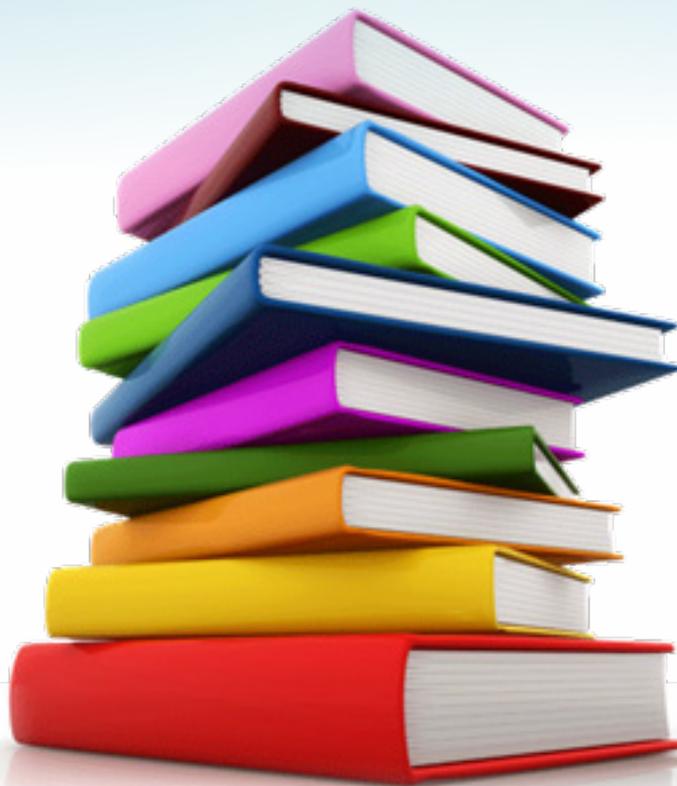




PLUTUS IAS Weekly

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CURRENT AFFAIRS

FEBRUARY 2022

The Assassination of Gandhiji : An Obstruction of the possibilities of reunification of India for always

CONTEXT:

By 30th January we remember it as Shaheed Diwas “Martyr Day ” on the occasion of the assassination of the father of the nation, Mahatma Gandhi. By 30th Jan 2022, Entire nation payed its tribute to the Gandhi Ji ”

INTRODUCTION:

Gandhi ji was not only a person who played an important role in national movement of India but he was an ideology which was taught to the world, an ideology of non violence, an ideology of truth, an ideology of Satyagraha, an ideology of humanism, an ideology of Sarvodaya, an ideology of trusteeship, an ideology of social justice. His assassination on 30th Jan 1948 was not an act of a person but it was an act of the hatred ideologies and through this cowardly act, the possibility of further reunification of India had been ended for always. The persons and the ideology who tries to justify this coward acts on the ground of Hindu Nation or the demand and acceptance of United Bharat (Akhand Bharat), Infact those persons were not only responsible of partition but also responsible for the creation of long lasting obstructions in the path of reunification of India also

IN WHICH SITUATION, GANDHIJI ACCEPTED THE PARTITION: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Congress leaders like Nehru, Patel and Gandhiji in 1947 accepted partition which had become inevitable because of the long term failure of the congress to draw in the Muslim masses into the national movement and stem the surging waves of Muslim communism, which, especially since 1937, had been beating with increasing fury. This failure was revealed in 1946 elections where league won 90 % Muslim seats and secure almost 99% votes of Muslims

The acceptance of partition was the final act of a process of step by step concession to the leagues intransigent championing of a sovereign Muslim state. Autonomy of Muslim majority provinces at the time of Cripps mission was accepted. Gandhi ji went a step further and accepted the right of self determination of Muslim majority provinces in his talks with Jinnah (1944). In 1946, Congress conceded the possibility of Muslim majority provinces (which formed group B or C of Cabinet Mission plan) setting up a compulsory grouping and upheld the right of NWFP and Assam not to join their groups if they so wished.

Congress accepted partition because they could not stop violence. Gandhi was helpless because of the growing communal violence At his prayer meeting on 4th June 1947, he explained that Congress accepted partition because people wanted it. It was the Hindu and Sikhs desire for the partition that rendered him ineffective, blind impotent. In fact, Gandhi ji accepted partition for the time being. Gandhi though that there were several

grievances of the Muslim regarding the protection of their interest and because of the aggressive statement given by Hindu extremists, Muslim felt insecurity in united India. Once their grievances will be addressed in India after the partition. Nationalist Muslims of Pakistan who had demanded for partition would realize their mistake and they could demand for Reunification and This United India would be stronger, more stable and more peaceful.

IMPACT OF GANDHIAN ASSASSINATION: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Even Though, Rightist justify the anger of the Hindus on the ground of the demand of Gandhi for paying the remaining 55 crore rupees to Pakistan by India. This act of the Gandhi was understood as the act of appeasement but it is not the fact. As per the law of the partition, Pakistan got 55 crore rupees less which was stopped by India because of the invasion of Pakistan on Kashmir. On moral ground, International and legal ground also, Gandhi demanded the share of Pakistan by India. After the assassination of Gandhi ji, the assassination and the suspicions regarding the interests of Muslims in Undivided India had strengthen in Pakistan and it was realized that, If Hindu extremists could kill the Gandhiji, a father of nation then How could the interest of Muslim be protected in undivided India. This coward ness incident ended all the possibilities of the reunification of India and those who killed Gandhi ji were the biggest enemy of the country (Ideology and persons both). They falsely claim that they support undivided India and quote the statement of Godse in which he demanded to flow his asses in Sindhu river. In fact The extremism was, is and will be the enemy of the unification of the country.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

STRENGTH AND IMPACT OF AUKUS

AUKUS is a trilateral security partnership between Australia UK and USA for the Indo Pacific region its aim is to share the nuclear submarines so that Australia can become one of the six nuclear submarine operating nations in the world however other five eyes nations like Canada, New Zealand are not part of it.

KEY POINTS

- Australia will acquire nuclear power submarines with help from the UK and the US.
- China has strongly criticised AUKUS and the submarine deal as promoting instability and stocking and arms race.
- This alliance is the most significant security arrangement between these three nations as it will also involve the sharing of cyber capability with applied artificial intelligence Quantum technologies and undersea technologies.
- It is different from quad as the four countries lack an official military relationship.
- Given the rising systematic challenge from China, Australia has shifted its long-standing policy against having nuclear submarines and the UK and the US have also shifted from their long-standing policy of sharing nuclear technology with only each other.
- However France has disliked the alliance and has ordered the recall of its ambassador to the US and Australia accusing them of field trial by negotiating defence partnership with the UK without informing European allies.

IMPACT ON INDIA

- The AUKUS partnership strengthens the quad and gives more weight to important partners like India

which provide the military balance in the indo-pacific region.

- AUKUS will accelerate the capabilities of the quad in fields like cyber security, artificial intelligence Quantum technology and advanced missiles.
- Any alliance that benefits the multilateral structure opposed by China is a net strategic positive for India.

CONCERN

- It will lead to a change of power in the Indo Pacific.
- It might possibly upset the balance of power in the region and set off new tension to India's East.
- The alliance could eventually lead to a crowding of nuclear submarines in abhi Tamanna meri in the eastern Indian ocean eroding India's regional pre-eminence.
- France, a big NATO ally to the US and Australia, considered this partnership as an act of betrayal.

WAY FORWARD

- The AUKUS partnership may prompt India to persuade France on a deal for procuring the nuclear attack submarines.
- The recent setback from Australia may spur France to focus afresh on partners such as India.
- As a major indo-pacific power France is an important part of the regional security calculus.
- Mini lateral partnership include the quad and AUKUS ads more partner to their lines and promote faster of multilateralism

CONCLUSION

- In tandem with the US and the UK Australia is all set to play a more robust role in ensuring peace and stability in the indo-pacific region.
- In absence of any giant Alliance specifically for the Indo Pacific region, partnerships like AUKUS are likely to come into play.
- Meanwhile, India can look forward to France as a possibly bigger ally especially when the latter has had a setback from its own allies.
- Indian friends now have a better chance at mutually cooperating, economically as well as for ensuring security in the indo-pacific.

Anshum Verma

Maharashtra tops the list with the maximum number of MSME owned by SCs (GS Paper-II, Polity, Constitution, Governance, Social Justice and International Relations) Source: The Hindu

WHY IN NEWS?

- Recently data was published by the Developmental Commission in the Union Ministry of MSME.
- According to the data Maharashtra topped the list with the maximum number of MSME owned by entrepreneurs from the scheduled caste community with 96,805 Enterprises.

- Tamil Nadu with 42,997 Enterprises stood second and Rajasthan bagged the third position with 38517 units in the list.
- Total 6% of the Micro Small & Medium Enterprise (MSME) is owned by the scheduled caste entrepreneurs.

WHAT IS MSME?

- It is considered as the backbone for promoting development along with accelerating economic growth.
- It constitutes a vital part of the Indian economy where the existence of 6.3 crore MSME not only contributes to one third of GDP of the country but is also a large-scale employer.
- As per the AtmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyan 2020 the MSME based on their turnover and investments were classified as –
- Micro: with investment of less than 1 crore and turnover less than 5 crore
- Small: with investment less than 10 crore and turnover less than 50 crore
- Medium: with investment less than 20 crore and turnover less than 100 crore.

REGISTRATION OF MSME: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- To avail the concessions and the benefit from the central and state government MSME shall register itself through Udayam system of registration which came into effect on 1 July 2020.
- Uploading documents and proof will not be mandatory; one can simply fill registration based on self-declaration.
- Investment in plant, machinery equipment and turnover from the basic criteria for MSME classification.
- To facilitate the entrepreneurs in registration, the Champions Control Room has been made legally responsible across the country.

SIGNIFICANCE OF MSME: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- It generates the second largest number of employment in the country after agriculture and employs around 120 million persons.
- It accelerates inclusive growth in the country by providing employment opportunities in the rural areas specifically to the people from weaker sections of the society.
- Establishment of small industries and business in towns and rural areas help in promoting the habit of using banking services and thereby contributing towards financial inclusion.
- The MSME sector in the country contributes around 29% of GDP through its national and international trade.
- Around 45% of the export from the country is done by MSME.

CHALLENGES BEFORE MSME: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Credit supply shortage has been the major obstacle faced by the MSME sector in India. The total demand for credit in the sector is 36 trillion and total availability stands around 16 trillion only.
- The major reason behind such credit gap is the lack of formalization amongst MSME.
- Another area of concern is the lack of Technology upgradation, the sector still based on the obsolete technology which ultimately negatively impacts its production efficiency.
- Most of the MSME space comprises only small and local shops and scaling them up is a problem specially due to the lack of access to funds.

WAY FORWARD

- Formulation and promotion of SME Bond will help provide lower interest rate for MSME than another financial intermediaries charges.
- Labour laws shall be Reform to make it more conducive to promote the growth of MSME.
- Curtailing unnecessary type work and improving regulations with focus on Ease of doing business is imperative to enhance the productivity of the MSME sector.

Vivek Raj

National policy for rare disease 2021 GS-2 Social Service & Health related sector

The World Health organisation defines rare disease as often debilitating lifelong diseases with the prevalence of one or less per 1000 population. As per estimates there are seven thousand known rare diseases within an estimated 300 million patients in the world and 70 million are in India. According to organisation for rare diseases India's majority of it include cancer autoimmune disorders, congenital malformations, raucher diseases and muscular dystrophies

CHALLENGE IN DEALING WITH RARE DISEASES: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Longtime doctors, researchers and policy makers work unaware of rare diseases.
- The landscape of rare diseases is constantly changing as their new rare disease.
- Apart from a few rare diseases where significant progress has been made the field is still at a nascent stage.
- Until very recently there was no real research or public health policy concerning rare diseases.
- Families that have members with their diseases are either unaware or found helpless in treating them due to no homegrown expertise.
- Offence drugs exist in only a few rare diseases and they are exorbitantly priced and beyond the reach of a common man.

NATIONAL POLICY FOR RARE DISEASES: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- The rare disease policy aims to lower the high cost of treatment for rare diseases with increased focus on indigenous research.
- Increase focus on local production of medicine that will lower the cost of treatment for rare diseases.
- The policy also envisages creation of a National hospital based registry of rare disease so that adequate data is available for research and development.
- Policy also aims to strengthen tertiary health care facilities for prevention and treatment of rare diseases.
- Early screening and prevention through primary and secondary healthcare infrastructure.
- The policy also envisages a crowdfunding mechanism in which corporate and individuals will be encouraged to extend financial support.

LIMITATIONS OF THE POLICY: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- For disease such as lysosomal storage disorders for which definitely treatment is available but Costs are have been categorised as group 3.

- No funding has been allocated for the immediate and lifelong treatment needs, what help is already approved by the drugs controller general of India.

WAY FORWARD

- Experts point out that the cost to help already diagnose patients might be in the range of rupees 80 to 100 crore annually.
- If the centre can extend the cost sharing agreement that it has worked out with Kerala Tamilnadu and Karnataka with other states too, its share of the annual cost will be halved.
- The centre can set aside a substantial corpus of funds for life saving treatments.
- Doing so well will not only complete the job well begun but also cement its commitment towards the welfare of every single citizen in India.
- It is binding on a welfare state to take care of every single citizen. Securing the well-being of everyone, particularly those unable to help themselves is. important

Anshum Verma

Stand of India in UNSC regarding Ukraine Russian Conflict : An Analysis

CONTEXT:

India called for quit diplomacy and the peaceful resolution of the Russia- Ukraine tension. India's permanent representative to the UN also called for the immediate de escalation of the situation while taking into account the security interest of All

INTRODUCTION:

Russia Ukraine conflict has been going on for a long time when Ukraine demanded itself to be a part of NATO. Russia had mobilized its troop of 10000 soldiers at the border of Ukraine. To resolve this problem the UN security council is scheduled to meet on 6th Feb 2022 for the first time on Russia's troop buildup and threatening actions against Ukraine at the request of the United States, and all key players are expected to square off in public. Russia will preside the meeting of security council

In this regard, India and Russia hold a discussion on the UN security Council agenda. The discussion came in the backdrop of tension between Russia and Ukraine over possible eastward expansion by NATO

INDIA'S STANDS: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

India seeks peaceful resolution of the Russia Ukraine Crisis through sustained diplomatic effort. Apart from close strategic ties with both the countries Russia and Ukraine, India is always concerned about many Indians who are residing in Ukraine. Many Indians are residing in Ukraine as students in various medical colleges. Generally India believes in international peace and nonviolence. In the perception of India, a peaceful resolution for the Ukraine-Russia tension is essential and it is cleared by India that in the security council she will support the steps which would reduce the tension between the two.

In UNSC, Russia and China tried to block discussion while 10 UNSC members including US, UK and France voted in favor of the discussion. India was among three countries along with Kenya and Gabon to abstain, in a bid to maintain its neutral position and not side with either block

In fact, Russia has been a strategic partner of India for a long time, for the time of the USSR. On many occasions, USSR had supported India and favored India during the Bangladesh war but after globalization and the disintegration of the USSR, India tilted towards the US also. India has never supported the aggression of any country. India believes in peaceful negotiation but advocates the adoption of any means to establish peace and maintenance of the security of any country / foreign policy should not be fixed. It changes as per the interest of the country. Country's interest is first in the foreign policy of India

INDIA UKRAINE RELATION: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

India has an extensive bilateral relationship with Ukraine, spanning all spheres of cooperation. India was one of the first countries to recognize Ukraine. The Government of India recognized the Republic of Ukraine as a sovereign country in December 1991 and established diplomatic relations in January 1992.

CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

India will never want to spoil its relationship with Russia. This crisis put pressure from democratic countries and developed countries over India to oppose Moscow. Therefore India should take steps wisely.

It was Russia who supported India during the time of Covid crisis. Even during 2014, India indirectly supported the Russian annexation of the Crimea and abstained from a United Nations resolution upholding Ukraine's territorial integrity.

Russia has also been a top arms supplier to India which risked U.S. sanctions by purchasing a Russian S-400 missile defense system. Moscow played an important role to make this world multipolar otherwise after the disintegration of the USSR world had become unipolar.

This, too, makes India more likely to stay quiet about Russia's actions in Ukraine and elsewhere. India would be silent and neutral in this matter. Even though more Russian aggression would be the cause of the economic sanction over India which would also present obstacles for India's defense trade with Russia. India should use any steps protecting its interest first.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Fly ash management and utilization machine to be established- NGT (GS Paper-II, Polity, Constitution, Governance, Social Justice and International Relations)

Source: Down to earth

WHY IN NEWS?

After many cases were registered where relief was sought from NGT against violation by coal thermal power plants, NGT ordered the establishment of the 'Fly Ash Management and Utilization Mission'.

KEY POINTS

- The primary goal of the mission is to monitor and co-ordinate the issues related to holding and disposing of fly ash.
- Secretaries of the Union Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate change and Union Ministry of Coal and Power and Chief secretaries of UP and MP will head the mission jointly.

- The nodal agency for coordination and compliance would be secretary of MoEF&CC.

WHAT IS FLY ASH?

- Fly ash is unburnt residue produced during the combustion of coal in the thermal power plant. It is a very fine powder with a tendency to travel far and wide.
- The particles of fly ash are rich in oxides and are composed of alumina silica, oxides of calcium and are composed of magnesium and toxic heavy metals like arsenic lead, cobalt and copper.
- The fly ash is collected with the help of the electrostatic precipitators before the flue gases reach the chimney of the coal fired power plant.

ADVANTAGES: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Fly ash can reduce and replace the cement upto 35% in construction activities like Road building, which will cut down the construction cost.
- It is light in weight and offers high strength and durability. At the same time it also acts as a better fill material for concrete roads and Road embankments.
- Fly ash has the potential to increase the crop yield and enhance the water holding capacity of the land.
- Other uses include reclamation of wasteland and filling up the abandoned mines.

DISADVANTAGES: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Fly ash is a toxic pollutant which has the potential to trigger respiratory problems like strokes, cancer.
- If it is not properly captured and disposed of it can certainly pollute air and water considerably. It can cause leaching of heavy metals into the ground.
- Fly ash impacts the root system of the plants and when present in air it can slowly settle on leaves and crops in the field impacting its productivity.

FLY ASH NOTIFICATION 2021: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- It was issued under the Environment (protection) Act 1986, some provisions are as follows ;
- It Prohibited the disposal and dumping of fly ash in water, air, soil. The centre has made it compulsory to ensure 100% utilization of the fly ash in an friendly manner by such plants.
- Power plants are required to deliver the fly ash for the project of its utilization free of cost. However they can charge the transportation cost.
- In case of non compliance the power plants will be charged with environmental compensation.
- CPCB and state pollution control board (SPCB) / Pollution Control Committee are responsible for monitoring the effective implementation of the mandate.

OTHER INITIATIVES: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Government has launched a web portal and mobile based application titled ASHTRACK to monitor the generation and utilization of ash from the thermal power plant.
- NTPC has developed the chief way of transporting fly ash from power plants in bulk to cement plants.

WAY FORWARD

- Giving more focus on research and development will help increase the efficiency of power plant and reduce the fly ash generation.

- It is vital to improve the proper management of fly ash which would be beneficial to not only power plants but to the environment as a whole.

Vivek Raj

NO clear and consistent patterns in INDIA'S employment trend

CONTEXT:

The third periodic labour force survey (PLFS) data for the year 2019-20 have recently been released.

BACKGROUND:

The two important indicators of structural transformation in any economy are-

- Rates of growth
- Changes in the structural composition of output and the workforce

After the 1991 reforms, India has experienced a consistent change in the growth rates, but the trend in employment has not revealed any consistent or clear pattern.

FINDINGS :

The economic growth rate (gross value added at constant prices)-

- GVA accelerated from 4.27% in the 20 years before 1991-2 economic reforms
- To 6.34% in the 20 years following the reforms and
- To 6.58% between 2010-11 and 2019-20 at 2011-12 prices.

With this growth, there was a **decline in agriculture share** → From 30% in 1990-91 to 18% in 2019-20

A steady **increase** in the **share of non-agriculture output** in total economic output.

EMPLOYMENT PATTERNS

Two major sources of data on workforce and employment –

- The **decennial population census**
- The **National Sample Survey Office (NSSO)**
- The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), started in 2017-18 on an annual basis → available for three consecutive years i.e., 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20.

PLFS data → show an increase in the worker to population (**WPR**) **ratio** from 34.7% in 2017-18 to 38.2% in 2019-20.

- The employment has increased at a much faster rate than growth in population.
- The increase in WPR has been reported in the rural and urban population and in the male and female population.
- This increase in WPR has occurred in the midst of an increase in the labour force participation rate.

Another positive indication from PLFS data is that the gap between the male and female worker participation rate is narrowing down.

- As against 100 male workers, 32 female workers in the workforce in 2017-18.
- The number increased to 40 in 2019-20.

Women constituted 24% of the workforce in the country in 2017-18 and 28.8% in 2019-20.

- The unemployment rate in the female labour force in rural areas is far lower than the male labour force; while in urban areas, its vice-versa.
- The female LFPR in rural India is 33% higher than the rate in urban areas.

THE UNEMPLOYMENT SCENARIO

As per, **PLFS data** :

- the unemployment rate based on principal status plus subsidiary status declined from 6.1% in 2017-18 to 4.8% in 2019-20.
- The number of unemployed persons has increased by 2.3 million between 2017-18 and 2018-19
- 45.6% of the workers in India are engaged in agriculture and allied activities
- 30.8% in services and 23.7% in industry
- There is no increase in the share of industry and services in total employment.

It means that the labour shift out of agriculture is not happening.

- Out of 56.4 million new jobs created between 2019-20 and 2017-18, 57.4% were created in the agriculture and allied sectors
- 28.5% in services and 14.5% in industry

Within the industry group-

- Employment in the manufacturing sector → increase of 1.8 million in two years
- Construction activity → an addition of 6.4 million new jobs

The young and educated labour force, sought more remunerative work outside agriculture but only a few succeeded as :-

Industry and services sectors → adopted capital-intensive, labour-displacing technologies plus production strategies, with the adoption of Artificial Intelligence and Internet of Things.

A well-established fact for post-liberalisation India is that → there is a **dichotomy** between the rising share of industry and services in national income without the increase in employment.

NOW, THE QUESTIONS INFRONT OF INDIA ARE:-

- To question the conventional economic development models and their applicability?
- To rethink India's strategy of striving for an industry-led growth model and explore a more relevant agri-centric model of economic transformation?
- Need of a new model to create more attractive, more remunerative and more satisfying employment in and around agriculture?

TO SUM UP :-

Apart from Agriculture and allied sectors, India also has an urgent need to generate much more employment in the **manufacturing and services sector** alongwith the :-

- (i) changes in labour laws discouraging industry to adopt labour-intensive production
- (ii) employment-linked production incentives
- (iii) special assistance for labour-intensive economic activities

Rajeev Yadav

INDIA AS AN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT DRIVEN ECONOMY

Innovation requires building institutional frameworks and research infrastructure. Building research infrastructure should be envisioned for an ecosystem rather than an institution. The initial funding to build large research infrastructure needs to come from the public exchequer. Government funding is the initiator of public ideas into workable solutions in science and technology LED innovation.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Proper legal frameworks are needed for university driven innovation to mature.
- After consultation and modification parliament needed to pass the production and utilisation of public funding intellectual property bill 2008.
- Making PUPFIP a law will help remove the university's lack of clarity on intellectual property rights to commercialise inventions. Today Current Affairs.

EDUCATION AND LEARNING: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Education is extrinsic, passive and curriculum-led.
- Learning is intrinsic, active and curiosity LED.
- Well defined curriculum paves the way for greater learning outcomes.
- When the two faces of education and learning work together it can lead to solving some of the world's greatest problems.

INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Ok, we need to establish the white ecosystem to nudge students towards innovation and entrepreneurship, while traditional engineering education has failed to do so.
- We need an ecosystem where students can engage with corporate, startups, industry experts, partners, investors, accelerators etc.

WAY FORWARD

- The university curricula need to get away from focusing exclusively on awarding degrees to providing vocational training to develop students skills.
- Focusing on innovation must not take over miles away from problems in fundamental sciences or other streams.
- Funding for applied sciences should not be at the cost of fundamental science.
- The market caps of many technology driven companies ranked in the top 20 of global GDP alongside the nation States. Today Current Affairs.
- Universities can play a significant role in fostering the economy of all nations.
- Need to sustain public funding to build world-class research and development infrastructure and hiring the best faculty in our universities system.

Anshum Verma

The government's effort at Public investment led growth : An Analysis

CONTEXT:

The Union Budget starts with a self congratulatory announcement that India's domestic output (GDP) is likely to grow 9.2% this year (2021-22) over the last year- the highest among the world's large economies. Even though the fact which is unsaid that India's output contraction the previous year (2020-21) was among the worst in the world. Today Current Affairs.

INTRODUCTION

Generally, During this budget the government tries to expose all the positive elements of the budget and on some issues where the government seems to fail, the facts were either unsaid or unexposed. This year's budget seeks to boost public investment by 35.4 % at current prices over last year to raise its share in GDP to 2.9 % from 2.2 % last year. It means through the public investment government will inflow the money in the economy so that the economy could boost. For this purpose the government will provide grants in aid for state investments and it is hoped that public investment in the states will increase 4 % of GDP. It is hoped that this budget will trigger a virtuous investment-led output and employment would also be increased in the public sector.. The basic object of such activities is to reduce the fiscal deficit so that the government could control inflation also. But again this question remains whether the government has sufficient funds for the investment or not? Whether government will collect this fund by more divestment or by increasing the taxes or by adding some new taxes. Today Current Affairs.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT PROBLEMS WHICH SHOULD BE ADDRESSED OR TACKLED BY THE GOVERNMENT: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Unemployment is the big problem of the country. Because of the Covid pandemic many people had lost their employment. This employment declined by 3 % of the GDP in private consumption. And the demand for labor from the infrastructure sector is limited. But the government is silent on this issue. In this Budget government did not disclose the measures through which country will be overcome from this crisis even though the Government does not have any data regarding unemployment of last year. This employment crisis would call for more money allocation in MGNREGA. But its is surprising and hopeless that government slashed the allocation for MGNREGA by 25 % over last year
- Industrial slowdown is another big challenge. The share of the manufacturing sector in the Indian economy has been stagnating at around 15 % of GDP for a long time. Annual Industrial growth is also declining continuously from 13.1 in 2015-16 to minus 7.2 % in 2020-21.. This data is shocking. Despite the slogan of Atma Nirbhar Bharat, our economy is an import dependent economy, especially in China. India's import have shot up. Today Current Affairs.
- India launched a PLI (Production linked incentive) scheme for numerous technology intensive products. The success of this scheme is doubt full because the area of domestic consumption in such industries (like mobile) is limited
- India raised make in India initiative in 2014-15 to raise the share of manufacturing sectors in GDP to 25 % but the government could not succeed. Government should find out the barrier in the path of increment in manufacturing sector in India

CONCLUSION : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

It is argued that India has improved its ranking in Ease of Doing Business from 142 in 2014 to 63 by 2019-20. But the improved ranking failed and the industrial sector is continuously heading towards a slowdown. Last year, the World Bank scarped the index as it was flawed globally and reportedly politically motivated. Even Though government will take the bold step for the public investment but the time will tell how far government succeeded in this regard.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

The Kerala government has proposed to limit the powers of Lokayukta

WHY IN NEWS?

With an ordinance, the Kerala government proposes to amend Kerala Lokayukta Act and it has attracted criticism from the opposition.

PROPOSED CHANGES: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

It proposes to give the government the powers to either accept or reject the verdict of the Lokayukta, after giving an opportunity to be heard.

ORIGIN OF LOKAYUKTA ACT: TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

After decades of demand for the strong anti-corruption law, the Lokpal and Lokayukta Act, 2013 was passed in January, 2014. The Lokpal consists of chairman (Present/former chief justice of India/distinguished personality who possess relevant eligibility criteria). Minimum 50 percent of the remaining members, total eight, must be judicial members, with at least 50% belonging to SCs, STs, OBCs, minorities or women.

WORKING OF LOKAYUKTA IN THE STATES: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Like the Lokpal at Centre, there exists Lokayukta at the state level, it has been provided under section 63 of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013

Originally, the Lokayukta was made mandatory in each state but due to opposition from the opposition parties, the framework was created and implementation was left to states.

STATES WHICH HAVE LOKAYUKTAS: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

At the time of passage of the bill, Lokayuktas were already present in some states like Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh. Further after enactment of this law and emphasis from the side of the Supreme Court, today most of the states have set up a Lokayukta.

As there exists autonomy for the states to frame their own laws, the Lokayukta's powers varies from state to state as given below:

Nagaland: Nagaland passed a law which gives power to the state government to keep the post vacant for a year.

Goa: Here the Lokayukta do not possess the power of prosecution.

Bihar: A law was passed which called for the punishment to people who files false cases before the Lokayukta and offences will attract a jail-term upto three years.

Uttar Pradesh: A law was passed to increase the tenure of Lokayukta to 8 years.

So in this regard following measures can be taken to improve the scenario:

- The ombudsman institution should be strengthened both in terms of functional autonomy and availability of manpower.
- More transparency, more right to information and empowerment of citizens and citizen groups along with a good leadership that is willing to subject itself to public scrutiny.
- The government needs to address the issues based on which people are demanding a Lokpal. Only adding to the strength of investigative agencies will increase the size of the government but not necessarily improve governance. The slogan adopted by the government of “less government and more governance”, should be followed in letter and spirit.
- Lokpal and Lokayukta must be financially, legally and administratively independent of those whom they are called upon to investigate and prosecute.
- The Lokpal and Lokayukta appointments must be done transparently so as to minimize the chances of the wrong sorts of people getting in.
- Also there is a need for a multiplicity of decentralized institutions with the appropriate accountability mechanisms, to avoid the concentration of power, in any one institution or authority.

Vivek Raj

BUDGET – BETRAYAL OF SOCIAL SECTOR SOURCE : THE HINDU

INTRODUCTION :

The government seems to have prioritised meeting its fiscal deficit targets.

The Government has not focussed on-

- Employment-Centred Growth
- Inclusive Growth

India continues to **rank poorly** in various global indices that reflect the quality of life, human capital or human development in the country, such as-

- The Human Development Index (rank 131 out of 189 countries)
- The Global Hunger Index (rank 101 out of 116 countries)

Undoubtedly, the pandemic over the last two years has severely impacted the poor and informal sector workers’ –

- Health
- Education
- Food security

The following reports establish the recovery in economic growth in India as K-shaped – Today Current Affairs

- Oxfam’s ‘Inequality Kills’ report

- The ICE360 survey
- FINDINGS : The Hindu Analysis

Greater spending on the social sector can contribute to :

- Improvements in human development outcomes
- Provide a cushion to people during the current economic crisis
- Contribute to boosting private consumption demand

The Govt. promised for **‘one class, one TV channel’ scheme** for children, who were affected by prolonged periods of school closures. Today Current Affairs.

The budget for school education –

- At ₹63,449 crore is a slight improvement over last year’s ₹54,873 crore (2021-22 budget estimates, BE)
- An increase of 6% in nominal terms compared to 2020-21 BE of ₹59,845 crore

Rechristened the school mid-day meal scheme as **Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman**, simply called **PM Poshan**, the allocation has reduced from ₹11,500 crore last year to ₹10,233 crore this year.

The overall budget for the Department of Health and Family Welfare at ₹83,000 crore has gone up by only 16% over the BE for 2021-22 and by less than ₹1,000 crore compared to the RE for 2021-22, which is ₹82,921 crore.

The budget for the **Jal Jeevan Mission** has increased from 50,000 crore to 60,000 crore.

As on December end 2021, only 44% of the allocated funds to the Department of Water and Sanitation for 2021-22 has been spent.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)- the food subsidy (BE) for 2022-23 at ₹2.06 lakh crore is only enough to cover the regular NFSA entitlements. The **indication is that there is no plan to extend the PMGKAY**. The food subsidy RE for 2021-22 is 2.86 lakh crore.

Budgets for the following important schemes, are around the same as the allocations for last year, such as –

- Saksham Anganwadi
- Maternity entitlements
- Social security pensions

The allocation for MGNREGA at ₹73,000 crore also does not reflect the increased demand for work or the the pending wages of ₹21,000 crore.

On the whole, in the Budget for 2022-23, the **social sector** has once again been **betrayed**.

The resources allocated for crucial government schemes have remained rather stagnant in the fields of –

- Health
- Education
- Nutrition
- Social protection

The International Labour Organization, came out with **the World Social Protection Report 2020-22**, that shows that –

The spending on social protection (excluding health) in India is 1.4% of the GDP

The average for low-middle income countries is 2.5%

Budgets on health and education have also been **low**.

This continued ignorance does not go well for inclusive development in India.

Rajeev Yadav

Significance of The Selection of Qi Fabao (Commander of PLA) as Olympic Torchbearer : An analysis in context of India-China relation

CONTEXT:

A People's Liberation Army (PLA) regiment Commander Qi Fabao is selected as the Olympic Torchbearer. This person was involved in the June 15, 2020 clash with India in Galwan Valley. It means China wants to keep Galwan Valley clash into spotlight

INTRODUCTION:

On 15th June 2020, the Galwan valley of Ladakh region witnessed a violent clash between the Armies of India and China. During this conflict more than 20 Indian soldiers were martyred. In the history of 45 years of the Chinese India relation this was one of the biggest violent conflicts. In fact, China entered the region occupied by Indians. China is continuously increasing these activities near to LAC (Line of Actual control). After negotiation both countries accepted Disengagement from Galwan Valley.

Once Again China is gradually trying to revive her claim over Galwan valley and China wants to justify its conflict with India on the issue of Galwan. Therefore, in front of the world China selected that person who had been involved in this conflict. It shows the clear aggressive attitude of the China

SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS SELECTION : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- The winter Olympic is going to start by 4th February 2022 and on this occasion (Opening ceremony) the function would be attended by the president of China Xi Jinping and more than a dozen world leaders, including Russia's Vladimir Putin, Five Central Asian Presidents and Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan
- Qi Fabo has been earlier honored by the Chinese military after the China India Conflict in Galwan and his selection as the Olympic torch bearer is not just a small incident of the sport. It has its strategic significance. Through this selection China has cleared his vision in this regard. Although China previously hit out at western countries for politicizing the games after the refusal of western US, UK, Australia from the participation in the opening ceremony in Winter Olympics. These western countries boycotted China on the grounds of the human right violation in China although their athletes are participating in winter games. The Chinese government has continued to keep the Galwan clash in the public spotlight even as India and China, both are engaged in peace talks along the LAC.
- China's state Channel China central Television (CCTV) broadcasted by 1st Feb 2021 a documentary in which it was shown that Chinese PLA is patrolling near LAC as flag raise ceremonies are held in Galwan Valley and boats patrolling Spanggug Lake, south of Pangong Lake. In the preview of this documentary the interview of the relatives of those soldier who had involved in Galwan clash were also conducted. Today Current Affairs.
- Chinese military, last year has organizing many ceremonies in which these people who participated in Galwan conflict were not only praise but also they were presented as Heroes and their works as heroic work and It was shown that all the Chinese people should learn from these soldiers
- Through These activities China is adopting aggressive policy against India and the objective of Chinese foreign policy to make India as isolated country

CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The fundamentals of the foreign policy of India has been to isolate Pakistan from any alliance of China. (Although India's success in this regard was limited). But this time, Pakistan is coming closer to China in strategic relations and the invitation to Pakistan on the occasion of the opening ceremony and the selection of Qi Fabao should not be underestimated. India should reevaluate its foreign policy. Today Current Affairs. Current flaws should not be justified on the ground of previous flaws (Flaws during the time of Nehru and others). We also seek support from Russia therefore our stand regarding the issue of Ukraine is very balanced. Government should consider the allegation of the congress leader Rahul Gandhi on the diplomacy failure of the government. The Government should reevaluate and should revive its foreign policy to isolate Pakistan and should adopt a clear vision in this regard that India would never compromise with its sovereignty and integration.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Key Takeaways of Economic Survey 2021-22



The Indian economy along with the world economy faced unprecedented challenges because of repeated waves of infection, supply chain disruption due to lockdown restrictions and the resulting inflation, particularly when it comes to policy making. The Government of India made important policy changes to protect the vulnerable sections of the society and the business sector.

The Government of India is trying its best to boost the medium term demand by increasing capital expenditure on infrastructure And also looking into supply side measures to prepare the economy for a sustained long term expansion.

The Indian economy is expected to grow 9.2% in 2021-22 in real terms (Real GDP Growth). Quarter 1 of 2021-22 witnessed smaller economic impact than what was experienced during the full of lockdown phase in 2020-21 even though the health impact was even more.

Agriculture and allied activities is expected to grow by 3.9% in 2021-22 after growing 3.6% in the previous year.

GVA of Industry will rise by 11.8% in 2021-22 as per the advanced estimate after contracting by 7% in 2020-21. The Hindu Analysis.

The services sector which has been hardest hit and is estimated to grow by 8.2 % in this financial year, following last year's 8.4% contraction.

Total consumption is estimated to grow by 7% in 2021-22, with significant contributions from government spending. Gross fixed capital formation also exceeded the pre pandemic levels because of the ramped up public expenditure on infrastructure.

Exports of both goods and services have been exceptionally strong so far in 2021-22, but imports also recovered strongly with recovery in domestic demand as well as higher international commodity prices. Today Current Affairs.

The Indian economy is in a good position to witness 8 to 8.5 % GDP growth in 2022-23, because of the fact that economic momentum is building back as the bulk of the population is vaccinated and the likely long-term benefits of the supply side reforms are in the pipeline.

The global environment is still uncertain as a new wave in the form of the Omicron variant is sweeping across the world and inflation has jumped up in most countries. Major Central banks are withdrawing the liquidity. Hence it is high time to look into macroeconomic stability indicators and their ability to provide a buffer against the above stresses.

India's Balance of Payment remained in surplus throughout the last two years, despite all the distractions caused by Global Pandemic. Forex reserves of the Reserve Bank of India stood at 634 Billion Dollar on 31st December 2021. This is equivalent to 13.2 months of merchandise imports and is higher than the country's external debt. The combination of high foreign exchange reserves, sustained foreign direct investment, and rising export earnings will provide an adequate buffer against possible global liquidity tapering in 2022-23.

Fiscal deficit and government debt has risen in 2021 because of fiscal stimulus given to the economy as well as health response. The storm we want in government revenues in 2021-22 is suggesting that the government will comfortably meet its fiscal deficit target, along with maintaining the support to the economy and ramping up capital expenditure. The Hindu Analysis.

India's capital market has done exceptionally well and has allowed record mobilization of risk capital for Indian companies. The banking system is well capitalized and the overhang of non performing assets seem to have structurally declined.

Vaccination should be treated for now as a macroeconomic indicator because it is critical for opening up the economy, not merely a health response. Over the course of a year, India delivered 157 crore doses that covered 91 crore people with at least one dose and 66 crore with both doses. The vaccination process for boosters and for the 15-18 year age group was also gathering pace at the time of writing.

Inflation in India in terms of consumer price index stood at 5.6 % on a year-on-year basis in December 2021, which is within the targeted band of the monetary policy. Wholesale price inflation, however, has been running in double-digits. Although this is partly due to base effects that will even out, State of the Economy 3 India does need to be wary of imported inflation, especially from elevated global energy prices. Today Current Affairs.

Overall, macro-economic stability indicators suggest that the Indian economy is well placed to take on the challenges of 2022-23. One of the reasons that the Indian economy is in a good position is its unique response strategy.

Another distinguishing feature of India's response has been an emphasis on supply-side reforms rather than a total reliance on demand management. These supply-side reforms include deregulation of numerous sectors, simplification of processes, removal of legacy issues like 'retrospective tax', privatisation, production-linked incentives and so on. Even the sharp increase in capital spending by the Government can be seen both as demand and supply enhancing response as it creates infrastructure capacity for future growth.

MD. Layeeque Azam

Strategic Significance of Area of Depsang (Ladakh Border) : A critical analysis

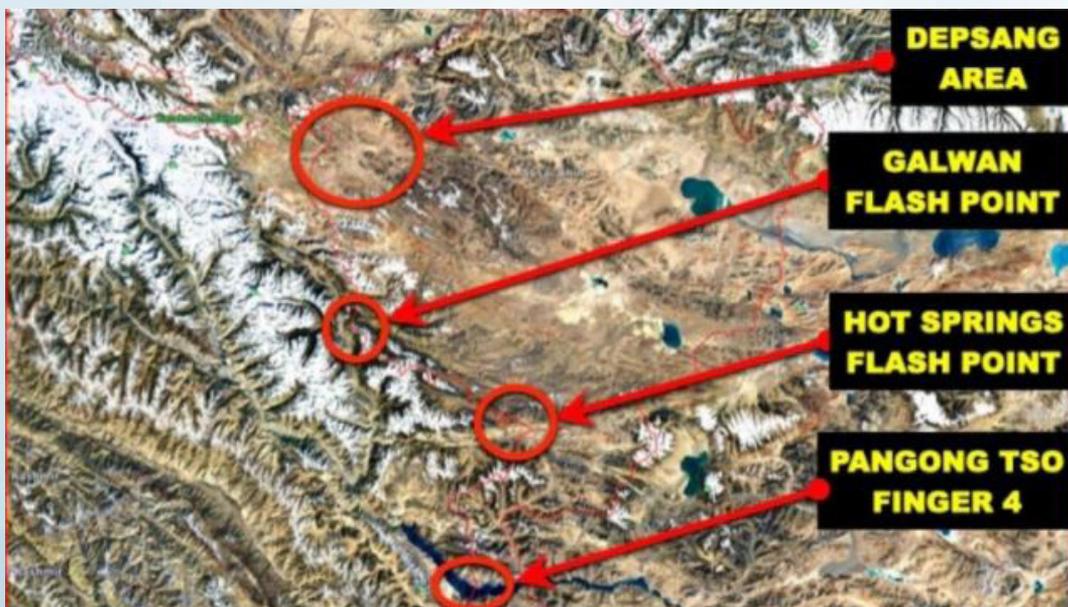
CONTEXT:

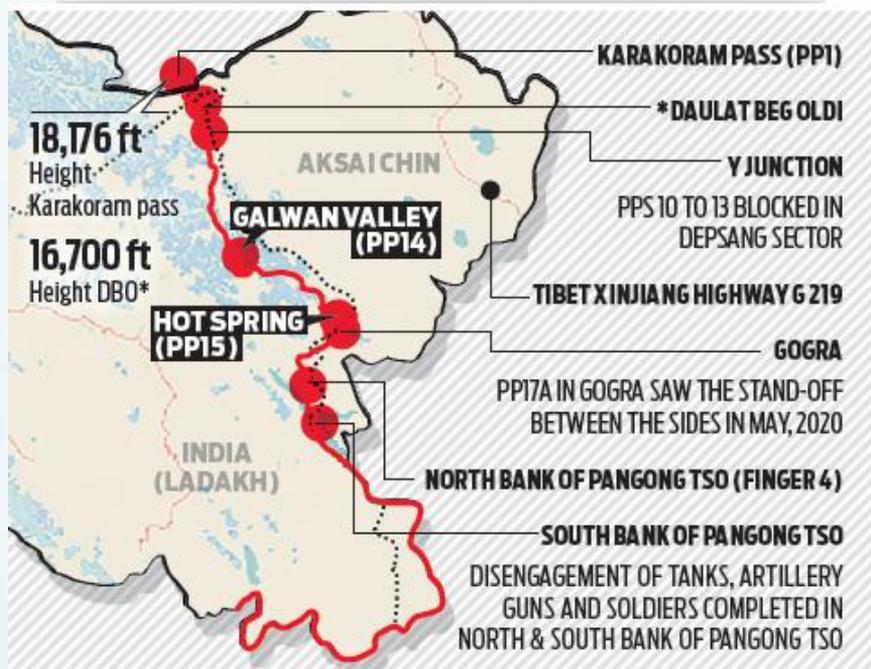
After the Sino India war in 1962, the Indian army was confronted with the problems of the bodies of around 190 Indian soldiers lying in the areas around 8-16 km inside the Chinese claim line in Ladakh 1960. In Aug 1963, Chinese agreed to carry out the cremation and hand over the ashes to the Indian red cross; however, Indians were not allowed to participate during the ceremony. At Rezang La and Gurung Hill PLA buries the body of Indian soldiers – wooden post with the inscription in Chinese and and English “The corps of Indian Invaders. In Fact the purpose of this post was to claim over these areas in future negotiations

INTRODUCTION:

- China is continuously increasing her activities near Ladakh. She is trying to delink the area of Depsang from the ongoing Ladakh border. This will bolster the position of China. During this worrying condition, the Indian government is also raising its steps. As per the interview of Army Chief General MM Naravane, “In Ladakh, out of 6 friction point five has been solved”.
- Depsang is an enclave of flat terrain. Where Army finds vulnerable in Ladakh devising plans to tackle the major Chinese challenges. Delinking of Depsang from the current border increased the worries of India. However this Chinese argument invalidates the rightful Indian claims over a large swathe of territory.
- Sparsely populated areas like Ladakh, with limited forward deployment of the troops, the only ascertain of the territorial claims is by regular patrolling. By arguing that the blockade at Y Junction predates the current stand – off – a legacy issue’ that goes back years- the Chinese side can affirm that Indian patrols never had access too this are and India has no valid claim on the territory Already living with the disadvantage of being a lesser power vis-a vis China, this arguments further weakens India’s hand during negotiations in Ladakh.

WHAT IS DEPSANG PLAIN : THE HINDU ANALYSIS





- SSN's flat terrain of Depsang, Trig heights and DBO which provide direct access to Aksai Chin This is a very high altitude plain, situated in the Aksai Chin region of Kashmir (Northwest portion). It is divided between India and China through the Line of Actual Control. India has no development in this area while China has multiple roads that provide easy access to this area. This leaves SSN (Subsector north) highly vulnerable to capture by the PLA, with a few thousands of square kilometers from the Karakoram Pass to Burtse, likely to be lost. Nowhere else in Ladakh is the PLA likely to gain so much territory in a single swoop. Today Current Affairs.
- SSN lies to the east of Siachen, located between the Saltoro ridge on the Pakistani border and the lesser ridge close to the China border. It is the only place where a physical military collusion can take place between Pakistan and China – and a challenge for two front war can become real in the worst case scenario. If any time India loses this area, it would be almost impossible to launch any military operation to wrest back Gilgit Baltistan from Pakistan
- Depsang Can also be considered as the launch pad area. Today Current Affairs.

CONCLUSION

In fact India is facing the threat from China in the Ladakh region also and China is continuously adopting its aggressive policy against India. The statement given by our honorable prime minister Narendra Modi during the All Party meeting in 2020 that nobody entered the region of India was a big blunder. India can not afford another repeated big Blunder. Definitely Government should definitely raise appropriate steps to tackle such problems.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Girl child, caste dimension and empowerment scenario

The term “girl- child” has been invoked in policy dialogues of the developing world since the 1990s to draw attention to a range of matters concerning girls. At the transnational position, its institutionalization can be dated to the Fourth World Conference on Women, 1995 at Beijing where, for the first time, girls’ issues plant an independent space of their own

HOW WELL IS THE EMPOWERING GOING? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The bare conjuration of “girl- child” in public converse is a reference to a girl figure that has been successfully wrested from the clutches of tradition, family, and history. The girl- child is misleadingly imagined to be a formerly tyrannized group which, through timely intervention by the state, has been disenthralled. This becomes apparent when one looks at the story of Malala Yousafzai — the manner in which she was elevated and appropriated by Western media. In 2012, Yousafzai’s tale of frippery, in the face of Talibani stricture of her activism for girl- education, captured the attention of the Western world. In an moment, she surfaced as a third- world girl- icon and came a philanthropist of the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize. A new- plant seductiveness with issues pertaining to girl commission dominated the political center- stage from this point onwards According to her, contemporary narratives around the girl produce homilies which are accessibly used by the West to present itself as the rescuer of girls from the wretched backwardness of the developing countries. The thrust on girl education and its donation in public and transnational policy conversations as a result to all “girl” problems — beforehand marriage, femicide, mortal trafficking, violence, healthcare and menstrual hygiene, patriarchal socialisation within the family, etc, is one similar commonplace.

Sarada Balagopalan, in her digressive notice of the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) programme under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), discusses how girls from borderline communities in these domestic

seminaries are anticipated to learn to make papads, fix, aseptic towels, learn embroidery, acclimatizing and tone- defense as part of their class called “ life chops.” The KGBV separated girl scholars from their families and community grounded on the notion that they’re innately accumulative. Since the girls would live within the academy demesne, they would be down from their families and thus isolated from the social pressures of early marriage. It was believed that domestic training would automatically break the problem of traveling long distances from home to academy, low registration and attendance, and also insure the safety of the girls. A close reading of the programme reveals how the state, through expressions of commission and progress, hides its patriarchal leanings and absolves itself from the responsibility of social metamorphosis. She draws attention to the “ increased surveillance of borderline girls” by the state, as girls’ educational status becomes an index of public development the academy space is misleadingly imagined to ramify girls from their family’s poverty/ tradition/ unsexed social anticipation. Education for girls is used as a commonplace to shift one’s aspect from the forenamed problems.

THE GIRL CHILD ACTIVE OR PASSIVE? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Croll presuppositions that state programs which serve within the rubric of the girl child deny agency to girls and should thus be replaced with a girl- rights centric frame. According to her, the “ girl- child” perpetuates the notion of girls as victims, particularly for girls from non-hegemonic communities in the global South. For her, the frame of girl- child isn’t in alignment with the general trend around the world, which is inclined towards a language of rights. The use of “ girl child” strips girls of all openings to lay claim to being agential. In other words, she visualizes the converse around girl- child (girls as victims) as negative to girl- rights (girls as empowered).

Still, in disagreement with her argument, this composition suggests that the girl- child as a order of analysis, should be dynamic and devoid of similar dichotomisation. The girl- child is positioned at the heart of all conversations pertaining to legal protections and rights of girls within South Asia. The converse on girls frequently oscillates between two poles – the first kind of narrative shows how girls are victims of multiple cutting structures of power; whereas, the alternate kind of narrative focuses immensely on girls’ eclectic resistances to show how they aren’t “ amenable” or victims. The narrative of girls as victims can de-emphasize girls’ agential action to bring about social metamorphosis. Whereas, the narrative of “ girl power” runs the threat of making unnoticeable their continuing sexual, political and socio-profitable vulnerability and marginalisation. How does one recite the story of girls to punctuate both their vulnerabilities as well as their resistances? It’s important that contemporary exploration doesn’t rush to claim that girls in India are either victims or empowered because such a narrative would be exclusive of the presence of borderline womanhoods and different surrounds girls in India come from.

BORDERLINE GIRLHOOD THE CROSSROAD OF GIRLHOOD WITH CASTE: TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Borderline girlhood refers to indispensable accounts of girlhood which don’t find a voice in mainstream literature and the story of the girl. The story of the radical 14- time-old Mukta Salve, one of the first Dalit women/ girl pens, is the story of a girlhood borderline to the dominant converse. Muktabai was one of the first girls to admit an education under the Phule’s in 1850’s Pune. She’s known for her 1855 essay named “ Mang Maharachya Dukhvisayi”. The citation of Salve in a narrative of Dalit girlhood is definitive to punctuate the “ technologies of the tone” stationed by Dalit girls and women in the concession of their subjectivities. It’s important to understand the subversive character of Salve’s jotting, its intricate weaving of the particular with the political, and the eventuality it presents of a radical break from being generalizations of the girl- child.

In the wake of the reported rape and murder of a 9-year-old Dalit girl in south-west Delhi, the urgency of the hour eggs one to understand: (1) How is the girl-child conceptualised to exclude Dalit girlhood? and (2) Why

is the narrative woven by the discourse on girl-child detrimental to the safety of Dalit girls? Contemporary literature in the field of girl studies wholly neglects the intersection of girlhood with caste which makes theorisation challenging. The two proposed questions should become the igniter of a more meaningful and politically empathetic discussion on the lives of Dalit girls. The reportage of the crime demonstrates sheer intransigence to acknowledge the fact that the girl victim's caste background made her a target of gendered violence. Commentators on social media conveniently refer to her being a "girl-child" rather than a Dalit to dismiss the specificity of instances of caste violence against Dalit girls. This pushes public rhetoric into a pitfall which increases the probability of misidentifying caste-based violence as gender-based violence. Caste-based violence against Dalit girls manifests itself in gendered forms (caste rapes); the fact that Dalit girls are most vulnerable among an already marginalised group due to their caste location remains incontrovertible. Today Current Affairs.

The constitution of the girl-child, as previously discussed, alludes to why we are robbed of a language which can effectively capture the gravitas of this case. The Brahminical underpinnings of the genealogy of the girl-child present her (as in the Bhadrakalok imagination) as Khukurani (term of endearment for Bengali middle-class girls), who is on the path of growing up to become a Bhadramahila. Away from the drudgeries and degeneracy of the "common woman" lower-caste/class women, "prostitutes," "maid-servants," the Bhadramahila was hailed as the "New Woman" by the emerging upper-caste middle classes of the 19th century. The genealogy of the girl-child is rooted in the history of the upper-caste girl bride and therefore is exclusive of the experiences of Dalit girlhood. One would have to radically challenge the manner in which the girl-child has been envisaged in public rhetoric and policy statements for it to become a more dynamic and inclusive entity.

Ritu

Significance of China Pak CPEC Agreement in special reference to India

CONTEXT:

On 4th Feb 2022, China and Pakistan signed a new agreement on industrial cooperation as part of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) plan during the visit of Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan on the occasion of inaugural programme of the Winter Olympic

INTRODUCTION :

- Pakistan and China are the two neighbors of India. The foreign relations with China and Pakistan have been continuously changed and recently the bitter relations are there between India and China on the issue of Chinese encroachment in Ladakh. Pakistan has been rival of India for long time on the issue of Kashmir and terrorism. India has been victim of the Pakistani sponsor terrorism. This has been the fundamentals of our foreign policy to keep Pakistan away from china. But Recently It has been observed that Both the countries are continuously coming together and making several economic and strategic alliances.. This closeness of Pakistan with China definitely increased the worries of India.
- Recently, During winter Olympic, China appointed Qi Fabao, a participant soldier of Galwan conflict with India and on this occasion China invited Pakistan although India diplomatic boycotted this occasion however an Indian sport group of 5 members will be participation
- The industrial cooperation agreement is a key part of CPEC (China Pakistan Economic Corridor) part

2. Which not only encouraged Chinese investment in Pakistan but also It will bring China more closer to Pakistan

WHAT IS CPEC? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- All the works related with infrastructural development in the areas connecting Pakistan and China is combinedly said as the CPEC. Under this project China will develop infrastructures throughout Pakistan. It began in 2013. First phase of the CPEC has been conducted. In first phase China has invested in energy projects as well as road infrastructure in Pakistan
- The recent agreement between Pakistan and China will bring huge Chinese investment in Infrastructure development of the Pakistan as will as transferring Chinese Industrial capacity
- The framework will “promote industrialization and development of economic zones, and initiate, plan, execute, and monitor projects, both in public as well as private sector”.
- This is not only a project related to economic significance but also a project of “strategic significance for both countries” and called for both sides to “expedite” measures to develop the Arabian Sea port of Gwadar.
- China has described CPEC as a “flagship project” of the Belt and Road Initiative. The corridor links Xinjiang with Gwadar, and also passes through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). China is investing huge money in Pok in numbers of the project including infrastructural development and energy development
- Even though earlier China had raised the issue regarding security of the Chinese people and the Chinese projects in Pakistan because China is more concern regarding terrorist activities inside the Pakistan. last year(2021) in the month of July, Nine Chinese workers and engineers were killed in Pakistan in a bomb blast in a bus. Even though Pakistan assured China for the safety of their people and will take strong action against the culprits of this incident. However, How far Pakistan would succeed to curtail these violent activities in his country, is suspicious.

SIGNIFICANCE FOR INDIA : TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

In fact this CPEC passes through the POK where China is developing infrastructure and investing huge money in various projects. Definitely after the huge investment, Pakistan will make its strong hold in this POK and in the future negotiations the Pakistan would be on upper hand on the issue of Kashmir.

GWADAR PORT AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE : THE HINDU ANALYSIS



- Gwadar Port is situated in Baluchistan (Pakistan) connecting Iran border, Gulf of Persia. China is investing a lot of money to develop this port. Through this port Pakistan and China will increase their economic activities with Europe, Africa and the countries of the middle east through the Strait of Malacca mainly energy related. The port is managed by a Chinese government company. To Counter it India had also started the Chabahar port of Iran and developed the Chabahar-Hajigak corridor. But after the drastic political changes in Afghanistan, its future is also susceptible. Actually India seeked Hajigak iron and steel project in Afghanistan by the Government of Afghanistan. Chabahar Port also provides direct connectivity to Farkhor Air Force Base in Tajikistan which is jointly operated by Indian Air Force and Tajik Air Force. Today Current Affairs.

CONCLUSION

Generally India's foreign policy has been based on peaceful coexistence for 3000 years and once our ex prime minister Atal Bihari Bajpai had said that we could change our enemies and friends but we could not change neighbors. But we always gave preferences to our security also. Definitely, the recent close relationship of Pakistan with China is a threat for the Indian security and the Indian government is definitely aware in this regard so India should make QUAD strong and effective and look towards its new friend like Japan and Australia.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Minimum wage and its impact

The minimum wage law is becoming one of the most popular tools to address concerns regarding inequality and poverty. More than 100 countries have instituted some form of wage floor, and there is renewed impetus to adopt new minimum wage rates or strengthen the existing ones. An estimated 19% of all wage earners globally are paid at or below the applicable minimum wage (ILO 2020). There has been a measurable positive impact of minimum wages on societal welfare, which is the reason behind increasing the implementation of minimum wage laws. Out of the cacophony of divergent views, I will argue that we still need the minimum wage.

IMPACT OF MINIMUM WAGES: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

There is a lot of ambivalence over the impact of a minimum wage. The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), an intergovernmental organization of mostly rich countries of the world. However, in 2018, the same study by the OECD stated that “minimum wages can help ensure that work is rewarding for everyone” and that “when minimum wages are moderate and well designed, adverse employment effects can be avoided”. Similarly, in a survey of the members of the American Economic Association, conducted in 1992, 79% of respondents agreed that a minimum wage can lead to unemployment among young and low-skilled workers, but the number reduced to 46% in the same survey carried out in 2000.

PRICE PASS-THROUGH: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The firms may pass on some or most of the cost arising because of the minimum wages. This is true, especially, for industries that have a low elasticity of labour demand, like restaurants and retail stores. There is some evidence supporting such price pass-through in restaurants. For example, in the case of Hungary, researchers found out that 75% of the cost of a large increase in their minimum wage was passed on to the consumers. Price increases were more evident in non-tradable industries (like restaurants and department stores) than

tradable industries (exportable goods like manufacturing products). Moreover, if low-income households consume products, which require substantial input from minimum wage workers, the price pass-through effect of minimum wage law can be regressive. However, the wage hike in Hungary was far more dramatic than anywhere else—it jumped from one of the lowest in the world to one of the highest.

DIFFERENCES IN EARNERS: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

One reason why the impact of the minimum wage may come out differently in different countries is because of the variation in the constitution of the low-wage earners. For developed countries, the workers earning at or below the minimum wage are mostly teenagers, who themselves may belong to high-income families. In such countries, while the minimum wage laws may work to ensure that teenagers are not subjected to any exploitation, they may not have any impact in reducing inequality. However, the situation is quite different in developing countries, where the majority of low-wage earners come from low-income families.

Take the case of domestic workers, who are seldom covered under the minimum wage laws of developing countries. In India, there were only some states that had minimum wage laws for domestic workers. According to researchers, there was a strong short-run positive impact of the minimum wage legislation on real wages and an insignificant effect on the employment of domestic workers. It is encouraging that the Government of India, in 2019, extended the cover of the national minimum wage law to all the casual workers, including the domestic workers. But to have any appreciable long-term impact, the enactment must be followed by efficient monitoring and implementation.

MARGINALIZED GROUPS- TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

The existence of a wage floor may also help reduce inequity between two identifiably different groups of people. In the US, the 1966 Fair Labor Standards Act extended the federal minimum wage coverage to sectors that employed mostly Black workers, like agriculture, restaurants, and nursing homes. The effect of the minimum wage was almost double in the earnings for Black workers than for the White workers. The act was responsible for more than 20% of the reduction in the racial earnings and income gap between 1965 and 1980, when a third of Black workers were employed in the above-mentioned sectors. Moreover, the minimum wage laws had significant contributions in the reduction of the gender wage gap, as shown in the case of Poland and Indonesia. Such an effect was possible because there was a systemic difference in how different groups of people were employed and shows us how the minimum wage is an effective tool for giving economic empowerment to disadvantaged and marginalised groups. For a country like India, where caste-based discrimination is responsible for the low wage income among the disadvantaged groups, there is little intergenerational mobility to high wage jobs among the lower-caste persons. An effective minimum wage, thus, can help provide a basic minimum standard of living that can go a long way to diminish inter-caste income gaps and help eradicate such discrimination.

NON-WAGE COMPENSATION- TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

The minimum wage laws, however, do not always include other non-wage benefits, like pension, sick leaves, on-the-job training, or working conditions. According to the US Bureau of Labour Statistics (2020), wages and salaries account for roughly 70% of the total compensation costs. One study found a modest negative impact on employer-provided health insurance because of the minimum wage. Also, it is not intuitive to reduce on-the-job training of the workers after a hike in minimum wage, as it is in the interest of the employer to increase the productivity of workers, who are already receiving higher wages. While it appears to be common sense to trade off increase in wages by employing less workers or diminishing non-wage compensation, it is not the case because low-productivity workers increase their work effort after a rise in the minimum wage.

TECHNOLOGY: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

In the present age of globalization, some firms may become uncompetitive after an increase in the minimum wage. They may either exit the market or change the production technology by substituting labour with capital and by adopting modern technologies. For the US, it has been found that more automatable low-wage jobs decreased after an increase in the minimum wage. This shows how firms may respond to a rise in the wage floor by adopting more labour-saving technologies. Moreover, if recent technological advances are such that the productivity gains to employment fall short of their labour displacing effect, the disemployment effect of the minimum wages may no longer be “elusive.” The technology is leading to job polarization, with routine mid-level tasks getting automated, all the while generating more low- and high-skill jobs. In such a scenario, we will still need a minimum wage law to prevent the low-skilled from getting wages below some social minimum.

CONCLUSIONS

Countries like Germany used to have the minimum wage based on negotiations between the employer federation and labour union. The rise in statutory minimum wage across the world is a result of increasing de-unionisation and the rise in employment by big firms. Thus, the fear of exploitation of low-wage earners is still as large as it was when the first minimum wage laws were passed in the early 20th century. If maintained at sufficiently moderate level, the minimum wage serves to ensure that everyone can enjoy a minimally decent life in society.

Ritu

