



PLUTUS IAS Weekly

CURRENT AFFAIRS



PLUTUS IAS WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS 21-02-2022 to 27-02-2022

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CURRENT AFFAIRS

FEBRUARY 2022

Declination of Democratic elements and increments in religious authoritarianism : A review in context of changing scenario

CONTEXT:

As per the report published in 2021 by some influential non-governmental research and advocacy organizations such as Freedom House, V-Dem, International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, and Cato Institute, the democratic institution and elements are continuously declining in some countries and the nexus of religious institutions with the state is tending towards other religious authoritarianism

INTRODUCTION:

Democracy is the most important element for the stability of any state. After the second world wars democratic institutions and ideas have flourished rapidly in the world and many countries of the world, they adopted democracy and continuously reformed in their democratic institutions. But on the grounds of the right of religious practices, the democratic institutions in some countries have been changed, mainly in Islamic countries. However the large democracies including the U.S. and India found themselves downgraded among other things, on the ground of partialities in electoral process, biases in the criminal justice (In some case, some relaxation is given in heinous crime because of the money and power while in some case, a person of simple crime is being treated badly), some discriminatory policies, harassment of journalists, other activists, critics, intellectuals who oppose governments, and growing disparities in wealth, economic opportunity, and political influence. This democratic declination can be seen in Islamic state on large scale

RELIGIOUS POLITICS NEXUS : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

This religious politics nexus starts with the history of Islam. In fact, in Islam, religious and the political head was same. Initially the prophet never discriminated among the people on the ground of race but gradually, kings or rulers justified their rule on the ground of superior race and the recognition of the religion of caliphate was mandatory. And gradually this nexus of the state and the religious institutions continuously not only in Islam but also in other religion also up to a certain extent. In Hinduism, the divinity of the kingship was also justified by the priest but, in Hinduism, the religious head was not the political head at any time.

We see that it was the intellectual stagnation that we (Asians) could not resist Western imperialism. Therefore, during imperialism all the countries of the world had learned about the political and the democratic institutions. In this way, this imperialism broke the religious – state nexus. But after the decolonization of the world, some countries had evolved on the ground of religion (mainly Islamic states), there against religion state nexus started to evolve, in those countries the declination of democratic institutions is obvious but the declination of democratic institutions in secular countries are thinkable

THE DEMOCRACY IN SECULAR STATE : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

In the secular states, for the political benefits, the leaders also want the support of the religious institutions in the elections. Since these religious heads and the religious institutions have their control in a large section of the society, therefore they can play an important role in democratic politics. Recently, we see this nexus of politicians with religious people in India, the secular state. In India, the recent Hijab dispute was an effort to get benefits in elections going on in some states. Therefore, in secular countries also, the nexus of the state and politics with religious priests and institutions also exist which is dangerous not only for the democratic institutions but also for the integrity of the countries. This nexus would not be harmful in the monochromatic countries but It would be harmful in culturally diversified country

CONCLUSION:

The democratic institutions and elements should be strong and is expected to be stronger in future but if it is in declining trends then it is thinkable for the social scientist. As we will be more educated and scientific temperaments would be more developed, definitely this nexus of the religion and the state will be weak. and only after the weakening of this nexus of religion and the state, democratic elements and the ideas would be strengthened.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE INDO PACIFIC FOR INDIA

Strengthening engagement with the Indo-Pacific region, stronger partnerships can enhance India's reach and impact.

WHAT ARE THE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE INDO-PACIFIC REGION? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- India's engagement with the Indo-Pacific is on rise with agreements like an imminent early harvest trade deal with Australia and the sale of the Brahmos supersonic cruise missile systems to the Philippines
- India's Indo-Pacific strategy walks on two legs:
 1. a) **Strengthening national engagement with the region**– It elevates India's salience in the Indo-Pacific and raises Delhi's value for its partners.
 2. b) **Stronger partnerships with like-minded nations**- It helps to boost India's national capabilities, enhance its reach and impact.

HOW WELL DOES INDIA'S APPROACH FIT INTO THE US STRATEGY? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- The US is looking at partners and like-minded countries that have the strategic incentive, political agency, and material capability to contribute to regional security.
- The new Indo-Pacific Strategy document issued by the US recently admits that the US objectives of a free and open, connected, prosperous, secure, and resilient Indo-Pacific cannot be accomplished by the US acting alone.
- It insists on the requirement of unprecedented cooperation with those who share in this vision and this is complemented by an appreciation of India's capability in shaping strategic outcomes in the Indo-Pacific.

- Administrations in the US view that a strong India that can stabilise Asia and the Indo-Pacific serves American regional interests.
- Contrary to the Indian image of the Quad as a rigid alliance, the US strategy is to work in flexible groupings that pool collective strength.

CHALLENGES : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Trade economists argue that bilateral pacts can't be a substitute for larger regional agreements.
- Delhi is also not on the same page as its partners like the US, EU, Japan, and Australia on the emerging digital trade issues.
- Although India has had active military diplomacy recently, it has been affected by the inability to export weapons to friendly nations because of inadequate domestic defence industrial base.
- India's capacity to lead the region depends on its national capabilities and plugging its major internal weaknesses especially in the domains of trade and security.
- Delhi's decision to walk away from the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), an Asia-wide free trade agreement and its new emphasis on Atma Nirbhar Bharat (a self-reliant India) has generated widespread concerns about India's protectionist trends.

WAY FORWARD

- But the Indian government argues that this is not a return to the past, but a new determination to strengthen domestic manufacturing capability.
- Delhi is now looking to liberalise trade relations with strategic partners like Australia.
- India has also intensified trade talks with the UAE, Israel and the UK.
- India and the EU too have taken a political decision to resume talks on a long-stalled FTA.
- There is great synergy between the US desire to empower allies and partners as they take on regional leadership roles themselves and India's ambition to play a larger role in the Indo-Pacific.
- Simultaneous pursuit of stronger national capability and more active participation in coalitions are interconnected parts in realising that Indian ambition.

Anshum Verma

Whether Ukraine -Russian war is inevitable? An Analysis in current situation

CONTEXT:

Kremlin (The Moscow Kremlin or simply the Kremlin, is a fortified complex in the center of Moscow founded by Russian ruling dynasty) says Putin will sign orders on independence of breakaway Lugansk and Donetsk territories

INTRODUCTION:

For the last several days the tension between Ukraine and Russia was continuing because of the several regions of the Ukraine Donetsk and Lugansk territories. Because these regions are dominated by the Russian race but as per their claim, they are not treated equally as other Ukrainian people are treated. The discontent

among the people of these regions are being brutally oppressed by the military of the Ukraine. Therefore the separatist temperaments had developed for these reasons. On the ground of Humanism and racial similarities, Russia is supporting those regions.

DEMOGRAPHY OF LUGANSK AND DONETSK : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- The Donetsk and Luhansk regions — collectively known as the Donbas — are in eastern Ukraine, near the border with Russia. It is a coal and iron rich region therefore coal and steel industries are located in these regions. Majority of the people are Russian speaking people. The population of these regions is 3.6 million people. After the second world war most of the Russian speaking workers migrated here. During the Russia Ukraine war in 2014, most of the governments offices of these region are brought under the control of the these separatist. they declared this region as the “people’s republics.”
- Thousands of the separatist people have been killed by the military operation of the Ukraine after 2014. Separatist took power in these region in 2014 and they declared their independence through voting but no country of the world had recognized their independence. People of these regions are bearing the consequences of the Ukraine Russian tension

INEVITABILITY OF THE WAR : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- During the efforts of the establishment of the peace, once again the Russian president stated that he is ready to give the recognition of these regions as a separate republic. According to Moscow, after the appeal of the rebels on the ground of humanism, this is the duty of Russia to recognize them. Ukrainian authorities are continuously killing the people, even civilians. By 21st Feb 2022, during an unscheduled meeting of Kremlin national security, most of the leaders are in support of the recognition of the separatists.
- This recognition will not be tolerated by Ukraine and then war would be inevitable but this war would be localized because America, who was interfering in the matter but from the side of Ukraine, will not be involved because America knew the fact of the support of China to Russia.

ROLE OF EUROPEAN COUNTRIES DURING THE WAR : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

European countries will implement maximum sanctions over Russia as stated in the EU meeting. To a certain extent, France and Germany will come against Russia because the interests of both the countries are in Russia.

CONCLUSION

As per the discussion, it is almost certain of the small conflict between Russia and Ukraine as per the present situation because Russia had decided to give recognition to the separatist regions. but other countries will not actively participate in this war therefore it will not be more widen. The stand of India would be a neutral stand, slightly tilted towards Russia. America is focusing toward Indo pacific regions, so he will also interfere up to certain extent. Therefore it is clear that the world would not have to face any big disaster.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Significant of Lokayukta and Lokpal for the good governance: An analysis in special context to Kerala

CONTEXT:

Recently a controversy has evolved regarding the powers of Lokpal. In Kerala, the Government of Kerala has brought an amendment to the Lokayukta Act of Kerala through an ordinance. The opposition political parties are criticizing this amendment.

INTRODUCTION:

The issue of Lokpal and Lokayukta is not new. This has been in the debate for long time (From the time of the Indira Gandhi's regime) and the requirement of new Lokpal bill at central level was demanded by the people of India and the big protest was launched in this regard during 2011 under the leadership of Anna Hazare and this protest got huge support of public. In fact, the Lokpal and Lokayukta exist in some states of India but the debate is there regarding the power of the Lokayukta in the country. How far Lokayukta succeeded to curtail the corruption from the state and how far Lokayukta is free from the control of the government.

HISTORY OF THE LOKPAL AND LOKAYUKTA BILL : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The term Lokpal is not new for the country. In fact, this term was first used in a report of the Administrative Reforms Commission headed by Morarji Desai as far back as in 1966. The first Bill on Lokpal was introduced in the Lok Sabha in 1968 which lapsed with the dissolution of the House. During the time of UPA government against the various types of the corruption were exposed and a demand of the Lokpal bill was raised by the public under the leadership of Anna Hazare. Therefore UPA government had to bring a weak Lokpal bill in 2013. This act says "An Act to provide for the establishment of a body of Lokpal for the Union and Lokayukta for States to inquire into allegations of corruption against certain public functionaries..." It can be interpreted as a body which will inquire into allegations of corruption, called Lokpal.

SOME FLAWS OF THE LOKPAL BILL : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The Lokpal bill sometimes looks like a thread with the judiciary. The Lokpal is headed by the retired judge of the supreme court and however it is not its legislative body. Presently it consists of the 8 members all are from Judiciary. The Lokpal will investigate all the allegations related to corruption and has jurisdiction to investigate the allegations against the Prime Minister, Ministers, Members of Parliament, Group A, B, C and D officers and officials of the central government. But after the conviction, Lokpal can not ask the president to remove the prime minister.

The appointment of Lokayukta and Lokpal would be done by the government. How far Lokpal would be impartial to the government, still there's a question in this regard. The Lokpal and Lokayukta were appointed in many states by the legislature of that state. For example, Maharashtra in 1971, and Kerala in 1999.

IN KERALA THE ISSUE OF LOKAYUKTA : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Kerala government had amended section 14 of the Lokayukta act of Kerala, in which the provision was that the public servant including Chief minister who is alleged or accused of any corruption, should resign from his office immediately. Now this section is amended.

SIGNIFICANCE:

In fact, Lokpal and Lokayukta are the tools to curtail the corruption of the state. But Every government o, whether of state or of centers are not ready to make the Lokpala or lokayukta powerful and efficient and all the government want to keep this institution under their control. Hence a huge debate regarding the efficiency and accountability of the Lokpal and Lokayukta is required. Some states like Gujrat did not appoint Lokayukta for a long time and the Lokpal of central level looks complex, inefficient and a puppet of the central government. A free and independent Lokapl is highly needed at every level of the governance to check the corruption

CONCLUSION:

Corruption is the big obstacle in front of the progress of any country. It must be reduced but it can be reduced if there must be any independent investigation agency to investigate the allegations related to corruption. but the government would never do this thing. Big debate is required for the functioning and power of the Loklpal and the lokayukta.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Rahul Bajaj and The BYST

Rahul Bajaj believed that **women micro entrepreneurs** could fuel job creation in rural areas when given the appropriate financial support and mentoring.

THE BYST : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

With his support, the Bharatiya Yuva Shakti Trust (BYST) has created hundreds of women “grampreneurs” across all regions.

- Inspired by and modelled after the Prince of Wales Trust, U.K.
- Backed by visionaries like J.R.D. Tata (founding chairman) and Rahul Bajaj (founding trustee)

Rahul brought the guiding principles of **equality** and **non-discrimination** that shaped his life to the BYST.

- It supports, mentors and provides a robust business plan that stands microentrepreneurs in good stead,
- Helping them receive debt financing without any security or collateral to expand their enterprise.
- Each Grampreneur gets guidance and support from experienced industry experts.

For example- 1. Momchandi, a single child, who lost her father when she was one. Her mother, a homemaker, had no income. An acquaintance referred her to the BYST, with whose guidance, she received holistic training on entrepreneurship and took out a loan

- Growing rapidly from there, Momchandi’s turnover in FY 2019-20 alone was 79 lakh.
- Locally, she has created 42 jobs.
- Globally, she has showcased her business in many countries.
- She not only supplies clothing to the local market, vendors, clothing shops and schools but also exports to Russia.

Venture capital and **angel funding**, the most popular buzzwords for entrepreneurs, are not accessible for them.

For example-2. when women like **Panchamirtham** entered and conquered the male-dominated domain of manufacturing tools and dies. Today Current Affairs.

The BYST stepped in when she could not meet customer demands due to lack of finance. Today, she has already created 20 jobs and plans to expand her product line.

EXISTING GOVERNMENT SCHEMES : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- MUDRA
- The Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana
- The Startup India scheme

BUT, As per CIA study → 98% of women entrepreneurs are unaware of these Govt. backed schemes.

The BYST **spreads awareness** through business idea contests and campaigns across cities and towns.

Shree Rahul Bajaj felt a responsibility towards the women from Gandhiji's land, Wardha.

For example- 3. Vaishali from Wardha

From selling homemade pickle and papads door-to-door, making a meagre 5,000 a month, she now has a turnover of over 40 lakh.

With BYST's support and her mentor's guidance, she was able to acquire a business loan and expand her product line to include 40 high-quality food items.

Rahul believed that equality in its truest sense can be achieved when women have the right to participate in building the nation's economy and that this could be achieved through public-private partnership.

As women job creators automatically pave the way for more women workers, and eventually to even more women entrepreneurs.

Women job creators → More women workers → even more women entrepreneurs → increased participation of women in the workforce → Better economic condition

With an increased participation of women in the workforce, the economic condition of the country would improve.

Rahul wanted the BYST to be a powerful presence behind this change.

Rajeev Yadav

The need of a new constitution : An analysis in special context to changing scenario and statement of the Telangana CM

CONTEXT:

Recently, the Chief Minister of Telangana said India needs a new Constitution, as, according to him, governments at the Center over the years have been suppressing the powers of the States. The CM of Telangana is on the constitutional post as well as a responsible citizen of India so he has right to freedom of speech and expressions and by raising this issue against the debate on the reconstruction of the constitution has been evolved.

INTRODUCTION:

- The constitution of India made through the cabinet mission plan and the members of the constituent assembly were not elected through adult franchise, therefore many people criticize the undemocratic procedure of the formation of the constitution. But, In fact, the nature of the constitution is complete democratic which has been written in the first line of the preamble "We the people" reflects the will of

the Indian people in the constitution

- But the reform and the amendment of the constitution are required because of the needs of the society and the changing nature of the Indian political system. There are some flaws in the execution of some constitutional ethos, those flaws must be addressed and must be removed
- Central governments have indeed been suppressing the powers of the States in various ways. The Supreme Court, in judgments such as S.R. Bommai v. Union of India (1994) and this issue was raised by many Chief ministers of India. This suppression is completely against the ethos of constitutions' federalism. But only for the political benefits some governments of the central level try to impose their wills on states.
- But It does not mean that the provisions are not given in the constitution in this regard. Supreme court, as the guardian of the constitution can be approached in this regard and simultaneously the intellectual of the country as well as the journalist should also expose this bad intention of any political party should expose in public and in democracy public has right to punish the culprits of the constitution through the means of election

WHETHER ITS IS POSSIBLE TO DRAFT NEW CONSTITUTION : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

It is almost negligible possible to draft any new constitution because the drafting of the constitution was not a small task and it took too much time, approximately 2 years, 11 month and 18 days. As well, there is no guarantee that the new constitution would fulfill the desires of all the people of India. India is the country of huge diversified cultures therefore federalism is the only tool to strengthen India as a nation. There are sufficient provisions in the constitution through which federalism could be established. There are three separate lists, the appointment of the civil servants are also in hand of the government. Central government should also minimize its encroachment in the affairs of states. It should be very well understood by the center that the nation is must. Only for political benefits the basic structure of the constitution should not be touched.

WHAT IS THE ALTERNATIVE : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Redrafting of the constitution is not the alternative of the constitution. The basic pillar of the constitution is democracy, therefore, the flaws which exist in democratic procedure (like Electoral reforms) must be addressed by the government and the central government should respect the autonomy of the states up to maximum extent. Our Judiciary can play an important role in this regard.

CONCLUSION

The Constitution states that India is a "Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic". It protects the rights of every section of society. On the other hand, today's leaders give priority to particular ideologies and castes. Given this, drafting a new Constitution will be a chaotic exercise and will shut the voices of some sections, especially the vulnerable. In Fact, at the time of independence, the extreme centralization was the requirement of the country but gradually it should be given more autonomy to the states, as described in DPSP. only through awareness among people of India, the constitution could be implemented properly as per the intention of our constitution makers. Media, Supreme court and the our intellectual can play an important role in this regards.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE 2.0

The government's recent proposal to change laws governing the Special Economic Zones Act comes as a big boost for the sector.

WHAT IS A SEZ?

- A special economic zone (SEZ) is an area in a country that is subject to different economic regulations than other regions within the same country.
- Asia's first Export Processing Zone (EPZ) was established in 1965 at Kandla, Gujarat state.
- In India, the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) Policy was announced in 2000.
- SEZs in India functioned from 2000 to 2006 under the provisions of the Foreign Trade Policy and fiscal incentives were made effective through the provisions of relevant statutes. Today Current Affairs.
- The Special Economic Zones Act was passed in 2005.

OBJECTIVES

- generation of additional economic activity
- promotion of exports of goods and services
- promotion of investment from domestic and foreign sources
- creation of employment opportunities
- development of infrastructure facilities
- Once an SEZ has been approved by the Board of Approval and Central Government has notified the area of the SEZ, units are allowed to be set up in the SEZ.

WHAT ARE THE INCENTIVES FOR SETTING UP IN AN INDIAN SEZ? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Duty free import and domestic procurement of goods for the development, operation, and maintenance of your company/SEZ unit
- 100% income tax exemption on export income for the first five years, 50% for five years thereafter, and 50% of the export profit reinvested in the business for the next five years.
- Exemption from GST and levies imposed by state government (supplies to SEZs are zero rated under the IGST Act, 2017, meaning they are not taxed)
- Exemption from Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT)
- Single window clearances for all state and federal government approvals.
- Exemption in electricity duty and tax on sale of electricity by certain states in India.
- Presence of customs officer in the SEZs to facilitate and expedite the trade processes
- Offering land to SEZ developers at concessional rates by some states.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF SEZs IN INDIA? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- About 376 SEZs are notified but currently only 270 SEZs are operational in India.
- In the April-December 2021 period, exports from SEZs increased by 25% to 93 billion dollars.
- UNCTAD report suggests that SEZ exports did not rise at a faster rate than overall exports even before the pandemic.

- It appears that SEZs have ceased to be attractive after the tax holiday for units and developers was wound down between 2017 and 2020.
- The proliferation of Free Trade Agreements between 2005-15 robbed SEZs of their advantages, as importers outside SEZs benefited from zero-rated imports without being subject to Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) related restrictions.

Anshum Verma

The new Media Accreditation Guidelines and it's importance

The new Central Media Accreditation Guidelines, 2022 released on 7 February signposts an important stage in the relationship that the media in India has with the government. The very process of “delegation” by the Press Information Bureau (PIB) means the operation of a set of criteria by the state to besmear a set of intelligencers as the bones who'll be granted access to government services and events. Over the times, this has meant a wide range and number of intelligibles of several lines and tones. But what the rearmost set of rules does is honor a commission, staffed by government officers, with the right to take down or suspend delegation on the grounds that raise serious red flags on what kind of intelligencers will be allowed to serve and give access to tagged officers or top functionaries. It creates a hedge, sends a signal to employers, and makes the job of the intelligencers laborious. The de facto selection process is a signal as to who the government thinks is an intelligencer; the intent is clear.

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What's also clear is the subjectivity in deciding the delegation. Section 6.8 of the new rules comprises 10 grounds for taking down delegation — the most prominent and controversial being 6.8 (h) — according to which, delegation could be taken down if the said intelligencer “acts in a manner which is prejudicial to the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the state, friendly relations with foreign countries, public order, decency or morality of in relation to disdain of court, vilification or incitement to an offense.” This gives the government officers and other intelligencers in the commission — clearly not comprising a broad diapason of views — the power to produce a chief bowdlerize, who exercises judgment on the content produced by the intelligencers and is also empowered to act on its conclusions, without a court order or the need for any referral to a body that isn't directly government-approved or controlled.

In April 2018, under the garb of controlling “fake news,” the union government had blazed that it wanted to replicate the rules and regulations meant for the broadcast media to online media. The government constituted a commission to frame these rules, and it had no representative from the online media world; rather, it was staffed by registers of the Ministries of Home Affairs, Information and Broadcasting, Electronics and Information Technology, Department of Legal Affairs, and the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade. After a rampage and letters by elderly members of the press, the Prime Minister's Office forced the order to be reversed. But the Information Technology (Central Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, legislated latterly and presently being heard in at least two high courts, have the same theme — a desire to regulate independent media.

The current union government has formerly been circumscribing journalistic access of indeed those accredited and cleared at the loftiest position by the home ministry and from clerical services. Parliament too has been rendered unapproachable, first by using COVID-19 as a reason and, after lifting restrictions, by just not heeding the numerous representations journalistic bodies have made to restore the access to the houses of Parliament. The Press Council of India (PCI) is defunct. But these new clauses, set to knock out the delegation on the grounds of governmental pleasure, aren't about confining or hassling many journalists

but reveal what the government thinks of responsibility and, astronomically, republic. The Hindu Analysis.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

An intelligencer gets access to government services and public representatives precisely to induce responsibility, indeed anxiety, in those whom the public elects and accordingly gives abundant power to. To snap those lines means to hinder the functioning of the press as a watchdog of the republic. The government only wants a bendy media who'll be patronized and, hence, controlled through delegation. By making de-accreditation grounded on the interpretation and conduct of intelligencers means recognising only those intelligencers who are in the good books of the government of the day. The Hindu Analysis.

It isn't as if the media has come out smelling of roses as the mesh has been tensed. Press associations have of course written to the minister, with the Press Club of India saying in its letter that the changes to the PIB guidelines have been continually made without any discussion with media bodies and violating the parameters laid down by the PCI. Possessors are yet to display any grit, and there are at least three good reasons for that. Indian private media — due to technological, profitable, and ideological reasons — finds itself caught in a perfect storm of subservience to the government. First, it's far more dependent on government announcements, in light of technological changes destroying the profitable model of print and TV media, as decreasingly larger shares of private advertising have gone to digital platforms. The Covid-19 epidemic has further damned media earnings. Second, India's worsening frugality has also meant important smaller sources of profit for other gigs and “events” that media outlets would do to stay round, as all kinds of spending have shrunk. The current union government isn't shy of plying control more directly on possessors and editors than in the antedating decades, as is clear from those hand-picked for interviews. The editors and possessors have read the jotting on the wall and are substantially happy to acclimate to the new realities. Third, with India's now alternate richest business house controlling a large section of media and other big possessors being comfortable with the Sangh Parivar's testament also means that journalism of courage doesn't actually live.

Piecemeal from veritably many honorable immunity, the quiet compliance by the media to governmental sweats at control has only inspired the governance. Asserting control on intelligencers is about test-driving the idea of dwindling republic itself.

Ritu

Impact of Russia Ukrainian War on over India : An Analysis

CONTEXT:

Russia has declared its invasion over Ukraine. The Russia Ukraine war will not only affect Europe but also the entire world, mainly India.

INTRODUCTION:

- War is only a destructive word. It brings only destruction in different form. The Ukraine Russian war will impact India in every dimension economically, politically as well as social and ideologically also. For the last several years the nature of the Indian economic system has changed and India has been a little bit inclined towards America. India has been advocating peace for a long time. India has been always opposing and condemning any type of aggression towards small and poor countries by big and powerful countries but simultaneously we have been respecting the values of friendship for a thousand

years. Therefore we can not openly oppose the decision of our traditional friend Russia. The initiation of Russian military operations in Ukraine makes it more difficult for India to navigate between the United States and Russia.

- In Changing scenario India can not ignore America because in the Asia Pacific region, only Indian American friendship can create balance against the Chinese aggression. Therefore, We have to take any decision carefully to protecting our interest first.

INDIA'S RELATION WITH RUSSIA : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Russia has been a strategic partner of India. We have been exporting arms /weapons of 60 % of our requirements from Russia. There are many high-tech areas of cooperation with Russia, including nuclear energy, space, and the joint production of certain weapon systems such as the BrahMos missile.

Impact on Political system of India : The Hindu Analysis

India's diplomacy will be carefully implemented keeping her interest in priority. Chinese aggression should also be balanced with the support of US and parallelly we have to prevent the closeness of Pakistan with Russia and China up to maximum extent

IMPACT ON INDIA'S ENERGY STRATEGY : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Russia Ukraine war will be caused by the energy crises not only in India but also in the world. Russia is the one of the largest exporter of the natural gas in the world and even after the economic sanctions over Russia the the exchange rate of the dollar would be also increased in respect to rupees which will be resulted in the high price of the petroleum in India. However the price of the crude oil has already increased. International trade will be impacted which will adversely impact the foreign investment in India
- However Russian investment will be continue but it would be only in those sectors which are beneficial of the Russia
- Inflation will also be increasing because of the the increment in the price of petroleum which impact the overall economic crisis which would be more burdened to the middle class in India who has been bearing the burden of the inflation for 3 years during corona pandemic
- India has been a big importer of metal from Russia. If there are more sanctions on Russia and metal imports are banned then it will be crises for those sectors which are metal intensive, mainly vehicles
- It will inversely impact on the import of the coal from Russia

CONCLUSION:

As per the above discussion, the situation is very crucial for India also and very careful steps must be raised in this situation. This war would badly impact the economy of India. Because of the devaluation of the Indian currency, it will increase the price of all imported things, mainly petroleum and Gas. Which will be resulted as the energy crises in India. Entire economy based on the petroleum would be impacted during this war.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Who is the real culprit of Russia Ukrainian war – NATO, EU or Putin : An analysis in various direction

CONTEXT :

Diplomacy has retreated as the smoldering Ukraine crisis took a decisive turn this week. On February 24, Russian President Vladimir Putin launched “special military operations” with the objective of “demilitarizing Ukraine” but not “occupying” it. With whom justice is? With Russia or Ukraine? Both parties are claiming the just with themselves



INTRODUCTION :

- After the massive military attack over Ukraine, a full fledged war has been started. Ukraine, NATO, and US, EU and Britain declared its Russian aggression and the result of the dictatorship of Putin while Russia declared that this war as a limited military operation for securing her strategic interest and to uprooting the neo Nazim. The interesting thing is that England and America equated this act of the Putin as the act of the Nazis during 2nd World War while Putin also equated the Ukraine president Volodymyr Zelenskyy as Neo Nazy.

THE CULTURAL CONFLICT IN UKRAINE : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- In Ukraine more than 67 % people are Ukrainian speaking while more than 29 % people of Russian language and remaining are the speakers of other languages like Hungarian and other Slavs languages.
- In fact the language and the culture of Ukraine also originated from Slavs culture but there are some general differences between the Ukrainian and Russian language because of the local impact. Two different cultures either should be intermingled and accommodated or conflict is essential.
- As per the article 10 of the Ukrainian constitution, Ukrainian languages are the official languages of the state but other minority languages also can be used in court, school and other government offices as the secondary language. But after 2019, through an amendment in this article, the required language of study in Ukrainian schools from the fifth grade on will be Ukrainian languages. These types of activities created discontent among the minorities of Ukraine as well as Hungry government also showed its concern in this regard

RESPONSIBILITY OF NATO : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- NATO is an intergovernmental military alliance between 28 European countries and 2 North American countries. Initially it started with 12 members (Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom, and the United States.). Now the number of its members has reached up to 30, 28 from Europe and 2 North America.
- After the disintegration of the USSR, most of the former USSR countries joined NATO. Beginning in 1999, NATO has added 14 new members in stages. At the NATO summit in 2008, at U.S. President George Bush's urging, an in-principle opening for Ukraine and Georgia was announced. This was a real threat for Russia from the side of NATO. It was a bad compromise and the damage was done. How Russia, a powerful country could tolerate it

RESPONSIBILITY OF US : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- When Russia attacked Georgia in the name of protection of the interest of Russian minorities in 2012 and after that annexation of Crimea, the US could not raise proper steps for balance of power in eastern Europe. In fact, Russia is moving towards its reunification of the Slavs race again.
- Any discontent emerged in Ukraine among Russian minorities should be added carefully and Americans should not provoke Ukraine by continuous supplying of arms. Clearly, Mr. Putin's grievances, beginning with NATO's bombing of Serbia in 1999, interventions in Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya and color revolutions to engineer regime changes, the U.S.' unilateral withdrawal from the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty in 2002 coupled with missile defense deployments in Poland and Romania that Russia perceived as offensive, were accumulating.

RESPONSIBILITY OF EUROPEAN UNION : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The European Union never raised the issue of the Hungarian minority languages because they were busy

protecting their own interest. More than 70 % of natural gas exports from Russia to Europe. Definitely, the EU preferred its own interest. This was the reason France and Germany, up to the last tried to negotiate with Russia however they knew that the war was inevitable. France and Germany initiated talks between Ukraine and Russia under the Normandy format leading to the Minsk agreements, in 2014 and 2015. The first was for a ceasefire between Ukraine and the Russian-backed separatists and the second was between Ukraine, Russia, the two separatist regions of Luhansk and Donetsk and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). However the Minsk agreement could not implement properly

In the intense diplomacy during the last six weeks, particularly the back-to-back visits by French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Olaf Schulz to Moscow and Kiev, there was talk of reviving the Normandy format. Therefore the EU was just focusing on its own interest.

RESPONSIBILITY OF RUSSIA : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Aggression can never be justified in any means as per the Indian culture. As per the myths in Indian culture, we tried to stop the war up to the last of our hope and preferred negotiation than war. In this regard Russia is also a big culprit of the war. However, this is the strategic compulsion for India not to criticize Russia openly. Our main concern, for time being is that how to evacuate our Indians from Ukraine

CONCLUSION

War, in any form, in any means, in any situation can not be justified. In fact, the entire world will be a victim of this war. Hence the big powers of the world should not be freed from the responsibility of the war. In any war, common people always suffer and high level politicians and the capitalist enjoy /benefit. This war should be stopped as soon as possible.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

HIGHER EDUCATION AND POLICY ENIGMA

In India, enrollment in higher education and proliferation of colleges and universities is on rise, however their contribution to national development and improving living standards of our populace is limited. The government has taken many steps in the past to improve the standards of higher education. The National Overseas Scholarship (NOS) scheme administered by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MSJE) marks a significant threshold with regards to the marginalized students' aspirations to gain higher education abroad. This scheme is aimed at facilitating the master's- and doctoral-level education of candidates belonging to (i) Scheduled Castes (SCs), (ii) denotified, nomadic, and semi-nomadic tribes, and (iii) landless agricultural laborers and traditional artisans at universities situated abroad. For 2022–23, this scheme aims to offer fully funded scholarships to 125 candidates, where 115 seats are reserved for SC candidates and 30% of the total seats are reserved for female candidates. This scheme is applicable to researchers in the fields of humanities and social sciences, medicine, and engineering. However, the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment (DSJE) has recently introduced a specific rule that excludes subjects or topics that broadly come under the umbrella of humanities and social sciences from within the purview of this scholarship.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Under the recently released guidelines of this scheme applicable for 2022–23, one of the mandatory conditions reads “[t]opics/courses concerning Indian Culture/heritage/History/Social studies on India based research topic shall not be covered under NOS.” This implies that students whose research work relates to the above-mentioned areas of study stand summarily excluded from the purview of this scholarship scheme. The same

guideline further mentions that “[t]he final decision as to which Topic can be covered under such category will rest with [the] Selection-cum-Screening Committee of NOS.” The Hindu Analysis.

These new guidelines have an adverse implication for the higher education aspirations of students coming from marginalized communities. With discretionary powers vested in the selection-cum-screening committee, the candidates already stand the risk of facing exclusion if the substance of their research topic clashes with the world view of the current government. Moreover, since this scheme is primarily meant for low-income, marginalised students, the imminent aspect of prejudice and discrimination cannot be ruled out where arbitrary discretionary powers of a selection and screening committee are operative. However, these guidelines drop even the pretense of potential subterfuge and exclude a large portion of marginalized students from even applying to this scheme.

Hence, the new guidelines of the NOS effectively discourage marginalized caste students from pursuing research on Indian history and culture at universities situated abroad. It seeks to curtail the capabilities of marginalized caste researchers to make use of the universalistic horizon of a university to study topics of their own interests and desires, which would include topics that concern Indian history, heritage, and culture. The Hindu Analysis.

The current government’s orientation towards higher education suggests a policy paradox: on the one hand, the government seems keen to promote studies on Indian history and culture, and on the other, it denies students an epistemic or an intellectual opportunity to study about their own country’s history and culture at a foreign university. In a more general sense, the votaries of “Indo-centric” narratives have been opposing the study of “Western” ideas that, according to these votaries, intellectually misrepresent India. But at the same time, are not these policy efforts by the present government prohibiting students from marginalized communities to study various aspects of the history and culture of India abroad? What is the anxiety of the government? Is it that the present government does not trust the SCs and other marginalized caste researchers’ capacity to be objective in studying the subjects that the ministry has excluded from its guidelines? The political undertones of these new guidelines also reveal a shockingly callous attitude towards the research orientations of marginalized caste students as if their research is only aimed at bringing a “bad” reputation to whatever constitutes Indian history, heritage, and culture according to the world view of the present government.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

A scholarship meant specifically for marginalized caste students to pursue higher education abroad cannot reasonably introduce a criterion whereby such researchers are prevented from researching about their own marginalized status in Indian history and culture at an institution of their choice. Indeed, the rationale of these new guidelines do seem to point in the direction of restricting such critical scholarship from emerging outside India, where the government’s means of control and censorship cannot be extended easily. Ideally, the Indian state ought to encourage scholarship on the various aspects of Indian culture, history, and heritage at institutions situated in India as well as abroad. Indeed, such a pedagogical aim is visible in the establishment and maintenance of public educational and cultural institutions. Such institutions are primarily responsible for promoting the production of new knowledge about Indian history and culture. At the same time, the essence of the university or the *vishwavidyalaya* suggests that its intellectual breadth ought to reflect the concerns of the whole world. The moral horizon of universities is, by default, universal; it cannot be truncated with the idea of national borders and taboo subjects.

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