



PLUTUS IAS Weekly

CURRENT AFFAIRS



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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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India's Abstention on UNSC Vote over Russia's Invasion of Ukraine

INDIA'S ABSTENTION ON UNSC VOTE OVER RUSSIA'S INVASION OF UKRAINE- TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

India has abstained on a US-sponsored UN Security Council resolution that deplores Russia's aggression against Ukraine, with New Delhi saying dialogue is the only answer to settling differences and disputes.

WHAT IS THE RESOLUTION ABOUT? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- The UN Security Council voted on the draft resolution 8979 presented by the US and Albania, and co-sponsored by several other nations.
- The resolution deplores Russia's aggression against Ukraine and decides that Russia shall immediately cease its use of force against Ukraine and shall refrain from any further unlawful threat or use of force against any UN member state.
- The resolution added that Russia shall immediately withdraw all of its military forces from the territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders.
- It also asked Moscow to immediately reverse the decision related to the status of certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine.
- The Council's resolution reaffirmed its commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders.
- India abstained from the vote on draft resolution.
- Russia which chaired the meeting of the UNSC vetoed the resolution and China abstained along with the United Arab Emirates.
- Despite the remaining 11 members of UNSC, including US, UK, France, voting in favour of the resolution, it did not pass since Russia vetoed it.

WHAT ARE THE OPTIONS THAT INDIA COULD CHOOSE FROM? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- There are four potential options India can/could choose from:
- Condemn Russian aggression
- Support Russian aggression
- Stay silent on Russian aggression
- Express displeasure and call for diplomacy.

- The first option will pit India against Russia, the second will pit it against the U.S. and its allies.
- The third option will be read as pro-Russia, and the fourth option which it has taken is the least harmful.
- But the one that abstains from voting on a UNSC resolution calling for condemning Russian aggression and withdrawal of Russian forces from Ukraine is indeed a pro-Russia position.

WHY DID INDIA ABSTAIN? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- India wants to maintain a balance between the Western bloc led by the US, and Russia, since it has strategic partners on both sides.
- India's past record has been maintaining balance between the West and Russia.
- Recently, India abstained on a procedural vote on whether to discuss the issue of Ukraine.
- India said that it is deeply disturbed by the recent turn of developments in Ukraine.
- It reiterated its appeal for cessation of violence.
- It flagged its core concern about Indian nationals in Ukraine who are stuck, most of whom are students.
- India touched upon "territorial integrity and sovereignty" which was the contemporary global order built on the UN Charter, international law, and respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states.
- It also advocated diplomacy, urging the parties concerned to return to the negotiating table.
- Apart from the India-Russia defence and strategic partnership, Russia is India's most trusted P-5 ally when it comes to blocking intrusive resolutions on Kashmir.
- Moscow may or may not be able to moderate Chinese antagonism towards New Delhi, but an India-Russia strategic partnership may be able to temper New Delhi's growing isolation in a rather friendless region.
- New Delhi needs Moscow's assistance to manage its continental difficulties through defence supplies, helping it return to central Asia, working together at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) or exploring opportunities for collaboration in Afghanistan.

WHAT DOES INDIA'S ACTION SIGNIFY? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- The contemporary Indian strategic landscape necessitates that India balances the two sides, but doing so without a subtle Russia tilt may not be feasible at this point of time.
- India's position shows the unmistakable indication that when it comes to geopolitics, New Delhi will choose interests over principles.
- By abstaining, India retained the option of reaching out to relevant sides in an effort to bridge the gap and find a middle ground with an aim to foster dialogue and diplomacy.
- While India's hesitation to take a stand against Russia is understood, New Delhi must now consider whether its aspirations to be a leading power can be achieved without having a clear position on a conflict that threatens global security.

Anshum Verma

QUAD and INDO-RUSSIA Relations : change in EQUATIONS

QUAD AND INDO-RUSSIA RELATIONS : CHANGE IN EQUATIONS – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

CONTEXT:

Quad (the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue) recently had a snap virtual meeting.

DEVELOPMENTS–

India, the U.S., Australia and Japan, leaders discussed Russia-Ukraine crisis including territorial and maritime security across the Indo-Pacific.

- In the joint statement, issued after the summit, the four nations reaffirmed –
- The commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific with sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states respected
- That the countries are free from military, economic, and political coercion

THE LATEST QUAD MEETING WAS IN PART LIKELY MOTIVATED BY THE CONCERN OF THE U.S., AUSTRALIA, AND JAPAN THAT :-

India, is **NOT** condemning Russia in launching a ground offensive across the Russia-Ukraine border and to bomb Ukrainian infrastructure, so it can't be on the same page as the other Quad members vis-à-vis this conflict.

U.S.A., JAPAN, AUSTRALIA –

- Condemned Russia's aggression
- Slapped Kremlin elites and Organisations linked to them with crippling sanctions.

INDIA'S STANCE : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

India → **abstained** from three UN resolutions condemning Russia.

There is also a considerable difference on the Russia-Ukraine issue in terms of the individual readouts of the Quad members.

The U.S., Australia and Japan-

- Called out Russia's attempt to unilaterally force changes to the status quo in Ukraine
- Vowed not to let such action occur anywhere in the Indo-Pacific

India → **only referenced** Ukraine in passing, in the context of establishing a new humanitarian assistance and disaster relief mechanism for this cause.

INDIA → Need to remain close to Moscow, who is its major defence supplier.

DERIVATIONS : TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

1. **South Block** is playing hardball with the mandarins at the U.S. State Department over getting a CAATSA waiver for India's purchase of \$5.43 billion worth of the Russian Triumf missile defence system.
2. To balance the rise of China as a potential Asian hegemon, the Quad, cannot afford to alienate India, who is a critical partner in the global-strategic plan.

3. In case, Russian occupying forces begin committing **war crimes** and **human rights violations** in contravention of the Geneva Convention, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other applicable global treaties → INDIA-RUSSIA relations will be tested.

Rajeev Yadav

The QUAD and AUKUS

WHY IN NEWS? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The Quad grouping (India, U.S., Australia, Japan) has been equated with that of AUKUS (Australia, U.K., U.S.) by China and called both of them as part of the Biden administration's ill-intentioned Indo-Pacific strategy.

THE QUAD – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

- It was initiated by Japan, US, India and Australia in 2007 but it re-emerged in 2017.
- The gap of 10 years strengthened the coordination among the four members through various political, diplomatic and military agreements.
- In this time period these countries also experienced increasing wider Chinese expansionism and offensive posture in the Indo Pacific making them all restless.
- Because of this these countries through Quad aimed at promoting free, open rule based order in the region.
- The Quad declared that:
- The Indo Pacific region is an inclusive, healthy anchored by democratic value and and constrained by coercion
- To Promote a free, open rule based order rooted in international law to advance security and prosperity, counter threats to both in the Indo Pacific and beyond
- Extend the acquired cooperation in areas of health, climate change, critical technologies, counterterrorism, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief including maritime domain
- The Japanese Prime Minister has called Quad a democratic security diamond.
- In the light of the dispute in East and South China Sea, Japan envisaged a strategy whereby the quad countries form a diamond to safeguard the maritime common stretching from the region of Indian Ocean to the western Pacific.
- India's ministerial level 2+2 dialogue with the US, Japan and Australia have added stability in the multilateral network among the Quad nations.
- In 2020 India has signed the basic exchange and cooperation agreement for geospatial cooperation with the US, included Australia in Malabar military exercise and signed a mutual logistics support arrangement with Japan.
- Further India has reiterated in the ministerial meeting in 2020 that India is committed to upholding the rule based international order underpinned by the rule of law, transparency, freedom to navigate in the international seas, respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty and peaceful resolution of disputes.
- The High Commissioner of Australia to India has said that India is clearly the natural leader in the region in terms of the vision the Quad signs up to in the Indo-Pacific region.
- MILAN, multi-nation defence exercise, held in Visakhapatnam demonstrates the cooperation across countries in the Indo-Pacific to secure a free, open and prosperous Indo-Pacific.

THE AUKUS – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

- The trilateral defence partnership, AUKUS between Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States has reaffirmed the importance of the Indo Pacific region in contemporary great power politics.
- The transferring of closely-guarded technologies for artificial intelligence and the manufacture of nuclear-powered submarines under Aukus by the US to Australia is significant for the region.
- The PRC makes use of diplomatic, military, and technological prowess to establish or nurture its own sphere of influence and emerge as the world's most influential power.
- It is important to use all instruments of power to deter aggression and to counter coercion by advancing integrated deterrence, deepening cooperation and enhancing interoperability.

ISSUES OF CHINA: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- In the beginning China has dismissed the Quad as “sea foam” that would fade away with time.
- But due to growing closeness and widening scope that has seen the four countries begin to work together on a range of initiatives from vaccines to critical technology, Beijing has stepped up its criticism.
- China is of the view that the so-called Quad group cobbled together by the U.S, Japan, India and Australia is essentially a tool for containing and besieging China to maintain U.S. hegemony.
- Some experts have said that the quad is the Asian NATO formed against China's aggression in the region and China also held it as 'Axis of democracies' against Beijing's interests

FUTURE COURSE OF ACTION: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- In order to take benefit from the changing geopolitical scenario, there is a need for India to overcome its maritime challenges.
- The external affairs minister has talked about an attempt to frame India's strategic interest and a blow to the Indo Pacific in Kautilyan terms.
- The efforts are being made to understand how people's security and well-being hinges on developments in the Indo Pacific and outlines the dynamics of India's continental and maritime mandalas.
- Further it highlights the ways for India to maintain security and achieve economic prosperity through strategies that are essentially Kautilyan: bring about cooperation, inculcate partnerships, and enhance domestic capability.

Vivek Raj

Russia Ukraine War and Nord Stream2 : An analysis in special context to The Strategy of America

CONTEXT:

America is one of the largest producers of the gas because of the shale gas revolution after the 1960s. America is one of the largest exporters of LNG (Liquid Natural Gas). This war between Russia and Ukraine would be lasting long. America would be benefited and She could capture the market of energy supplies (gas and Petroleum) Russia in Europe. This long term war would be beneficial for America.



INTRODUCTION:

After the Russian invasion over Ukraine, America as well as many European countries have imposed economic sanctions on Russia so that it could damage the Russia-Europe energy relationship. The speed with which the U.S. declared the Nord Stream 2 pipeline to be “dead at the bottom of the sea” indicates that this massive gas pipeline is one of the key issues at the bottom of the conflict..

Definitely, the intention of America is not good regarding the Russia Ukrainian War. America is a real capitalist country and accounting to natural initiation of capitalist America, everywhere see the economical profits. This war is the result of America’s provocation of America to Ukraine. Through This war the Gas pipeline Nord 2 would be in vain and finally European countries would be depended over America for the Gas and in This way America, one side would be economically beneficial and on other side it could weaken Russia economically

Europe is the world’s second largest market for natural gas, and hence the battleground between the superpowers of hydrocarbon energy, the U.S. and Russia. Germany, despite a decade of “energiewende” (an ‘energy turnaround’ or the ‘ongoing transition to a low carbon, environmentally sound, reliable, and affordable energy supply’), is still one of the world’s largest importers of oil and gas. It is again at the epicenter, as it has been in earlier energy pipeline disputes.

For Germany, the import of Gas through Nord 2 would be cheaper. But after the second world war, and mainly after the reunification of Germany, Germany looks like a puppet of America. The Hindu Analysis.

During the 1960s when the USSR offered East and West Europe for oil at a lower price and large orders for specialized pipes and transmission equipment, America ordered the European countries not to sell pipes to the USSR. The Soviets built the pipeline with a two year lag; however, they only won a large share of the West European oil market after the West Asia/Middle East oil supply crisis of the 1970s and fall in U.S. domestic production made it an importer.

By 1970, it again encouraged the sale of pipes of large diameter because Russia had to make a transition of the Gas in entire west and East Europe. The US never wanted to increase the economy of the USSR based on Gas and Petroleum export.

CONCLUSION

Definitely, the Russian Ukraine Crisis is the result of the provocation of America to Ukraine. Russia had to invade Ukraine to ensure her security concerns from the side of Ukraine, while Ukraine accepted the challenge of war because of the provocation of America. On the ground of extreme nationalism Ukraine is sacrificing her people, however Ukraine knows very well about the result of this war. The Ukrainian president, sitting in a safe place, is continuously sacrificing innocent people just because of the benefits of America.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

DUGONG CONSERVATION RESERVE

Marine biologists have welcomed the Tamil Nadu government's recent decision to go ahead with the establishment of a conservation reserve for the elusive dugong. Dugong conservation reserve would be established in the Gulf of Mannar, Palk Bay between India and Sri Lanka.

DUGONG

- The dugong is a marine mammal. It is one of four living species of the order Sirenia, which also includes three species of manatees. It is the only living representative of the once-diverse family Dugongidae; its closest modern relative, Steller's sea cow, was hunted to extinction in the 18th century.
- In an interesting incident, Christopher Columbus mistook them as sea mermaids.
- It is a herbivorous mammal.
- They live in groups, grazing on seagrass and coming to the surface to breathe.
- LifeSpan: 70 Years or more
- They are found in over 30 countries. (Not endemic to India)
- In India, they are seen in the Gulf of Mannar, Gulf of Kutch, Palk Bay, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- Australia has the highest Dugong population due to coral reefs.

CONSERVATION STATUS: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- IUCN Red List of Threatened Species: Vulnerable
- CITES Appendix I
- Wildlife Protection Act: Schedule 1
- Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project: By Global Economic Facility & UNEP for eight nations in the Indo-Pacific excluding India.
- MoUs by UNEP & Conservation of Migratory Species.

THREATS: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- The loss of seagrass habitats
- Water pollution
- Degradation of the coastal ecosystem due to developmental activities.
- Accidental entanglement in fishing nets and collision with boats, trawlers.
- Poached for meat

ISSUES ASSOCIATED : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Verge of extinction: It is definitely a late step because dugongs are on the verge of extinction.
- In the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, their population is less than 100. There are very few left in the Gulf of Mannar and In the Gulf of Kutch, there are very few sporadic records.
- In the case of marine reserves, the sea is a type of commons. And coastal communities are highly dependent on it. By designating a protected marine area, we are literally denying the resources to such people
- The main cause of mortality for dugongs is accidental entanglement. They are marine mammals and have to surface every four minutes to breathe. Fishermen use gill nets and dugongs get trapped and killed in them unintentionally.
- Very few people have been arrested, imprisoned or prosecuted for poaching dugongs. The enforcement of the law needs to be strengthened if you want to conserve the species.

SIGNIFICANCE

- The proposed conservation area has the highest concentration of dugongs in the country.
- We have already declared dugongs as a Schedule I animal under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Legally, it is given the highest protection.
- Declaring an area as 'protected' means there will be no human interference there. There may be some tribal communities dependent on non-timber forest produce.

WAY FORWARD

- Massive awareness is needed about the dugong as very few people know about them even in the Andamans where they are the state animal.
- This could be done through incentive programmes: For instance, if a dugong gets captured and is released by fishermen, they get Rs 5,000 if they provide photo documentation of the act.
- Fishing communities should also decide to shift to other sources of food rather than hunt dugongs for meat if they want their future generations to see dugongs.
- The next step in dugong conservation is the preservation of the threatened seagrass ecosystem. Ultimately, if there is no seagrass, dugongs will perish.

Anshum Verma

Indian students going abroad for Medical Studies

WHY IN NEWS?

Thousands of Indian students cried for help in Ukraine when the Russia-Ukraine war started, most of these students went for Medical Studies.

STATUS OF STUDENTS STUDYING ABROAD

- Approximately 18500 students were in Ukraine, as per an estimate from Ukraine.
- Almost all of the students have been evacuated by now but now the uncertain future is bothering them.
- Russia, China, Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Philippines have been the Preferred destination for

Indian students to pursue medical education.

- There are various reasons for these destination like:
- English is the medium of instruction in these Countries which is a comfortable language for Indian students.
- The fee is very affordable in comparison to the fee for MBBS seats in Indian private medical colleges.
- Certainly foreign degrees are used to provide greater exposure to the students and this way they become capable enough to deal with any type of situation and the cases.
- Lack of opportunities to pursue MBBS in India due to limited number of seats.

LESS NUMBER OF MBBS SEATS IN INDIA: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

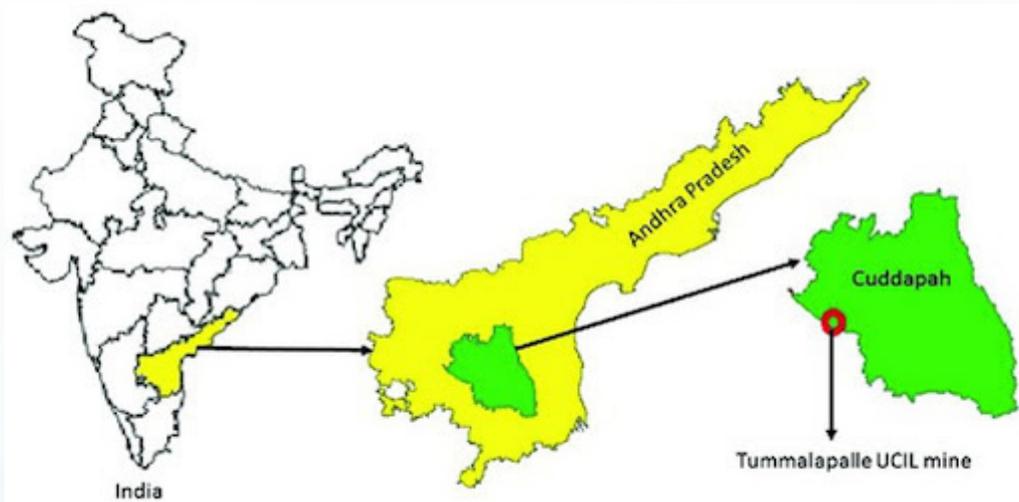
- As per a National Testing Agency press release, 16.1 lakh students registered for the exam, 15.4 lakh students appeared for the test, and 8.7 lakh students qualified.
- The National Medical Commission (NMC), in 2021-22, provided that there were 596 medical colleges in the country with a total of 88,120 MBBS seats.
- Further colleges are not distributed evenly across the country but concentrated in some particular region and at other places there exists scarcity of colleges.
- There are approximately 65000 seats which can be afforded by the common people.
- The fees for private medical colleges are approximately 1 crore for a five year course.
- For a management seat, capitation fees can inflate the cost by several lakhs again.
- In the case of Ukraine, on an average close to Rs. 30 – 40 lakh, including lodging and boarding is needed.
- Most of the students had written the NEET exam at least twice, and only decided to move after they could not get an MBBS seat.
- When they are coming back there is a requirement to clear the Foreign Medical Graduates Examination, a licensure examination held for students who have studied medicine abroad.
- The differences in the income of doctors, and others, like nurses and allied health professionals, are also a key factor in making an MBBS degree attractive.

WAY FORWARD

- Creation of more medical colleges in the country and ensuring accessibility and availability.
- When the aim will be to make medical education more accessible then the path ahead is not in the private sector but in the public sector, with the central and state governments' involvement.
- The State and Central governments can start more medical colleges, as recommended by NITI Aayog, by utilising district headquarters hospitals, and expanding the infrastructure to benefit students from the lower and middle socio-economic rung.
- To strengthen facilities for quality medical education in the country, the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana was launched, so it needs to be implemented well.
- The Creation of more medical colleges will be beneficial for the country, if access and availability can be ensured.

Vivek Raj

Setting up of two Nuclear Projects in Andhra Pradesh and the related concerns



CONTEXT:

The Recent statement of Jitender Singh (Union Minister of State) in Parliament informed about the clearance of a proposal by the Centre; to set up a **nuclear power plant at Kovvada in Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh**, abutting the proposed executive capital city of Visakhapatnam, has sparked another round of protests.

At the same time, there are also **protests at Tummalapalle, Kadapa district**, over-

- Uranium mining
- Its associated risks to health and environment
- Issues of rehabilitation and resettlement.

PEOPLE CONVINCED→

- Despite initial protests after the projects were proposed, **people** from these two regions were **more or less convinced about the developmental aspects** of the nuclear power plant and uranium mining
- **Land acquisition** was a **smooth** affair.

EXPECTATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT – THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- That the government would meet the requirements
- Stick to the stipulated norms
- Allay fears over safety, health and rehabilitation

The Kovvada nuclear power plant :-

- First proposed in 2015
- The government has acquired over 2,079 acres of land for the plant, taken up in association with the U.S. multinational nuclear power reactors supplier, Westinghouse Electric Company.

THE FORUM FOR DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH ANDHRA : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The Forum **urged** to pass a resolution to reject it in the State, raising the concerns like:-

- The location of the plant (it is to be set up close to National Highway 16)
- The rehabilitation of fishermen
- The presence of several industries in the region

As per the guidelines of the **Atomic Energy Regulatory Board:-**

- Human habitation is not allowed within a 1.6-km radius of the plant
- People living within 30 km from the plant should be kept ready for evacuation in the event of a disaster
- The Forum warned, if there'll be a disaster, the nuclear impact may be felt in places as far as Chhatrapur in Odisha and Kakinada in East Godavari district.
- Kovvada is located in a dangerous seismic zone

The Uranium Corporation of India Limited's (UCIL) mining in Tummalapalle in Kadapa district has also become **controversial** for similar reasons.

With an estimated 85,000 tonnes of potential **uranium deposit**, the **Tummalapalle mine** is touted to be among the world's biggest.

After over a decade of mining at the site, there are **concerns** now over –

- **Air pollution**
- **Ground water contamination**
- **unmet promises**
- Locals say **bore wells have become contaminated**
- The most common complaints are of **skin and respiratory ailments**
- More serious health issues have been reported among women

Despite providing assurances, the UCIL has reportedly not provided medical support.

The government responded to these concerns by the Conduction of field-level surveys but no Follow Ups.

ON THE REHABILITATION FRONT : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The villagers are **unhappy** as a majority of the youth **NOT** given the promised employment.

The company is also accused of **failing to provide PENSIONS** to those who have crossed 60 years of age.

DERIVATIONS –

- The people in both these regions have given their lands to the government and are waiting for the latter to fulfil its promises.
- Meanwhile, Opposition parties and NGOs are beginning to take note of the issues and inaction.
- The projects, associated with nuclear energy, have been taken up in National Interest.

Rajeev Yadav

The Wallop over Fundamental Rights of the Speech and Expression by Executive: A symbol of democratic Decay: An analysis

CONTEXT:

As the *MediaOne* case shows, a judiciary that is a mute spectator to any executive action highlights democratic decay. A Division Bench of the Kerala High Court has dismissed the appeal filed by *MediaOne*, a television channel in Kerala, whose license the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has refused to renew. The Ministry had said that the license could not be renewed for reasons related to national security.

INTRODUCTION :

The executive and the government always tries to crush the rising voice against them but the constitution gives us the right to protect our voice from the hammer of the suppression of the government. But, Generally government uses the tool of national security and secrecy of the decision. Through these tools, the fundamental rights could be easily crushed but this is the duty of our Judiciary, which is the protector and conservator of the constitution to prevent the constitution and the democracy from any type of decay. But some time, at the High court level it is observed that on the issue of National security, High Courts have become silent. This silence of the Judiciary would be harmful for the democratic value system and gradually the democratic elements from the country will be decaying.

WHAT IS THE RECENT CASE : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Media One news channel had requested for the renewal of its license but the central government refused to renew its License. MediaOne TV was an Indian Malayalam-language television channel operated by *Madhyamam* Broadcasting Limited under the Kerala chapter of Jamaat-e-Islami Hind.. This channel is owned by Islamic Organization

The issue is that the double bench of the high court of Kerala also dismissed the appeal by the Media one news channel regarding the renewal of its license on the name of national security. The stand of the Government was endorsed by both the Single and Division Benches of the High Court. In this context, the judgments set a dangerous precedent for free speech rights and procedural justice.

WHAT IS THE PROVISION OF THE CONSTITUTION REGARDING THE RIGHT TO SPEECH AND EXPRESSION : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The article 19 (1) provides the right to freedom of speech and expression of the television channel. These

rights may be restricted on the grounds of public order, and 'security of the State'. But In the case of Media one, the state is not ready to disclose the nature of the security threat. The decision of the executive is sealed. The jurisprudence of 'sealed cover' is an appalling trend.

The Judiciary has rights to review whether the fundamental rights are being violated or not. On the ground of national security, the fundamental rights of the speech and expressions must not be violated

The high court of the Kerala, on the basis of the the decision of the Supreme court in the case of Digi Cable Network vs Union of India (2019) when supreme court stated that ""In a situation of national security, a party cannot insist for the strict observance of the principles of natural justice".

THERE ARE TWO OBJECTION IN THIS CASE : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

1. There is no any clear examination of the case of the issue of national security
2. In the the Pegasus case (Manohar Lal Sharma vs Union of India, 2021), three judges benches clearly stated that Every time free pass should not be given on the name of national security and stated that "national security cannot be the bugbear that the judiciary shies away from, by virtue of its mere mentioning".

CONCLUSION

As per the above discussion, we see a state that has succeeded in suppressing the voice of the dissenter, illegally and clandestinely. This is the responsibility of the state to protect the fundamental; rights of the people. Court should not be silent on the issue of the right of peace and expression. The voice of the opponents should not be crushed for healthy democracy. This must be protected by our Judiciary. However, the issue of national security should never be compromised but the issues of national interest must be evaluated and reviewed by the Judiciary also.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

WHY IN NEWS?

The current situation in Ukraine basically originated from the Ukraine's desire to be part of NATO, as Russia didn't like it and considered it as an existential threat to itself.

ABOUT NATO

- It was established by the US, Canada and several western countries in the year of 1949 to ensure their collective security against the Soviet Union.
- Now it has become an intergovernmental political and military alliance of 30 countries, consisting of 28 Europeans and two North American countries.
- NATO has its headquarters in Brussels, Belgium.
- It became the first peacetime military alliance by the US outside western hemisphere.
- The democratic values are promoted by NATO and enable members to consult and cooperate on defence and security related issues.
- Further it is committed to peaceful resolution of disputes and use of military power to undertake crisis management operations if diplomatic efforts fail.
- The Members of NATO are committed to mutual defence in response to an attack by any external party.

- The defence of all lies at the heart of NATO, a unique and enduring principle that binds its members together, committing them to protect each other and setting a spirit of solidarity within the Alliance.

INCEPTION OF NATO : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- The European nations which battered started rebuilding their economies after World War II.
- At this point of time the US believed that an economically strong, re-armed and integrated Europe was critical for preventing the westward expansion of Communist USSR.
- The Marshall plan i.e the European Recovery Programme promoted the idea of shared interests and cooperation between the US and Europe.
- The USSR declined participation in the Marshall plan and discouraged Eastern European states in its fear of influence from receiving economic assistance from America. Today Current Affairs.
- A group in erstwhile Czechoslovakia in 1948 was sponsored by the government of Stalin, which led to installation of a Communist regime in a country sharing a border with both Soviet controlled East Germany and the pro-West West Germany.
- All this led to a conclusion that an American-European alliance was necessary against the USSR. The Hindu Analysis.
- A treaty was signed by the UK, France, Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg in 1948 according to which if any of the signatories faced attack, they would be defended by all the others.
- The landmark resolution was passed by the US Congress after the Brussels treaty advising the US President to seek US and free world security through support of mutual defence agreements.
- The treaty was signed in Washington DC in 1949, it initially had 12 signatories: The US, UK, Canada, France, Denmark, Belgium, Norway, Portugal, the Netherlands, Italy, Iceland and Luxembourg.

ISSUES WITH RUSSIA : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- We know the reason for the establishment of NATO i.e. the hostility to the USSR.
- In order to have collective defence of its own, The Soviet Union signed a pact known as the Warsaw Pact with seven Eastern European countries: Hungary, East Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Albania, Bulgaria and Romania.
- The Warsaw pact ended with the end of the Cold War and was formally declared disbanded in the year of 1991.
- The USSR, Czechoslovakia and East Germany were disintegrated and the remaining five signatories of the Warsaw pact became part of NATO.
- Later on Russia became suspicious and insecure about the West.
- For Russia it became critical for its security to have a buffer between NATO and Russia along its western and southern border.
- On these lines Russia annexed Crimea in 2014 because the hostile Ukraine protected by NATO could have missile launch pads near Moscow and could cut off access of Russia to the warm water ports of Black Sea.

Vivek Raj

Necessity of the Curbing of Tobacco products through various restrictions and increments of the taxes

CONTEXT:

For almost two years we have been facing the problems of the corona pandemic and thousands of lives have been lost during this pandemic. But there are many silent killers in the forms of various products available in the market. Government should not only curb these dangerous products for the health but also gradually these products should be banned also.

INTRODUCTION

In modern days the tradition of tobacco products has been popular for several years. Due to the use of tobacco products, thousands of people have been affected with several health diseases every year. If we calculate scientifically, approximately 1 % of India \s GDP has to be spent to tackle such types of diseases due to tobacco products. Therefore Governments should strong make an effort to curtail its production and use in the society. The Hindu Analysis.

However, this is not a communicable disease like SARS-CoV-2, the tobacco epidemic — as the World Health Organization characterizes it. But sometimes, some deaths also occurred due to tobacco products. If we increase the prices of tobacco products, it will definitely reduce the use of tobacco products. There is overwhelming consensus within the research community that taxation is one of the most cost-effective measures to reduce demand for tobacco products.

During the Union Budget 2020-21, there is no proposal of high increments in the GST for tobacco products. However the price of cigarettes has increased by roughly 5 %. In short, we can say there has not been any proper tax increase on any tobacco products so that its uses in the society could be curtailed. The reason behind the inefficiency of the government may be due to political pressure. Government could increase the GST on tobacco products in the The Union Budget 2022-23 but the government lost this opportunity. All the institutions related to health sectors expected that in the Union Budget the taxes over tobacco products would be increased but everybody lost their hope.

In the speech of the Finance Minister during the Budget session it was said that ITC stock was stable in contrast to most other stock indices, which were generally moving up and there were no tax hike proposals whatsoever on any tobacco product in this budget. We all know that at an affordable price, these tobacco products can attract new consumers, mainly youth, which would be dangerous for the nation.

Through the GST council, the tax rate for the tobacco product should be increased so that it could discourage the use of tobacco products. However several other measures are also required to discourage the use of the tobacco product by explaining its bad effects on the health. GST Council meetings must strive to keep public health ahead of the interests of the tobacco industry and significantly increase either the GST rates or the GST compensation cess rates applied on all tobacco products. The aim should be to arrest the increasing affordability of tobacco products in India and also rationalize tobacco taxation under the GST.

CONCLUSION

As per the above discussion, the Government should think for the nation not for the tobacco industries. Health and education are the two important pillars of the economy of any country and these two pillars are mutually interrelated. Government should focus on these two sectors. Since the consumption of the tobacco products are related with the health issues. Hence government should focus how to curtail the use of

tobacco. However government can stop the production of tobacco products but government should ensure the rehabilitation of the employees of these industries.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

IPCC 6th Assessment Report

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) analysing and reviewing the evidence on the present and future man-made impacts of climate change has a message that is predictably terrible.

WHAT ARE THE IPCC REPORTS?

- The objective of the IPCC is to provide governments at all levels with scientific information that they can use to develop climate policies.
- It was created in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- The Assessment Reports, the first of which had come out in 1990, are the most comprehensive evaluations of the state of the earth's climate.
- The latest warnings have come in the second part of IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report which talks about climate change impacts, risks and vulnerabilities, and adaptation options.
- The first part of the report was released in August last year and centred on the scientific basis of climate change.
- The third and final part of the report, which will look into the possibilities of reducing emissions, is expected to come out in April.

WHAT DOES THE IPCC REPORT SAY? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- The latest report has for the first time, made an assessment of regional and sectoral impacts of climate change.
- It has included risks and vulnerabilities of, mega-cities around the world.
- Also for the first time, the IPCC report has looked at the health impacts of climate change.
- The world faces unavoidable multiple climate hazards over the next two decades with global warming of 1.5°C.
- Even temporarily exceeding this warming level would mean additional severe impacts, some of which will be irreversible.
- The report points out that the rise in weather and climate extremes has led to some irreversible impacts as natural and human systems are pushed beyond their ability to adapt.
- The report notes that most of the targets that countries have set for themselves are too far in the future to have an impact in the short term.

WHAT IS THE CASE OF INDIA? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- India's commitments- At the COP26 summit, India declared that it will achieve net zero emissions latest by 2070.
- By 2030, India would also ensure 50% of its energy will be from renewable energy sources.
- However, none of this can help the 1.5°C mark from being breached.

REPORT SPECIFICATION

1. **Wet bulb temperature** – A major point of emphasis of the report, particularly for South Asia, is the trend in the wet bulb temperature.
 - Lucknow and Patna were among the cities predicted to reach wet-bulb temperatures of 35°C while Bhubaneswar, Chennai, Mumbai, Indore, and Ahmedabad are at risk of reaching wet-bulb temperatures of 32°C-34°C with continued emissions.
 - This will have consequences such as a rise in heat-wave linked deaths or reduced productivity.
2. **Sea level rise**– Global sea levels will likely rise 44cm-76cm this century if governments meet their current emission-cutting pledges.
 - But with higher emissions, and if ice sheets collapse more quickly than expected, sea levels could rise as much as 2 metres this century and 5 metres by 2150.
 - By the middle of the century, around 35 million of its people could face annual coastal flooding, with 45 million-50 million at risk by the end of the century if emissions are high.
- (c) **Flood and drought**– Evidence of floods on food production was limited, according to the report.
 - The report highlighted the impact of drought on food security but also cautioned that overall irrigation water demand would increase by 2080
- (d) **Agri and allied sectors**- Fisheries, aquaculture and crop production, particularly in south and southeast Asia, may decline as a result of climate change.
 - Current global crop and livestock areas will increasingly become climatically unsuitable under a high emission scenario in major food-producing regions.

WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS REPORT? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- **Scientific basis**– IPCC reports form the scientific basis on which countries across the world build their policy responses to climate change.
- These reports do not tell countries or governments what to do and are only meant to present factual situations with scientific evidence.
- **Impact assessment**- The detailed nature of this latest report, with respect to regional and sectoral impacts, presents actionable intelligence, particularly for countries that lack the resources or the capacity to make their own impact assessments.
- **Credible**– The fact that these findings are the product of the combined understanding of the largest group of experts on climate science lends it credibility greater than any individual study.
- **Basis of climate change negotiations**– These reports also form the basis for international climate change negotiations that decide on the responses at the global level such as the Paris Agreement and Kyoto Protocol.
- The Sixth Assessment Report has presented that pursuing a 2°C target could be disastrous and more ambitious actions need to be taken to keep the temperature rise within 1.5°C.
- India must shore up its adaptation measures and urgently move to secure the futures of its many vulnerable who have the most to lose.

Anshum Verma

Hydro Social approach : An approach for the water management

CONTEXT:

Water management needs a hydro-social approach. Freshwater resources are under stress, the principal driver being human activities in their various forms

INTRODUCTION:

For the last decade, an interdisciplinary approach has been proposed by various researchers for water management. Water management is not only related to scientific approach but by using the approach of human behavior, human practices and psychology, water management can be made better.

The Global Water System Project, which was launched in 2003 as a joint initiative of the Earth System Science Partnership (ESSP) and Global Environmental Change (GEC) programme, epitomizes global concern about the human-induced transformation of fresh water and its impact on the earth system and society.

In fact we are facing the crisis of freshwater. The availability of freshwater impacts human behavior. The water is not essential for the life only but in our social and religious institution, water plays an significant role. The fresh water management is only possible with the support of people and the transformation nature of the social religious aspects can bring better management for the freshwater. The Hindu Analysis.

The Global Water System Project, which was launched in 2003 as a joint initiative of the Earth System Science Partnership (ESSP) and Global Environmental Change (GEC) programme, epitomizes global concern about the human-induced transformation of fresh water and its impact on the earth system and society. The fact is that freshwater resources are under stress, the principal driver being human activities in their various forms.

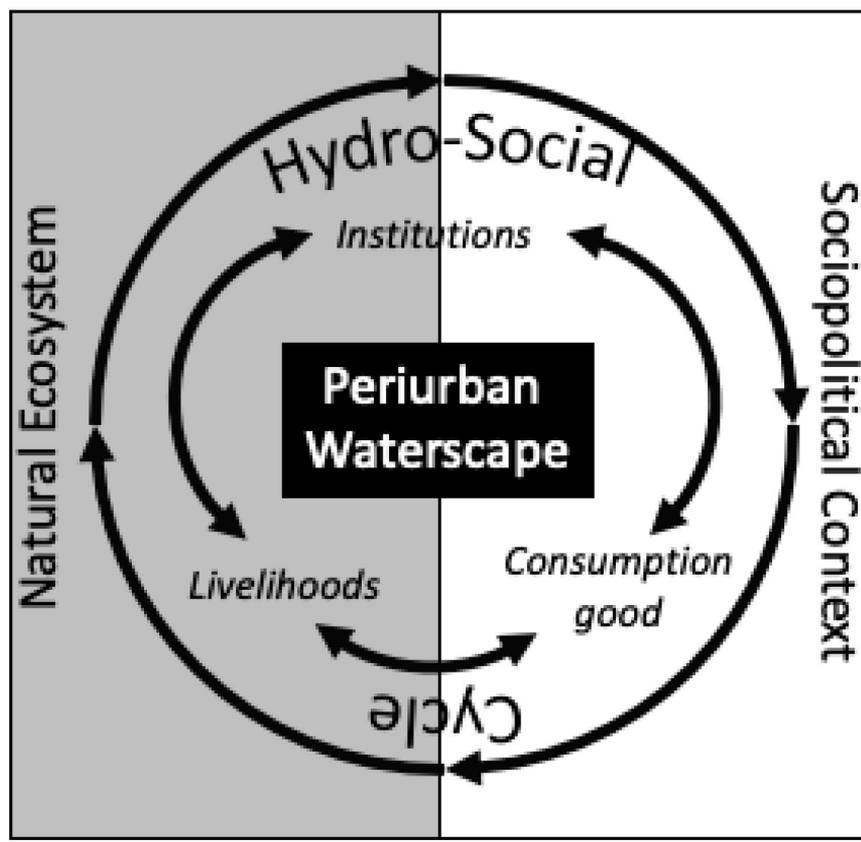
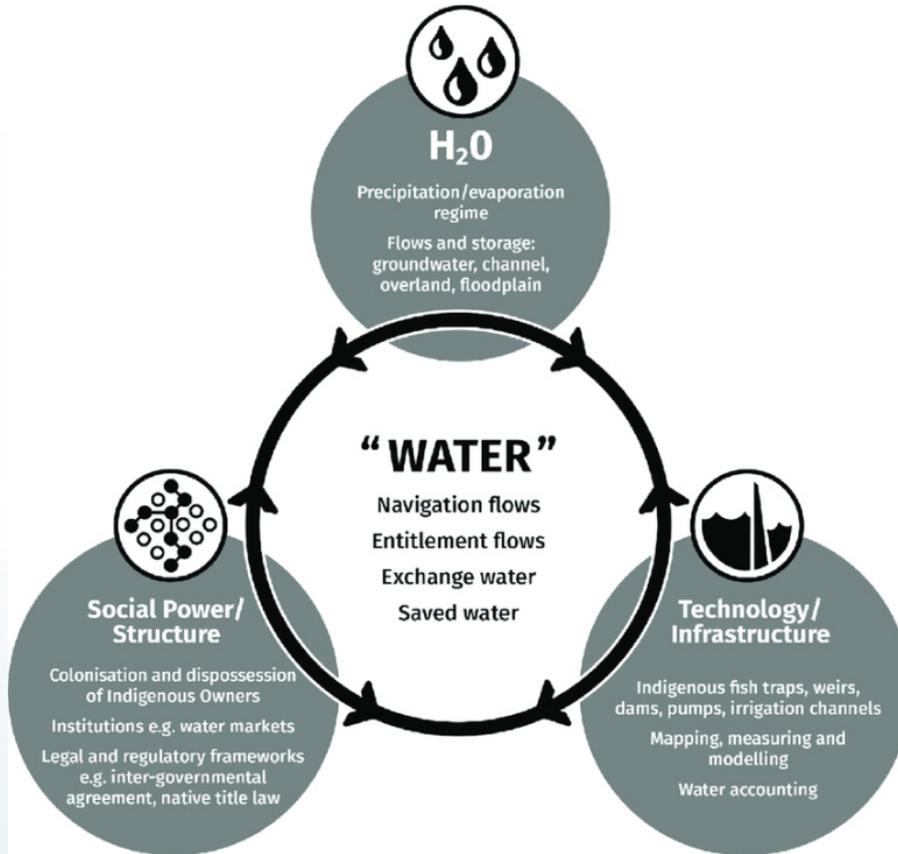
WHAT IS THE HYDRO SOCIAL APPROACH : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Recently it has been researched by scholars that there is a close relationship between water and society. A new concept of water governance came into existence in recent years. The recognition of the utility of the water in social context is called the Hydro social approach. The Hindu Analysis.
- Hydro social approach is based on the hydrologic cycle
- Which has the effect of separating water from its social context. The hydro social cycle deliberately attends to water's social and political nature.
- In fact, the socio natural process through which society and the water remake each other is called The hydro social cycle

CONCLUSION

As per the above discussion it can be easily seen that through inter-basin transfer of water the problem of flood and drought can be tackled easily. In this context Ken Betwa river link project and National River Linking project can be seen. Budget has been also allocated for the water management

This type of water management could be done through social awareness also. Water management is required for the development of agriculture also. Social awareness and the changing nature of the social faith on the river or water would be the key factor for water management in the future. Hence government should ensure the maximum participation of the public in water management system.



Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Economic Sanctions of Russia on America : Impact on America as well as on India

CONTEXT:

Kremlin hits back at Western sanctions with export bans recently Russia has also implied some economic sanctions over America as well as European countries. These sanctions will influence the economy of America as well as the economy of entire Europe and India.

INTRODUCTION :

- By 10 march 2022, the Russian president declared several bans over the export of American goods. There are many goods from America for which Russia is a big market. The Kremlin has banned exports of telecom, medical, auto, agricultural, electrical and tech equipment, as well as some forestry products, until the end of 2022, in retaliation for Western sanctions on Moscow. After these sanctions, the inflation in America would be away from her control. One side, because of the hike in petrol prices and on another side with the sanctions on the export from America will increase inflation in America which resulted as the huge economical loss in America
- Russia banned more than 200 items for export of America which also covered railway cars, containers and turbines. It will suspend exports of wheat, muslin, rye, barley and corn to the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) until August 31.
- Russia had yesterday said that it had ensured the availability of enough food under his stock. Definitely Russia is the largest exporter of the grains of Europe. European countries have to purchase the grain at high prices either from India or from other countries.
- Because of the Russia Ukraine crisis the price of Crude oil is continuously increasing which would inversely impact on the economy of India. However, Indians can purchase crude oil from Russia at a lower price because these days Russian currency has devalued.
- Russia is one of the largest gas producers of Europe. The European market fulfills at least 40 % of its gas requirement from Russia. However, Russia will continue the export of oil and Gas from Ukraine because of the terms of the contracts which Ukraine and Russia had done in the past. In this way, Europe has to face the crises of gas and oil in future. Definitely sanctions imposed against Russia would rebound against the West.

IMPACT ON INDIA : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

India could protect itself from such crises of the price hike of crude oil. First India has sufficient oil reserve which could be used in near future. If this crisis continues, India could import crude oil and gas from Russia at less prices. India could export its grain to European countries, provide India could neutralize itself from the pressure of America and European countries

CONCLUSION

The reaction of the economic sanctions was an obvious result of the American sanctions over Russia. Since Russia is the largest country of the world and the largest producer of the grains and the oil and gas. So only Russia would not be suffering, Entire world including India will have to face the problem of an economic crisis. India and the developing countries have not been overcome from the evil effects of the corona pandemic and once India has to face another crises erupted because of the Ukraine Russia crisis

National Strategy for Additive Manufacturing Policy

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology aims to increase India's share in global additive manufacturing to 5 per cent within the next three years. Global spending on AM in 2019 was nearly \$13.8 billion with a growth of 23.5% per annum and expected to reach \$34.8 billion by 2024.

- As per the National Strategy for Additive Manufacturing, by 2025, India will aim to achieve certain targets such as 50 India specific technologies for material, machine and software, 100 new start-ups for additive manufacturing, 500 new products.

WHAT IS 3D PRINTING OR ADDITIVE MANUFACTURING?

- It uses computer-aided designing to make prototypes or working models of objects by laying down successive layers of materials such as plastic, resin, thermoplastic, metal, fiber or ceramic.
- With the help of software, the model to be printed is first developed by the computer, which then gives instructions to the 3D printer.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS NEW POLICY : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Addition to the GDP: It hopes that it could likely add \$ 1 billion to the gross domestic product by that time.
- Employment opportunities: These new start-ups and opportunities will give jobs to at least 1 lakh new skilled workers over the next three years.
- Overcome technical and economic barriers: IT ministry is readying a national policy on promoting 3D printing on an industrial scale and helping domestic companies overcome technical and economic barriers so that they can build supportive and ancillary facilities for world leaders in the technology, such as the US and China.
- The government would address key sector specific technical challenges for making 3D printing economically viable for MSMEs.

ADVANTAGES OF 3D PRINTING : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- **It Is Affordable**- 3D printing is a single-step manufacturing process, so it not only saves you the costs linked to using different manufacturing processes and machines but also valuable time. 3D printers do not need constant supervision as they can perform specific tasks once they are set; thus, you do not need to be around at all times.
- **Rapid Prototyping**- You can cheaply and quickly create a new prototype with every design modification, unlike the expensive and lengthy prototype machining process.
- **Sturdy and Lightweight Parts**- 3D printing allows complex, organic shapes to be made that are much lighter than traditionally machined parts. In the aerospace and automotive industry, this is a vital factor as the use of lightweight materials helps improve fuel efficiency.
- **Environmentally Friendly**- The use of 3D printing technology reduces the quantity of waste materials created during the production process.
- **Improved Healthcare Facilities**- 3D printing has revolutionised the medical sector as it is now possible to print human body organs such as hearts, kidneys, and livers.

DISADVANTAGES OF 3D PRINTING : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- **Restricted Build Size**-The chamber size integrated into 3D printers is usually relatively small, thereby

restricting the part sizes that you can print. Therefore, any larger item needs to be printed separately and later assembled after its production.

- **Job Losses in The Manufacturing Sector**-The use of 3D printing allows you to create prototypes and product designs within a few hours with one simple step. Most of the steps followed in subtractive manufacturing are eradicated, and this helps save on the cost of labour as fewer people need to be hired to complete the manufacturing process.
- **Not Very User-Friendly**-It is a new technology; there is often an element of trial and error required when creating parts on a 3D printer.
- **Limited Materials**-The materials needed during the manufacturing process are limited, with some still being developed.
- **3D Printing Machines are Expensive**-The materials and equipment used in 3D printing are costly because the initial capital required to embark on using 3D printing technology is prohibitively expensive.
- **Production of Dangerous Items**-Creating explosives, guns, knives as well as other harmful weaponry is theoretically more accessible because of 3D printing technology. This is because it gives people access to a method of manufacturing items in their own homes that were previously impossible.

WAY FORWARD

- **Inclusion in all the sectors:** To get ahead in the additive manufacturing or 3D printing space, India must adopt it in all sectors, including in defence and public sectors.
- An apex body which has subject matter experts and leaders from local and global industries could be established to lead the mission.
- The national strategy should address the need for skilled manpower in various job profiles including operators, engineers, R&D personnel, technology broking and management.
- The government's financial support and private funding would be needed to promote the domestic AM ecosystem and supply chains.

Anshum Verma