and the Centre would choose officers only from among those “on offer” from the States.
- The implementation of the cadre rules is left to the states.
- Also there are some states which openly disregard the cadre rules with respect to:
  - The unilaterally appointing non-cadre officers to IAS cadre posts
  - The Minimum Tenure Guarantee
  - The impunity in matters of postings and transfers

### **PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE RULE 6 OF THE IAS (CADRE) RULES, 1954: THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

- It seeks to do away with the consent of both the officers and the state government in matters related to Central deputation.
- The central government said that it has been proposed to ensure adequate availability of IAS officers for the central deputation.
- Stripping away the consent of the state government is a move towards greater centralisation in the IAS, bringing it functionally closer to a central service.
- It has the potential to disrupt the delicate balance between the Centre and states

### **POSSIBLE IMPACTS OF THIS MOVE: THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

- The States may be losing key officers due to mandatory central deputation as feared by the opposition

- It may compel the states to appoint state officers to the key posts dealing with transaction of business rules.
- Further states may provide opportunities for retired bureaucrats to re-enter into the administration outside the cadre policy.

This amendment is against the idea of Sardar Patel who envisioned All-India Services as a unifying link between the Centre and the States. It will not only hamper the Centre-State relations but it will also lead to functional depreciation of IAS officers in the states. So it is important to provide adequate safeguard to States and the officers for their smooth functioning.

## **Significance of US approval for the Upgradation of Taiwan Missile : An Analysis in context of India China relation**

### **CONTEXT:**

The United States has approved a possible \$100 million sale of equipment and services to Taiwan to “sustain, maintain, and improve” the Patriot missile defense system used by the self-ruled island claimed by China, the Pentagon said.

### **TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

#### **INTRODUCTION:**

Taiwan is officially known as the Republic of China. It is an east Asian country. Its neighboring countries are People’s Republic of China in the North northwest, Japan in northeast, and the Philippines in the south. In fact after the second world war the mainland of China was controlled by the Mao Zedong and the leader of Kuomintang party of the China Chiang Kai Sekh had to escape from China and he established it government in Taiwan while, with the support of USSR, a people republic of China was established under the leadership of Mao. Western countries did not give recognition the people republic of China but during 1970s, almost entire world recognized The people Republic of China and Taiwan is now an independent country



## **HISTORY OF TAIWAN: TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

Actually this Taiwan island was colonized by the Dutch people during 18th centuries but the Treaty of Shimonoseki, Taiwan was ruled by the Japan but after the second world war, Taiwan also became free and republic of China (ROC) was founded which has been exercising jurisdiction over Taiwan since 1945 after Japan surrender at the end of World War II.

After the defeat in the civil war fought with Mao's communist party, the ROC government relocated to Taiwan. From then, Taiwan and China both are different countries ruled by different governments. Beijing had never exercised sovereignty over Taiwan or other islands administered by the ROC.

## **CHINA TAIWAN RELATION: THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

China did not recognize Taiwan as another country and he has been continuously trying for reunification of China. For this during 1980. PRC (people republic of China) proposed a concept of one nation two government which was rejected by the Taiwan because Taiwan had no faith over the Chinese government and after 2000 this suspicious of the ROC become more strong after the Chinese behavior with Hong Kong

## **INDIA TAIWAN RELATION: THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

There is a debate that what Taiwan is? Who recognizes Taiwan as an fully independent country separated from China. China never recognized Taiwan and considered it as a breakaway province any time it can be merged even by force, if necessary. but Taiwan considered itself as a sovereign state more than a country

In 1971, the UN also recognized Beijing as a sovereign country and ROC as another country. Since then the number of countries that recognize the ROC government diplomatically has fallen drastically to about 15.

Taiwan has virtually all of the characteristics of an independent state, even if its legal status remains unclear. Today Current Affairs.

Before 1990, India had not good trade relations with Taiwan because of Russia's friendship. After 1990, India developed trade relations with Taiwan but India does not have any diplomatic relations with Taiwan. Many Indian people are residing in Taiwan and In the absence of diplomatic relations between India and Taiwan, these India are working as bridge between India and Taiwan relationship.

In the Indo pacific order India is one of the emerging countries and for New Southbound policy (NSP) the relation with India is necessary for Taiwan. Therefore Taiwan is increasing its trade relations with India. Since NSP is a people centric therefore it would be made the key feature of future diplomacy of the Taiwan

## **SIGNIFICANCE OF US SUPPORT TO TAIWAN: THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

Taiwan feels fear of Chinese aggression, Therefore she is increasing her contract with the west. India's interest also lies in the strengthened Taiwan. If Taiwan would be strong, it will balance the Chinese aggression

American support for the upgradation of the Patriot Air Defense System of Taiwan would be beneficial for India. This deal would come in effect within one month

## **CONCLUSION**

On the bases of the above analysis it can be concluded that for the peace in Asia pacific region balance of power is mandatory. Recently entire world mainly India is facing the challenges from Chinese aggression in that dimension, definitely the strong and sovereign Taiwan would be knew factor of the balance of power in Asia pacific region

**Dr. Anshul Bajpai**

# Evaluation of the French format on Russia Ukraine Crisis

## CONTEXT:

Recently the visit of French President Emmanuel Macron to Russia bears fruits which paved the way for peace at the Ukraine border and Russian leader Vladimir Putin assured him that Russia would not escalate the crisis.

## TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

### INTRODUCTION:

- Russia Ukraine crisis has been continuing for a long time. Russia has deployed more than ten thousand soldiers at the border of the Ukraine. To counter Russia, NATO has adopted strong measures also. Russia has been continuously opposing the demand of Ukraine to be a member of NATO. But Recently with the intervention of France, The Ukraine-Russia crisis is now over.
- French President Emmanuel Macron who has held talks with Russian leader Vladimir Putin in Moscow and Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky in Kiev stated on the behalf of both that both sides have come to an agreement and committed for peace as per the Minsk accord of 2014-15. Gradually Russia would withdraw its troops and Moscow has issued sweeping demands, including rolling back NATO from Eastern Europe, which the West has rejected.
- In fact, the main concern of Russia is to stop Ukraine and NATO cooperation and that is continuously increasing the coast of black sea
- Even though the US has been also trying for dialogue with Russia for a long time and US has made efforts to reduce military drill in eastern flank of Europe. France is trying to reduce the tension through the talks which would be based on the Normandy Format Talks (including France, Germany, Russia, Ukraine). However Moscow-Kiev dialogue based on the Minsk protocol was accepted by both the parties NATO and Russia



## **TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

### **NORMANDY FORMAT : THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

The Normandy Format was a format of talks to stop Ukraine Russian war in 2014. In this format mainly four countries participated two- Russia and Ukraine and two other mediators Germany and France. It was concluded in Normandy, France, It was an effort to resolve the war in Donbas. It has also been known as the Normandy contact group.

### **MINSK PROTOCOL: THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

It is an agreement concluded at the end of war between Russia and Ukraine in 2014 in the Donbas region of Ukraine. It was written in 2014 by the Trilateral Contact Group on Ukraine, consisting of Ukraine, the Russian Federation. It was written by 5 September 2014 in Russian language

### **EVALUATION :**

- Initially America was showing its arrogance and continuously threatening Russia and even America had threatened Russia who would close the Nord 2. But other members of NATO did not agree with this type of aggression because they knew this fact very well that Europe had faced two world wars and cold war which had badly impacted the life of Europeans.
- Therefore other countries of NATO wanted to negotiate for peace and in this regard the effort of France was a successful effort. Germany and Hungary also want peace. Even Though, openly Germany did not say anything, it stopped supplying arms to Ukraine from Estonia, the tiny NATO member that shares a border with Russia. Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Organ also supported the demand of Russia and stated that the demands of Russia are reasonable
- Besides, Turkey is also supporting peace and during the last visit of the Turkish president to Ukraine, Turkey had proposed for the peace summit under its leadership. Today Current Affairs.
- Any way, all the things discussed above show that there are different views among the members of the NATO on the issue of Russia Ukraine Crisis
- Now the point is whether France and Germany would protect Europe from another disaster of the war through their effort of conversations or not.
- In these talk, the Russia supported separatist of the Ukraine would be given general amnesty and there should be a change in the constitution of the Ukraine for proving maximum autonomy to those regions. If the Normandy Format talks could be convened and Russia and Ukraine take steps to revive the agreement, it would be a diplomatic breakthrough.

### **CONCLUSION**

Definitely, the effort of France and Germany is appreciable and these two countries of Europe are trying to save Europe from another disaster but the American attitude before one month on the issue of this Crisis would have enhanced this tension.

## Let's understand Extra Budgetary Resources and look into some important Data of Budget 2022-23



### **EXPENDITURE:**

The government has proposed to spend 39.4 lakh crore in the financial year 2022-23, which is an increase of 4.6 % over the revised estimate of previous year 2021-22. The Hindu Analysis.

### **RECEIPTS:**

The Receipts (other than borrowings) of the government in 2022-23 are expected to be 22.8 lakh crore, which would be an increase of 4.8 % over revised estimate of 2021-22.

### **GDP:**

In the budget of 2022-23, The government has estimated a nominal GDP growth rate of 11.1% for the financial year 2022-23. Nominal GDP growth rate is defined as real GDP growth plus inflation.

### **TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

#### **FISCAL DEFICIT :**

The target of Fiscal deficit in 2022-23 is 6.4 % of GDP, which is lower than the revised estimate of 6.9 % of GDP in 2021-22 Budget (little higher than the budget estimate of 6.8 % of GDP).

#### **REVENUE DEFICIT:**

The target of the revenue deficit in 2022-23 is kept as 3.8 % of GDP, which is lower than the revised estimate of 4.7% in 2021-22.

#### **EXTRA BUDGETARY RESOURCES :**

After a number of years the budget has not relied on Extra Budgetary Resources (EBR) for loans from the

National Small savings fund.

In the budget 2022-23 the highest percentage increase in allocation among top 13 ministries, is observed in the Ministry of Communication (which is 93%), followed by Ministry of Road Transportation and Highways (which is 52%), Ministry Of Jal Shakti (which is 25%).

### **WHAT ARE EXTRA BUDGETARY RESOURCES/ BORROWINGS: THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

According the budget document, “Extra budgetary resources (EBRs) are those financial liabilities that are raised by Public Sector Undertakings for which repayment of entire principal and interest is done from Government budget,” Such borrowings are made by state-owned firms to fund government schemes but are not part of the official budget calculations.

Extra budget borrowing is excluded from the fiscal deficit calculations, but at the same time, are added to the total debt of the government.

In recent years, several CPSUs have raised resources from the market by issuing Government of India-Fully Serviced Bonds (GoIFSB) for which the repayment of both principal and interest is to be done from the Budget. The Hindu Analysis.

This means that though the borrowing is not a part of the consolidated fund of India, the interest payment for such borrowings are made out of the consolidated fund.

### **TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**(Use of the extra budget borrowings :** Several budgets announced schemes are financed out of extra budget borrowings. These borrowings are done by the public sector entities that are administering the schemes. In the past, schemes like the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY), Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), etc were financed out of extra budget borrowings.)

The borrowings are made through Government of India fully serviced bonds and NSSF Loans). This means any government entity can take money from the market by issuing **Government of India fully serviced bonds** or by getting a loan from National Small Savings Funds (Which is called **NSSF loans**). And then this money will be used in funding the government scheme which comes under that particular government entity.

The government doesn't show these loans in the budget and that's why these money will not be added to the fiscal deficit of the budget. But the principal and the interest on these loans will be paid by the government. And thus these repayment of principal and interest will be shown in expenditure of the government. The Hindu Analysis.

In the budget of 2022-23 the government has shown nil spendings in Expenditure Profile against Extra Budgetary Resources. From here it can be concluded that The schemes which were earlier funded by NSSF Loans or Government of India fully serviced Bonds, will now be funded by Budget itself.

**Concerns of the CAG:** The Comptroller and Auditor General of India earlier had raised concern about rising off budget borrowings. It stated “Government has increasingly resorted to off-budget financing for revenue as well as capital spending. In terms of revenue spending, off-budget financing was used for covering deferring fertilizer arrears/bills through special banking arrangements; food subsidy bills/arrears of FCI through borrowings and for implementation of irrigation scheme (AIBP) through borrowings by NABARD under the Long Term Irrigation Fund (LTIF). In terms of capital expenditure, off budget financing of railway projects through borrowings of the IRFC and financing of power projects through the PFC are outside the budgetary control.”

**MD. Layeeque Azam**

## NFHS & SDGs – THE HEALTH STATUS

The main objective of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) has been to provide high-quality data on health and family welfare and other emerging issues. Five rounds of the NFHS (1992–93, 1998–99, 2005–06, 2015–16, and 2019–20) have been successfully completed in India. The NFHS-5, implemented during 2019–21, was successfully completed despite two waves of COVID-19 by temporarily halting the survey in the second-phase states and union territories (IIPS and Macro International 2021).

### TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

The NFHS-5 sample is designed to provide national, state/union territory, and district-level estimates of various indicators that are critical to monitor the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on population, health, nutrition, and gender equality, among others. However, some indicators like sexual behaviour, women's work, HIV/AIDS knowledge, attitudes, practices, domestic violence, and men's health are provided only at the state/union territory and national levels. The content and definitions are similar to other rounds to allow for comparisons over time. However, the NFHS-5 has been expanded to include new issues such as the extent of preschool education, disability, access to a toilet facility, death registration, bathing practices during menstruation, and methods and reasons for abortion. The scope of clinical, anthropometric, and biochemical (CAB) testing has been expanded to include measurement of waist and hip circumferences and malaria testing.

### HOUSEHOLD ENVIRONMENT, WATER, AND SANITATION : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Concerns for healthy living free from diseases entail keeping the household environment clean, including proper sanitation, hygiene, and adequate access to clean water as envisaged in the SDGs 6 and 7—water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH).

**Use of clean fuel for cooking:** An essential indicator of the improved household environment is the type of fuel used for cooking. India has made efforts to improve the household environment and health status of its members through the Ujjwala Yojana.

**Use of improved sanitation and toilet facilities:** There has been a remarkable improvement in the proportion of households using improved sanitation facilities in India (from 49% to 70%) and in each of the 36 states/union territories, which may be attributed to the Swachh Bharat Mission. India has a number of programmes to improve maternal and child health, like Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakaram (JSSK), and Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Vandana Abhiyan (PSMVA).

**Marriage, fertility, and family planning:** Fertility is best summarised by the total fertility rate (TFR). Replacement-level fertility of 2.1 children per woman or less has been achieved in 31 of the 36 states/union territories (Figure 1). MP (2.0), and Rajasthan (2.0), Assam (1.9), Mizoram (1.9), Chhattisgarh (1.8), and Nagaland (1.7) attained the replacement level between NFHS-4 and NFHS-5. However, despite the decline in TFR, Bihar (3.0), Meghalaya (2.9), UP (2.4), Jharkhand (2.3), and Manipur (2.2) have higher than the replacement level of fertility.

All 36 states/union territories, except Punjab, showed an improvement in the use of any modern method of family planning over the previous round of the survey (Figure 2). The maximum increase between NFHS-4 and NFHS-5 was observed in Goa (from 25% to 60%), followed by Karnataka (51% to 68%), Bihar (23% to 44%), Jharkhand (40% to 62%), and Arunachal Pradesh (27% to 47%).

**Immunisation coverage:** Immunisation helps in the development of the immune system and improves the overall nutritional status of the child and helps in the decline of infant mortality. Since 1985 when the first universal immunisation programme was launched, the government focused on achieving full coverage of

essential vaccines for all children and has been successful in delivering the targets. In NFHS-5, full vaccination coverage among children has increased from 62% to 76%, which increases further to 84% if restricted to information from the mother–child protection (MCP) card. Today Current Aff.airs

Nutritional status of children under five years: Despite implementation of the Poshan Abhiyan in the country since March 2018, the NFHS-5 findings portray no remarkable improvements in nutritional status of under-five children that might have resulted due to COVID-19-induced interruptions in micronutrient supplementation.

Stunting is one of the three standard indices used globally to track physical growth and development of children, and it is the preferred indicator used for long-term planning of policies and intervention programmes like Poshan Abhiyan.

Children aged under three breastfed within one hour of birth: Breastfeeding within an hour of birth, or colostrum feeding, has been a significant contributor to preventing avoidable mortality in early childhood as it provides protection from various types of infections. The level of breastfeeding within one hour after birth in the NFHS-5 is the highest in Meghalaya (79%) and the lowest in Jharkhand (22%).

## **NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES : THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are a leading cause of mortality, a major public health problem, and an obstacle to achieving the SDGs for India. The NFHS-5, through an objective assessment by CAB investigations and supporting biomarker questions, provides valuable information on the situation of NCDs and their risk factors in India.

## **GENDER EQUALITY – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

Two important aspects of gender equality highlighted here pertain to women’s empowerment and domestic (spousal) violence. The NFHS-5 shows an overall improvement in these SDG indicators in all the states/union territories.

### **WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT:**

The indicators of women’s empowerment presented are (a) participation in three key household decisions and (b) having a bank or savings account women themselves use. The three key household decisions are (i) decisions about healthcare for herself, (ii) making major household purchases, and (iii) visits to her family or relatives.

### **GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE:**

The two important dimensions of violence against women (ever-experience of spousal violence and experience of sexual violence by age of 18 years) are highlighted in this section. There has been a substantial decline in the ever-experience of spousal violence by ever-married women and in the experience of sexual violence by age of 18 years among younger women (aged 18–29 years) in the last four years. In 27 states/union territories, the extent of spousal violence has decreased, but it has increased in the remaining states/union territories.

The NFHS-5 results from all 36 states/union territories provides an opportunity to assess the progress of several important programmes in the country that have been launched to improve the performance of SDG indicators. Undoubtedly, considerable improvements in the critical SDG indicators on population and health in India are visible over the last four years. At the same time, there are several areas of concern that need focused attention.

**Ritu**

## CORE TENET OF BUDGET 2022-23

The core tenet of the union government budget for 2022 – 23 is to pursue ideologically prejudiced programs that discourage inclusive growth and an obstinate turndown to admit the realities. It has not only given up on all sweats to cover livelihoods but also, nearly simply, banks on boosting capital spending to crowd in private investments for accelerating growth. By stubbornly adhering on to such a discredited force side, the government thereby remains wedged behind the wind indeed as it nearly fully ignores the immediate need to secure acceptable employment for the millions poorly hit by the epidemic.

The spending patterns in the budget swear to this. The government has now continued to pare the relative size of the budget for the alternate successive time despite the recreating swells of the epidemic, the uninterrupted depression in consumption demand, and the expansive pastoral torture. Also, the budget cuts have concentrated simply on profit spending, including major schemes and subventions, that incontinently affects the overall wealth.

At the macro position, the total budget expenditure of 39.4 lakh crore will be just 15.3 of the gross domestic product (GDP) in 2022 – 23, as against the 18 recorded in 2020 – 21 — the first time of the epidemic. Squeezing the overall popular allocations by nearly 3 chance points of the GDP during the worst epidemic over a century can be especially disastrous given the delicate recovery. Also, budget estimates indicate that the establishment expenditure and disbursement on central schemes, which regard for nearly half the total budget spending, will indeed decline in nominal terms in 2022 – 23.

The impact of relative loss in government spending will be both immediate and severe, since the cuts are disproportionately advanced in profit spending or the consumption expenditure of the government. Profit spending is set to decline by as important as 3.4 % to 12.4 of the GDP between 2020 – 21 and 2022 – 23. The net result has been a fall in government backing of important schemes, including flagship schemes, and indeed of the entire ministries.

### TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

The schemes worst affected by the budget allocations are the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee programme (whose backing has been cut by around a quarter), the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana for promoting civic casing, road workshop, crop insurance scheme, the agrarian price stabilization fund, and finances for gas connection for poor homes. The budget figures for allocation to the Midday Meal Scheme are fully missing. The overall budget subventions are also down by around a quarter. While canvas subventions have been cut by around one-tenth, that of food and diseases have been slashed by around a quarter each and interest subventions by one-third. The cuts in interest and toxin subventions will negatively affect husbandry. Also, the budget allocations for numerous government ministries that are pivotal to the frugality have also been inked. The worst affected are health and casing. Particularly striking is the absence of any grand strategy to plug the crunches in the health sector. Also, the budget allocations for Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, and women weal schemes are rising at lower than half the pace in the overall spending. This will clearly vitiate the efficacy of the programmes for these underprivileged groups. The Hindu Analysis.

As for capital spending, the budget allocation has been increased by 1.5 lakh crore to 7.5 lakh crore in 2022 – 23. Of this, about two-thirds is reckoned for by allocations to transport and roadways, railroads, and defense, whose impact will be visible only in the medium term. Piecemeal from these, the other large capital allocations are for tentative transfer of finances to the countries and for public sector telecommunication companies, which may or may not fructify. Also, although relative capital spending has improved by around a third over the last two times to 2.9 of the GDP in 2022 – 23, it has also bloated the debt burden. The debt bills have now gone up to 16.6 trillion — an each- time high — and also pushed interest payments over and costs of servicing debt to 9.4 trillion, which is around 125% of the budget allocation for capital spending.

A major reason for these drastic cuts in social sector and wealth spending, and the adding dependence on request borrowings to fund capital expenditure, is the shrinking share of commercial levies. Despite all claims of boosting growth, the budget figures indicate that the duty-to-GDP rate will formally decline again to 10.7 of the GDP in 2022 – 23. This is half a chance point lower than the peak situations achieved further than half a decade ago. What's indeed more striking is that the slack in duty rallying is wholly due to the shrinking share of commercial levies after the sharp rate cuts. Also, a major part of the buoyancy in the goods and services duty this time is due to the surging significances and not from any significant advancements in consumption.

## **TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

To add up, the 2022 – 23 budget has largely concentrated on stimulating growth by trying to substitute the fugitive private sector investments with public sector investments. This is doubtful to have any immediate impact as the muted consumption demand, low- capacity application, and inflationary pitfalls remain the major hurdles that restrain private investments and ail all prospects of accelerating growth. This is especially so since the soft financial policy station will most probably be reversed in the coming months. And now, with the finance ministry also refusing to do any heavy lifting to support an nascent recovery, all expedients of sustainable growth fade down.

Ritu

## **The reservation for the Locals in Jobs of the state : An analysis on legal ground**

### **CONTEXT:**

A petition related to to remove the stay on the Haryana State Employment of Local Candidates Act, or the Haryana Act will be heard very soon in The honorable Supreme Court of India. According to the Haryana Act, 75% of jobs in the private sector will be reserved in the State for local residents.

## **TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

### **INTRODUCTION:**

Haryana Government brought a provision in Haryana through which 75 % seats of the jobs in the private sector would be reserved for the residents of Haryana only. However the Haryana State Employment of Local Candidates Act talks about the jobs up to the salary of 30000 in a month and government can exempt some industries by such a notification has so far exempted new start-ups and new Information Technology Enabled Services (ITES) companies, as well as short-term employment, farm labor, domestic work, and promotions and transfers within the State. Today Current Affairs.

The Act was enacted in February 2021, and brought into effect in January 2022. In the month of Jan, people filed a petition in the joint high court of Haryana and Punjab and the High court issued a stay on this Act. Now this petition is in Supreme court and SC will check its constitution validity and accordingly takes its decision

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

Some states like Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, had already passed such a type of Act and However these Acts have been challenged in respective high courts but the issue is whether SC should take these issues or should wait for the decisions of the all High courts. Although this type of Act raises the questions of

the constitutional provision also. For example, the article 19 (1)(g) of the Indian constitution provides the fundamental right to all the citizens of India to carry out any occupation, any business trade or, provided those professions do not harm the communal harmony or any type of interest of the public and the state. This act, up to a certain extent, encroaches upon their right to carry out any occupation. Because private sector, in this situation will not conduct business

### **PREVIOUS DECISIONS OF COURTS AND CONSTITUTION PROVISIONS IN THIS REGARDS : THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

In the case of T.M.A. In The Pai Foundation case in 2002 the Supreme Court gave a decision that private educational institutions have autonomy in their administration and management.

Similarly in the case of P.A. Inamdar case in 2005, it was also stated that the reservation can not be mandated in private educational institutions for any deprived persons. but after the amendment of the constitution, the provision of the reservation for Economically weaker section was sanctioned in the admission process in private educational institute, not in private jobs

Article 16 of the Indian Constitution also states that state can not discriminate among its citizens on the ground of place of birth and residence, However Parliaments is empowered to make laws in this regard and through some parliamentary laws some, tribal North east state has rights in this regards. But it is also for the public sector not for the private sector

In a decision of the honorable supreme court in 2202, it was clearly stated that the government of Rajasthan can not stop the persons of other states in the jobs of teachers in Rajasthan reservations can be made for backward classes of citizens but this cannot be solely on account of residence or domicile.

Another big issue is whether 75 % reservation is possible. In 1992, SC had clearly stated that reservation can not exceed beyond 50% but in extraordinary situations it can be little increased. Today Current Affairs.

But some states like Telangana (2017), Rajasthan (2019) and Maharashtra (2018) have passed Acts of reservation in which the limit of 50 % is crossed. Even Though, the supreme court has struck down the provision of the Maharashtra Government in which the reservation for Marathi speaking people was more than 50 %.

### **IMPACT OF THE SUCH TYPES OF THE LAWS OF RESERVATION : THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

In the private sector such types of laws must be denounced because these laws will discourage the private sector to do their business where they observe unskilled human resources.

Apart from this, such types of reservation are against the concept of India as a nation. Even Though reservation can be made for too much deprived regions to protect their cultural identity but In the case of Haryana such type of requirement is not there

### **CONCLUSION**

On the basis of the above analysis it can be said that, Haryana government should not make any laws regarding the reservation of the locals in private jobs. Haran is neither a tribal or deprived state nor a linguistic minority state. Therefore this type of Act will definitely emerge in the spirit of regionalism and the small and poor state will have to face a huge problem of investment after such type of Act. many people of Bihar, UP, Jharkhand those are working in various private companies of Haryana, if they were deprived from the Job they would be burdened in their own state and in this way, the economical diversity will increase which will be resulted as the dissatisfaction among small and poor state which would be further dangerous factor for the integrity and unity of the India.

**Dr. Anshul Bajpai**

## Budget Highlights

The Budget 2022-23 has referred to the 25 years of period between 75th year and 100th year of independence as Amrit Kaal and has marked the celebration of this period as Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.

### TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

#### THE GOALS OF AMRIT KAAL HAVE BEEN SET AS : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- focus on growth and all inclusive welfare;
- promoting Technology enabled development energy transition and climate action; and
- Virtuous cycle starting from private investment, Crowded in by public capital investment.

#### THE FOUR PRIORITIES OF THE BUDGET ARE : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- PM Gati Shakti
- Inclusive Development
- Financing of Investment, and
- Productivity Enhancement and Investment, Sunrise Opportunities, Energy Transition and Climate Action

The budget on the basis of DPP data of previous years and quarters has stated that the pace of the recovery of the economy in the backdrop of Covid impact, is reflective of the country's resilience.

#### THE INDIAN ECONOMY ON THE BASIS OF FAST RECOVERY IS STAGING A SUSTAINED RECOVERY. TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Under PM Gati Shakti Yojna a National Master Plan has been framed which aims to develop world class modern infrastructure and logistic synergies. It is essentially a digital platform to bring 16 Ministries including Railways and Roadways together for integrated planning and coordinated implementation of infrastructure connectivity projects. This Yojana will be driven by seven important engines of infrastructure that are roads Railways airports ports mass transportation waterways and Logistic infrastructure.

#### UNDER THIS PROGRAM THE FOLLOWINGS ARE THE TARGETS : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- 25000 km national highways will be completed in 2022-23,
- Integration of postal and Railways network facilitating parcel movement
- One Station one product
- Extending coverage of Kavach
- 400 new generation Vande Bharat trains
- Multimodal connectivity between mass urban transport and railway stations
- National roadway development plan as a sustainable alternative to conventional roads
- capacity building for infrastructure projects

Agriculture and food processing industries have also been given equal importance. The government has the following proposal to boost agriculture and its backward and forward linkages.

- Promoting chemical free natural farming starting with farmer's lands close to River Ganga
- Promoting post harvest value addition, consumption and branding of millet products
- Delivery of digital and Hi-Tech services to farmers in PPP model

- Use of Kisan Drones to aid farmers
- Launching fund with blended capital to finance agricultural startups
- Implementation of Ken Betwa Link Project benefitting 9.1 lakh hectare farm land, providing drinking water to 62 lakh people and generating 130MW power
- 5 more such projects under process of implementation.

As education plays a very crucial role in the development of the country, the budget has aimed for universalisation of quality education. The government has proposed followings goals in the budget for the field of education and skill development.

- One class One TV channel programme to be expanded to 200 TV channels
- Virtual labs and skilling e-labs to promote critical thinking skills and stimulated learning environment
- A Digital University will be established with world class quality universal education
- High quality e-content will be delivered through Digital Teachers
- Digital Ecosystem for Skilling and Livelihood (DESH-Stack e-portal) will be launched to promote online training
- Startups will be promoted to facilitate Drone Shakti for Drone-As-A-Service

In the sector of health, Which is very much important for a developing country like India to push the economy and also in terms of creating healthy labor force, The budget has proposed the following goals and

- National Digital Health Ecosystem will be rolled out
- National Tele Mental Health Programme will be launched for quality counseling
- Integrated architecture: Mission Shakti, Mission Vatsalya, Saksham Anganwadi, and Poshan 2.0 to be launched
- Two lakh Anganwadis to be upgraded to Saksham Anganwadis

### **IN TERMS OF OF INCLUSIVE WELFARE FOCUS, THE FOLLOWING HAS BEEN PROPOSED TO BE ACHIEVED BY 2022-23 – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

- Har Ghar, Nal Se Jal: 3.8 crore households to be covered in 2022-23
- PM Awas Yojana: 80 lakh houses to be completed in 2022-23
- PM-DevINE: To fund infrastructure and social development based on felt needs of the North East
- Aspirational Blocks Programme: For development of lagging blocks of aspirational districts
- Vibrant Villages Programme: Targeting development of villages on the Northern Border left out from the development gains
- Digital Banking by Post Offices: 100% of post offices to come on the core banking system
- Digital Payments: Scheduled Commercial Banks to set up 75 Digital Banking Units in 75 districts

To recover the economy and to achieve better growth, the investment has to be pushed up. The investment by private parties could be sluggish during these times of Covid especially when it is getting mutated and mutated, out of fear of losses. As per the statement of budget the government will be the torchbearer of the investment. Capital expenditure in the budget 2022-23 has been pushed up to the level of 20% of total expenditure which was around 12% in the pre Covid budgets. The following are the points through which the government is going to crowd in private investment by supporting the private party in various sectors.

- Public investment to continue to pump prime private investment and demand in 2022-23
- Introduction of Digital Rupee by RBI starting 2022-23

## **MOBILIZATION OF RESOURCES/FUNDS ARE TO BE DONE BY : THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

- Green Bonds to mobilize resources for green infrastructure
- Infrastructure status for Data Centers and Energy Storage Systems
- Measures to aid investment by Venture Capital and Private Equity Investment
- Blended Finance for sunrise sectors
- Providing greater fiscal space to States
- Enhanced outlay to Scheme for Financial Assistance to States for Capital Investment • For 2022-23 States will be allowed a fiscal deficit of 4% of GSDP of which 0.5% will be tied to power sector reforms

**MD. Layeeque Azam**

## **Data based governance – learning and lessons**

The new currency driving governance today is data. Whether it is the debate on the hunger index or the arguments regarding the caste census, data is at the centre of these controversies: the manner in which it is collected, interpreted, and constructed into an index are being vociferously debated by everyone, including those who have only a rudimentary understanding of data. The pandemic management that relies heavily on numbers in terms of testing, vaccinating or tracking recoveries and deaths has only heightened this fascination with data.

### **TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

The reason for this obsession with data is because evidence-based policy (EBP) making or data-based governance has been touted as a rational form of governance that bases its decisions not on populist pressures but on objective data. This requires evidence-based data at all stages of policymaking. EBP is viewed as especially important for developing countries where public resources are often scarce or limited. It requires both data and the process of data collection to be scientific, rigorous and validated both in the process of collection as well as analysis. However, the entire process of data collection and its interpretation often tends to be imbued with political economy issues in developing countries and as Head explains “policy decisions are not deduced primarily from facts and empirical models, but from politics, judgment and debate.”

### **DATA TO DATA POLITICS: THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

Tracing the history of the process of data collection, some European analysts illustrate how European countries amassed vast volumes of data in the early 19th century on a range of variables that often did not lead to any meaningful analysis. His layered analysis of Foucault’s “biopolitics” into “overt” and “subversive biopolitics” in the Canadian context where the very first census of the population took place in 1666 shows how the overt biopolitical agenda (tax incentive for larger families in the Canadian context) did not have the intended effect but the subversive biopolitics in the form of “categorisation” of the population that took roots persists till date

Information and communication technologies (ICTs) have had a defining impact on the way data is viewed currently as “it reconfigures relationships between states, subjects, and citizens”. Today, big data, machine learning and algorithms are the frameworks within which citizens operate—oblivious to the manner in which this digital interface is converting them into data to be used by unknown entities. It is in this context that some analysts make the distinction between politics of data and “data politics” where they view “data as a force that is generative of politics” and as “a language with performative force.” In this age of data politics, new players like transnational corporations that control ICTs and social media domains are becoming more

important forces than the state. This is alarming as unlike the checks and balances that limit the state's influence, these large, transnational corporations are not constrained or held accountable by any such mechanisms. This merits a deeper inquiry.

### **DATA-BASED GOVERNANCE: THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

Amassing of large, granular data about the citizens by the state through census, periodic surveys, etc, and now through digital convergence has continued unabated and gained further traction in the context of EBP. Data-based governance aims to facilitate the use of research and evidence to inform programmatic funding decisions. The goal is to further invest in what works to improve outcomes for citizens based on prior evidence. In general, data-based governance assumes the existence of a system of reliable, rigorous and validated data with associated infrastructure. However, in reality the process of governance is often messy and at times riddled with political compulsions as governance involves both formal and informal domains, rules and actors. This makes governance outcomes even more challenging to measure. This is especially because governance outcomes are a combination of tangible outputs and intangible processes. Measuring only tangible outputs without capturing the intangible processes is likely to provide misleading inferences. For example, if one is trying to assess women's participation in a gram sabha, not only the number of women participants (outcome) needs to be captured but also the nature of participation (process) should be documented. Often, quantitative data collections focus only on quantifiable measures, thus omitting qualitative processes that give meaning to those numbers.

### **TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

#### **CHALLENGES OF POLICYMAKING: THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

In addition, states routinely gather vast quantities of administrative data. However, large proportions of these data remain unutilised or are unusable as often these administrative data are not validated or updated. At times, the same data is collected by different agencies with different identifiers making integration or consolidation of data difficult. To avert duplication of data, which is costly both in terms of human as well as financial resources, it is essential to standardise data collection across departments. In addition, data starts to become scarce and variable at lower tiers of governance, for instance, the devolution of funds at the sub-block level is often opaque and self-reported without external validation. This makes matching of funds, particularly untied grants with specific functions at the sub-block level challenging as funds are often fungible. Administrative data is generally inaccessible to the public and researchers for scrutiny or analysis. Citing the example of Denmark, where opening up of administrative data on tax collection gave significant insights that led to key tax reforms, Blum and Pande (2015) advocate encouraging and incentivising governments to share the administrative data especially in the context of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Measuring governance is a challenging proposition. This is particularly true in the domain of law and order which is an essential aspect of governance. Two studies aiming to measure governance across states in India by developing a composite governance index lay bare the challenges of choosing appropriate indicators and their measurement and interpretations. One of them uses estimates of crime rates (ECR) as one of the indicators which looks at the total number of criminal cases reported and deflated with the total population figures for each state to get a ratio. Today Current Affairs.

Another indicator relates to estimates of industrial disputes and strikes (EIDS) to assess worker satisfaction. Similarly, another academic study assessing the quality of governance across states uses an indicator under the "Law and Order" section that attempts to measure police behavior as "Complaints against Police Behaviour." While these are important indicators, they also present challenges of measurement—how should such indicators be measured? Is a low score deemed ideal or a high score? The answer is not simple and is context-specific. For instance, a low score either for crime rates or complaints against the police behavior in

a poor, backward state does not necessarily denote that the crime rate is less or that the police behavior is exemplary; on the contrary, it may indicate that people are scared to report crimes or complain against the police behavior in fear of reprisals. Similarly, a high score in a state with high literacy and human development indicators (HDIs) can be interpreted to mean that people have enough confidence in the judiciary and the state to file reports against crimes and also register complaints against negative police behaviour, thus becoming an indicator of better governance. Likewise, more industrial strikes in a highly unionised state are not necessarily a sign of bad governance but could indicate that the workers' rights are being protected.

Similarly, the union government's education data ranks TN fourth in educational attainment, but elsewhere shows that 27 of TN districts as being educationally backward. The 2011 Census data shows the literacy rate in TN as being higher (80.33%) than the national literacy rate (74%). Further, the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) which was deployed in 2015–16 indicates that 79.4% of women and 89.1% men were literate in the state showing an improvement in literacy as compared to Census 2011. Hence, it is inconceivable that such a severe slide could have taken place in the last five years. Clearly, in this instance, the measurement of district-level educational backwardness needs closer scrutiny

Today, we are mired in a data-driven world. Governance is increasingly being pushed to become data centric. Data-centric governance or policymaking is a step in the right direction. However, the paradox of data-centric governance in India right now is that it is caught between two countervailing forces—a relentless churning of digital and other forms of data that are often unreliable and/or prone to errors on the one hand and a steady erosion of credible, scientific sources of data on the other. If governance decisions are to be data centric, there is a need to ensure a system of good, robust and reliable database. With several national statistical bases, such as the National Sample Surveys, that provide an interim glimpse into the trajectory of the economy in between the decadal census counts, getting eroded either through delays or data suppression, the danger of a “statistical vacuum” has been raised by some of the analysts and others who have advocated a decentralised system of data collection process where states take the lead in building their own bottom-up databases. This requires individual states to invest heavily in both human and technical infrastructure with built-in quality control measures to ensure that policy decisions are based on robust and rigorous data. Finally, it is equally essential to acknowledge that policymaking is a contested space which is interactive, discursive and, therefore, a negotiated process. In the global South, rigorous constant implementation of data-based governance or policymaking is likely to be challenging as often discretionary policy decisions need to be taken by the government by prioritising one group over the other to redress historical inequalities. Thus, data-based governance requires not just validated and scientific data but also requires the policymakers to use it wisely by contextualising it to ensure equality and equity.

Ritu

## **Significance of defreezing of the frozen fund of Afghanistan : An analysis in context of the US Afghan Relation**

### **CONTEXT:**

The U.S. government will take steps on Friday to free half of the \$7 billion in frozen Afghan reserves held in the United States to aid the Afghan people without providing the Taliban access to the funds, sources familiar with the plan said.

### **TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

#### **INTRODUCTION :**

- Last year in 2021, Afghanistan underwent not only political change but also it faced huge economic

crises. After the control by the Taliban America had seized all its funds which had been given to Afghanistan earlier for economical development. The Hindu Analysis.

- Taiwan, many times requested to release the fund so that Afghanistan could be protected from the crises of Hunger, poverty etc. Finally, because of the pressure of the US congress the Biden government had to release half of the \$7 billion in frozen funds but This fund would be utilized for those victims of 9/11 in America.
- Afghanistan criticized this step of the US and declared it as a theft and a moral decay. Whether it is correct on moral and ethical grounds to use the fund of the Afghanistan for American people. International experts have different views in this regard. Some experts say that America's step is justified because the American administration will utilize this fund for the victims of 9/11 because it was the responsibility of Afghanistan to compensate.

### **HOW FAR IT IS CORRECT TO USE THE FROZEN FUND INSIDE US ON MORAL AND ETHICAL GROUND : THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

- However the American administration had cleared that \$7Bn would be used only for the welfare of Afghan people but it would also be ensured whether Taliban could not be benefited. But whether all the Afghan people were responsible for the 9/11 attack, they have to pay such a big economical sacrifice. The act of 9 /11 was the act of Taliban without the consent of Afghanistan people and the Taliban government was not a democratic government hence this money is the money of Afghan people which should be given to Afghanistan. However Taiwan had claimed its right over that fund but America denied on the ground that America never recognized Taiwan as a government. Between America and Taiwan the people of Afghanistan are dying.
- However America cleared that This money would be used only for the well being of the Afghan people only those who have been the victims of the Taliban government. While Taliban government and some countries who has been given the recognition to Taliban declared it as the lowest level of humanity. US should transfer this money to Afghanistan
- After the reestablishment of the Taliban administration, the economy of Afghanistan had almost collapsed and American troops had vacated Afghanistan completely. International assistance to Afghanistan has been almost shut off. And this economical crisis is continued worsening. Therefore on Humanitarian grounds, the help of Afghanistan people should be done. There is no role of the Afghanistan people in political change
- As per the report of various international media almost 23 million people (more than half of the population) of Afghanistan is facing the problem of extreme level of Hunger. The Hindu Analysis.
- The International Rescue Committee ranked Afghanistan No. 1 on its annual emergency watchlist of countries whose humanitarian crises are expected to deteriorate in 2022.
- However the US announced \$308 million aid as well as the Covid 19 vaccine in this year for the people of Afghanistan on humanitarian ground

### **TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**Conclusion:** As per above discussion Afghanistan needs huge financial support on Humanitarian ground. All the international agencies should come forward in this regard and they should assist Afghanistan but it should also be ensured that this financial assistance would not be used in a destructive way.

**Dr. Anshul Bajpai**

## Let's look into Tax Proposals in the Union Budget 2022-23



The vision of the Budget 202-23 is to establish India as a trustworthy tax regime by bringing more reforms while continuing with the declared policy of a stable and predictable tax. The government in the Budget is hopeful that the proposals related to taxes and duties will promote voluntary tax compliance, reduce litigation and will further simplify the taxation system.

### TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

In case of direct tax, the budget has permitted taxpayers to file updated income tax returns within 2 years for correcting errors.

The persons with disability has been given tax relief

The alternative Minimum tax rate and surcharge for cooperative has been reduced

The period of incorporation for eligible startups has been extended by one year, as an incentive for startups.

The tax deduction limit on employer's contribution to NPS account of state government has been increased, to bring parity with central government employees

Under the new concessional tax regime the newly incorporated manufacturing entities will be incentivized.

There will be a flat 30% tax on the income from transfer of virtual assets like cryptocurrency, Non-fungible tokens etc.

The budget has also proposed better litigation management to avoid repetitive appeals

**On the Indirect tax side, the Union budget says that Customs administration in Special Economic Zones will be fully IT driven. The Hindu Analysis.**

### TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

It provides for phasing out of concessional rates in capital goods and project imports gradually and applying a moderate tariff of 7.5%.

The budget underlines review of customs exemptions and tariff simplification, with more than 350 exemptions proposed to be gradually phased out.

It proposes that customs duty rates will be calibrated to provide a graded structure to facilitate domestic electronics manufacturing.

Rationalization of exemptions on implements and tools for agri sector manufactured in India will be

undertaken. The Hindu Analysis.

Customs duty exemption to steel scrap will be extended.

Unblended fuel will attract additional differential excise duty.

### **IMPORTANT TAX PROPOSALS : THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

- Allowing taxpayers to file Updated Return within 2 years for correcting errors
- Tax relief to persons with disability
- Reducing Alternate Minimum Tax Rate and Surcharge for Cooperatives.
- Extending period of incorporation of eligible startups for providing tax incentives
- Income from transfer of virtual assets to be taxed at 30%
- Better litigation management to avoid repetitive appeals
- Increasing tax deduction limit on employer's contribution to NPS account of state government employees
- Any Surcharge or Cess on Income and Profits not allowable as business expenditure
- Customs administration to be fully IT driven in SEZs
- Phasing out concessional rates in capital goods and project imports gradually and apply a moderate tariff of 7.5%
- Review of customs exemptions and tariff simplification
- Customs duty rates are being calibrated to provide a graded rate structure to facilitate domestic electronics manufacturing
- Rationalization of exemptions on implements and tools for agri sector manufactured in India. Today Current Affairs.
- Extension of customs duty exemption to steel scrap
- Reduction of duty on certain inputs required for shrimp aquaculture
- Unblended fuel shall attract additional differential excise duty

**MD. Layeeque Azam**