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CURRENT AFFAIRS



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APRIL 2022

Assam-Meghalaya Border Dispute Agreement

ASSAM-MEGHALAYA BORDER DISPUTE AGREEMENT – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Assam and Meghalaya have partially resolved a 50-year-old border dispute in six of the 12 sectors.

Today Current Affairs

HOW DID THE BOUNDARY DISPUTE START?

- Meghalaya, carved out of Assam as an autonomous State in 1970, became a full-fledged State in 1972.
- It was based on the Assam Reorganisation (Meghalaya) Act of 1969
- The Meghalaya government refused to accept it because the Act followed the recommendations of a 1951 committee that defined the boundary of Meghalaya.
- Based on the panel's recommendations, areas of the present-day East Jaintia Hills, Ri-Bhoi and West Khasi Hills districts of Meghalaya were transferred to the districts of Assam.
- After claims and counter-claims, the dispute was narrowed down to 12 sectors on the basis of an official claim by Meghalaya in 2011.

HOW DID THE TWO GOVERNMENTS GO ABOUT HANDLING THE ISSUE? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- In 1983 a joint official committee was formed to address the issue.
- The committee suggested that the Survey of India should re-delineate the boundary with the cooperation of both the States but there was no follow-up action.
- In 1985 an independent panel headed by Justice Y.V. Chandrachud was constituted.
- Meghalaya rejected the report as it was allegedly pro-Assam.
- In 1991 both the governments agreed to jointly demarcate the border with the help of the Survey of India. Today Current Affairs
- About 100 km of the border was demarcated by the end of 1991, but Meghalaya found the exercise unconstitutional and refused to cooperate.
- In 2011, the Meghalaya Assembly passed a resolution for central intervention and the constitution of a boundary commission.
- The Assam Assembly retaliated with a resolution to oppose the move.
- The Centre made the two governments appoint nodal officers to discuss the boundary dispute.

- In 2019, the Meghalaya government petitioned the Supreme Court to direct the Centre to settle the dispute but the petition was dismissed.

WHAT ABOUT THE CURRENT AGREEMENT? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Both States formed three regional committees, one each for a district affected by the disputed sectors.
- The main objective is to end the boundary dispute between the two states in six of the 12 areas along their 885-km boundary.
- The committees, each headed by a cabinet minister, were given “five principles” for approaching the issue which includes: historical facts of a disputed sector, ethnicity, administrative convenience, contiguity of land preferably with natural boundaries such as rivers, streams and rocks
- Of the disputed territory (a little over 36 square kilometres), the two States will get a near equal share, enshrining the sharing principle by adopting a give-and-take approach. Today Current Affairs
- The agreement was signed by Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and his Meghalaya counterpart Conrad Sangma, in the presence of Home Minister Amit Shah.
- There is a fear among non-tribal people that they could end up living in a region with no rights.

WHAT WILL BE THE IMPACT OF THE SETTLEMENT ON OTHER BORDER DISPUTES IN THE NORTH-EAST? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Assam, the mother State from which other States were carved out in the northeast, currently has boundary disputes with Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Nagaland.
- The agreement amplifies cooperative federalism and provides a road map for resolution of other boundary disputes between states.
- It is said that in the next six-seven months, the second phase of resolution would commence for the remaining sites.

Anshum Verma

Significance of upcoming BRICS meet : An Analysis in special context to India China Relation

SIGNIFICANCE OF UPCOMING BRICS MEET – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Context : BRICS meet likely in June and in this meet and whether India may be participating in China host even. It would be decided very soon and in mean time the Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi will be visiting India very soon

Today Current Affairs

INTRODUCTION

Recently, India China relations have seen many ups and downs . Indian surveillance has been confirmed that China continues to expand its unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) network and use in areas close to the Line of Actual Control (LAC). There is a significant increase in their use for a variety of tasks from intelligence, surveillance and target acquisition and reconnaissance (ISTAR) capabilities and logistics support, official

sources said citing intelligence inputs. This follows an increasing trend in UAV deployment by the People's Liberation Army (PLA) in Tibet and along the LAC since the stand-off began in eastern Laddakh in May 2020. The Hindu Analysis

This aggression of China is a type of theta from the Chinese side . At the same time, the Chinese foreign minister is coming to India. In such situation , what type of steps are expected by the government of India and What is the significance of the coming BRICS meeting where the issues Chinese India relation may be raised

BRICS : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- BRICS is the association of 5 major emerging economies of the world – Brazil , Russia , India , China and South Africa. It was formed in 2006 . It is a regional association for economic affairs . The leaders of BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India, and China) countries met for the first time in St. Petersburg, Russia, on the margins of the G8 Outreach Summit in July 2006. Shortly afterwards, in September 2006, the group was formalized as BRIC during the 1st BRIC Foreign Ministers' Meeting, which met on the sidelines of the General Debate of the UN Assembly in New York City. South Africa attended the 3rd BRICS Summit in Sanyo, China on 14 April 2011. The Hindu Analysis
- The 14th Brick summit would be hosted by China . The theme of 14th BRICS summit will be “Foster High-quality BRICS Partnership, Usher in a New Era for Global Development. “The BRICS Vaccine Research and Development (R&D) Center was officially launched in an online ceremony on Tuesday, March 22, 2022. Definitely this will bring efficiency in the fighting against corona pandemic

SIGNIFICANCE OF 14TH BRICS SUMMIT : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

However this summit would be hosted by China. In this summit the strategic issues would also be discussed . In the conflicting relationship of India and China , it would be more interesting to see what issues would be raised by India . However India is very much clear on his stand that she would not tolerate any aggression of any country . She is sufficiently capable to retreat . The most significance of BRICS lies in the facts how the member countries agree for economic cooperation

All the members would discuss the issue related to the corona pandemic and globally, how to tackle it .

Today Current affairs

CONCLUSION

Since BRICS is one of the most powerful economic organizations of the world and capable of influencing the economy of the world. Therefore the issue raised on the platform of BRICS must be relevant . Border disputes among member countries should be resolved peacefully. In the condition of political conflict , economical cooperation can not survive for long . Hence if India China relation would deteriorate , this BRICS gradually would be losing its significance .

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Adapting Indian Agriculture to Climate Change



ADAPTING INDIAN AGRICULTURE TO CLIMATE CHANGE – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

The Working Group III contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report, Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change was released recently.

Today Current Affairs

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 Organization (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 first part of the report centred on the scientific basis of climate change.
- The second tranche of reports for the first time, made regional and sectoral level assessment of climate change impacts on ecosystems, biodiversity, and human communities.
- What is the WG III report about? The Hindu Analysis

THE WG III REPORT PLACES CLIMATE CHANGE FIRMLY IN THE CONTEXT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, ASSESSING WIDER RISKS AND CO-BENEFITS.

- The report documents and explains recent developments in emission and mitigation efforts.
- It considers emission pathways and corresponding mitigation efforts over the 21st century. Today Current Affairs

- For the first time, the WG III AR6 report includes a chapter on social aspects of mitigation that covers factors shaping consumption patterns and opportunities to reduce emissions on the demand.
- The report also includes for the first time a chapter dedicated to innovation and technology.

HOW VULNERABLE IS INDIA'S AGRICULTURE TOWARDS CLIMATE CHANGE? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- According to the Global Climate Risk Index 2021, India is among the top ten countries most affected by climate change.
- Several studies suggest that climate change already has evident effects on crop production, with associated consequences for local food supply disruptions and negative impacts on rural incomes and poverty. Today Current Affairs
- A Report by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture, 2017 estimated that climate change related losses are about 4-9 % of the agricultural economy each year, which is an overall GDP loss of 1.5%.
- As nearly 86% of Indian agriculture is small-holder agriculture and a significant part of it is subsistence agriculture, adaptation is an issue of survival.

WHAT ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE PRIORITISED? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Agriculture being a State subject, planning and policy implementation falls within the purview of respective States and local institutions, with the Central government providing the broad policy framework and guidelines.
- It would be important to prioritise activities having both adaptation and mitigation benefits. Today Current Affairs
- As fragmented and small land size reduces farmers' adaptive capacity to climate change, it is essential to design policies and strategies especially focussing on small and marginal landholders.
- The development of the State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCC) needs to be dynamic by revising it in line with the post 2020 NDC goals and the SDGs.
- A proactive adaptation approach in agriculture is needed, streamlining efforts and resources on climate and disaster resilience for preparedness in coping with disasters.

HOW SHOULD INDIA EQUIP ITSELF TO TACKLE NATURAL DISASTERS? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- India has well developed institutional arrangements for disaster management at the national, State and district level.
- Adaptation measures pertaining to impact of natural disasters in agriculture and allied sectors need to be embedded in the disaster management plans prepared at the district level.
- It is important to provide the supporting infrastructure including water supply, power and physical connectivity on which the agricultural value chain depends.
- Areas affected by floods, hailstorms and drought need to be rebuilt better based on disaster management assessment.
- Mainstreaming of climate considerations across the development programmes as well as in the process of spatial planning are required.
- Adaptation to climate change in the sector requires not only large and continued financial investment, but also in terms of knowledge and human capacity.

Technocratic solution Of Sri Lankan Crisis

TECHNOCRATIC SOLUTION OF SRI LANKAN CRISIS – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Context : Sri Lanka is facing huge economic crises and seeking financial support from the IMF . Sri Lanka is also seeking the restructuring of the loan taken from foreign countries and international financial institutions . Sri Lanka wants to declare herself as bankrupt so that her loan would be waived off .

Today Current Affairs

Introduction : Sri Lanka has been facing financial crises for a long time . This financial crisis has erupted because of organic farming as well as other financial maladministration. Sri Lanka has been faced communal and sectoral conflict for a long time . Therefore this present financial crisis may be the result of the sectoral conflict/civil war. Now, many economical excerpts of Sri Lanka suggest various ways to tackle this economical crisis of Sri Lanka , among those suggestion , there are some technocratic solution through which Sri Lanka could overcome from huge economic crises without decaying her financial credit in international market

TECHNOCRATIC SOLUTIONS : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The term “technocratic” implies that poverty. Poverty is a technocratic term and it can be solved through scientific and apolitical solutions. Technocracy is also a form of government where the power of decision making is in hand of the expertise of the people . Here , in a technocratic solution , first we should find out the different ingredients of poverty and the expert of Sri Lanka should work on those ingredients of poverty. Technocratic solution always implies securing the rights of the poor . This concerts emerged after 2nd world war

During its postcolonial history, Sri Lanka has gone through 16 IMF agreements, most recently an Extended Fund Facility of U.S.\$1.5 billion in June 2016. Before this it was a Standby Arrangement of U.S.\$2.6 billion two months after the civil war ended in May 2009. Recent agreements done by Sri Lanka with foreign institutions are very crucial for the commercial borrowings. Therefore in this context, the reforms in the upcoming IMF agreement are likely to be far more impactful and perhaps on the order of the Structural Adjustment Program taken forward after 1977 with the IMF.

THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Neoliberal economic policies may be helpful for Sri Lanka . but Sri Lanka has also adopted those policies . And in economic crises condition, neoliberal policies would destroy the poor and poverty would be increased rapidly which would create discontent among the people and further civil war

If Sri Lanka borrow more money from international financial institution, however it would be helpful for Sri Lanka for time being but for long term it would have bring another economical disaster. **Today Current Affairs**

Sri Lanka Should start wealth tax. This idea given by some economical experts can get through this crisis in a short period of say a year, and that the people who are already in dire straits can take on more economic suffering in the months ahead are likely to backfire.

This idea would be beneficial for the upper class but again the problem for poor people would be more . In fact the main economic threat for Sri Lanka is the threat of hunger and the grain crises. Sri Lanka can get rid from this crisis by investing more money in the agricultural sector.

THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The neoliberal technocrats suggest that the property of those people would be brought under the tax who had been more conscious regarding their social security (middle class). The suggestion of ne liberal technocrat would be disaster for the middle class . but it would have been beneficial for the most poor class . If the government would privities all the essential industries , it would be opposed by the people. Today Current Affairs

The IMF agreement, its conditionality and its fallout, are going to be a central point of contention between the elite who are trying to maneuver this crisis and the working people who have generated this political opening. It is such ideological and political struggles amidst this crisis that will determine whether Sri Lanka chooses bankruptcy or redemption.

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Conclusion

As per the above analysis there are many solutions and advice for Sri Lankan crisis . But nobody has advised Sri Lanka how to overcome such crises inclusively . redemption and bankruptcy are the two solutions but both would be harmful and beneficial for some sections only . Therefore, it would be interesting see which path would be adopted by Sri Lanka in future to overcome from such economical crisis.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

BIMSTEC Summit

BIMSTEC SUMMIT – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

In its 25th year, and at its fifth summit held in hybrid format in Colombo, the organisation adopted a charter which aims at providing greater coordination among the members.

Today Current Affairs

WHAT IS BIMSTEC?

- BIMSTEC is a regional multilateral organization comprising 7 Member States lying in the littoral and adjacent areas of the Bay of Bengal.
- This sub-regional organisation came into being on 6 June 1997 through the Bangkok Declaration.
- The seven Member States are Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Thailand.

- It has its secretariat at Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- Initially, the economic bloc was formed with 4 Member States with the acronym 'BIST-EC' (Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand Economic Cooperation).



WHAT IS THE COLOMBO PACKAGE OF THE FIFTH BIMSTEC SUMMIT? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- The process of re-defining its purpose and rejuvenating its organs and institutions was launched at the Leaders' Retreat convened by India in 2016.
- It gathered momentum in Kathmandu Summit in 2018 and the result is now seen in the package of agreements announced at the fifth summit.
- BIMSTEC Charter- It presents BIMSTEC as “an inter-governmental organisation” and lists 11 items such as acceleration of economic growth and social progress in the Bay of Bengal region, promotion of multidimensional connectivity, etc.
- The grouping now views itself as a regional organisation whose destiny is linked with the area around the Bay of Bengal.
- Sectors of cooperation- It was decided to re-constitute and reduce the number of sectors of cooperation from 14 to 7.
 - ▶ Each member-state will serve as a lead for a sector
 - ▶ trade, investment and development (Bangladesh)
 - ▶ environment and climate change (Bhutan)
 - ▶ security, including energy (India)
 - ▶ agriculture and food security (Myanmar)
 - ▶ people-to-people contacts (Nepal)
 - ▶ science, technology and innovation (Sri Lanka)
 - ▶ connectivity (Thailand)
- Master Plan for Transport Connectivity- It was devised and backed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB).
- It lists 264 projects entailing a total investment of 126 billion dollars applicable for 2018-2028.

WHY IS THIS SUMMIT SIGNIFICANT? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Edge over SAARC- The new charter comes at a time when the need for an alternative regional-global organisation is increasingly being felt because of the declining nature of SAARC which has not met since 2014.
- Security- The Bay of Bengal borders the Strait of Malacca which is the main energy lane for the eastern and Southeast Asian nations.
- The security relevance of BIMSTEC has been growing especially after the Easter Sunday bombings in Sri Lanka in 2019.
- Domestic problems aside- BIMSTEC members like Myanmar and Bangladesh have had challenges like the Rohingya crisis since 2017.
- As of now, the grouping included Myanmar in the summit indicating that it will not interfere in domestic political problems and provides scope for an inclusive meet.

WHAT ARE THE CONCERNS? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Trade pillar- The pillar of trade, economic and investment cooperation needs greater strengthening at a faster pace.
- A framework agreement for a comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (FTA) was signed in 2004.
- Of the seven constituent agreements needed for the FTA, only two are in place as of now.
- The need for expansion of connectivity was stressed by everyone but finalising legal instruments for coastal shipping, road transport and intra-regional energy grid connection remains unfinished.
- Deepening cooperation in security matters and management of Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) was achieved speedier.
- Bilateral issues- BIMSTEC members like Myanmar and Bangladesh have challenges like the Rohingya crisis that both sides have been dealing with since 2017.

HOW WILL THIS SUMMIT PROVE BENEFICIAL TO INDIA? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Trade- Having walked away from mega trade blocs such as the RCEP, India's willingness to explore an FTA within the framework of a near-home regional grouping may provide greater accommodation for multi-party interests.
- Security- India will steer the security pillar of BIMSTEC and is expected to coordinate region wide security cooperation.
- Connectivity- The BBIN connectivity project of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal is expected to be merged with the port and infrastructure projects like the Sittwe port of Myanmar and Payra port of Bangladesh and Colombo of Sri Lanka.

Advantage over SAARC- SAARC has been weighed down by issues between India and Pakistan while BIMSTEC appears to be an inclusive platform setting aside the bilateral problems.

Anshum Verma

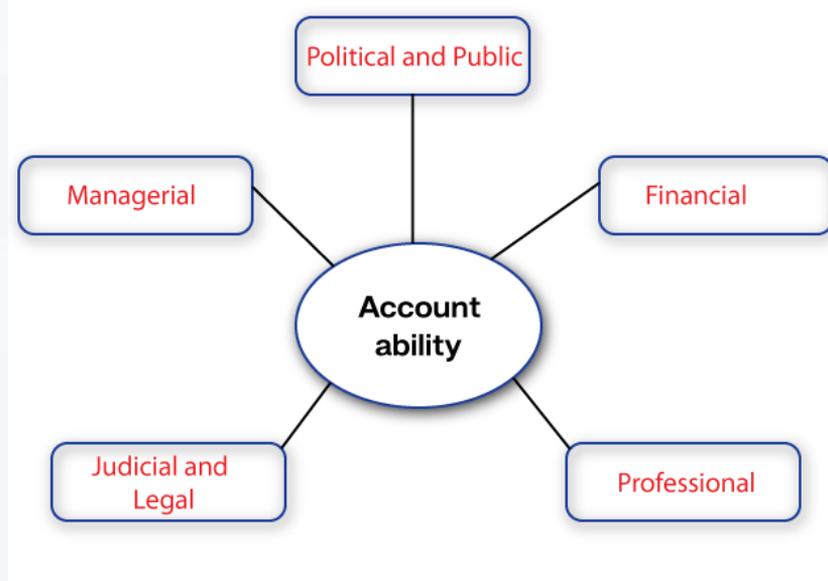
National Civil Services : An analysis in context to its changing paradigm

NATIONAL CIVIL SERVICES – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Context : The Government of India celebrates April 21 every year as ‘Civil Services day’ as an occasion for the civil servants to rededicate themselves to the cause of citizens and renew their commitments to public service and excellence in work.

Today Current Affairs

Introduction : Generally Civil Services is described as the core and permanent administration branch of the government. Administration responsible for the National government is the national Civil Services . Civil Services consists of permanent officials working in various departments and ministries of the government including the defense sector . Civil Services are generally advisory institutions in their nature and advise for the day to day administration of the country. Civil Services are not accountable for the public directly .



In democratic and welfare states, the role of civil services has not only changed but also increased . The accountability and the responsibility of civil services are continuously increasing as the democratic institutions are strengthening . However , in Changing world , after globalization the intervention of the government in public business has decreased but the responsibility and accountability of the government regarding good governance has increased . Therefore nowadays the role of Civil services is more crucial.

OBJECTIVES OF CIVIL SERVICES : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

In a democratic country the role of civil services is more crucial . The objective of the civil services is to implement all the policies of the government properly . In democratic countries bureaucracy is not accountable and responsible for the public so decision making power has not consisted in civil services regarding any public business . Earlier during the British period, the civil servant had some discretionary powers but in a democratic countries , civil services should not be empowered in such a manner .

The basic objective of any democratic government is to ensure maximum welfare of maximum people . Therefore the implementation of such objectives of democratic government is the responsibility of the civil

services. Today Current Affairs

In fact, Civil services is a tool to implement government policies . It is a group of the expert people who can give their expertise advice to the government so that the government could make rule over those advices .

CIVIL SERVICES IN INDIAN HISTORY : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The history of Civil services goes back thousands of Years . During the Mauryan period, we see well structured civil services . The appointment of the Civil services during Mauryan period was done through competitive exams (Uphda Pariksha). The objective of the civil services was to ensure the well being of the public. Asoka also brought some changes in civil services and the civil services were reorganized on the basis of national integrity and communal harmony . An officer Dhamma Mahamatya was appointed to ensure the righteousness/moral conduct of the people. **The Hindu Analysis**

During the medieval period , we also saw well structured civil services during the time of Akbar. The objective of the Civil services during the medieval period was to ensure the communal harmony as well as unity and integrity of the state .

After the arrival of Britain , the nature of the civil services had been changed. The prime objective of the civil services during the British period was to strengthen imperialism and colonialism . For which they needed a strong army . Therefore they ensured maximum tax collection through civil services . to make revenue administration Cornwallis separated revenue administration with general administration. So that maximum and effective tax collection could be ensured.

Aitchison Commission (1886) recommended the division of services into three groups – Imperial, Provincial and Subordinate. For the imperialistic purpose the secretary of the Indian state was appointed in London who received the salary from the treasury of India . For the subordinate services , Civil services were formed to ensure the implementation of the British policies up to the root level .

The Government of India Act 1919 divided the Imperial Services into All India Services and Central Services. The central services were concerned with matters under the direct control of the Central Government. **Today Current Affairs**

This Act also provided for the establishment of the Public Services Commission in India. But it was established in 1926 after recommendation

The imperialistic structure of the civil services was responsible to impose British rule on the public effectively . The nature of the civil services during the British period looks oppressive .

SIGNIFICANCE OF CIVIL SERVICES : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The British state was a police state . hence the structure of the civil services during British period was to strengthen police state where the right and consents of the public were ignored

After independence , However we borrowed the civil services from the British but we brought some changes

in civil services in Independent India . Now the objective of the civil services is changed and that is to make the administration more efficient and effective to provide maximum welfare of the public .

CHANGING PARADIGM : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

There are several flaws which we have borrowed from the British Civil services however the British have reformed in England but In India those are yet to reform . Still our Civil services are based on the imperialist structure . The secretary of education is not an expert on education . This type of anomalies should be addressed. There are some services which are ignored and generally filled by IAS only . the education and health sector is ignored .

In recent years we observed some changes in civil services regarding services rule, cadre allocation and the transfer , posting. The Structure of civil services is trying to make it more centralized however it is opposed by the provincial governments . In fact , India is a union of the state . At the time of independence the administrative structure of India was made more centralized to prevent India from further disintegration but federalism is the basic structure of the Indian constitution therefore the nature of administration is continuously tending towards federalism . After the Panchayati raj system , the role of civil services has been more crucial and responsible for the welfare of the public . As the awareness of the public will increase the role and responsibility of National civil services will increase in the direction of maximum welfare

After the 2000 (During the 21st century), technology is continuously advancing . In this way the civil services are expected to be more technologically advanced . Recently it has been observed that by using technology the efficiency of the civil services has been continuously increased . Corruption among civil servants can also be curtailed by using technology . In Sum, we say the nature of the civil services is continuously changing as per the requirement of the changing society in a democratic country . In recent years , it has been more effective and more accountable for the country

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Conclusion

As per the above discussion, It can be said that the history of civil services is as old as the emergence of the state in India (During 4th century BC). The nature of civil services is continuously changing as per the nature of the society. The British used civil services to strengthen imperialism and colonialism .However we have borrowed the structure of civil services from the British but we are continuously transforming civil services as per the requirement of the society in democratic state . We should transform the civil services toward more accountability for the public . There must be some ethics of the civil servants and those ethical values must be in the favor of the public.

In the Gist form of the above discussion, it can be said that the nature of civil services is continuously changing. Democratic values and social ethic, moral values like elements are being added in Civil services and in future this change would be continuing and or sustainable .

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

4th Industrial Revolution



4TH INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Definition:

It is characterized by the increasing digitization and interconnection of products, value chains and business models. Industry 4.0 would mean the convergence of real and virtual worlds. This will result in the “Smart Factory”, which is characterized by versatility, resource efficiency, ergonomic design and direct integration with business partners.

Today Current Affairs

Evolution:

1st industrial revolution : The Hindu Analysis

It began in Britain in 1760s with the mechanisation of the textile industry, harnessing of steam power and birth of the modern factory.

2nd industrial revolution : The Hindu Analysis

It began in 1900s to the outbreak of World War I. It was powered by developments and consequent mass production (countless numbers of identical products quickly and cheaply) and consumption. Industrialization spread even further – to Japan after the Meiji Restoration and into Russia.

3rd industrial revolution : The Hindu Analysis

Since 1970s there was emphasis on digital mass customisation. For example, ‘3D printing’. However, its key concepts and applications are yet to be imagined fully.

How different will be the 4th industrial revolution?

Fourth Industrial Revolution is distinct one, mired with velocity and scope of development, affecting almost every sector of economy. These are based on the technologies and infrastructure of the third industrial revolution but present entirely new ways in which technology becomes embedded within societies and even

our human bodies like genome editing, artificial intelligence etc. Hence, it can be said that the 4th industrial revolution is an upgrade on the third revolution and is marked by a fusion of technologies and physical, digital and biological worlds.

CHALLENGES POSED BY THIS REVOLUTION : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Greater inequality, particularly in its potential to disrupt labour markets. It is often seen that the first victim of any innovative change in the economy are often the labour class. For example, those who are working manually would get the severe hit by this revolution in term of job losses. However, it will also lead to few other important implications like talent, more than capital, is the critical factor of production in era of 4th industrial revolution. Also, the largest beneficiaries of innovation tend to be the providers of intellectual prowess and capital — innovators, shareholders, and investors — which explains the rising gap in wealth between those dependent on labour.

IMPLICATIONS FOR INDIA : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

As per world bank analysis about 69% of the jobs in India are at the verge of automation, leading to widespread unemployment in India. Linking this to society and polity, there would be rise in protest, revolt and unrest throughout the society. This will ultimately force the government to take initiatives to tackle the same.

INITIATIVES THAT THE GOVERNMENT MUST THINK OVER : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

One argument is by the welfare economist like Raghuram Rajan, who argue that the government should provide active support by some social security measure to alleviate the pain of job loss. For example, government can initiative programmes akin to “Universal Basic Income (UBI)”. Another measure that has been suggested is to reskill those people who may have lost their jobs. For example, providing computer training to unemployed skill workers. Also, these systems are to be repaired or maintained by someone. So, these people can be reskilled for that.

Here we mention all information about 4th Industrial Revolution – Today Current Affairs.

Conclusion:

As is said “change is the only constant thing in the world”. Keeping that in mind debate against 4th industrial revolution may not be very fruitful. What should be debated “how to deal with the implications of this change?”

Vikas Gupa

A due process of punishment as codified in Indian Penal Code – An analysis of bulldozing of houses in M.P in special reference to International laws

A DUE PROCESS OF PUNISHMENT AS CODIFIED IN INDIAN PENAL CODE – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Context :

Recently it has been seen that the administration generally demolishes the houses of any accused before trial. After the communal clashes erupted in Khargone of M.P. The bulldozing of houses in M.P. was to impose collective punishment on the alleged rioters

Today Current Affairs

Introduction :

- Now a new debate has erupted in the country whether the right of the punishment exists in the hands of the executive without the consent of the Judiciary. Without any trial whether the punishment is not the violation of codified law . Without listing the favor of the accused , is the punishment not the violation of Natural justice ?. By 20th April 2021 , on the grounds of encroachment , a demolition drive was done in Jahangirpuri, Delhi without giving any prior notice and finally our honorable supreme court had to interrupt and issued an order to stop such demotion drive . Whether such types of activities are a violation of International law or not ? Whether these drives do not violate the right to life (Article 21 of the constitution) must be the subject of debate and honorable court should give a clear verdict in this regard. The Hindu Analysis
- The bulldozing machines— the new symbols of brute state power — are not just demolishing houses and shops but also bulldozing the rule of law and our constitutional order. This idea of serving ‘justice’, quick and cold, through bulldozers emanated in Uttar Pradesh. However these types of activities have been institutionalized through the enactment of the Uttar Pradesh Recovery of Damages to Public and Private Property Act, 2020.

RIGHT TO ADEQUATE HOUSING : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Under the article 21 of the Indian constitution , the right to housing is a fundamental right and at international level Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) states that “everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care.
- Similarly Article 11.1 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) recognizes “the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions”.
- There are several international laws through which these types of rights should be protected . The demolishing of the house without any proper verdict is against these such laws and this type of demolish drive definitely encourages the police state . The Hindu Analysis
- The United Nations (UN) Human Rights Office has elaborated on the content of the right to adequate housing which should not be violated as being the member of United nation and a democratic country
- The UN Human Right described the protection against forced evictions’ (Article 1.1 of ICESCR,

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights). This article states that the forceful evictions permanently or temporarily should not be done against the will of the individual without any due process. Prior information must be given before the eviction. Without providing alternatives to the individual, forced eviction is completely prohibited in international laws. The right to adequate housing also entails freedom from arbitrary interference with one's home, privacy, and family. The Hindu Analysis

- Being a democratic country India has incorporated these international laws. The apex court in cases like *Bachan Singh vs State of Punjab*, *Vishaka vs State of Rajasthan*, and recently in the famous *Puttaswamy vs Union of India* has laid down the principle that the fundamental rights guaranteed under the Constitution must be read and interpreted in a manner which would enhance their conformity with international human rights law. As the custodian of India's constitutional order, it is high time that the judiciary acted and imposed necessary checks on the unbridled exercise of power by the executive.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Conclusion

As per the above discussion it can be said that the bulldozer drive must be evaluated on the ground of its merit. We are residing in a democratic state and Rule of law is there. We are not residing in a police state. Executive can never be dictate in democratic state. Executive must follow the due process of legality and our court should punish those concerned persons and authorities who violate the due process of law as well as international law and fundamental rights guaranteed by the Indian constitution. Democracy and human rights are an intact element of India. Therefore, being the guardian of the constitution, the court should take action against these illegal drives of bulldozing.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

The Criminal Procedure (Identification) Bill, 2022

THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (IDENTIFICATION) BILL, 2022 – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

The Criminal Procedure (Identification) Bill, 2022 was passed recently by the Lok Sabha. The bill seeks to replace the Identification of Captures Act, 1920, which authorized the taking of measures for identification and disquisition in felonious matters.

A crucial point of the bill is its widened description of measures, which includes iris and retina reviews, behavioral attributes, including autographs, handwriting, cutlet prints, footmark prints, win- print prints, photos, and also physical, natural samples “and their analysis.” The words “and their analysis” in the description of measures indicate the possibility of using colorful sources of information to produce biographies. As per the bill, the measures would be retained in digital or electronic form for 75 times.

Today Current Affairs

KEY FEATURES OF THE BILL

Collection of Samples: The Bill expands the list of details that can be collected. It'll now include Win- print prints, iris and retina reviews, behavioral attributes similar as hand and handwriting, and other

physical and natural samples similar as blood, semen, hair samples, and hearties, and their analysis.

Turndown to give details will be considered an offense under the Indian Penal Code, 1860. The Hindu Analysis

The Bill permits the collection of details about specified persons by either a captivity officer (not below the rank of Head Warder), or a police officer (in charge of a police station, or at least at the rank of a Head Constable).

Who's covered under the bill: The Bill widens the dimension of similar persons to include all cons, arrested persons, as well as persons detained under any preventative detention law.

Arrested persons won't be obliged to give their natural samples unless they've committed an offense against a woman or a child, or an offense punishable with a minimum of seven times of imprisonment.

Retention of details: The Bill requires the details collected to be retained in digital or electronic form for 75 times from the date of collection.

Further, the bill says that information about first- time malefactors who are released or acquitted will be deleted after all legal remedies have been exhausted. The Hindu Analysis

The National Crime Records Bureau, which falls under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, will collect, store, process, share and destroy the data.

Powers of Magistrate: Under the Bill, a Magistrate may direct a person to give details for the purpose of a disquisition or pacing under the CrPC.

Part of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB): The Bill empowers NCRB to collect the details about the persons covered under the Bill from state governments, union home (UT) administrations, or other law enforcement agencies.

Rule- making power extended to the central government: The 1920 Act vested rule- making power only in the state government. The Bill extends this power to the central government as well.

THE BILL AND THE RIGHT TO PRIVACY : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The bill can be analyzed for its effect on the right to sequestration, which has been recognised as an abecedarian right under Composition 21 of the Constitution by the Supreme Court. First, an important hand of the right to sequestration is instructional sequestration of which concurrence is an essential demand. It can be argued that the bill doesn't have the concurrence needed for the processing of sensitive particular data and thus unjustifiably intrudes into sequestration. The bill authorizations persons to allow measures to be taken and provides for discipline against turndown or resistance to give measures.

Alternately, an essential element of the right to sequestration is the right to erasure, which is a right of a person to demand erasure of particular data when the data is no longer needed for the purpose of processing. It can be argued that keeping measures for 75 times is against the right to erasure. Also, such a long retention period has the capability to produce lifelong stigmatization for the person whose measures are stored. The Hindu Analysis

When there's an intrusion of sequestration as shown over, there's a need to assess whether such an intrusion follows the triadic test of legitimacy, necessity, and proportionality laid down by the Supreme Court in the corner K S Puttaswamy judgment. It's important to assess whether the measures proposed by the bill that intrude into sequestration are commensurable to the objective sought to be achieved by the bill and also

whether sufficient safeguards are handed by the bill.

The bill provides for making it non-obligatory to furnish natural samples unless the offense is against a child or woman or punishable with imprisonment of seven times or further. This provision passes the test of proportionality because an intrusion of sequestration by collecting natural samples is commensurable to the ideal of combating serious crime and crime against women and children.

The bill provides that all measurement records shall be destroyed where the measurements of a person not previously convicted are taken and they are discharged, acquitted, or released without a trial. This provision fulfils the test of necessity as it provides that the data, which are not necessary for the objective of investigation of crime can be deleted. However, for a person convicted for a less serious crime, recording measurements for 75 years do not fulfill the test.

Thus, it becomes crucial to make a careful proportionality and necessity assessment. The measures restricting the right to privacy must be proportional and necessary for the objective sought to be achieved.

The Way Forward : The Hindu Analysis

Ensuring Data Protection: The concern over privacy and the safety of the data is undoubtedly significant. Such practices that involve the collection, storage and destruction of vital details of a personal nature ought to be introduced only after a strong data protection law, with stringent punishment for breaches, is in place. The Hindu Analysis

Any encroachment on personal space must pass the test of constitutionality as laid down by the Supreme Court.

Parliament Scrutiny: The Bill was neither put up for pre-legislative consultation nor indicated in the session's legislative agenda in Parliament. However, it would be in the fitness of things if the bill is referred to a Standing Committee for deeper scrutiny before it is enacted into law.

Better Implementation: Depriving law enforcement agencies of the use of the latest technologies would be a grave disservice to victims of crimes, and the nation at large. Besides better scrutiny and data protection law, measures need to be taken for better implementation of the law as well.

- ▶ The need is to have more experts to collect measurements from the scene of crime, more forensic labs, and equipment to analyze them to identify possible accused involved in a criminal case.

The training of the investigation officers, prosecutors, judicial officers and collaboration with doctors and forensic experts need to be prioritized too.

Ritu

Lynchistan – a myth or a reality

LYNCHISTAN – A MYTH OR A REALITY – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

What is meant by Lynching?

Lynching is an extrajudicial killing by a group usually on the basis of identity markers like religion, caste, sex and so on.

RECENT INCIDENTS OF MOB LYNCHING IN INDIA : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

In 2021 in Assam, a 23-year-old student leader was allegedly killed by a mob and in the same year a man was allegedly lynched, his limbs cut off and left to die at the Singhu Border, site of the farmers' protest against the three farm laws.

Today Current Affairs

Laws in India:

As such there is no particular law in India about lynching. However, there are various legal provisions that can be used for dealing with the issue of lynching.

- ▶ India continues to use repressive laws from the colonial era to disperse crowds like section 141 (IPC) and section 144 (Cr.P.C) without power of shoot to kill.
- ▶ Section 146 of IPC – Riot
- ▶ Section 153 of IPC – incitement to cause riot
- ▶ Section 153A of IPC – promoting enmity between different group-based race, religion, cast, language etc.
- ▶ Section 153B of IPC – Communal propaganda to cause disturbance.
- ▶ Section 159 of IPC – fighting between two or more persons to incite riots.
- ▶ Section 129 of Cr.P.C allows magistrate or Police officer to order the crowd to be dispersed.

SUPREME COURT'S VIEW : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Supreme Court in T S Poonawalla v UoI 2018 case has termed incidents of mob-lynching in India as 'horrendous acts of mobocracy'.

- It has directed the Parliament to consider drafting a new legislation on mob lynching. The Hindu Analysis
- Lynching should be dealt as a "special and separate offense."
- There should be a nodal officer in every State to control such crimes.
- Cases of lynching should be heard in a fast track court with trials to be concluded within 6 months and the highest possible sentences to be awarded.

What the governments think about supreme court's view?

The Union and most State governments have done little to comply with the directions of India's highest court. However, certain states like Manipur, Rajasthan and West Bengal have enacted legislation on lynching.

THE POLITICAL DEBATE : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

It is well known that politics in modern time runs on mobilization of people towards certain causes. Often politicians create environment to polarize the society to either garner more votes or to deny votes to other party. However, often in this process, common people get radicalized and starts treating certain people on the basis of identity markers like religion, caste, sex and so on as enemy. This process is very dangerous for a multicultural society like India. Moreover when such people are not prosecuted and given public validity, they become a bigger threat for the future of such nations as well.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Conclusion:

Keeping words of social activist Harsh Mander (This is the India we must claim — of safety, fairness and fraternity) in mind, the politics of the day must give head to the father of nations emphasis on “Sarva Dharma Sambhav”.

Vikas Gupta

India's Federal ethos : An analysis

INDIA'S FEDERAL ETHOS – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Context : recently , it has been observed that non BJP ruling states of India many times have to face conflict with center on several issues . Recently Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin delivered a speech on the occasion of the 23rd party congress of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) in Kannur, Kerala. In this speech he has put forth a profound challenge to the model of 'federalism' which is the fundamental structure of the Indian constitution and an early signal of potential convergence — at least in an ideological, if not tactical, sense — of two radical-revolutionary political paradigms, Dravidianism and communism.

Today Current Affairs

Introduction : India is the union of the state and cooperative federalism is the fundamental structure of India . Before some days some chief ministers of the South India and non BJP ruled states alleged on center that center is not following the ethos of federalism. Center government unnecessarily intervening in the affairs of the state and continuously curtailing the power of the state . The Central government is violating the feral ethos through the use of central agencies in the state . The Hindu Analysis

This intervention of the center looks like a threat to autonomy . Tamil Nadu is more aggressive on the issue of the NEET exam and CUET exam . Recently Tamil Nadu clearly said that he would not allow CUET in his state .

ROLE OF GOVERNOR IN FEDERAL POLITICS : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

However, the governor is the agent of the center in India but the governor should not be against the central government and in every matter the state governor should not intervene. Governor is not the representative institution so generally the governor should respect the bill passed by the state legislature . For example, in his Republic Day address this year, Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi set off a political firestorm when he called for States to adopt a three-language formula. Tamil Nadu can never tolerate the forcefully impose of any language in his state and no states should be forced for the implementation of any language . India is a country of diversified culture. Its diversity is the strength of India and it should not only be protected but also be strengthened .

Another instance of the Governor stepping beyond the routine constitutional duties and engaging in what some have described as pressing a thumb on the scales of State politics in favor of the Union government policy position is the inordinate delay by Raj Bhavan in Chennai in sending the Tamil Nadu NEET Bill for presidential assent. The Hindu Analysis

These two cases are the complete violation of the federal ethos of the Indian constitution . Generally , the governor should pass all the bills of the state legislature if the Bills are not hampering the unity and integrity of India . Otherwise it is the violation of the fundamental structure of the Indian constitution

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Conclusion

Center state conflict is not a new issue . It has been observed after the emergence of regional parties . But In recent days , at every movement this conflict can be observed . Many central agencies are alleged to be politically and unconstitutionally interfering in state affairs. The image of the CBI has deteriorated in this regard. We should understand that India is not a centralized country . The Indian constitution is not an absolute centralized constitution . There is huge diversity in India . This diversity of India is the strength of India, it is not the weakness of the Indian. We should respect the diversified culture of India and we should not impose our own culture on others . majority culture should not be imposed on the minority culture. Each language is equal and should be treated equally .

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Urban bodies and reservation for backward class



URBAN BODIES AND RESERVATION FOR BACKWARD CLASS – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

In the recently concluded budget session of Parliament, Rajya Sabha member P Wilson highlighted a “constitutional deadlock” that had taken place when it came to the reservations of seats for “backward classes” in local bodies. The states such as Karnataka and Maharashtra have not held elections for local

bodies since they have not been able to comply with the “triple test” laid down by the Supreme Court for such reservations. This suggested that the caste data collected in the Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC), 2011 necessary for states to fulfil the criteria laid down by the Supreme Court, was available with the union government and should be released to break this constitutional deadlock.

Today Current Affairs

Reservations in Local Bodies

The Constitution (73rd and 74th Amendments) Act, 1992 were intended to address (among other things) the inadequate representation of the Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), and women in panchayati raj institutions (PRIs) and urban local bodies (ULBs). This was done through the insertion of Article 243-U in the context of PRIs and Article 243-T in the context of ULBs. Both articles are more or less identical in their structure insofar as they provide reservations in positions at PRIs and ULBs to the members of the SC and ST communities as well as women. However, somewhat out of the blue, clause (6) in both the articles provides that the state may reserve seats for “backward class of citizens.” This clause arrives unexpectedly, since the statement of objects and reasons for either amendment makes no mention of

reservations for “backward classes,” though it explicitly mentions reservations for other communities mentioned in the articles. The Hindu Analysis

The term “backward classes” used here is the source of confusion. The problem becomes clear when this clause is compared with Articles 15(4) and 16(4), which provide for reservations in education and employment, respectively. While similarly structured (they are all clauses aimed at enabling reservations), one key difference is obvious—the criteria for identifying the backward classes for the purpose of reservations are being outlined in the clause itself. In the context of Article 15(4), classes have to be “socially and educationally backward,” whereas in Article 16(4) such “backward class” has to be “[in]adequately represented in the services under the State.” No such qualifier is present in Articles 243-D(6) and 243-T(6).

This distinction is important since the category of “backward classes” is not uniform nationwide. Unlike the SCs and STs who are identified at the union level through a constitutional mechanism,¹ there was no constitutional mechanism for the identification of “socially and educationally backward classes” until the introduction of Article 342A by the Constitution (102nd Amendment) Act, 2019. This was intended only to apply to the preparation of a list of such classes for the purpose of reservation at the union level and did not per se interfere with the states’ power to identify the backward classes for reservations at the state level. While the judgment in *Indra Sawhney v Union of India and Ors* (1992) has laid down certain criteria as to how “socially and educationally backward classes” may be identified for the purpose of reservations, this is only an expansion of the principle laid down in clauses (4) of both Articles 15 and 16, respectively. From a plain reading of either Articles 243-D(6) and 243-t(6), it is therefore not clear how the “backward class of citizens” ought to be identified to grant them the benefit of reservations.

JUDICIAL INTERPRETATION : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

A constitution bench of the Supreme Court interpreted Articles 243-D(6) and 243-t(6) in *K Krishna Murthy & Ors v Union of India* (2010) where the two clauses were challenged as being contrary to the basic structure of the Constitution. While upholding the two clauses, the then Chief Justice of India K G Balakrishnan also

attempted to clarify the scope of these clauses. His judgment, on behalf of the bench, did note the unclear wording of clause (6). Specifically:

Admittedly, Articles 243-D(6) and 243-T(6) do not provide guidance on how to identify the backward classes and neither do they specify any principle for the quantum of such reservations. Instead, discretion has been conferred on state Legislatures to design and confer reservation benefits in favour of the backward classes. It is, but natural that, questions will arise in respect of the exercise of discretionary power.² Today Current Affairs

While saying so, the Court agreed with the argument that reservation in local self-government is distinct from that in educational institutions and employment, and a mechanical application of the interpretation of Articles 15(4) and 16(4) to Articles 243-D(6) and 243-T(6) could not be done.³ While rejecting the “creamy layer” test from *Indra Sawhney v Union of India*, it did import the 50% cap on reservations applied in the context of reservations under Articles 15(4) and 16(4). As regards the criteria as to which classes would be “backward,” the Court leaves it to the states to carry out a “rigorous investigation” into the barriers to political participation for such communities. Given that the case only concerned the constitutional validity of Articles 243-D(6) and 243-t(6), the Court did not go into the specific state legislation. The Hindu Analysis

A decade later, in *Vikas Kishanrao Gawali v the State of Maharashtra* (2021) the Court subjected the law, providing for reservation of seats in PRIs, that is, the Reservation Notifications under the Maharashtra Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis Act, 1961 to the judgment in *Krishna Murthy* and struck down the reservations for backward classes in the state as unconstitutional. In *Gawali*,⁴ the Court distilled a “triple test” out of the judgment in *Krishna Murthy*, requiring the state to

- (1) set up a commission to identify the backwardness, in terms of political participation,
- (2) have the commission determine the extent of reservation in local bodies, and
- (3) limit the reservation to 50% of the positions in the local bodies.

Finding that the Reservation Notifications under the Maharashtra Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis Act, 1961 fulfilled none of these three, the Court struck it down. The Hindu Analysis

Given the poor drafting, the Court’s interpretation of Articles 243-D(6) and 243-t(6) in *Krishna Murthy* is, at best, an educated guess; yet in *Vikas Gawali*, the Court insists that the states should hold to the full rigour, the best guess of the Court, how they determine the backward classes and the quantum of reservations. The states’ attempts to overcome *Vikas Gawali* through ordinances have come to a cropper in Court, and as matters stand, the states are unsure how they ought to identify backward classes for the purpose of reservations under Articles 246-D(6) and 246-t(6), and elections to the local bodies have stalled as a result.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Conclusions

The Court's concerns about the nature and quantum of political reservations in Krishna Murthy and Vikas Gawali are not entirely unfounded. A "backward caste" (with adequate representation educationally or employment-wise) enjoying disproportionate representation in political bodies is not unprecedented or unimaginable. In states such as Karnataka and Haryana, it is a reality. Reservation in political bodies cannot look to further entrench the power of already well-represented castes. Rather, it should look to enhance the representation of the otherwise under-represented groups who are also educationally and socially deprived. The Hindu Analysis

Attempted compliance with the Supreme Court's ruling may cause further uncertainty as each state looks to set up its own commission that might interpret the requirements of the Krishna Murthy and Gawali judgments in their own way. This will lead to additional litigation and further confusion about the law, causing more delay in the conduct of local body elections.

Given the importance of local body elections in strengthening the grassroots democracy in India, such confusion and delay would only weaken these institutions. While the union government should release the data from the SECC, 2011, it will not suffice in addressing the problem. The core of the problem remains the unclear intent and bad drafting of Articles 243-D(6) and 243-t(6). The term "backward class" needs to be qualified precisely. If the intent is to give representation to politically under-represented backward classes, two key amendments will be needed—one, to qualify "backward classes" as "socially and educationally backward," and two, to limit the reservations only to such backward classes whose representation in local bodies has been less than their proportion in the total population. The Hindu Analysis

Such an amendment serves a few purposes: (i) states need not undertake a fresh survey to identify backward classes; (ii) it will exclude socially and educationally backward castes that are already well-represented in the local bodies, at or beyond the proportion of their population in the state; and (iii) it will provide an objective criterion to fix the percentage of reservation for such backward classes.

If any study is undertaken by a commission, it will only determine the proportion of the existing backward castes in the population and their representation in the local bodies. Such an exercise does not even require a nationwide caste census and can be carried out periodically by the state government itself with a view to fine-tuning the reservations for the backward castes. Today Current Affairs

We have seen in the recent past that the union government has been able to get consensus from all political parties to make amendments to the Constitution to address the problems arising out of the faulty interpretation of the Constitution by the Court in the context of reservations of the "Other Backward Classes."⁵ The impasse over local body elections affecting multiple states serves no one—a workable solution that will not give rise to further litigation is necessary, and one hopes that the fundamental defects in Articles 243-D(6) and 243-t(6) are addressed forthwith.

Ritu

Childbirth and its seasonal variation

CHILDBIRTH AND IT'S SEASONAL VARIATION – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Births are invariably preceded by conception, which itself is a consequence of cohabitation. For the human population, there is no biological interregnum across the seasons towards any of the three steps. Yet, births do show seasonal patterns, and it is of interest to see what these patterns are and what they could imply.

Today Current Affairs

Such an analysis is constrained by the absence of large-scale data for an entire population and usually the literature reports analysis based on a sample or survey data. Very few data have the reach that the Health Management Information System (HMIS) data offers for India at a granular level of subdistrict and on a monthly basis. We use this data for a 36-month period, from April 2017 to March 2020, just before the onset of the current COVID-19 pandemic.

The interest in birth seasonality has not been new. Conception does have its own natural variation across seasons, though it varies in different populations. Documentation of such seasonal variation in conception followed by childbirth was started in the mid-19th century in Europe and India. The very first publication on birth statistics seasonality in India reported maximum birth occurring in September and the minimum in June, corresponding to maximum conceptions in December and minimum in September when the monthly average rates of birth per thousand per annum were computed for the years 1878–87. The Hindu Analysis

Climatic comfortability, lesser incidence of morbidity, and every cause of death along with food and economic abundancy post the reaping of cereals in November were found to favour conception in December; the dip in conception during September was found to be influenced by low energy levels among people due to the long summer, high disease prevalence like malaria, and the exhaustion of resources such as food, money, and savings. A hospital-based study, in Calcutta during 1850–1901, also reported similar observation, that is, the maximum birth rate in October and the minimum in monsoon months, June corresponding to the optimum condition of conception in December–January, the post-harvest month in Bengal.

Thus, conception, followed by the childbirth rate in rural areas, is governed by the harvesting and monsoon seasons, cultivation, and labour. But the variation in urban areas is primarily due to the changes in the temperature of weather in terms of pleasantness or comfortability for coitus as the employment status remains comparatively stable in the cities throughout the year. Regional variation in conception is also found to be affected by the variation in the time of marriage in the cities. But in recent times, the peak of the two curves, of a “lagged” marriage (marriage plus nine months) and the first child born, was not found to coincide. The seasonality curve in Faridabad district of Haryana, with the maximum number of deliveries in August–September and the least in April, was not found to vary between couples using vs non-using spacing method. Certain biological issues like irregularities in menstruation during the hot weather and suppression of spermatogenesis by higher external temperature of 29°C–38°C may also be significant players determining the variations in childbirth. Today Current Affairs

In India, there are different climatic zones along with varied agro-economic patterns and sociocultural diversities. Thus, understanding birth seasonality across the country based on these indicators is definitely

worth investigating. The use of large-scale databases in this regard will definitely be of special help. In India, there are various nationwide demographic databases such as the National Family Health Survey (NFHS), Census of India, District Level Household and Facility Survey (DLHS), and the HMIS.

RESPONSIBLE FACTORS : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

We look at two parameters—the locus of seasonal variation and its extent, that is, the standard deviation in the data.

Seasonality: A distinct seasonal variation in childbirth exists in India. If there were no seasonal variation in the births, every month would have accounted for 8.33% of the total annual births, but that is not the case.

In the northern states, a dominant pattern is seen where births peak in the months of August–September and dip during the February–April period. The regularity of this pronounced peak is observed in both the urban and rural areas. Interestingly, Delhi and Chandigarh, which are more urban, exhibit similar patterns as well. The standard deviation is higher in the rural domain than in urban. As against these pronounced seasonal patterns, such a “peak” effect is quite small and giving birth does appear to go on more evenly with a very low standard deviation in Karnataka, Kerala, and Goa. There are no sharp October peaks, but there is a clear declining trend from November to February. Kerala shows a faint but clear trend of the number of births coming down steadily in both rural and urban areas. One interesting trend discernible in rural Kerala is the bimodal nature of the peaks—one in May and the other in October. Tamil Nadu is another interesting case where births in urban areas are more than that in the rural, but the similarity of the pattern in the rural and the urban is unusually striking. The February dip is apparent in Tamil Nadu along with a mild peak in May that goes with a rising trend continuing up to October and then dips till February. The Hindu Analysis

Andhra Pradesh and Telangana also confirm the “southern” pattern of low standard deviation, a peak in and around September and October, and a dip till February–March. In Andhra Pradesh, births in urban areas are more compared to that in the rural as in the case of Tamil Nadu and a discernible, though mild, trend of a decreasing number of births in rural Andhra Pradesh.

In Maharashtra, regular dips during February–March and peaks during September–November are observed. Similar peaks and dips are observed for urban–rural live births. In Goa, a mild October peak is apparent, which is more pronounced in rural Goa. Gujarat shares a trend of high birth peaks in August–October and sharp dips in February–March. Similar peaks and dips are observed for urban–rural live births. The standard deviation between urban and rural births in Gujarat is low as compared with Punjab. Today Current Affairs

Bihar follows the Punjab pattern, although in Bihar, the “dip” prolongs from October till June with a sharp peak again in August. There are no sharp October peaks in Odisha, but a clear declining trend from November to February is seen as similar to Kerala and West Bengal. Contrastingly, the September–October peak is visible in West Bengal.

The regularity of the pattern in MP is striking, with a rising trend from April to August and a dip from August till April; urban MP also seems to follow a similar pattern (standard deviation = 0.93). An upward “kink” is observed in UP and Rajasthan during March. Rajasthan also shows a similar pattern as MP, barring the irregular march spurt similar to UP.

DISCUSSIONS AND CONCLUSIONS : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

This study reveals a very distinct and uniform seasonal pattern of childbirth in most regions of the country based on monthly birth record data at a large canvas and a granular level provided by the HMIS. Regional variations can be seen between the northern and southern parts of India as well as the western and eastern parts. A dominant peak during August–September and a dip during February–April were prominent in North India, whereas a more evenly distributed pattern with low standard deviation was visible in the southern region. Within the southern states also, seasonal variation is displayed. The amplitude of the peaks gets attenuated as we move from the north-western direction to the south-eastern direction. In the north-eastern states, a pattern of birth peaks shifting towards the later part of the year by a month or two is noted.

The steady and significant seasonal pattern having a birth peak during August–September and a steady dip towards February and March can be characterized as the northern agrarian pattern. This pattern is widely visible in the northern and central zones of the country, covering a contiguous belt comprising Punjab, Haryana, UP, MP, and Rajasthan. The four BIMARU states, that is, Bihar, MP, Rajasthan, and UP, also conform to the Punjab pattern, although, in Bihar, the dip prolongs from October to June, with a sharp peak again in August. The upward kink observed in UP and Rajasthan during March may have more to do with the administrative reporting formalities than an actual increase in birth. This will merit a closer scrutiny though. A previous cohort in Haryana with 35,244 childbirths recorded for 19 years (1972–90) also reported the maximum number of childbirths during August–September and the least in April.

FUTURE SCOPE : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

It is interesting to note the strong similarity in the urban and rural patterns. Whether the urban peaks are influenced due to rural clients availing of the urban health facilities is a matter of separate inquiry, and for this, we may need to look at the urban data more carefully and granularly.

It may also be worthwhile to see the variation in the patterns across natural regions. The 88 natural regions of the National Sample Survey provide a more homogeneous aggregation than the administrative boundaries of the states (MoHFW 2019). It stands to reason that the pattern in Konkan and Vidarbha is likely to differ, just as that between western and eastern UP. This will be a separate follow-up exercise to this analysis. Another interesting dimension could be those of the coastal districts. We prima facie expect the fluctuations to become less pronounced compared to those in the northern agrarian pattern.

A similar analysis of a state-level pattern with districts as a unit will be taken up to study the childbirth seasonal variation at the district level for more effective management at the local level. However, we are aware that the statistical fluctuations in the number of births reported at the district levels are likely to be higher as the number of births reduce.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Conclusions

The interest in seasonal variations in births and deaths has been a matter of academic and policy inquiry for quite a while now. We notice distinct seasonal childbirth patterns in India through different dips, peaks, and magnitude that differ in different parts of the country. We see a shift in the patterns from those revealed in the earlier literature. This is understandable as the patterns of agriculture, migration, and shift from farm

sector to other sectors have taken place. Nevertheless, there is a dominant pattern that we may term as the northern agricultural pattern. As we move from the north-western region towards the southern and eastern regions, the August–September birth peak shifts towards October–November. These are, incidentally, regions of more moderate climate and also have different cropping patterns. The steady decline from the winter peak to the dip until February–March seems, however, to be a common feature across most regions. Identification of peak and lean months of childbirth in different states will help the local administration to improve and prioritize the delivery of maternal and child services and family planning facilities.

Ritu

Significance of Art Museum Pradhan Mantri Sangrahalaya : An Analysis in special reference to promoting Art , Democracy and glorified history

SIGNIFICANCE OF ART MUSEUM PRADHAN MANTRI SANGRAHALAYA – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Context : Our honorable prime minister Shri Narendra Modi Inaugurated the Pradhan Mantri Sangrahalaya on the grounds of Teen Murti House in New Delhi on April 14. This new museum would be helpful for youth regarding the values and the expansion of constitutional government since Independence.

Today Current Affairs

Introduction

On the ground of Teen Murti Bhavan , a Pradhan Mantri Sangrahalaya has been constructed . The objective of this Art museum is not only exposing the art and architecture but also to make our youth aware with our dignified culture and values of the constitution and the freedom struggle . definitely this would be helpful to unify us psychologically and emotionally .

This new museum on Raisina Hill will open by 2026 and through this new museum different aspects of India or Bharat that always existed in a cultural and spiritual sense would be demonstrated . The values prompting our nationhood would also be displayed in this museum. However there has been another museum for long time at Janpath which would be dismantled and most of its collections shifted to a storage facility. The specific feature of this museum would be that this museum would not be haunted by the specters of a colonial past and is able to meet a basic obligation and this would promote the democratic values among the people of India

ART AND ARCHITECTURE OF THIS MUSEUM : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Just like the Louvre Museum in Paris , the architecture of this museum would be a mixture of Indian architecture and modern architecture . Just like the museum of Paris , the values of the freedom struggle would be painted and shown to the public . This museum would inspire a new national consciousness by using its palatial halls to showcase the aesthetic, social, and scientific achievements of the Indian people. This model of the architecture of the museum has been followed by many developing countries . After

decolonization, museums along western lines were built in newly independent countries to bolster their national narratives.

- Therefore, here, the museum of Raisina hill would also be on the same line of the Parisian museum. The primary purpose of the museum would be to encourage patriotism and showcase triumphalism. This museum should acknowledge the diversity of the culture in India. We are a very rich nation in our cultural diversity. However there are some culture conflicts which have been seen in recent days but the objective of this museum is to create the sense of unity in such diversified culture. Democracy is the key element of nationalism. Therefore democracy should be promoted in this museum. But It should be very well understood that democracy should not be converted into a mere numbers game and only for the majority. The Hindu Analysis
- The new museum may aspire toward these goals to display the entire collection of the National Museum. If it is not possible at least irreplaceable antiquities which are not subjected to excess heat, cold drafts, humidity, and harsh light should be displayed here. However this would be a challenging task. It should be executed very carefully. It can allow the institution to begin dismantling hierarchies that have privileged certain objects as masterpieces and relegated others as lesser works and copies.
- In this way This new museum would show accountability and transparency also. The meaning of any artifacts is fixed. their meaning, change time to time. Therefore, the maximum artifacts of the national museum should be protected and try to be reinstalled here in the new museum. Some public buildings should also be there in the new museum to show that the public could feel their attachment with this building. Auditoria, courtyards, concert halls, and cafes can foster quietude and spark conversation. Today Current Affairs
- Through the coordination with other institutes of India and abroad, the museum would be helpful for the visitor's regarding the information of Indian and world history.

THERE WOULD BE SIX GALLERIES DESCRIBING ABOUT THE VARIOUS DIMENSIONS OF THE INDIAN CULTURE : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- One gallery would be related to ancient Indian culture and It would make us aware of our international relation in ancient India.
- Second gallery would be demonstrating the glorified political culture of India. In this Achaemenid Persepolis and Mauryan Pataliputra can be placed.
- The third gallery would be related to the great coinage of India. With the help of the numismatists of the India, the coins of the Kushana period to Gupta period, would be displayed here
- Fourth gallery would interpret the commercial relationship of the Gujrat and the Africa. The Hindu Analysis
- Fifth and sixth galleries would be explaining the glorified ancient art. In the gift gallery microarchitectural ensembles and leather puppets to reconstruct flows across the Bay of Bengal, and along pathways extending in an arc from the Deccan to the Arakan.
- While in the sixth gallery miniature paintings would be displayed of the period of Mughal, Safavid and Ottoman Empires. And so on. In future there is the possibilities of the construction of the Laboratory

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Conclusion

India has been very rich in our art and architecture in the world. We are the country of the most diversified culture where each culture is one of the oldest cultures of the world. one and fundamental characteristic

of Indian culture is its pacific nature, non violence . The museum would be definitely helpful regarding carving of our ancient dignified culture as well as it would be helpful to demonstrate the value of the freedom struggle . definitely the democratic value system would also be promoted through the new museum of India

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

