



PLUTUS IAS Weekly

CURRENT AFFAIRS



PLUTUS IAS WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS 24-01-2022 to 30-01-2022

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

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CURRENT AFFAIRS

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

CONTEXT:

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

INTRODUCTION :

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

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

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



Indian Administrative Service
भारतीय प्रशासनिक सेवा

WHY IS THE STATE PROTESTING AGAINST IT? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

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

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

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

CONCLUSION

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

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

QUAD Grouping

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

CONTEXT

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

KEY POINTS

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

WHAT IS QUAD? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

BACKGROUND

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

QUAD AND CHINA: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

SIGNIFICANCE OF QUAD: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

CHALLENGES: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

WAY FORWARD: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

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

Vivek Raj

Environment and human development

GS-3 Environmental Degradation & Sustainable Development

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

ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE DUE TO HUMAN ACTIVITIES.

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

IMPACT OF PHDI ON COUNTRY RANKINGS: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

CHALLENGE FACED BY INDIA: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

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

WAY FORWARD

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

Anshum Verma

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

CONTEXT:

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

INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

THE MOST IMPORTANT REASONS FOR INDO GERMAN RELATIONSHIP ARE:

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

CONCLUSION

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

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

India's challenge of WTO verdict on sugar

GS- 3 India's relation with International Organisation

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

WHAT IS THE WHOLE MATTER? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

INDIA'S STAND: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

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

WAY FORWARD

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

Anshum Verma

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

WHY IN NEWS?

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

WHAT IS CONTEMPT OF COURT?

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

LAW ON CONTEMPT OF COURT: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

WHY IS THE CONSENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL REQUIRED?

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

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

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

WHO IS THE ATTORNEY GENERAL?

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

DUTIES AND FUNCTION OF ATTORNEY GENERAL: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

RIGHTS AND LIMITATIONS OF ATTORNEY GENERAL: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

Vivek Raj

The impact of school closure on children

SOURCE- THE HINDU

CONTEXT:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

IS ONLINE EDUCATION A SOLUTION?

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

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

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

FOR EXAMPLE-

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

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

THE VACCINATION ARGUMENT ALSO DEFIES THE MYTH:-

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

TO CONCLUDE :

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

Rajeev Yadav

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

CONTEXT:

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

INTRODUCTION:

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

OBJECTIVES OF DEMOCRACY:

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

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

ACHIEVEMENT : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

CONCLUSION

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

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Food fortification

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

WHY IN NEWS?

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

WHAT IS FOOD FORTIFICATION?

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

WHY IS FOOD FORTIFICATION REQUIRED?

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

GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE ON FOOD FORTIFICATION: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

SIGNIFICANCE OF FOOD FORTIFICATION: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

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

WAY FORWARD

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

Vivek Raj

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

CONTEXT:

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

NEWS:

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

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

WHAT IS CYBER PHYSICAL SYSTEM:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MD. Layeeque Azam

Faith-Based INDO-PAK tour groups

BACKGROUND :

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

LET'S UNDERSTAND : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

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

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

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

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

BOTH SIDES HAVE : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

Sikh pilgrims → from Indian Punjab to the Pakistani Punjab province

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

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

TO CONCLUDE :-

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

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

Rajeev Yadav

What is Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement : Let's understand



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BILATERAL RELIEF: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

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

CREDIT METHOD: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

UNILATERAL RELIEF FOR INDIAN RESIDENTS: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

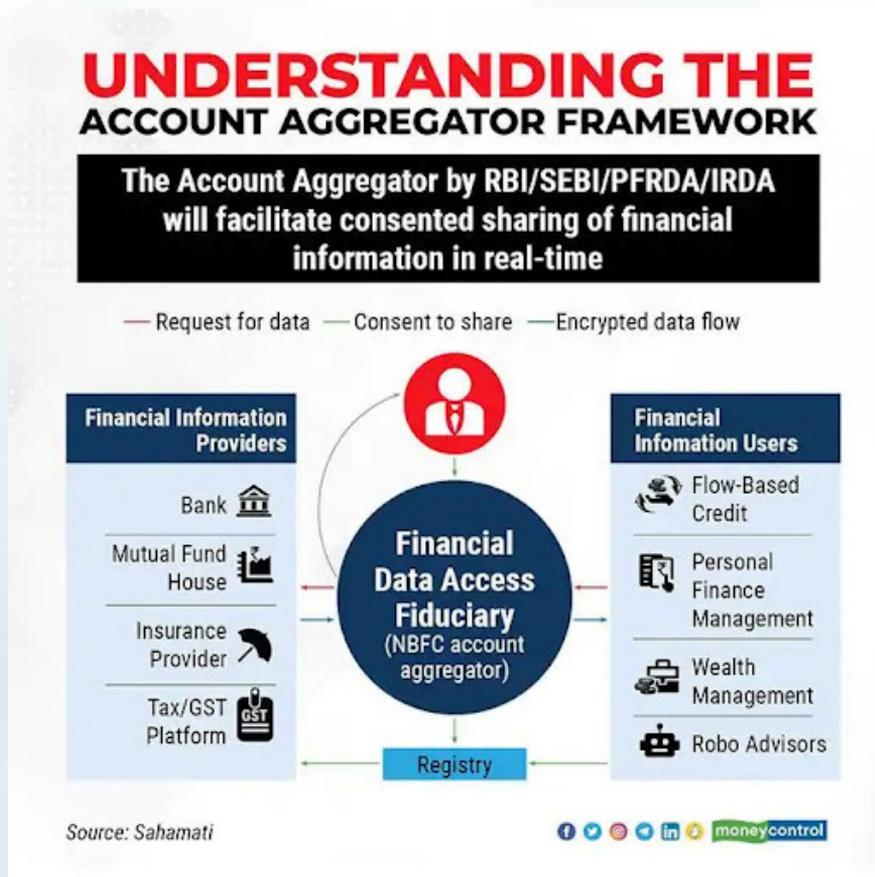
SOCIAL SECURITY AGREEMENTS

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

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

MD. Layeeque Azam

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MD. Layeeque Azam

Hurdles and challenges in the path of formalize the economy

GS Paper 3 Source : The Hindu Editorial

CONTEXT:

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

INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CONCLUSION

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

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Climate change forces Indonesia to relocate capital

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

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

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

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

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

Ritu

The nomination criteria of Independent External Monitors get modified by CVC

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

WHY IN NEWS?

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

WHAT IS AN INDEPENDENT EXTERNAL MONITOR (IEM)?

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

WHAT IS INTEGRITY PACT?

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

ABOUT CVC : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

COMPOSITION & TERMS: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

POWERS AND FUNCTIONS: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

LIMITATIONS OF CVC: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

CONCLUSION

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

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

Vivek Raj

The changing Winters

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

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

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

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

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

Ritu

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

CONTEXT:

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

INTRODUCTION:

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

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

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



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

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

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

Nord Stream pipelines from Russia





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

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

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

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

CONCLUSION:

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

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

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

WHY IN NEWS?

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

IMPORTANT HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SUMMIT: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

INDIA'S RELATION WITH : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

RELEVANCE OF SUMMIT FOR INDIA: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

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

WAY FORWARD

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

Vivek Raj

Poverty, Wealth and their Caste Relation

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

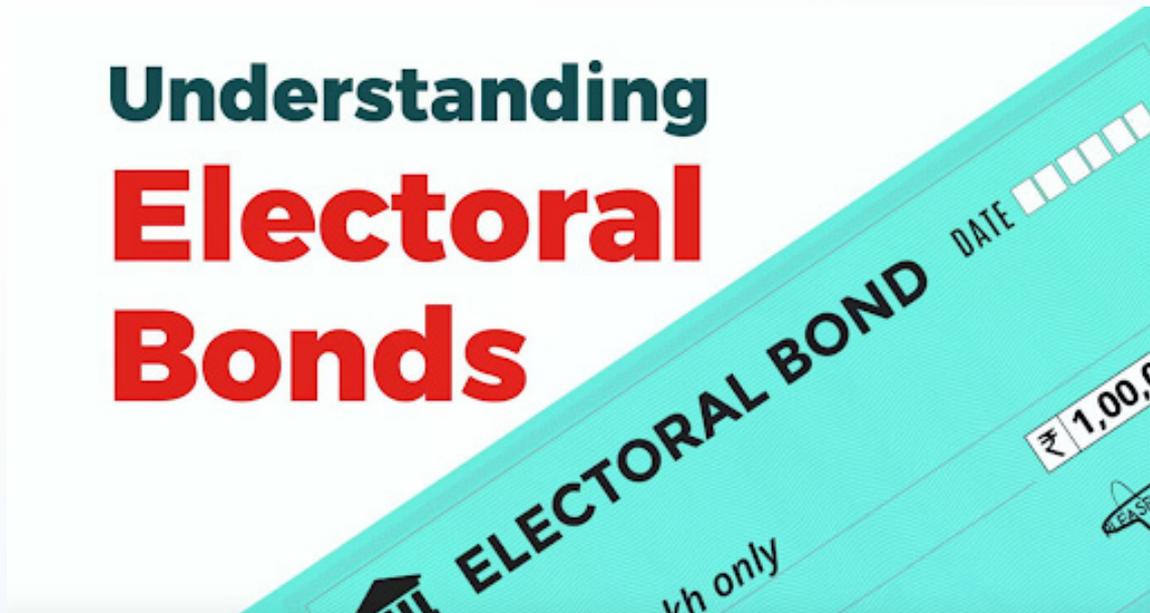
What makes similar expansive privation of wealth from the underprivileged gentries indeed worse is the intensity of privation. The figures for the pastoral sector show that the countries where the asset or wealth deficiency of the ST and SC homes was the loftiest, with their asset size lower than half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

Ritu

Let's understand the Transparency issue in Electoral Bonds

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

Understanding Electoral Bonds



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MD. Layeeque Azam