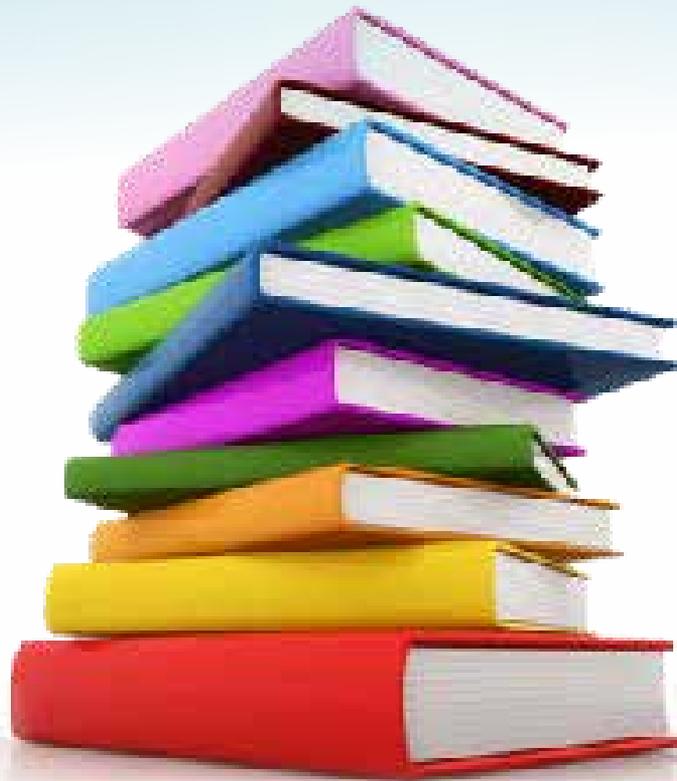




PLUTUS IAS Weekly

CURRENT AFFAIRS



PLUTUS IAS WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS 11-04-2022 to 16-04-2022

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CURRENT AFFAIRS

APRIL 2022

Accountability of Social Media Platforms

ACCOUNTABILITY OF SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Recently, the Centre told the Delhi High Court that social media platforms must be held accountable for subjugating rights. A petition was filed by a Twitter user whose account was suspended by the microblogging site for alleged violations of platform guidelines.

CENTRE'S STAND

- Social media platforms must be held accountable for subjugating and supplanting fundamental rights like the right to freedom of speech and expression, otherwise the same would have dire consequences for any democratic nation.
- When a Significant Social Media Intermediary (SSMI) such as Twitter takes a decision to suspend the whole or part of a user's account "on its own accord" due to its policy violation, it should afford a reasonable opportunity to the user to defend his side. The Hindu Analysis
- The exception where the SSIMs could take such a decision includes certain scenarios such as rape, sexually explicit material or child sexual abuse material, bot activity or malware, terrorism-related content etc.
- If an SSMI fails to comply with the above, then it may amount to a violation of IT Rules 2021.

EXCEPTION FOR SUSPENSION : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

A social media account can be suspended or de-platformed only in cases such as in:

- The interest of sovereignty,
- security and integrity of India,
- friendly relations with foreign States or
- public order or
- pursuant to a court order or
- the content is grossly unlawful such as sexual abuse material etc.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (INTERMEDIARY GUIDELINES AND DIGITAL MEDIA ETHICS CODE) RULES, 2021 : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- The term 'intermediary' is a broadly defined term in the IT Act covering a range of entities involved in the transmission of electronic records.

- The Rules introduce two new sub-categories, being:
 1. Social media intermediary is defined (in Rule 2(w)) as one who “primarily or solely enables online interaction between two or more users and allows them” to exchange information; and
 2. Significant social media intermediary (SSMI) comprising social media intermediaries with more than five million registered users in India (following this Government notification of the threshold).

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

- The Government may order any intermediary to comply with the same obligations as SSIMs (under Rule 6) if their services are adjudged to pose a risk of harm to national security, the sovereignty and integrity of India, India’s foreign relations or to public order.
- SSIMs have to follow substantially more onerous “additional due diligence” requirements to claim the intermediary safe harbour (including mandatory traceability of message originators, and proactive automated screening as discussed below).

These new requirements raise privacy concerns and data security concerns, as they extend beyond the traditional ideas of the platform “due diligence”, they potentially expose the content of private communications and in doing so create new privacy risks for users in India. Anshum Verma

Anshum Verma

G-20 : Its significance and its role in Disordered World

G-20 : ITS SIGNIFICANCE AND ITS ROLE IN DISORDERED WORLD – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Context : Western nations want to throw Russia out of the G-20. China has opposed them. Western World thinks that without more and more economical and political sanction, Russia can not be pressured and punished for the offence of the Russian Ukrainian war. India would be Chairman of the G20 from Dec 2022, therefore , India’s role now has been increased and in this crucial situation India must play a role of global leader.

Today Current Affairs

INTRODUCTION :

G-20 is the intergovernmental organization of 19 nations and European Nations. By Dec 2022, India is going to Chair the summit of G20. Russia is also a member of G 20. Now the European Union and the western countries are pressuring India to expel Russia from the G20 and support western countries for more effective sanctions . G20 is a group for economical and financial cooperation among the member countries . Therefore , G20 can play a crucial role over the realization of the economic sanctions on Russia by western countries. The Hindu Analysis

It has been observed that institutions of global governance have failed to unite the world. Summit after summit has produced mostly hot air in trying to resolve the global climate crisis. Could G20 countries be helpful to resolve such crises. This type of world is facing the geopolitical issue, and the world is facing the problem of a corona pandemic. Many poor countries of the world are still starving for the covid vaccine

, however WTO is supplying these vaccines. Some countries of the world are facing economic problems. However there are many internal issues which should be tackled by the Indian government first. The war in Ukraine in February 2022 has put the final nail in the coffin of the boundary less global economy that seemed to be emerging with the fall of the Berlin Wall and the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.

ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AFTER 2ND WORLD WAR : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The non Democratic structure of some international organizations is also worthless . After the second world war, many international political , social , economical organizations were formed. But these organizations are also to protect their own interest not to solve global issues. The inequality among these organizations is creating the situation of conflict at a global level . New institutions for global governance were established — the United Nations and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), and the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to provide finance to build the economies of all countries to eliminate poverty. The UNO can control the international organization like WTO, IMF and World bank. UNO is still not democratic in its nature . Five countries have veto power . Therefore , this big organization of UNO must be democratized . Without democratization of the UNO , UNO will be continuously losing its faith and power and once it would be the puppet of the powerful countries of the world.

However the The UN General Assembly meets every year and plays an important role to fight with global problems — hunger, poverty, women's rights, terrorism, climate change, etc. But this global government must be more democratic and based on the principle of equality. The resort of the security council should also be in the favor of the establishment of democracy in the member countries . At least all those countries which are most powerful countries must ensure their internal democracy. The Hindu Analysis.

Inequality based any organization would not be more powerful in future . Therefore all the organizations of the world , either economical , social, political must be based on equality and those should be more democratized .

ROLE OF G20 : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

G20 is the organization of countries like China, India , Russia, Australia , South Korea , America etc. India is one of the most prominent members of this organization and is going to chair e this organization by December 2022 . Therefore , Now the responsibility of India has been increased at global level. Nothing should be done against the interest of India. However India has always been in the favor of peace , humanism and communal and racial harmony. Therefore India , first should try to establish peace . Expulsion of Russia from this organization would not be a solution for the Ukrainian problem . After expulsion Russia would be more free to justify her steps of the attack. Therefore , member countries of the G20 must pressurize Russia for economic sanction and pressurize to stop war and go for further negotiation

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Conclusion

However , India is also facing many internal problems . An atmosphere of the communal conflict is

continuously increasing in the country and price hike is again a major problem for India so keeping these internal problems, India should move for global peace. India can not ignore the support of western countries in economic affairs and simultaneously Russia has been a friend of India for a long time . So India must be balanced and little bit tending towards pressurizing Russia for further negotiation and for the establishment of peace..

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Continuous Communal or sectorial conflicts are precursor of civil war : An analysis in special context to India

CONTINUOUS COMMUNAL OR SECTORIAL CONFLICTS ARE PRECURSOR OF CIVIL WAR – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Context : Recently it has been observed that communal conflict/riots have erupted in some regions of India on the occasion of the Ram Navmi . Some followers of Hinduism were rallying with fluttering sword and Trishul in front of the Muslim dominated areas and raising the slogan of provoking Muslims for violence . In this communal riots , in some places Curfew has to imposed or section 144 of CrPc has to impose.

Today Current Affairs

INTRODUCTION :

- Communal Conflict is not new for India . For several years , it has been observed in continuity, somewhere in the form of dressing dispute, somewhere in the form of eating dispute, somewhere in the form of hate speeches. These incidents , however, are small and localized in their nature but through social media, their issues have been made national.
- For the political benefits , some political parties are endorsing these types of communal debates and the communal conflicts because in this way these political parties can polarize the votes . But they should think that these small communal issues would be converted into civil war. Everywhere in the world , the emergence of the civil war was not a sudden incident. These civil wars had erupted in the atmosphere of insecurity from the majority people. Today Current Affairs
- Therefore , for the power and survival , these minority communities picked the arms and to counter it , the majority community picked arms because of their government (Government is always from the majority community in democratic states. Because democracy is the number game) In this way , generally civil war erupts . And there are many examples in the history of those countries where civil war erupts , either the country disintegrates or the country collapses . (Several examples of African countries, North American countries. In however, in American civil war America was almost disintegrated but Lincoln saved America.)
- Therefore this must be understood by the people of any diversified country that communal violence would be harmful for them in every means . This is the duty and obligation of every responsible citizen of the country to crucially solve all the possibilities of the communal conflict. They should clearly identifies the factors responsible for the communal conflict and eliminate those factors

COMMUNAL CONFLICT / SECTORAL CONFLICT : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Communal conflict is a violent conflict between two different ethnic groups or two different religious group. In primitive stage of the society there was no concept of the communal conflict but as the society developed, the diversified interest and the cultures developed and when the effort was done by powerful and majority community to bring another community or minority community under its subjugation, the communal conflict emerged in the world
- If we see the history of India, there was no evidence of any type of communal conflict before the British arrival. In fact, the accommodation of all the cultural value system has been the unique characteristics of Hindu culture for long time, therefore, in ancient India, communal violence and sectoral violence are completely absent (Some evidence of genocide by Harshvardha of Brahmans but this is also subject of debate and may be political influenced). In Muslim period, rare evidences of communal conflict is there. Communal harmony was disturbed by the British through using Divide and Rule policy. Today Current Affairs
- This must be noted that Communal violence can never be started by minorities until or unless they do not feel insecurity or they do not feel its necessity for their survival. In other words, without provocation by the majority or powerful sect, minority or weaker sect or deprived sect can never initiate communal conflict. Therefore this is the duty of the majority or powerful sect to prevent their country from communal conflict and further disaster.

CIVIL WAR : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Civil war is a type of war between two or more organized groups within the state. Here two things must be noted – “Within state” and “Organized group”. This is the duty of the state. These groups should be controlled or vanished, which is being formed for aggressive means. State should not encourage any form of extremist groups in the country otherwise civil war is inevitable.
- Another reason for the civil war is economical conflict. If the money would be centralized in a few hands and the economic condition of any country collapsed, then civil war would erupt. Therefore the Government must ensure distribution of the production in a justified way. Government should prevent the country from economic crises.
- In America, the basic reason for the Civil war was the economical conflict. Therefore huge economical diversity could be one cause of the civil war. Government should stop the exploitation of the lowest class people by the capitalist class and powerful class
- In a multicultural country, the possibility of civil war is greater than in any monochromatic country. Therefore the nationalistic elements must be created and government should try to detach itself from any religious or sectorial activities. Government should encourage only those elements which would be accepted by all the community/class and race. Just like Asoka’s Dhamma
- Government Should encourage the democratic value system, impartial judiciary, free media and freedom of religious practices (Under the law). Here it should be noted that minorities should be privileged from some other right so that they could not feel insecurity and inferiority. It is the duty of all the patriot persons that they should work for the communal harmony and should criticize any incidents which destroy the communal Harmony. Abraham Lincoln type leadership must be required to prevent any country from civil war however Abraham Lincoln had to sacrifice his life to protect his country from disintegration

HOW INDIA SHOULD BE PROTECTED FROM THESE COMMUNAL CONFLICT : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Recently we see the atmosphere of continuous hate speeches, communal conflicts. For example, Hate speeches given by some Hindu mahants (Incident of Delhi and Sitapur) , Hijab issue. Conflicts between two groups of students on the issue of non vegetarian food. Some communal incidents of the karnataka, Communal conflict in Karauli Rajasthan , Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat . There have been a number of such incidents in recent days . This should be the subject of the concern for every intellectual and the responsible person as well as the government. The following measures should be adopted in India to prevent our loving and beautiful country from communal violence

- All the people who are communal and deliver hate speeches publically or in small groups should be completely socially and politically boycotted at every level . If these people publicly deliver any hate speeches, they must be quickly prosecuted and should be punished .
- All the religious heads must come forward and openly criticize such activities and must be expelled from religion . Such communal people must be declared anti religious people
- Intellectuals , head of the educational institutions must prohibit such people in their institution for any academic activities
- Police , Government as well as our Judiciary should take suo moto action against such communal activities
- Every patriots, nationalist people must boycott those political parties which are endorsing such communalism

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Conclusion

As per the above discussion , the issue of communal violence and hate speeches is not the ordinary issue. These are related to the integrity and unity of India . All of us must come forward to tackle the issue. We expect our government and Judicial system to take strong action against those who are destroying communal harmony . These continuous incidents definitely give birth to a fear of the civil war but this is the time to curtail these elements before it enlarges . The role of religious heads can not be ignored to tackle these issues. They should come forward and openly criticize such type of activities..

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Significance and Implication of recent India US talk

Significance and Implication of recent India US talk – Today Current Affairs

Context :

India and the U.S. discussed a broad range of issues — from the COVID-19 response, supply chains and climate action to global and regional issues — on Monday, but Russia's war on Ukraine and its ramifications for the world appeared to have been the major theme for the day.

Today Current affairs

INTRODUCTION :

India and the US have been economical partner for a long time . By Monday (11th April) , in a virtual meeting Indian prime minister and the American president Joe Biden discussed world orders and the measures which could stop Russian aggression . The Hindu Analysis

On the defense side, the countries announced several measures at enhancing cooperation, including India joining the Bahrain-based multilateral partnership Combined Maritime Force (CMF) as an associate partner.

In this meeting, American ministers and officials raised the issue of the violation of human rights in India . However this is very shameful for us that we have to face such type of humiliation in front of the world because of some communal incidents in recent days

In fact America continuously pressurizing to India for the implementation of the economic sanction on Russia but in every proposal against Russia India has been abstain up to now

IMPLICATION AND SIGNIFICATION : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- In this meeting with America, India has openly declared that India is completely against any type of violence and India is making an effort to end this Russia-Ukraine hostility .
- India declared that it has openly criticized the inhuman activities of Russia . However India is continuing its trade relation with Russia but It is the compulsion of India however India did not increase this trade .
- India assured America that in this global world, India and America partnership would be significant for the peace and order in the world . America's support will definitely bring prosperity in India. The Hindu Analysis
- India and America, both are largest democracies of the world and India and the U.S. shared a commitment to democratic values, including the protection of human rights.
- Both countries signed on a MoU on Space Situational Awareness — to further cooperation in outer-space. Both countries , in a common statement , it said that this cooperation will enhance the research work not only in the field of space science but in the field of defense and the cyber security
- It is declared by America that still it had not passed any rule and resolution sanction on India's purchase of the S-400 Triumf missile defense system from Moscow. The Hindu Analysis
- The raising the issue of human right violation inside India is the big issue of concern for the Indian government . India should definitely give a reply to America and show the action taken by the Indian government against the violation of human rights .
- However India criticize the genocide of the Ukrainian openly but India can not spoil its relation with Russia because Russia has been the friend of India for long time

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Conclusion

In this way , we see the world order is continuously changing . Some neighboring countries of India are facing either economic or political crises . India has also been adversely impacted with the Ukraine Russia war and

the inflation in India is also out of control. In this situation , India can not ignore the financial support of the western country. And , if India-China conflict would be there in future , Russia would be no more helpful for India , because , this time Russia is junior to China and both are ideologically brothers. In such a situation , only western countries would be helpful. Therefore India should take any steps very carefully , keeping India's internal interest in its mind .

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

INDIA-NEPAL RELATIONS

INDIA-NEPAL RELATIONS – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

The Nepal Prime Minister, Sher Bahadur Deuba, paid a long-awaited visit to India, his first bilateral visit abroad, in keeping with tradition.

Today Current Affairs

WHAT ARE THE DEVELOPMENTS OF INDIA-NEPAL RELATIONS OVER THE YEARS?

- Diplomatic relations– India-Nepal relations were founded on the age-old connection of history, culture, tradition and religion. The two countries established diplomatic relations on 17 June 1947. India's neighbourhood first policy signifies the importance of Indo-Nepal relations.
- Political relations- The frequent high level visits by the leaders of the two countries at different points of time and the interactions constitute the hallmark of the ties between the two countries. The recent visit of Nepal's PM to India reiterates the need for strengthening the existing bilateral mechanisms.
- Economic relations- India is Nepal's largest trading partner.
- Following the massive earthquakes in Nepal in 2015, India promptly offered helping hands.
- Nepal has an escalating trade deficit with India. Nepal and India have concluded bilateral Treaty of Transit, Treaty of Trade and the Agreement of Cooperation to Control Unauthorized Trade.
- In the International Conference on Nepal's Reconstruction (2015), the Government of India pledged grants and soft loans.
- Connectivity– The 1950 Treaty of Peace and Friendship was sought by the Nepali authorities in 1949 to provide for an open border and for Nepali nationals to have the right to work in India. The BBIN Motor Vehicles Agreement (MVA) in which Nepal is a partner will permit the member states to ply their vehicles in each other's territory for transportation of cargo and passengers.
- Multilateral and Regional Fora- Both Nepal and India work in tandem in the United Nations, Non-aligned Movement and other international fora on most of the important international issues.
- Both the countries have been deeply engaged in the regional and sub-regional frameworks of SAARC, BIMSTEC and BBIN for enhancing cooperation for greater economic integration.

WHAT ARE THE POSITIVE OUTCOMES OF THE DEUBA REGIME? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Cross-border rail link– The Rs 787 crore project of cross-border rail link (35km) from Jayanagar (Bihar) to Kurtha (Nepal) has been operationalised recently.
- The Konkan Railway Corporation will provide the necessary technical support initially. Today Current Affairs

- Circuit transmission line– The 90 km long 132 kV double circuit transmission line connecting Tila (Solukhumbu) to Mirchaiya (Siraha) has been inaugurated.
- It was constructed with an Exim Bank concessional loan of Rs 200 crore where a dozen hydroelectric projects were planned in the Solu corridor.
- Mahakali Treaty- The Mahakali Treaty, signed in 1996 covers the Sarada and Tanakpur barrages as well as the Pancheshwar Multipurpose project.
- The ambitious \$7 billion project needs political will to move it forward.
- The current joint vision statement on power sector cooperation recognises the opportunities for joint development power generation projects together with cross border transmission linkages and coordination between the national grids.
- U.S. Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC)- The agreement provides a grant of 500 million dollars for building 318 km of high voltage transmission lines along with sub-stations and the maintenance of 300 km of the East-West highway. Today Current Affairs
- Recently, Mr. Deuba pushed through the ratification of the agreement with the (MCC), despite the reservations of his coalition partners and China.

WHY IS CHINA’S ROLE IN NEPAL A MATTER OF CONCERN? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- During monarchy- China maintained a link with the Palace and its concerns were primarily related to keeping tabs on the Tibetan refugee community.
- After monarchy- China has shifted attention to the political parties and to institutions such as the Army and Armed Police Force and considers Nepal an important element in its growing South Asian footprint.
- Recent years- In 2016, the then PM, Mr. Oli visited Beijing to negotiate an Agreement on Transit Transportation. The Hindu Analysis
- Later, a Protocol was concluded with China providing access to four sea ports and three land ports.
- China has overtaken India as the largest source of foreign direct investment.
- China is also engaged with airport expansion projects at Pokhara and Lumbini.

HOW TO MANAGE THE GROWING DIFFERENCES? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- The 1950 Treaty of Peace and Friendship– This treaty is viewed as a sign of an unequal relationship, and an Indian imposition.
- The two Foreign Ministers should possibly acknowledge the report of the groups on the 1950 treaty publicly to kickstart Track 2 conversations.
- Many Nepali nationals who were legally entitled to hold Rs 25,000 of Indian currency (given that the Nepali rupee is pegged to the Indian rupee) were left high and dry due to demonetisation.
- Boundary issue– The boundaries had been fixed in 1816 by the British, and India inherited the areas over which the British had exercised territorial control in 1947.
- While 98% of the India-Nepal boundary was demarcated, two areas, Susta and Kalapani remain disturbing.
- In 2019, when India issued new maps following the division of the State of Jammu and Kashmir as Union Territories, Mr. Oli expanded the Kalapani area dispute by endorsing a new map of Nepal.
- To build upon the positive mood, it is necessary these issues be discussed, behind closed doors and at Track 2 and Track 1.5 channels.

- India needs to be a sensitive and generous partner for the “neighbourhood first” policy to take root.

Anshum Verma

The End of the Marital Rape Exception

THE END OF THE MARITAL RAPE EXCEPTION – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

The Karnataka High Court’s order has refused to quash charges of rape against a man accused of forcibly having sex with his wife.

Today Current Affairs

WHAT IS MARITAL RAPE

- The term marital rape (also referred to as ‘spousal rape’) refers to unwanted intercourse by a man on his wife obtained by force, threat of force or physical violence or when she is unable to give consent.
- The origin of the marital rape exception lies in the treatise on criminal law of England called the ‘History of the Pleas of the Crown’ pronounced in 1736.
- The concept was that the husband cannot be guilty of a rape committed by himself upon his lawful wife due to their mutual matrimonial consent.
- This was translated into criminal codes, including the Indian Penal Code which India adopted. Today Current Affairs
- India is one the countries including Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Egypt, Algeria and Botswana that have not criminalised marital rape.
- In the United Kingdom, in 1991, the exception to marital rape was done away stating that law should declare that a rapist remains a rapist subject to the criminal law, irrespective of his relationship with the victim.

WHAT ARE THE PROVISIONS AVAILABLE IN INDIA REGARDING MARITAL RAPE? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Section 375 of the IPC defines rape and provides for exceptions in the case of married couples.
- Exception 2 of Section 375 states that sexual intercourse by a man with his own wife, the wife not being under 15 years of age, is not rape.
- Section 376 of the IPC provides for punishment for rape. The Hindu Analysis
- The Justice Verma Committee, set up in 2012 to reform criminal law has proposed that the exception for marital rape be removed.
- The Constitution guarantees women the fundamental rights under Articles 14, 15, 19 and 21 the right to live with dignity, personal liberty, bodily integrity, sexual autonomy, right to reproductive choices, right to privacy, right to freedom of speech and expression.

WHAT IS THE HIGH COURT’S VIEW? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Case background-A woman had filed a criminal complaint of rape against her husband due to the repeated acts of sexual assault she had to face.

- The police registered her complaint and the Sessions Judge took cognisance and framed charges under Section 376.
- The husband filed an application to drop the charge of Section 376 but the Sessions Judge rejected it.
- This led to the husband approaching the High Court seeking to quash the criminal proceedings.
- High Court order– The court refused to quash the charge of rape against the husband.
- It held that the exception to marital rape in the IPC violates women’s right to equality which is the very soul of the Constitution.
- Also it amounts to discrimination because a wife is treated as subordinate to the husband.
- The court also stated that the exemption of the husband on committal of such assault cannot be so absolute that it becomes a licence for commission of a crime.

WHAT WERE THE EARLIER JUDGMENTS? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- In Independent Thought vs. Union of India, 2017, the Supreme Court held that sexual intercourse by a man with his wife, who is below 18 years of age is rape.
- In 2021, Chhattisgarh High Court ruled that sexual intercourse or any sexual act by a husband with their spouse would not constitute rape even if it was forcible or against the consent of a legally wedded wife.
- The Constitutionality of the marital rape exception is also under challenge before the Delhi and Gujarat High Courts..

Anshum Verma

Opportunity in crisis: Backward class political reservation

OPPORTUNITY IN CRISIS: BACKWARD CLASS POLITICAL RESERVATION – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

On 4 March 2021, the Supreme Court’s three-judge bench scrapped the reservation for the OBC, which provided more than 50% reservation in local bodies of Washim, Akola, Nagpur, and Bhandara districts of Maharashtra in *Vikas Kishnarao Gawali v The Chief Minister and Ors* (2021).

Today Current Affairs

This verdict affected at least 56,000 OBC seats in 28,000 gram panchayats, 350 panchayat samitis, 367 municipal councils, 34 zilla parishads, and 27 municipal corporations across the state and it has been argued that the verdict will have an impact across the country. The Court observed that the reservation for OBCs was just a “statutory dispensation to be provided by the state legislations,” is different from the “constitutional” provisions that mandate reservation to the Scheduled Castes (SCs)/Scheduled Tribes (STs), the total reservation should not exceed the 50% cap, and it may be invoked only upon complying with three conditions before notifying the seats reserved for the OBC category in the concerned local bodies.

These triple conditions included, first, setting up a dedicated commission to conduct a contemporaneous rigorous empirical inquiry into the nature and implications of the backwardness with regard to local bodies within the state. Second, specifying the proportion of reservation required to be provisioned at the level of local self-governments in light of the recommendations of the commission so as not to fall foul of overbreadth.

Finally, ensuring that reservations do not exceed an aggregate of 50% of the seats reserved in favor of SCs, STs, and OBCs taken together. The 50% ceiling specifically relied on the ratio of the historic Indra Sawhney judgment.

THE SC'S INTERVENTION : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

In 2018, a petition was filed by Vikas Gawali, a former member of the zilla parishad of the Congress party from Washim and an OBC member himself. A petition was filed to force the issue of enumeration of OBCs. Gawali filed his first petition in the Nagpur bench of the Bombay High Court citing the quota was exceeding the 50% limit in Akola and Washim zilla parishads in which the court granted the status quo and the elections were delayed for two years.

Meanwhile, in 2019, Gawli filed another petition in the Supreme Court challenging the Maharashtra State Election Commission's notification for elections to local bodies of Washim, Akola, Nagpur, and Bhandara districts which exceeded the 50% reservation limit contrary to the Supreme Court's judgment of K Krishna Murthy and Ors v Union of India.

On 4 March 2021, the Court read down Section 12(2)(c) of the Maharashtra Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis Act, 1961 entailing 27% reservation for OBCs in zilla parishads, terming it as an enabling provision, that may be invoked only upon compliance with the abovementioned triple conditions before notifying the seats reserved for the OBC category in the concerned local bodies, thereby quashing reservations for OBCs in local bodies. Following this verdict, the Maharashtra government filed a review plea, which was quashed by the apex court in May 2021.

To address the question of the lack of OBC representation and ensure that the reservation for SCs, STs, and OBCs does not exceed 50% in the rural and urban local bodies, the Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government passed two ordinances, first on 23 September 2021 to amend two legislations that pertain to the rural local bodies—Maharashtra Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis Act, 1961 and Maharashtra Village Panchayat Act for Zilla Parishads and the second on 1 October 2021, to amend three other laws—the Mumbai Municipal Corporation Act, Maharashtra Municipal Corporations Act and Maharashtra Municipal Councils, Nagar Panchayats and the Industrial Townships Act—which govern urban local bodies.

The MVA government passed a unanimous resolution in December 2021, recommending that the SEC should put local body elections on hold until reservation for OBCs was restored. The union government subsequently filed an application seeking a recall of the Supreme Court's order in the case of MP.

MVA VERSUS THE BJP : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Maharashtra's politics has been dominated by the question of "reservation" in the past few years. One relates to granting backward status to the Marathas and the other pertains to OBC reservation in local bodies. As a consequence of these developments in the state, unrest and insecurity has erupted within the OBC community, but the discourse in Maharashtra is confined to blaming political rivals by both the MVA government and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

The BJP who is aggressively protesting now to restore the OBC reservation was in power when this case went to court for the first time. When the OBC political reservation was challenged in 2016, the Devendra Fadnavis-led BJP–Shiv Sena government informed the Bombay High Court that it was taking appropriate legal action and sought consent from the court to hold local body elections. The high court had allowed the elections to proceed, subject to the outcome of the court order. However, in the three years from 2016 to 2019, the BJP–Shiv Sena-led government did not take any concrete measures to retain the OBC reservation. As a result, the elections were held in December 2019 and January 2020 with the permission of the high court, which was canceled by the Supreme Court in March 2021 and held again in October 2021 without OBC reservation.

Similarly, the MVA government has not taken any concrete steps other than taking the usual route of ordinances to overcome an adverse judicial decision. After the Supreme Court's direction, the state government declared the MSCBC as a dedicated commission in June 2021 but failed to provide the required resources to collect empirical data for the entire year.

POST-MANDAL OBC POLITICS : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

OBCs are a highly stratified group of castes comprising peasantry, artisan and service providing castes. These communities were regarded predominantly as Shudras in Hindu scriptures. A section of them was part of the anti-caste movement in the form of the Satyashodhak movement and subsequently non-Brahmin movement, which later got subsumed in the Congress in 1930. In the post-independence era, Palshikar (1994) argues that by appropriating the ideology of Bahujan Bad, the Congress evolved non-antagonistic relations with the lower castes. Owing to the dominance of the Congress, OBCs did not have an independent mobilisation and politics in the state till the 1990s.

With the Mandal Commission's recommendations, the concerns of OBCs were thrust into the center stage of Indian politics. This gave rise to a new surge of consciousness about caste discrimination among the intermediate castes and provided a platform for their political assertion leading to the emergence of OBC parties in North India. As a result of this, the proportion of OBC elected representatives in the Hindi belt rose from 11% in 1984 to 25% in 1996, whereas that of the upper-caste elected officials fell from 47% to 35%.
The Hindu Analysis

As against the situation in North India, OBCs in Maharashtra constitute around 27% of the state's population and are scattered in different regions of the state. The numerically strong Maratha community, which constitutes 30% of the state's population, has historically dominated Maharashtra politics. Vora (2009) has studied the social background of the Maharashtra MLAs from 1962 to 2004; during this period, 50% of the MLAs were Marathas. Therefore, Marathas enjoy "reservation" over half of the assembly constituencies in the state. In the Maharashtra assembly election of 2019, similar numerical dominance of Marathas has been observed.

Quota in local bodies: The reservation to the OBCs in panchayati raj institutions was seen as a sign of "democratic deepening," decentralisation of governance and another step towards the downward shift of political power through electoral politics. With this move two main processes took place. First, a new phase of politicisation of caste emerged where even a numerically small OBC caste wanted their claim in power. Second, this helped OBCs to mobilise by increasing their bargaining power with the dominant Marathas (Deshpande 2009).

Most of the upper rungs of the Shudras hailing from the peasant background constituting the Kunbi, Mali, Vanjari, Dhangar, Agari, Teli, and the Lewa Patil communities who are numerically dominant in specific regions, represent the state's OBC politics primarily. Similarly, these communities control the various welfare boards set up for the improvement of OBCs. The OBCs would lose their political footprint if the reservation is quashed. At this juncture, it is imperative to ask why the OBCs seem to shy away from organising themselves as a formidable political force. More so at a time when OBC politics at the local level is gaining ground steadily.

OBC identity in the making: The history of the struggle for OBC reservation in Maharashtra dates back to the decades of the late 1960s. However, their demand did not receive widespread support at that time. In recent times, OBCs have come in massive numbers on the streets demanding caste census of the OBCs. The protest and enormous public meetings were organized in Vidarbha, Marathwada and Konkan by non-political OBC leaders mainly from peasant castes.

While this is a positive development, backward caste political leaders across the parties have not seriously challenged the move of dismantling OBC reservation in the local bodies, apart from a few sporadic protests at the district level. A major contributing factor to this trajectory is that the OBCs in Maharashtra do not have a strong political leadership that could pose a challenge to the established Maratha elite. **Today Current Affairs**

Therefore, OBCs across the parties do not want to challenge upper-caste hegemony because, in all parties, it is the upper castes that decide who will contest the election. Bavkar argues, since no single OBC leader is acceptable, even OBC social organizations are not united and do not fight together.

The second reason is the heterogeneity of the OBC category—the internal differentiation among OBCs and the sense of caste-specific identity. Given the heterogeneity, OBCs are stratified along caste lines following an inward-looking each-caste-for-itself approach

The third reason is the absence of the intellectual class. It has been argued by anti-caste leaders that reservations help in forming an intellectual class that will lead the society. However, the “creamy layer” clause has affected this possibility and affected the unity of OBCs. **The Hindu Analysis**

The contemporary crisis in state politics is an opportunity to formulate the caste census that has been demanded by OBCs for two decades. It will facilitate OBCs to claim a fair share of union and state power that have been denied all these years. The decennial data would provide up-to-date evidence that would help analyze the accomplishments as well as the limitations of reservation policies.

The caste census would also provide the much-needed impetus to the findings and recommendations of union and state-level backward caste commissions. It would showcase the magnitude of the gap between economic and social capital acquisition within and between the general category as well as the reserved sections. The census would also be instrumental in revising the benchmark for social, economic and educational backwardness.

Ritu

A Humble Tribute to Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar : An architect of Indian Constitution

A HUMBLE TRIBUTE TO DR BHIM RAO AMBEDKAR – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Context : India is celebrating Ambedkar Jayanti, great architect of the Indian constitution . Dr Ambedkar played an important role to uplift the status of all deprived people (Socially and economically and educationally). We are paying our humble tribute to Baba Saheb

Today Current Affairs

INTRODUCTION:

Today is the birth ceremony of the great personality Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar., who was not only the architect of the Indian Constitution but he paved the way for the reform of Hindu orthodoxy. He did a lot of work to uplift the condition of Women . All of us are paying our tribute to great son of Bhart Mata

EARLY LIFE : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar belong to Dalit class family of the Maharashtra (Mahar caste). In his early life he had to face the social discrimination . He completed graduation from Mumbai University and did PhD from Columbia university . He obtained a Ph.D in many subjects from various universities . He obtained master's and doctoral degrees in economics from the London School of Economics (1916–1922).

ROLE IN INDIAN POLITICS : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Bhimrao Ambedkar entered Indian politics with the objective of the welfare of the deprived people . His wife Ramabai also worked for women's education . At the Yeola Conversion Conference on 13 October in Nasik, Ambedkar announced his intention to convert to a different religion and exhorted his followers to leave Hinduism . In 1936 he formed the Independent labor Party. His party contested in Bombay election to the central legislative Assembly and secured 11 seat out of 13 reserved seats from where he contested election and it secured 3 out of 4 general seats also . He was also appointed the chairman of the drafting committee of the constituent Assembly . He gave his valuable inputs to make this constitution. Hence he is called as the real architect of the Indian constitution
- In the constitution , He talked about the reform in Hindu law. He was appointed as the law minister . He worked to provide rights to women. In his view , education is the only thing to safeguard the rights of any person. So he insisted on the education of women . Through the constitution, he ensured the abolition of untouchability and rule of Law. In the constitution, he ensured equality, freedom of speech and expression . He emphasized over the promotion of the weaker section of the society .

IDEOLOGY OF VARNA SYSTEM / CASTE SYSTEM : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Dr Ambedkar thought that caste is the most significant obstacle which stops deprived people from upgrading . Therefore caste should be annihilated . This caste and Varna system is the symbol of inequality and without removing it India can never progress . The emergence of the caste and the varna system came to existence in history to show the hierarchical system of the society where some people of the Sudra Varna or lower caste on the basis of the profession were deprived from some rights . and this caste system /varna system became hereditary. How can a person be deprived only because of Birth?

Thus Ambedkar wanted to eradicate it

- In fact caste is the feature of hierarchy, endogamy, graded occupation, food and social intercourse disconnect in customs and dressing and civil or religious disabilities. Therefore Ambedkar insisted that the control on resources, endogamy, immobility in occupation and operating irrational social institutions as the main objective of the caste system and Hence it should be eliminated
- In fact, the caste system is not the problem of Hindus . This is the problem of all religions . To prove hereditary right of the selective profession , the caste system was strengthened . The people of different castes were not allowed to change professions. In this way the economical monopoly on some professions was the basic objective of the caste system which must be eliminated. Ambedkar emphasized that if people get the right to change their profession , all the deprived people should change the profession of the lower class and adopt a profession of high socio economic values . One of his critical works is The Annihilation of Caste, which was an undelivered speech he wrote in 1936.

IDEOLOGY REGARDING HEREDITARY PROFESSIONS : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Dr Ambedkar suggested the lower class people to leave the deprived profession and adopt the profession of the upper class. In his view the reason of the deprivation of the lower caste was their profession . Therefore dignified professions must be opted.

In this regard he opposed Gandhi ji. As per the view of Gandhi ji, Gandhi's belief that all the works are equal no work is small and big.

THOUGHT ABOUT WOMEN EDUCATION : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Ambedkar thought that education is the only tool which can protect the rights of any deprived person. If a person is not educated , the constitution would not be helpful for that person . therefore Baba Saheb emphasized on the education of the women. Once women would be educated , they would prosper and they would be more socially strong .

COMPARISON WITH GANDHIJI : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Ambedkar became quite critical of the lack of commitment to untouchables' rights on the part of the Indian National Congress and the outcome of the so-called Poona Pact of 1932 made him an implacable critic. Dalits continue to feel that Gandhi betrayed them with his denial of the right of separate electorates, which for them meant genuine political power.

Gandhi believed that there is nothing wrong in varnas system. Untouchability is the main evil which must be abolished . If the caste system is abolished the question of untouchability would be automatically ended. Gandhi believed that Brahman should willingly reject untouchability . In this way the equality could be established in real way

Gandhi was a caste Hindu, a Vaishya. Ambedkar was a Mahar Dalit and knew discrimination firsthand. Gandhi never repudiated the varna theory of four major groups, although he fought against the idea of a group below the varnas and he held all varnas to be equal. Ambedkar repudiated the entire caste hierarchy, dismissing what was a current effort among untouchables to "sanskritize," that is, adopt upper-class customs in order to raise their status.

Gandhi did not believe in political battles for untouchables' rights or approve their attempts to enter temples unless the temple authorities agreed. Ambedkar felt political power was part of the solution to untouchability. Basically, Gandhi's faith was in change of heart; Ambedkar's trust was in law, political power, and education.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Conclusion

As per the above discussion, these days, we must follow the path shown by Ambedkar ji. This would be a real tribute to the great architecture of the Indian Constitution. Ambedkar ji, not only did work for lower caste people but also his role to uplift the status of every deprived community caste gender is commendable.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Significance of the China-Solomon Islands security cooperation deal : An Analysis

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CHINA-SOLOMON ISLANDS SECURITY COOPERATION DEAL – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Context : Recently China and Solomon island signed a security deal . Solomon is an island in the pacific ocean . After this deal western countries are suspicious regarding the militarization of the pacific region and this deal has the potential to disturb the established security mechanisms in the South Pacific region.

Today Current Affairs

Introduction : Solomon is the sovereign country of the south pacific region . It is a group of 6 major islands . The capital of this country is Honiara. The Solomon Islands is part of the ethnically Melanesian group of islands in the Pacific and lies between Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu. Recently China is continuously increasing her power in the South pacific region . China wanted to install his naval base in this island so that she could be more influenceable in south pacific region against the western country

Up to now it has been observed that in this region western country western country mainly France and America , Australia and Japan are continuously increasing her power . Since China wants to enhance her influence over Taiwan , therefore she is also seeking her naval bases in south pacific region to counter the western monopoly

HISTORY OF THE SOLOMON ISLAND : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Before its independence , it was a colony of Britain so British culture has been penetrated into this culture . During second world war , it was came under the control of Germany and then japan and finally after the defeat of Germany and the Japan in second world war it against came back in the control of UK and then USA. Today Current Affairs

In 1978 , it became completely independent and a constitutional monarchy was declared here . This monarchy

was under the British crown but having parliament itself . The Solomon Islands had cultivated strong ties with Taiwan, which ended with the emergence of the current government in Honiara.

SIGNIFICANCE OF SOLOMON ISLAND FOR CHINA : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

From the perspective of control over Taiwan, this island has more significance for China. Therefore China will try to increase her influence on Solomon and hence China assisted Solomon with half a billion U.S. dollars in financial aid, roughly five times what Taiwan spent on the islands in the past two decades. It has been alleged by the pro-Taiwan Opposition that the Sogavare government has been bribed by China. This financial aid by the china will bring changes in the atmosphere of the Taiwan and it will increase the pro China sentiment in Taiwan . local population from Chinese businesses, Chinese laborers for Chinese infrastructure projects. In this way Honiara will be tilting towards China

In fact , the Honiara has been dependent on Australia for its internal security. By last year, because of the financial crises the people of Honiara protested against government and they destroyed mainly Chinese assets

WHY IS CHINA INTERESTED IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

China considers Taiwan is the [part of China. China never recognized Taiwan as an independent country and continuously tended toward integration of Taiwan . The country who wanted its relationship with China must have broken all its relation with Taiwan. This Solomon , earlier has ties with Taiwan, now after the financial aid by the Chinese government, Solomon has to break her relationship with Taiwan . The Solomon Islands was one among the six Pacific island states which had official bilateral relations with Taiwan. However, in 2019, the Solomon Islands, along with Kiribati, switched allegiance to China. However these small small island can play an important role at international level for the support of China in forum of UN like institution. The Hindu Analysis

After the second world war , the regions of the pacific ocean have been controlled by western countries . Now after the intervention of China , the geopolitical structure of the South pacific sea has been changed. Definitely , the Solomon China relationship will change the stable order of the South pacific ocean region

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Conclusion

As per the above discussion, it has been observed that China is continuously increasing her influence in the south pacific region . China is trying to regain Taiwan. Therefore , he is increasing his influence over small islands and countries of this region by providing maximum economical assistance . Earlier China has given assistance to Sri Lanka for increasing her influence . The recently ties of China with Solomon must be the subject of the concern for all the players of the South pacific ocean so that balance of power in South pacific Ocean could be mentioned and peace could be established .

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Bankruptcy and Redemption of Sri Lanka : An Analysis in special context to measures for revival of the Sri Lankan economy

BANKRUPTCY AND REDEMPTION OF SRI LANKA – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Context : Sri Lanka is facing the worst economic crises since its independence Millions of families are struggling to put food on the table. Long lines of people queuing for fuel or gas are a common sight across the country. There is the crisis of medicines in hospitals, papers in school . In such a situation what measures should be adopted by Sri Lanka to revive its economy. IMF is ready to assist Sri Lanka but this would not be helpful for Sri Lanka in long term. The IMF agreement and fallout will be the central point of contention between the elite and the working people

Today Current Affairs

Introduction :

- Sri Lanka is facing the worst economic crises since its Independence . With the support of the IMF, Sri Lanka would try to recover its economy . In the process of the recovery of the economy , Sri Lanka should not impose more burden on the middle class only .
- However, the Sri Lanka government has clarified that “We have seen huge cuts to the country’s revenue and are trying to recover from the current economic crisis. Reforms are going to be crucial,” We definitely need a safety net for the poor. We cannot ignore the poor.
- But many experts think that taking out loans and the redemption of old loans is not the right and appropriate measure to revive the Sri Lankan economy. Sri Lankan Government must bring some structural changes in its economy Government should find out the root cause of the economic crises and accordingly should opt the measures

SRI LANKAN ECONOMICAL CRISIS : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The basis reason of the Sri Lankan crises was the political reason . This government is an authoritarian government and still it is not ready to resign. People had stopped to ask questions about government policies .

Now The Government recently announced two two major decisions – to default its external debt U.S.\$51 billion to America and negotiate a support package with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as the country “restructures” its debt.

HOW THIS CRISIS ERUPTED IN SRI LANKA : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Sri Lanka is economically poor not only because of maladministration of the government but also because of some fundamental evil economical politics . In fact the Sri Lankan elite group wanted to make the policies of Sri Lanka in their favor and the government worked to protect the interest of the elite class in the name of development (Sri Lanka is going to be Singapore) ignoring the middle and lower class . Again this country must learn the lesson from past crises .
- Taking a loan from the IMF and working for the elite class. This government should resign , if it failed to preserve its economy and tax regime must be justified. The package from the IMF would be beneficial for the Sri Lankan economy for a short time only. But the real cost of such a “reform” package will be

much higher, and invariably borne by the working people. **Today Current Affairs**

- The government will increase the tax which would be borne by hard working people . In the process of the development it must be understood that it should not increase inequalities between different classes . It it happens , it would be dangerous for the politics and stability of the country
- Through Defaulting, debt restructuring, America has not been ready to assist with funds to Sri Lanka. Once it would be defaulted, it would fade up the image of Sri Lanka and in future, no country would assist Sri Lanka financially. Once Sri Lanka would be bankrupt, it would be a disaster for Sri Lanka as well as it is not guaranteed that Sri Lanka would recover after the assistance by IMF .
- Logic of default and bankruptcy consists of many futuristic problems for Sri Lanka. Better to be bankrupt. The Sri Lanka government should reform its government and cut the expenditure of the government . Sri Lanka should take more financial assistance from the IMF and try to repay and Sri Lanka should negotiate with America regarding some concessions in the repayment of the debt. But Sri Lanka should not be defaulter . **The Hindu Analysis**
- Tax increment and the price hike on energy fuels and luxurious things tightening towards inflation targeting; a market-determined and flexible exchange rate; and targeted social safety nets would be other measures which should be opted by Sri Lanka . However most of the recommendations have been implemented by Sri Lanka also . The exchange rate has been floated, passing on the higher costs of imports to the consumers; interest rates have been doubled to 14%, putting at risk small business and the livelihoods of rural producers, and energy price hikes, for example of petrol and cooking gas, have been transferred to consumers.
- Significantly, many of these recommendations are already being implemented by Sri Lanka. The exchange rate has been floated, passing on the higher costs of imports to the consumers; interest rates have been doubled to 14%, putting at risk small business and the livelihoods of rural producers, and energy price hikes, for example of petrol and cooking gas, have been transferred to consumers.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Conclusion

Hence , as per the above discussion, it can be clearly said that bankruptcy and defaulting is not the solution for Sri Lankan Crises . It could fade the financial image of Sri Lanka and in future , no country in the world would give loans to Sri Lanka. Hence, gradually Sri Lanka should reform its economy with the support of the IMF and try to increase its production of the cash crop. It should enhance its service sector also..

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Mental Healthcare System in India

MENTAL HEALTHCARE SYSTEM IN INDIA – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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

Source: Indian Express

Today Current Affairs

WHY IN NEWS?

Recently the cases of human rights violation of Mental Healthcare patients have been found in Thiruvananthapuram where patients were found locked up in cells with tin roofs and closed windows.

DETAILS ABOUT THE ISSUES : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- In the month of February an inmate was murdered by other at the mental health centre in Kozhikode.
- Then, following the directions of the High Court of Kerala, the district judge conducted an inquiry and reported many issues of violations of rights of mental healthcare patients.
- Recently, the State Human Rights Commission has registered a case suo motu on the inhuman treatment of patients at the Mental Healthcare Centre in Thiruvananthapuram.

WHAT HAS BEEN FOUND AT THE GROUND? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- The deplorable conditions of patients were found locked up in cells with tin roofs and closed windows.
- There have been gross violations of the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017 provisions which provided for the rights to mentally ill patients.
- There exists issues like infrastructure bottlenecks, shortage of staff and patients are being treated as prisoners.
- The authority was constituted to look into the matter in January 2021 but it has met only once so far against the mandate of meeting at least four times in a year.
- The efforts to constitute review boards have been initiated by the state mental health authority this month only.
- According to a survey by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) 7.5% of the total country's population is hit by mental illness.

PROVISIONS OF MENTAL HEALTHCARE ACT, 2017 : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- It aims to provide mental healthcare services for persons with mental illness and ensures that these persons have a right to live life with dignity and are not being discriminated or harassed.
- It provided for the new definition of mental disorder which is broader than the earlier one. **Today**

Current Affairs

- **The Rights of persons with mental illness**– It includes
 - Right to obtain mental health care
 - Right to live with dignity
 - Non-discrimination
 - Rights of confidentiality
 - Right to protection from barbaric and demeaning treatment
- A person with mental illness should have the right to make an advance directive that states how a patient wants to be treated for the illness and who shall be his nominated representative.
- A medical practitioner should certify the advance directives registered with the Mental Health Board.
- The Bill provides for setting-up the Central Mental Health Authority at national-level and State Mental

Health Authority in each State.

- The Bill also specifies the process and procedure that need to be followed for admission, treatment and discharge of mentally-ill individuals, this is a milestone judgement which annulled Section 309 IPC which punishes person attempting to perform suicide. **The Hindu Analysis**
- The bill affirms that a person with mental illness shall not be subjected to electroconvulsive therapy (ECT) therapy without the application of muscle relaxants and the anaesthesia.
- Electro-convulsive therapy for minors is prohibited and chaining in any manner or method is banned.
- WHO noted in a report in 2017 that there are less than two mental health professionals for every 100,000 people in the country.

THE INITIATIVE TAKEN SO FAR : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- The initiative of the Ministry of Education, the MANODARPAN to provide psychosocial support to students for their mental health and well-being.
- The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has launched the 24×7 Toll-Free Mental Health Rehabilitation Helpline “KIRAN” to provide relief and support to persons with Mental Illness.
- The government of India launched the National Mental Health Programme (NMHP) in 1982 to focus on increasing the reach of minimum mental health services for the poor. The Hindu Analysis
- Also the Government of India has proposed to launch a National Tele Mental Health Program.
- The NGO ‘Sangath’ provides affordable mental healthcare by strengthening state and private sector services by training the community.

FUTURE COURSE OF ACTION : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Since mental healthcare is very crucial and vulnerable in nature, it is required from the side of the government to take the appropriate actions timely by taking all the stakeholders on board..

Vivek Raj

National Conference on Localisation of SDGs on Healthy Village and Socially Secured Village

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON LOCALISATION OF SDGs ON HEALTHY VILLAGE AND SOCIALLY SECURED VILLAGE – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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

Source: PIB

Today Current Affairs

WHY IN NEWS?

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj is organising National Conference on Localisation of SDGs on Healthy Village and Socially Secured Village to mark the Iconic Week celebrations in the light of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj is commemorating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) as a Jan-Utsav in the spirit of Jan-Bhagidari by holding an Iconic Week from April 11 to April 17, 2022.

It has conceptualised a series of thematic Conferences to commemorate this momentous occasion in the right spirit, taking a “whole-of-society” and “whole-of-government” approach, for the Iconic Week on the theme “Panchayat ke Navnirman ka Sankalpotsav” to demonstrate the convergence of all stake-holders’ views, ideas, opinions, preparedness, technological interventions, best practises, and cutting

The week-long celebratory events will kick off on April 11th, 2022, in Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi, with the organisation of the National Stakeholders Conference on Localization of Sustainable Development Goals.

ROLE OF THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

It is responsible for strengthening the pillars of grassroots democracy and grassroots governance in rural areas across the country, and it strives to commemorate the Iconic Week in such a way that it has national impact and long-term implications, as the Conferences will serve as a useful platform for interaction, sharing, and exchange of knowledge and ideas among all stakeholders in the process of localising Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through Panchayati Raj. The Conference is planned to feature in-depth discussions and tangible outcomes in support of speeding progress toward the SDGs, and it will be an educational experience for all participants.

It will contribute to the creation of a movement that will further push all stakeholders to accelerate the pace at which the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are achieved and assist our country in meeting its SDG commitments (in rural India through Panchayats) on time. The Iconic Week programmes will emphasise the importance of Panchayats in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and raise awareness about the importance of community awareness and participation. **Today Current Affairs**

Panchayat dignitaries are anticipated to arrive from all across the country for the seven-day interactive Conferences, which will provide an excellent opportunity for sharing ideas and experiences. The seven-day events have been planned in such a way that Panchayats and other important stakeholders would benefit greatly.

Different stakeholders, such as Panchayati Raj Institutions, line Ministries/ Departments, State Governments/ UT Administrations, civil society, communities, IITs/IIMs academia, NGOs/CBOs, international agencies, and so on, have been engaged and meaningfully participated in the process.

THEMES OF CONFERENCE : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Various initiatives made by the Ministry and other stakeholders to achieve the SDGs will be presented and discussed, with an emphasis on the Nine Themes specified for Gram Panchayats to strive for:

(i) A village free of poverty and with improved livelihoods

- (ii) A healthy village
- (iii) A child-friendly village
- (iv) A village with enough water
- (v) A village that is clean and green
- (vi) A village with self-sufficient infrastructure
- (vii) A village with good governance
- (ix) Village development that is engendered.

HOW THE CONFERENCE IS IMPORTANT : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The ideas of different stakeholders will be exchanged and documented for future roadmap and necessary action. These Conferences will serve as an august platform as the Union Ministers, Panchayati Raj Ministers and other stakeholders will be sharing their views, ideas, and preparedness of the Ministries/ States towards this endeavour. All key stakeholders will also be present on this occasion to reaffirm their commitment to attain the 2030 Agenda for SDGs. The main thrust of the event is in-depth deliberations on the holistic and convergence approach of Ministries with focus on targeted delivery of services and attainment of well-defined goals in rural areas with active participation of people and Panchayati Raj Institutions.

Vivek Raj