



CURRENT AFFAIRS JUNE 2022



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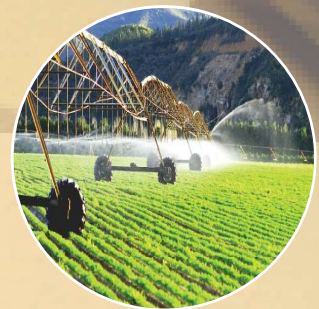
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Sedition

Sedition – Today Current Affairs

The Supreme Court has suspended the operation of the sedition provision, Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code while allowing the government to reconsider the British-era law.

Today Current Affairs

What is the sedition law?

Thomas Macaulay, who drafted the Indian Penal Code, had included the law on sedition, but it was not added in the code enacted in 1860.

In 1890, sedition was included as an offence under section 124A IPC through the Special Act XVII. The Hindu Analysis

Under it, whoever brings or attempts to bring hatred or contempt, or excites or attempts to excite disaffection towards the Government established by law in India shall be punished.

The provision was extensively used to curb political dissent during the Independence movement. The Hindu Analysis

Several pre-independence cases involving Section 124A of the IPC includes Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Annie Besant, Shaukat and Mohammad Ali, Maulana Azad and Mahatma Gandhi.

What are the legal challenges to IPC Section 124A? The Hindu Analysis

The Supreme Court in *Romesh Thapar v State of Madras* held that criticism of the government is not a justifying ground for restricting the freedom of expression and of the press, unless it undermines the security of or tends to overthrow the state.

The Punjab and Haryana High Court in *Tara Singh Gopi Chand v. The State* (1951), and the

Allahabad High Court in Ram Nandan v. State of Uttar Pradesh (1959) declared the provision unconstitutional.

However, the Supreme Court in Kedarnath Singh v State of Bihar(1962) upheld the constitutional validity of IPC Section 124A.

IT ALSO ATTEMPTED TO RESTRICT ITS SCOPE FOR MISUSE. THE HINDU ANALYSIS

So, unless accompanied by an incitement or call for violence, criticism of the government cannot be labelled 'sedition'.

Seven principles in the Kedar Nath Singh ruling specify situations in which the charge of sedition cannot be applied.

The ruling in Balwant Singh v. State of Punjab (1995), reiterated that the real intent of the speech must be taken into account before labelling it seditious.

In Dr. Vinayak Binayak Sen v. State of Chhattisgarh (2011), the court held that a person can be convicted for sedition if she is not the author of the seditious speech but has merely circulated it. The Hindu Analysis

In 2016, in Arun Jaitley v State of Uttar Pradesh, the Allahabad High Court held that criticism of the judiciary or a court ruling would not amount to sedition.

In Vinod Dua v Union of India, the SC quashed FIRs with charges of sedition against the journalist for criticising Prime Minister's handling of the Covid-19 crisis and cautioned against unlawful application of the provision.

The reports of the Law Commission of India and even the Supreme Court have underlined the rampant misuse of the sedition law.

Countries such as the United Kingdom, Australia and Singapore have repealed their sedition law.

WHAT DO THE DATA ON SEDITION CASES REVEAL? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) has started compiling data on sedition since 2014 and 399 sedition cases have been filed across the country, including a high of 93 in 2019, and 73 in 2020. The Hindu Analysis

The conviction rate in cases filed under the sedition law has fluctuated between 3% and 33% over the years, and the pendency of such cases in court reached a high of 95% in 2020.

The chargesheeting rate of police too has been low.

As many as 23 cases were found to be false or a mistake of law and 58 were closed for lack of evidence. The Hindu Analysis

Pendency of cases with police rose from 72% in 2016 to 82% in 2020.

In 2019, when the highest number of sedition cases were registered in the country, Karnataka had the most at 22, followed by Assam, J&K, Uttar Pradesh and Nagaland.

WHAT DOES THE CURRENT MOVE OF THE SUPREME COURT SIGNIFY? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The Union government has said that it has decided to re-examine and reconsider the provision as part of the Prime Minister's efforts to scrap outdated laws and compliance burdens. The Hindu Analysis

This has given hope for the Court to expect that the government will refrain from registering any fresh case of sedition or any investigation.

The Court's move has given liberty to the people to approach the courts if any fresh case is registered for sedition.

Courts have pointed out that the police authorities are not heeding the limitation imposed by a 1962 Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court on what constitutes sedition. The Hindu Analysis

In practice, the police have been using the broad definition of sedition to book anyone who criticised the Government in strong language.

UNDERTRIALS BOOKED UNDER SECTION 124A CAN NOW USE THE ORDER TO SEEK BAIL.

The court's interim order balances security interests and integrity of the state on one hand, and the civil liberties of citizens on the other.

Anshum Verma

IMF's SDR basket: An Analysis

IMF's SDR BASKET – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

CONTENT

WHAT ARE SPECIAL DRAWING RIGHTS (SDRs)?

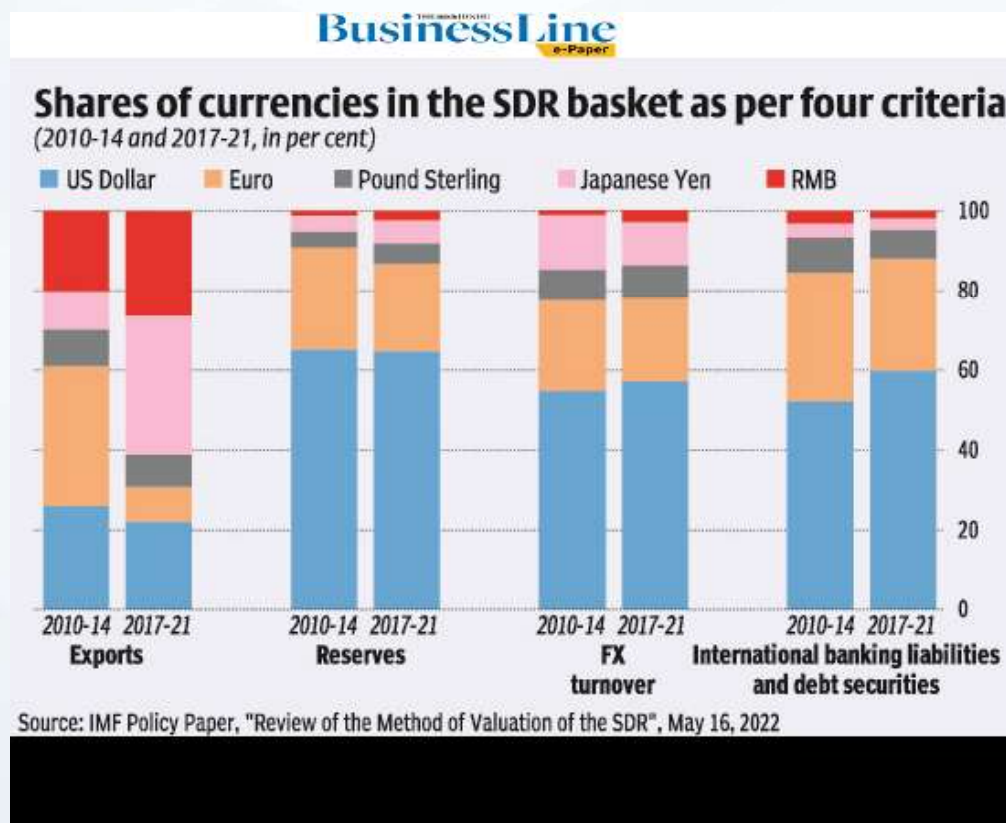
- SDR is an international reserve asset created by the IMF to “supplement the official reserves of its member countries”. SDRs augment international liquidity by supplementing the standard reserve currencies. SDR basket represents the relative importance of each of the currencies as a reserve asset. The composition of SDR has

been dynamic and undergone revision every five years.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

ALLOCATION OF SPECIAL DRAWING RIGHTS (SDRs)

- The weights of different currencies in the SDR basket are determined by a formula involving four factors for a currency. These are: (i) volume of exports in that currency; (ii) forex reserve holdings denominated in that currency; (iii) foreign exchange turnover of that currency; and (iv) sum of international banking liabilities and debt securities denominated in that currency. While 50 per cent weightage is given to the value of exports, each of the other three financial indicators gets a weightage of 1/6. The stronger a country's economy, the higher quota shares it has. The more quota shares that a country has, the more it pays into the IMF, which comes with greater voting power.



- After SDRs have been allocated to each country, they have a few options on how they can manage them. They can hold the allocated SDRs as part of their foreign exchange reserves, sell their reserves, or use their reserves. For example, a member country can exchange an SDR for a freely usable currency. The Hindu Analysis
- Members can also use SDRs for other reasons, such as the repayment of loans, payments

of obligations, pledges, the payment of interest on loans, or paying for increases in quota amounts

Weights of the different currencies in SDR

(% of total)

Currency	2011 review	2016 review	2022 review
US Dollar	41.9	41.7	43.4
Euro	37.4	30.9	29.3
Japanese Yen	9.4	8.3	7.6
Pound Sterling	11.3	8.1	7.4
Chinese RMB	-	10.9	12.3
Total	100	100	100

Source: IMF website (www.imf.org)

- More recently, on May 14, the IMF announced that an updated basket with new currency weights that will come into effect on August 1. Based on data for the five-year period 2017-21, the updated basket assigns higher weights for the US dollar and the Chinese RMB, while that for the pound, the euro, and the yen have been reduced (Table). The RMB is now the third most important currency in the IMF's SDR basket — next to the US dollar and the euro. As the weights of currencies included in the basket should reflect their relative importance in the world's trading and financial system.

SETTLING CLAIMS WITH SPECIAL DRAWING RIGHTS (SDRs) : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- The SDR isn't regarded as a currency or a claim against the IMF assets. Instead, it is a prospective claim against the freely usable currencies that belong to the IMF member states. The Articles of Agreement of the IMF define a freely usable currency as one that is widely used in international transactions and is frequently traded in foreign exchange markets.
- The IMF member states that hold SDRs can exchange them for freely usable currencies by either agreeing among themselves to voluntary swaps or by the IMF instructing

countries with stronger economies or larger foreign currency reserves to buy SDRs from the less-endowed members.¹⁰ IMF member countries can borrow SDRs from reserves at favorable interest rates, mostly to adjust their balance of payment to favorable positions.

INTEREST RATES ON SPECIAL DRAWING RIGHTS (SDRs) : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- The interest rate on SDRs, or the SDRi, provides the basis for calculating the interest rate that is charged to member countries when they borrow from the IMF and paid to members for their remunerated creditor positions in the IMF. It is also the interest paid to member countries on their own SDR holdings and charged on their SDR allocation.
- The SDRi is determined weekly based on a weighted average of representative interest rates on short-term government debt instruments in the money markets of the SDR basket currencies, with a floor of five basis points.

HOW MUCH IS A SPECIAL DRAWING RIGHT WORTH? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- The value or worth of an SDR is calculated daily and is based on the weights of the currencies that make up the SDR basket: U.S. dollar (43.4%), euro (29.3%), Chinese yuan (12.3%), Japanese yen (7.6%), and pound sterling (7.4%). The value of the SDR is arrived at by summing up in U.S. dollars the value of these currencies.

WHY IS AN SDR CALLED PAPER GOLD? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- An SDR is called paper gold because at the time of its creation it was viewed as an asset that could act as a reserve asset that would supplement gold reserves and other currencies, thus the name, paper gold.

Pradeep Kumar

Necessity of the Academic scholars in Judiciary and executive : An analysis

NECESSITY OF THE ACADEMIC SCHOLARS IN JUDICIARY AND EXECUTIVE – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

CONTEXT :

A law professor Arul George Scaria is appointed In a case involving the interpretation of the Copyright Act of 1957 by Justice Prathiba M. Singh of the Delhi High Court . In fact , the high court stated that an expert assistance is needed in this case

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

INTRODUCTION :

Generally , it is seen that professors are only engaged in teaching and research work. In our Judicial system , the expert advice of the professors are highly needed . Not only in Judiciary, in administration, the expert advisory of the professors are also needed. In fact. Professors are experts in their own field and they have a great experience of their specific subjects , so their assistance should be taken for the well being of the society .

Recently this can be seen in the case of the appointment of the law professor Arul George Scaria for the case of interpretation of the Copyright Act of 1957 .This work of the Delhi high court is really commendable and in future our judiciary and the executive should also think to take such decisions in future. The core occupation of a law professor is to teach and push the frontiers of knowledge through research and scholarly engagements. But they have much more to offer provided the system gives them the right opportunities.

SOME EXAMPLE IN WHICH JUDICIARY TOOK HELP OF THE ACADEMICIANS (PROFESSORS) : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

However such examples are very rare . A renowned academician Prof Shamnad Basheer who assisted the Supreme Court as an ‘academic intervenor’ in Novartis v. Union of India (2012).

He was great scholar and had a lot of research experience in the field of intellectual property law

SIMILARLY APARNA CHANDRA AND MRINAL SATISH WERE ALSO APPOINTED AS AMICUS CURIAE BY DELHI HIGH COURTS. THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The great academician Upendra Baxi and Lotika Sarkar also voluntarily intervened in matters of importance, and pressurized Judiciary to consider their advice

On several occasions the honorable supreme court has appointed law professors such as Mool Chand Sharma as Joint Registrar (Research) and Anup Surendra Nath and Daniel Mathew as Deputy Registrars (Research).

In the 1999 aerial incident case involving India and Pakistan, the honorable supreme court appointed V.S. Mani as part of a team that represented India before the International Court of Justice (ICJ)

Law commission has been taking the services of the expert professor for drafting some amendments in the present laws . The Hindu Analysis

There are several examples where the parliamentary committees have invited law professors to depose as expert witnesses in important matters. And also many time executive has also took the service of the law professors

NEGLECTION OF THE ACADEMICIANS : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

But there are several occasions in which expert advice was needed but no effort was made to take expert advice from any professor. The above examples are the result of individual effort. As an institution , Judiciary never raised any step to appoint the professors for the expert advice. The Hindu Analysis

Both the judiciary and the executive have largely ignored India's academic lawyers . The article 124(3)(c) of the Constitution of India states that a 'distinguished jurist' i.e. an illustrious law professor, can be appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court. But up to now , no professor was appointed as the judge of the supreme court. The reason behind this may be a strong lobby of the judges of the Supreme court and political intervention . If we compare our judicial system with America, in American supreme court several professors have been appointed as the judge of the court

For the international law institutions like the appellate body of WTO, ICJ etc., India prefers to send retired judges , some government lawyers or the administrative officers while other

democratic countries send experts / professors in those institutions . however we are having great scholars of the law whose works are internationally acclaimed. The Hindu Analysis

The most surprising thing is that , in the lateral entry process in higher posts of the bureaucracy, the government also ignored the professors . However the lateral entry system was brought to bring experts people in the administration

However , India's constitutional courts appointed experts as amicus curiae but here also, our courts are more dependent on the expertise of the Indian bar. Professors are here also neglected

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

CONCLUSION

As per the above discussion, it can be concluded that the appointment of the professors as the judges of the higher court in India would bring diversity in our judicial process. These expert professors can tackle complex cases easily and after analyzing the laws , they can give some better laws to the country. They can interpret the constitution very well and the most important thing is that the trust or faith in the judiciary would be intact in the sight of the people. Recently it has also been observed that the credibility of the court has reduced in the eyes of the public after several decisions (Like Gyanvapi and the Mathura cases) . Therefore to strengthen our judicial system some experts of the law should also be appointed so the diversified approach in the judiciary could also be evolved.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Need of the Compensation for false cases : A Clear Law must be there

NEED OF THE COMPENSATION FOR FALSE CASES : A CLEAR LAW MUST BE THERE – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

CONTEXT :

- Recently it has been observed that police filed many fake charges because of political compulsion , or for getting fame but finally police could not prove those cases in the court . In such a situation , innocent people have to suffer . They have to face social

humiliation , economic issues . after being proved innocent who would return their days of the trial . Should there not be any law in this regard? In case of the Aryan Khan, the son of famous actor shah Rukh khan , finally he was declared innocent by the court but should he not be entitled to get sufficient compensation for those days when he and his family had to bear the huge social humiliation.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

INTRODUCTION

- There are many false cases reported in the media during the last 2 years where police could not prove the offense in front of the court . There are so many cases of heinous crime in which police failed to prove those cases in front of the court and after the trial of 10-15 years if the accused is declared innocent , who will return to the old days of the accused . How it will be compensated when the accused had to face huge social embarrassment / humiliation, his family had to face humiliation, he/she had to lose his job . how the spoiled career of accused would be returned. The Hindu Analysis
- The Law Commission in its report number 277, titled ‘Wrongful Prosecution (Miscarriage of Justice)’ explained about the false charges . There are two type of false charges , one in which the conviction could not be proved in the lack of sufficient evidence and in other cases, deliberately , the forged case is lodged because of extortion or political compulsion. The second type of the false case is dangerous for the legal system and in such cases compensation must be given

HOW MUCH COMPENSATION SHOULD BE THERE : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- However there is no parameter to calculate the compensation amount whether it should be based on the nature of a false case or it should be based on the career assassination or it should be based on the fame of the accused/victim .
- Another problem is that , in what form compensation should be given and who should bear the cost of the impanation – state or the police who filed false cases intentionally. The Hindu Analysis
- The financial compensation and the restoration the previous job and career would be alternative for of the compensation but how the days which had lost of a victim/ accused because of the false allegation / false cases would be compensated. This is the big question .Our judicial system must take initiative in this regard as soon as possible.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

CONCLUSION

- There are many cases in the news when an accused is proven innocent after a long

trial of several years but the alleged person lost his entire life and career during these days. To compensate such people is very difficult . therefore the government and our judiciary , first ensure the reduction in false cases. There must be a prosecution , who should investigate any cases after the filing of an FIR. The Hindu Analysis

- If the prosecution thinks there is sufficient evidence for the trial then they should go on, otherwise, the prosecution department should stop the police from filing such cases. In every police station , a prosecution officer must be appointed and after the recommendation of the prosecution officer the charges should be framed . and if during the trial if a deliberately false case is found, the investigating officer must be punished. The speed of the trial should be increased in such cases . this is not the responsibility of the judiciary only but this is the responsibility of the executive to take initiative in this regard.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Co-op societies can now procure goods from public procurement portal GeM

CO-OP SOCIETIES CAN NOW PROCURE GOODS FROM PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL GeM – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

CONTEXT

The Union Cabinet expanded the scope of the public procurement portal Government e-Marketplace (GeM) to allow cooperative societies to register as buyers.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

POTENTIAL ADVANTAGES OF THE MOVE : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The decision is expected to help cooperatives in getting competitive prices through an open and transparent process. An official statement said that more than 8,54,000 registered cooperatives and their 270 million members will be benefitted.

“Since the societies have more than 270 million members, procurement through GeM will not only economically benefit the common man, but it would also enhance the credibility of the cooperatives”.

GeM will provide a dedicated onboarding process for cooperatives

Provide the technical infrastructure to support additional users on existing portal

Provide assistance to cooperatives for onboarding and transaction journeys, via available

contact centres, in-field training and other support services

CURRENT PROVISION : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Presently, the registration of cooperatives as “buyers” was not covered within the existing mandate of GeM and was open for procurement by central and state government departments, public sector undertakings (PSUs) and autonomous and local bodies.

While it is still not available for use by private sector buyers, the government, as well as the private sector, can become suppliers.

WHAT IS GeM? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Government e-Marketplace (GeM) is a one stop portal to facilitate online procurement of common use Goods & Services required by various Government Departments / Organizations / PSUs. GeM aims to enhance transparency, efficiency and speed in public procurement. It provides the tools of e-bidding, reverse e-auction and demand aggregation to facilitate the government users achieve the best value for their money. The government had launched GeM five years ago as an end-to-end e-marketplace.

It is a government-to-business platform.

GeM ADVANTAGES FOR BUYERS : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Offers rich listing of products for individual categories of Goods/Services.

Makes available search, compare, select and buy facility.

Enables buying Goods and Services online, as and when required.

Provides transparency and ease of buying.

Ensures continuous vendor rating system.

Up-to-date user-friendly dashboard for buying, monitoring supplies and payments.

Provision of easy return policy.

GeM ADVANTAGES FOR SELLERS : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Direct access to all Government departments.

One-stop shop for marketing with minimal efforts.

One-stop shop for bids / reverse auction on products/services.

New Product Suggestion facility available to Sellers.

Dynamic pricing: Price can be changed based on market conditions.

Seller friendly dashboard for selling, and monitoring of supplies and payments.

Consistent and uniform purchase procedures.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS TO UTILIZE THE GeM PORTAL? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

For Using GeM portal first a Primary User needs to register on GeM portal. Requirement of Registration on GeM are as follows:

Aadhaar number of the user

Mobile number which is linked with Aadhaar

Email ID ending with gov.in/nic.in/gembuyer.in

Verifying authority details such as name, mobile number and email ID ending with gov.in/nic.in.

GOODS UP TO WHAT VALUE CAN BE PURCHASED ON GeM? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The GeM portal shall be utilized by the Government buyers for direct on-line purchases as under :

Up to Rs.25,000/- through any of the available suppliers on the GeM, meeting the requisite quality, specification and delivery period. The procuring authorities will certify the reasonability of rates.

Above Rs.25,001/- and up to Rs.5,00,000/- through the GeM Seller having lowest price amongst the available sellers, of at least three different manufacturers, on GeM, meeting the requisite quality, specification and delivery period. The tools for online bidding and online reverse auction available on GeM can be used by the Buyer if decided by the competent authority. The procuring authorities will certify the reasonability of rates. Above Rs.5,00,000/- through the supplier having lowest price meeting the requisite quality, specification and delivery period after mandatorily obtaining bids, using online bidding or reverse auction tool provided on GeM. The procuring authorities will certify the reasonability of rates.

HOW TO MAKE PURCHASE ON GeM? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Buyer to login to GeM portal. Select and cart the product as per the requirement through application of various filters. Buyers should apply filters carefully to define their requirement without adversely affecting competitiveness.

Create demand — Generate Sanction order — Generate contract. Once order is placed, Seller to deliver the Goods/ Services to consignee within stipulated delivery date and generate on-

line invoice on GeM portal. Consignee to login after receipt of Items. Generation of Provisional receipt Certificate (PRC) within 48 hrs of receipt of stores. Generation of Consignee Receipt and Acceptance Certificate (CRAC) within 10 days of receipt of stores.

Bill processing by buyer (within 2 days of generation of CRAC by consignee) — Bill to be forwarded to PFMS by DDO within 1 day of on-line receipt of bill from Buyer against e-signed Consignee's Receipt and Acceptance Certificate (CRAC) (In case of central government organizations paying through PFMS) — Payment to be made by PAO from PFMS within 2 days of receipt of bill from DDO (total time limit for payment is 10 days from date of generation of CRAC). Or Buyer to forward all documents for payment to Paying Authority and Payment to be released by Paying Authority / PAO within 10 days of generation of Consignee's Receipt (In case of users paying through SBI e-pay or Other mode of Payment.)

HOW TO SELL ON GeM? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

To sell on GeM, Registration on the GeM portal is needed.

List the products under specific product categories.

Once an order is received, deliver the product to the Consignee duly entering its details on the portal.

Once an order is successfully delivered, Consignee shall inspect / test the product for its conformity with contract specifications and issue acceptance / rejection through on-line CRAC.

After CRAC, buyer will process the bill and forward to paying authority for time bound payments.

Pradeep Kumar

A need of Free Qualitative Higher Education in India

A NEED OF FREE QUALITATIVE HIGHER EDUCATION IN INDIA – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

- Context : For the development of any country, health and education are the two important pillars . But in India , higher education could not be accessed up to the marginalized people even after 75 years of India's freedom . The Government , Alumni and corporate

sector can jointly work in the direction of qualitative higher education .

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

INTRODUCTION :

- Now, India's talents are spreading everywhere in the world. World knows this fact, only those countries would lead the world who would have good research works. Therefore our country should also focus on qualitative higher education . simultaneously this qualitative education must be under the approach of the common people . There are many private universities and higher educational institutes but the tuition fees of these institutions are too much high so they deprive all marginalized and poor people from qualitative education . The government institutions are very less in number where the admission procedure is very tough and only rich students who can afford the high fees of coaching institutes for getting admission in these institutes , get admission in these institutes . However the fees of the government institutions are also raised (Like IIT, IIMs, and AIIMS)
- The private institutions are not open for the social services. These are the business models of the big industrialist. They earn from these educational institutes. However , In America , one of the medical institutions announced in the last days to bear all the tuition fees of the students . However , American people are capable of paying the fees. Such types of initiatives are required in our countries also
- In India the burden of tuition fees in professional courses is too high and it is very difficult to bear by the middle class and lower middle class family (If we leave the marginalized people). Therefore , some private institutes reduce their quality of education to reduce the fees of the students . This is another issue . The government of India should look after in this regard. The Hindu Analysis
- However the government claims that the provision of the education loan is there after the government collateral guarantee but this is not the solution . After completion of the education , for half of the life students had to repay the loan .What we need is a university system that fosters an environment of learning in which world-quality education can be provided without taxing learners with the burden of tuition fees.

THE NORDIC MODEL : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- There are several Nordic countries who provide qualitative higher education with low fees or free of the tuition fees not only to the students of their own countries but also the overseas students .(The Nordic countries are a geographical and cultural region in Northern Europe and the North Atlantic. It includes the sovereign states of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden; the autonomous territories of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) In Denmark, however, tuition fees were introduced for international students from outside the European Union and the European Economic Area, in 2006.

Sweden followed suit in 2011. Only Finland, Norway, Iceland, and Germany do not charge international students tuition fees.. This is a very surprising thing and We are not able to provide qualitative higher education to our own students . Nowadays the Nordic model should be adopted by the government of India also.

- However , many of the citizens of these countries are pressuring their government not to waive off the tuition fees for the overseas students , but the government argued that these foreigner students are the sources of the forex also. This is the reason that these countries remained on top of the world happiness index (Finland at No.1, Denmark at No. 2, Iceland at No.4, Norway at No.8 and Germany at No.14, as per the World Happiness Index 2022).

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

CONCLUSION

- Education is a sacred service of the nation . our industrialists should come forward in this regard. They should invest their money for the service of education . They should open their institutes of technical and professional courses without any tuition fees and the students after graduating from these institutes should be bound to work for these institutes (Such type of the contract should be made). In this way our capitalist class will come forward to invest in higher education also.
- Government of India and the state government should also invest maximum possible money in the qualitative educational institutes because this would be the investment which would give the return in future and the country would be strong because of such investment.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Windfall tax: An analysis

WINDFALL TAX – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

CONTEXT:

- Crude oil price is rising. As the burden on people's pocket is increasing, experts are suggesting one-time 'windfall tax' on companies that have profited from the price rise.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

WHAT IS A WINDFALL TAX?

- A windfall tax is a tax levied by governments against certain industries when economic conditions allow those industries to experience above-average profits. Windfall taxes are primarily levied on companies in the targeted industry that have benefited the most from the economic windfall, most often commodity-based businesses.

HOW WINDFALL TAXES WORK? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Keeping in view of all tax schemes proposed and implemented by the government, there lies a rift between those are for and against the tax schemes. The merit of a windfall tax is that the taxed funds can be used by the governments to maintain the state of the economy and fight several glaring social causes.
- On the other hand, those who oppose such taxes reduce the business interest to reap profits. They also are of the view that such profits should be reinvested by business entities to encourage scientific and business development, which in some way will empower the social status of the country and its regions.
- Windfall taxes are levied with the objective of tax companies to bring down the general price levels of goods and services so that it benefits the end consumer. The policy of the government may backfire as it may lower the investment by private sector companies as it may hit their after-tax profits (PAT which in turn would affect their bottom line and jeopardize their survival in the market. The Hindu Analysis
- Windfall taxes also relates to individual and non-corporate entities who suddenly see a surge in their income levels by receiving a large corpus of wealth from gifts, inheritance, the game of chance, gambling or lottery winnings. In many a case, inheritance, gifts from friends or relatives are tax exempt
- in the hands of the recipient. However, central or regional taxes may be levied on the giver of such inheritance. Income from winnings from lottery and gambling is charged to tax either in the hands of the recipient or the giver of such income.

BENEFITS OF WINDFALL TAX : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- The most certain benefit of windfall taxes is that it boosts government revenues. It enables them to substantially provide public services and other benefits to the citizens of the country like building civil infrastructure, health facilities, sanitation, and also building the nation's military strength.
- The additional funds raised through this tax can service the debts by the countries to various global financial institutions and may bolster the national economy. However, it may also act as a disincentive to companies.
- If companies become aware that windfall gains will be taxed, they may not seek out

such profits with innovative business plans. A part of these receipts has to be parked in a personal contingency fund in bank fixed deposits.

- The beneficiary of windfall gains can repay interest-bearing consumer or car loans, in which case the asset depreciates to lower than the loan outstanding. The other part of windfall gains can be used to repay housing loans to bring down interest costs and EMI's. The Hindu Analysis
- The other viable option can be to invest the windfall proceeds in gold deposits. One part of the corpus can be given to a charitable organization of repute who is catering to the cause of education or health or child welfare. The donations made to charitable causes can be used to claim deductions from 50% to 100% from the income liable to tax.

DRAWBACKS OF WINDFALL TAX : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- The economic impact of windfall taxation should lead to its immediate rejection. Firstly, such an arbitrary taxation system would increase the risks of investing. As a result, investors will demand a higher return on their investments, or they may choose to stop investing altogether.
- These taxes may reduce the dividend payout to investors investing in oil-producing companies. These companies are not owned by cash-rich investors but by pension funds. The Hindu Analysis
- and insurance companies. Finally, it would reduce the funds available for investment in sources of fuel, thereby spiking the energy costs. Windfall tax may affect people it was created to help and reduce long term tax income.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

CONCLUSION:

- Windfall taxes provide a good source of revenue to the government as it follows the principle that those who have earned a surplus through windfalls to be taxed and also discouraging businesses of the lottery, gambling, horse racing, etc. It affects the companies which earn huge profits in the business of oil and gas as they have lesser income in the form of dividends to be distributed to its investors.

Pradeep Kumar



CURRENT AFFAIRS

JUNE 2022

Why are FPIs dumping Indian stocks?

CONTEXT

Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have been on a selling spree in India. May figures of about Rs. 44,000 crore formed the highest monthly quantum of sell-off since March 2020 when India announced a nationwide lockdown. Last month was also the eighth on the trot that FPIs had sold net of their assets — i.e., sold more than they had purchased.

Their selling actions have triggered a significant decline in benchmark indices resulting in a drop in market capitalisation of companies.

WHAT ARE FPIs?

Foreign portfolio investors are those that invest funds in markets outside of their home turf. Their investments typically include equities, bonds and mutual funds exchange-traded funds. They are generally not active shareholders and do not exert any control over the companies whose shares they hold. The passive nature of their investment also allows them to enter or exit a stock at will and with ease.

WHAT FACTORS SPUR FPI MOVES?

Promise of attractive returns on the back of economic growth draws investors including FPIs into a country's markets. For example, as per data from the National Securities Depositories Ltd. (NDSL), FPIs brought in about Rs. 3,682 crore in 2002. This grew to Rs. 1.79 lakh crore in 2010. This correlates with the concurrent expansion of economic output in that period, despite the 2008 global financial crisis. The year 2017 saw FPI inflows exceed Rs. 2 lakh crore.

FPIs also show keenness to invest in bonds when there is a favorable differential between the

real interest rates on offer in the country they aim to invest in, and other markets, but more specifically, compared with the largest economy in the world, the U.S.

WHY HAVE FPIs BEEN SELLING INDIA HOLDINGS?

Post-pandemic, recovery in the Indian economy has been uneven. The second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021 devastated lives and livelihoods. The economy stuttered again when a third, albeit less severe, wave saw the spread of the Omicron variant early this year.

Add to this the return of pent-up demand in economies worldwide as the pandemic subsided. The pace of recovery caught suppliers off guard, contributing to supply-side shortages.

Even as industry was grappling with this challenge, Russia launched an attack on Ukraine. Sunflower oil and wheat supplies, from these two nations were impacted, leading to a rise in global prices for these crops. As supplies in general tightened across the globe, commodity prices too rose and overall inflation accelerated.

If inflation quickens in the overseas market where the investor has placed funds, then the real returns are even further impacted. They then tend to exit assets seen as 'risky' such as in emerging markets like India, Brazil or South Africa.

With each of these factors contributing to a decline in confidence of robust economic performance, foreign portfolio investors have been reducing market investments over these past months. FPIs sold assets worth Rs. 44,000 crore in May 2022. This is the second highest sell-off in a month since 1993, after March 2020.

WHAT IMPACT DOES AN FPI SELL-OFF HAVE?

When FPIs sell their holdings and repatriate funds back to their home markets, the local currency takes a beating. After all, they sell rupees in exchange for their home market currency. As supply of the rupee in the market rises, its value declines.

With a weaker rupee, we have to shell out more funds to import the same unit of goods. The most telling impact is on the cost of our crude oil imports that contribute to 85% of our oil needs.

CATEGORIES OF FPI (FOR INVESTMENTS IN INDIA)

Earlier, FPI was divided into three categories, on the basis of their risk profile.

Category I or low-risk: This kind of FPI includes government/government-related establishments like central banks and international agencies among others. An example could be a sovereign wealth fund or an SWF which is a fund owned by the state or its divisions.

Category II or moderate-risk: This includes mutual funds, insurance firms, banks, and pension funds among others.

Category III or high-risk: This type of foreign portfolio investment includes all other FPIs that don't fall into the first two categories. They could include charitable organizations such as trusts or societies, endowments or trusts among others.

However, as per a new notification in the second half of 2019, SEBI has sought to reclassify the categories and simplify norms. Accordingly, FPIs would come under two categories. All those entities or funds that were earlier registered as Category III are now Category II, accordingly, and Category I is a mix of the earlier Category I and II.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF FOREIGN PORTFOLIO INVESTMENT?

Foreign portfolio investments boost demand for the stock of companies and help them when it comes to raising capital at low costs.

The presence of FPI would mean a significant rise in the depth of the secondary market.

From the investor's perspective, it helps an investor add more diversity to their investments and benefit from such a diversification.

Investors can also gain benefits from exchange rate changes.

Overseas markets provide investors a chance to a bigger market that may also sometimes not be as competitive as their home market. This means they benefit from the lower competition in a foreign country.

A huge advantage of FPI is that it is liquid, ensuring that the investor is empowered and can move fast when there are good opportunities.

WHAT ARE THE DISADVANTAGES OF FOREIGN PORTFOLIO INVESTMENT?

To the country receiving FPI, i.e., the host, the unpredictability of such investments would mean a constant shift between markets over short periods. This gives rise to some amount of volatility.

A sudden withdrawal of FPI could make an impact on the exchange rate. FPI may be risky at certain occasions, i.e., when there is political instability in a country.

Pradeep Kumar

THE FERTILISERS CHALLENGE

THE FERTILISERS CHALLENGE – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Ahead of kharif sowing, India faces the challenge of meeting its requirement of fertilisers, supply of which has been disrupted in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

HOW HAVE THE PANDEMIC AND THE WAR IMPACTED THE SUPPLY OF FERTILISERS?

- The pandemic has impacted the fertiliser production, import and transportation across the world.
- Major fertiliser exporters such as China have gradually reduced their exports which has impacted countries such as India, which sources 40-45% of its phosphatic imports from China.
- There has been a surge in demand in regions like Europe, America, Brazil and Southeast Asia but the supply side has faced constraints.

HOW IS FERTILISER REQUIREMENT DETERMINED IN INDIA? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- The kharif season requires a sizable quantity of fertiliser as it accounts for almost half the year's production of foodgrains, one-third of pulses and about two-thirds of oilseeds.
- Determination of fertiliser requirement- Every year, before the start of the cropping season, the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare assesses the requirement of fertilisers. The Hindu Analysis
- It then informs the Ministry of Chemical and Fertilisers to ensure the supply.
- The requirement varies each month according to demand, which is based on the time of crop sowing, which again varies from region to region.
- The government uses the two months (March and April) to ensure the supply of fertilisers for the kharif season.
- As per data, the opening stock of fertiliser available for the kharif season is 125.5 LMT, or 35% of the requirement.
- Domestic production- Theoretically, the opening stock and the expected domestic production would be sufficient to meet the requirement.
- However, the war in Ukraine has disrupted the supply of raw materials that Indian companies import, which is expected to impact domestic production.

HOW HAVE THE DISRUPTIONS IN SUPPLY IMPACTED PRICES? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- There has been a steady increase in prices of raw material as well as logistics and freight costs in recent months.
- The disruption in the logistics chain during Covid has caused the average freight rates for ships to jump up to four times.
- The prices of fertilizers such as DAP and urea, and raw materials such as ammonia and

phosphatidic acid, have risen up to 250-300%. The Hindu Analysis

- India depends on imports for potash for manufacturing fertilizers but the sanctions on Belarus and Russia have raised the international prices of potash.
- The government is exploring the option of domestically mining raw materials such as rock phosphate.

HOW IS THE GOVERNMENT AUGMENTING FERTILISER SUPPLY? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Price control: In efforts at price control, the government has increased the Nutrients Based Subsidy (NBS) rates for kharif 2022.

The total fertiliser subsidy bill is expected to reach Rs 2.5 lakh crore this financial year, up from Rs 1.62 crore in the revised estimates for the previous fiscal.

Ramping up the production:-India has entered into a C2C (corporation to corporation) supply arrangement with Russian companies for 3 years.

India has made efforts to secure fertiliser supply from alternative sources such as Saudi Arabia and Iran. The Hindu Analysis

For domestic production of urea, the government is focusing on the Matix (West Bengal), Ramagundam (Telangana) and Gorakhpur (UP) plants, and is reviving two other units.

India has also signed a long-term supply deal with Oman to get 10 LMT of urea per year. The Hindu Analysis

Directive to states: The Centre has asked the states to ensure micro-planning of fertiliser movement as per requirement.

It has asked them to promote use of alternative fertilisers such as nano urea, and to take strict action against diversion, hoarding and black marketing of fertilisers.

Anshum Verma

Irresponsible communal remarks by official spokesperson of ruling party : An analysis in context to the global outrage

IRRESPONSIBLE COMMUNAL REMARKS BY OFFICIAL SPOKESPERSON OF RULING PARTY – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Context : recently the spokesperson of the ruling party Bhartiya Janta Party remarked against the prophet Muhammad Sahab during live debate on a news channel . However The

government of India has detached itself from such statement and declared that the statement of the party spokesperson does not reflect the view of government of India

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

INTRODUCTION :

- Recently the spirit of communalism has been continuously increasing for several months and this is a big threat for the unity and integrity of India . Recently , an official spokesperson of the BJP, a ruling political party gave a statement against the prophet Muhammad Shab. However , Indian Muslims showed the spirit of communal harmony but the agitation against this statement erupted in the Islamic countries of the world , mainly gulf countries. The Hindu Analysis
- We are not isolated country . In the era of Globalization, we can not survive isolated .The image of India has been the image of a secular country in the world for thousands of years. Various types of religions had flourished on the land of the Indian subcontinent. The spirit of secularism is the fundament of Indian culture and the Indian constitution is committed towards its secular nature. But these irresponsible persons of India damage the secular image of India in front of the world. We should opt some measures to stop such incidents in future

THE MEASURES WHICH WE SHOULD OPT TO PREVENT US FROM BEING HUMILIATED IN FRONT OF THE WORLD : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- The Government of India should clearly declare that the statements of any political party should not be understood as the view of the government . And no political party has right the view of the government on the media channel . Only recognized officers of the government should allow to put the views of the government
- Media Channels should be restricted from such type of debates based on the communal conflict . The Hindu Analysis
- The organizations of such debate to promote of the communal conflicts must be strictly prohibited
- No debate should be organized on the issue of international politics by the media channels. If such debate is organized ,prior declaration should be mandatory declaring the detachment of the government from such debate
- All the issues related to communal violence or communal conflicts should not be spread on media channels only for the TRP. The Hindu Analysis
- Every accused , whether the accused is related to ruling party or not , if fade the secular image of India in front of the world , must be judicially punished

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

CONCLUSION

As per the above discussion it can be concluded that we had to face the situation of humiliation in front of the world because of one party's spokesperson. However the spokesperson does not reflect the views of the Country . India is a secular country and secularism is not achieved in one or two decades . Secularism has been the fundamental characteristic of Indian culture for a long time and we have been maintaining friendly relations with the other countries of the world for thousands of years . Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam is the spirit of India . We believed in the welfare of human beings irrespective of the country, religion and race . We always respected the diversified religion belief system also. Hundreds of the belief system and the ideologies have flourished on the land of India and if because of the some people of India, some political parties of India and some media channels of India , the name of India fades at international level those must be prohibited . We all the citizens of India should take this responsibility to prevent the name of our beloved country from any defamation because of any act . We should make India pride with our acts .

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

A 'silver' moment to propel a Bay of Bengal dream

A 'SILVER' MOMENT TO PROPEL A BAY OF BENGAL DREAM – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

CONTEXT

June 6 marked the completion of 25 years since the 1997 Bangkok Declaration launched a modest grouping (of Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand), with the acronym, BIST-EC. Three countries (Nepal, Bhutan and Myanmar) joined it later to make it the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC).

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

ABOUT BIMSTEC

The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is a regional organization that was established on 06 June 1997 with the signing of the Bangkok Declaration.

- Initially known as BIST-EC (Bangladesh-India-Sri Lanka-Thailand Economic Cooperation).

- With Myanmar joining on 22 December 1997, the group was renamed BIMST-EC (Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand Economic Cooperation), and with the admission of Nepal and Bhutan during the 6th Ministerial Meeting in Thailand in July 2004, the grouping was renamed during the First Summit in Bangkok on 31 July 2004 as the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC).
- BIMSTEC's institutional evolution has been gradual. Following a decision at the Third BIMSTEC Summit in 2014, the BIMSTEC Secretariat was established in Dhaka, Bangladesh, in that same year, providing an institutionalized framework for deepening and enhancing cooperation.

THE PURPOSES OF BIMSTEC : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Being a sector-driven grouping, cooperation within BIMSTEC had initially focused on six sectors in 1997 (trade, technology, energy, transport, tourism, and fisheries) and expanded in 2008 to incorporate agriculture, public health, poverty alleviation, counter-terrorism, environment, culture, people-to-people contact, and climate change.

Subsequently, following steps to rationalize and reorganize sectors and subsectors, cooperation was reorganized in 2021 under the following sectors and sub-sectors led by the respective Member States:

- Bangladesh: Trade, Investment and Development
- Bhutan: Environment & Climate Change
- India: Security (Sub-sectors: Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime, Disaster Management, Energy)
- Myanmar: Agriculture and Food Security (Sub-sectors: Agriculture, Fisheries & Livestock)
- Nepal: People-to-People Contact (Sub-sectors: Culture, Tourism, People-to-People Contact)
- Sri Lanka: Science, Technology & Innovation (Sri Lanka) (Sub-sectors: Technology, Health, Human Resource Development)
- Thailand: Connectivity

BIMSTEC PRINCIPLES : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Cooperation within the BIMSTEC will be based on respect for the principle of sovereign equality, territorial integrity, political independence, noninterference in internal affairs, non-aggression, peaceful co-existence, mutual respect and mutual benefit.
- Cooperation within the BIMSTEC will be complementary to and not be a substitute for bilateral, sub-regional, regional or multilateral cooperation involving the Member States.



WORKING MECHANISM : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

National Focal Points (NFP) established within the Ministries of External/ Foreign Affairs/ Foreign Relations of each Member State serves as the points of contact for all BIMSTEC related communications and coordination between the BIMSTEC Secretariat and Member States.

BIMSTEC IS A FOUR-TIERED ORGANIZATION : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The Summit comprising the Heads of State or Government of the Member States

The Ministerial Meeting comprising the Ministers dealing with foreign relations of the Member States

The Senior Officials' Meeting consisting of the Foreign Secretaries/ Secretaries/ appropriate Senior officials nominated by the BIMSTEC Member States

The BIMSTEC Permanent Working Committee (BPCW) comprising senior officials of the respective National Focal Points.

SIGNIFICANCE OF BIMSTEC : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The BIMSTEC region hosts 22% of the world population or 1.68 billion people; and the member states have a combined GDP of US\$3.697 trillion/per year.

For India, BIMSTEC aligns with its 'Act East' policy for greater regional cooperation in southeast Asia. It could also be seen as aligning with India's larger goal to gain trade and security prominence in the Indian Ocean region and to cater to the concept of the 'Indo-Pacific' region, a major focus of Quad countries.

A 2021 research series of the Observer Research Foundation indicates what's in it for other member countries to be a part of a grouping focused in the Bay of Bengal. It says that for Bangladesh, BIMSTEC might be a platform to strengthen its much-needed economic

development, while Sri Lanka sees the goal of becoming a hub for shipment in the Indo-Pacific region. For smaller members Nepal and Bhutan — the two landlocked, mountainous states — the grouping serves as a pass to the sea. Lastly, for Myanmar and Thailand, it could be seen as a way to reduce overdependence on China and as an opening to a huge consumer market for its commodities.

In this context, India also made efforts to enhance the pace of BIMSTEC's progress in recent years. The BIMSTEC Energy Centre was set up in Bengaluru, along with the BIMSTEC Business Council, a forum for business organizations to promote regional trade. It aims to create free-trade and power grid interconnectivity agreements, and a masterplan for transport connectivity in the Bay of Bengal region.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

CHALLENGES

The first and major challenge, according to foreign policy researchers is a lack of efficiency and “sluggish” pace of BIMSTEC's progress. The inconsistency in holding policy making and operational meetings was mentioned earlier. BIMSTEC secretariat also suffers from inadequate financial and manpower assistance for its operational activities. Another criticism is India's selective interest in BIMSTEC each time SAARC is hamstrung due to Pakistan.

In recent years, the progress of BIMSTEC has also been underscored by Bangladesh-Myanmar relations over the Rohingya refugee crisis, the India-Nepal border issue, and most recently, the political situation in Myanmar after the military junta took over in February last year. This year's Summit also drew attention due to the participation of Myanmar's Foreign Minister as the country under military rule is seen as a leading violator of human rights in the world.

While all member-states are equal, three have a special responsibility: Bangladesh as the host of the BIMSTEC Secretariat; Thailand as the representative of Southeast Asia; and India as the largest state in South Asia. This trio must be engine to pull the BIMSTEC train with imagination and determination.

Pradeep Kumar

Rights of the Sex Workers : An analysis in special context to Human Rights and Human trafficking

Rights of the Sex Workers : An analysis in special context to Human Rights and Human trafficking – Today Current Affairs

CONTEXT :

Recently the Supreme Court issued an instruction regarding the rights of sex workers in the case of *Budhadev Karmaskar v. State of West Bengal & Ors.* Honorable supreme court stated that sex workers and their children cannot be deprived of their right to live with dignity and human decency.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

INTRODUCTION

For long time , the issue of the rights of sex workers have been raising by several NGOs and in 2011 a panel was constituted by the supreme court regarding the observations of the conditions of the sex workers . However this panel also recommended several suggests to improve the status of the sex workers and the recent instructions given by honorable supreme court in the case of *Budhadev Karmaskar v. State of West Bengal & Ors.* should also been seen in this regard . On the ground of the profession , no person can be deprived from the fundamental rights however the profession is legal and illegal. If the profession is illegal, the person should be punished as per the law but still he/she cannot be deprived of the right to live with dignity.

The panel of 2011 gave 10 recommendations to the government of India; the court directed the government to implement the other six recommendations as well as the provisions of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act (ITPA) of 1956 among these recommendations .

SOME OTHERS RECOMMENDATIONS : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Government should provide medical assistance to sex workers who are victim of sexual harassment
- Adults sex workers should be released if detained
- To make the police and other law enforcement agencies regarding the rights of the sex workers. The Hindu Analysis
- Government should issue proper guideline not to disclose the identity of ny sex workers and the debates on their sexual activities, raid and rescue operations
- Sex workers should also be trained for using the safety measures .
- Government/ police should not not consider health measures that sex workers employ for their safety (such as condoms) as evidence of commission of an offence. The Hindu Analysis
- Government should ensure to provide legal assistance to all sex workers if needed
- Every sex workers should be educate regarding the sexual deceases

- The children of the sex workers should be cared by the government .
- Government should arrange proper education of the children of the sex workers
- However there are several provisions were already existed in Cr.PC regarding the victim of the sexual assault but generally in the case of sex workers police do not take action because police think that this is the profession of sex workers also how they can be victim of sexual assault. The Hindu Analysis
- Actually the proper definition of the sex workers are not maintained in ITPA or any other law even on the ground of age , sex workers are not defined . As per the ITPA (as amended in January 1987), the term prostitution refers to that person who offer her body for the sexual intercourse in return of the money . Therefore because of this reason , the prostitutes are not generally considered as the sexual victim.
- Generally it may be considered that , there is nothing wrong if any person has sexual intercourse with any prostitutes without her wills and if money is paid for that . So there is the need of the definition of the sexual exploitation of the sex workers also . The term consent must be added in this definition. The sexual intercourse should not be allowed with any lady without her consent whether she is the wife, she is the sex worker or any of the person . Consent is related to the dignity of the person

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

CONCLUSION

- As per the above analysis it can be said that , every human being has the human right whether she is prostitutes , or common citizen, transgender etc. Nobody can be deprived of general human rights . Every human has the right to live with dignity and every human being has the right to decide his physical partner .Any person should not be deprived of this right . Sexual intercourse should not be forcefully done even with the wife/husband or transgender or professional sex workers . In sexual intercourse the consents of the both the persons are required. And every human being may be the victim of sexual harassment . we should not think that the professional sexual workers can not be sexually harassed . Therefore , our society should come forward in this matter and definitely the right of every human irrespective to their profession caste, creed, gender, race must be protected.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Construction of a Bridge on Pangong Tso : Is it a violation of international law ? An analysis

CONSTRUCTION OF A BRIDGE ON PANGONG TSO: IS IT A VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW ? AN ANALYSIS – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Context : China is constructing a bridge on Pangong Tso. However China is arguing that its construction of a bridge on Pangong Tso is peaceful but it is in full violation of international law. It is also a futuristic threat for India also .

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

INTRODUCTION :

China is constructing a Bridge on Pangong Tso. India is continuously protesting this act of China however China is arguing that this act is not the threat for India . This act is a peaceful act . But through this bridge China can access the territory of India very easily and another objectionable thing is that the constructing bridge comes in the region of Indian territory

BESIDES THERE ARE SEVERAL OTHER REASONS TO PROTEST AGAINST THIS BRIDGE

- This region played an important role during the India China war of 1962. China surprisingly attacked through this region of India . We should not believe China on her own assurance and explanation . A similar assurance was given by China in 1957 when she built a road through Aksai Chin linking Tibet and Xinjiang. And when India protested . China assured in same way
- If we see the recent activities of China regarding the resolution of border disputes with her neighbors it does not seem that China is ready to respect any international laws on this matter. The Hindu Analysis
- This bridge is in the international boundary and as per the claim of India it is within the territory of India . A portion of that area has been under Chinese control since 1958. And this region has been witness of the Chinese invasion during 1962 as well as the confrontation of India and China in 2017 and 2020 where many soldiers of India had to sacrifice with their life
- The important reason to protest is that This act of China is completely violating International law. It tries to derive its claims on the basis of historic rights to the detriment of the rights of its neighbors, as is the case with its claims in the South China Sea.

ILLEGALITY IN INTERNATIONAL LAW : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

There are several decisions given by the ICJ in the past which are against this act of China .

- it tries to derive its claims on the basis of historic rights to the detriment of the rights of its neighbors, as is the case with its claims in the South China Sea. and as per the international law , no construction should be done in disputed region
- The Permanent Court of Arbitration's Award in the Island of Palmas case noted that only the continuous and peaceful display of territorial sovereignty (peaceful in relation to other States) is as good as a title. India does not accept this act as for peaceful purpose. The Hindu Analysis
- India has neither accepted China's unjustified claims on that portion nor its construction activities. China cannot take the plea that India has acquiesced; that there is an expression of consent by conduct or inaction by India.
- As per the international law , the border dispute should be settled due to mutual negotiations, not with the aggressiveness (Article 2(3) and Article 2(4) of the UN Charter.)

Apart from the above analysis there are some judgments of ICJ given in the past . those are

- China could take plea that it is building a bridge peacefully; and she has to give assurance that this activity of China , would never harm the human being or property . The Hindu Analysis
- In 'Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory', the ICJ examined the inadmissibility of acquisition of territory by force. Court strongly condemned the construction of the wall by force and stated that it is the breach of Article 2(4).
- The ICJ judgment in 'Certain Activities Carried out by Nicaragua in the Border Area' is also important in understanding China's moves. Court stated that the construction of the pipeline and the deployment of troops in Costa Rica by Nicaragua would be seen as the violation of the international law

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

CONCLUSION

- As per the above analysis it can be concluded that the act of china (Construction of the Bridge) is an unlawful act and India should raise the voice against this act in front of the international agencies . However China is assuring that this is a peaceful act but China should not be trustable in this regard we are the victim of such Chinese assurances in past.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

FSSAI's 4th State Food Safety Index

FSSAI's 4TH STATE FOOD SAFETY INDEX – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

CONTEXT

On World Food Safety Day, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya released the 4th State Food Safety Index (SFSI) by FSSAI to measure the performance of States across five parameters of food safety and felicitated the winning State/UTs based on the ranking for the year 2021-22.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

WHAT IS STATE FOOD SAFETY INDEX (SFSI):

FSSAI has developed State Food Safety Index to measure the performance of states on following parameters of Food Safety.

PARAMETERS OF INDEX : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Human Resources and Institutional Data
- Compliance
- Food Testing – Infrastructure and Surveillance
- Training & Capacity Building
- Consumer Empowerment

The Index is a dynamic quantitative and qualitative benchmarking model that provides an objective framework for evaluating food safety across all States/UTs.

RANKING OF STATES : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Tamil Nadu topped the State Food Safety Index (SFSI) this year, followed by Gujarat and Maharashtra. Among the smaller States, Goa stood first, followed by Manipur and Sikkim.
- Among the Union Territories, Jammu and Kashmir, Delhi and Chandigarh secured the first, second and third ranks.



IMPORTANCE OF FOOD SAFETY : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Access to sufficient amounts of safe food is key to sustaining life and promoting good health.
- Foodborne illnesses are usually infectious or toxic in nature and often invisible to the plain eye, caused by bacteria, viruses, parasites or chemical substances entering the body through contaminated food or water.
- An estimated 4,20,000 people around the world die every year after eating contaminated food and children under 5 years of age carry 40% of the foodborne disease burden, with 1,25, 000 deaths every year. The Hindu Analysis
- Food safety has a critical role in assuring that food stays safe at every stage of the food chain – from production to harvest, processing, storage, distribution, all the way to preparation and consumption.
- Food production is responsible for up to 30% of global greenhouse-gas emissions contributing to global warming.

EXISTING INITIATIVES BY THE FSSAI TO ENSURE FOOD SAFETY:

EAT RIGHT INDIA MOVEMENT : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- It is an initiative of the Government of India and FSSAI to transform the country's food

system in order to ensure safe, healthy and sustainable food for all Indians.

- It is aligned to the National Health Policy 2017 with its focus on preventive and promotive healthcare and flagship programmes like Ayushman Bharat, POSHAN Abhiyaan, Anemia Mukh Bharat and Swachh Bharat Mission.

EAT RIGHT STATION CERTIFICATION : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- The certification is awarded by FSSAI to railway stations that set benchmarks (as per the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006) in providing safe and wholesome food to passengers.
- The Eat Right Research Awards and Grants to encourage and recognize high-quality research in the area of food safety and nutrition in India has also been launched. The Hindu Analysis
- The results of PAN-India survey for identifying the presence of industrially produced trans fatty acid content in the selected foods has been released. Overall, only 84 samples, i.e. 1.34%, have more than 3% industrially produced trans fats from the total of 6245 samples.
- In an effort to engage industry on the issue of plastic in food packaging, 24 food businesses signed a pledge on becoming “Plastic Waste Neutral” by collecting, processing and recycling of 100% post-consumer plastic waste from across the sources. The Hindu Analysis
- Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya further launched various innovative initiatives by the FSSAI, including the ‘Eat Right Research Awards and Grants – Phase II’, Eat Right Creativity Challenge – Phase III, a school-level competition, and the logo for AyurvedaAahar.

Pradeep Kumar

Lancet Planetary Health – Report on pollution and health

LANCET PLANETARY HEALTH – REPORT ON POLLUTION AND HEALTH – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

- The Lancet Planetary Health has published a recent report on pollution and health.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

WHAT ARE THE MAJOR FINDINGS?

- Overall, pollution was responsible for an estimated 9 million (90 lakh) deaths in 2019 (equivalent to one in six deaths worldwide).

- The number that has remained unchanged since the 2015 analysis.
- Of the 90 lakh deaths
 - Overall air pollution (both household and ambient) contributes to 66.7 lakh deaths.
 - Ambient air pollution was responsible for 45 lakh deaths.
 - Water pollution was responsible for 13 lakh deaths.
 - Hazardous chemical pollutants for 17 lakh
 - Lead pollution for 9 lakh deaths.
- Excess deaths due to pollution have led to economic losses totalling \$4.6 trillion in 2019, equating to 6.2% of global economic output.
- The health impacts of pollution remain enormous, and low- and middle-income countries bear the brunt of this burden.
- Despite its enormous health, social and economic impacts, pollution prevention is largely overlooked in the international development agenda
- Attention and funding has only minimally increased since 2015, despite well-documented increases in public concern about pollution and its health effects.
- Pollution, climate change and wildlife loss are closely linked, and action to tackle one could help deal with the other crises.

WHAT ARE THE FINDINGS WITH RESPECT TO INDIA? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- India recorded the largest number of deaths related to air-pollution than any other nation in 2019.
- Air pollution was responsible for 16.7 lakh deaths in India in 2019, or 17.8% of all deaths in the country that year.
- Of these 9.8 lakh were caused by PM2.5 pollution and 6.1 lakh by household air pollution.
- The Hindu Analysis
- Number of deaths from pollution sources associated with extreme poverty (such as indoor air pollution and water pollution) has decreased.
- However the reduction is offset by increased deaths due to industrial pollution (such as ambient air pollution and chemical pollution).
- Air pollution is most severe in the Indo-Gangetic Plain. This area contains New Delhi and many of the most polluted cities.
- Burning of biomass in households was the single largest cause of air pollution deaths in

India, followed by coal combustion and crop burning.

WHAT ARE THE EFFORTS TAKEN TO CONTROL AIR POLLUTION? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana programme
- National Clean Air Programme
- Commission for Air Quality Management in the National Capital Region

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- A radical shift in the approach to pollution management efforts.
- India does not have a strong centralised administrative system to drive its air pollution control efforts.
- To address the issue we need-integrated surveillance platforms for health and exposure surveillance and an Independent IPPC style science/policy panel on pollution.
- Increased funding for pollution control from governments
- Improved pollution monitoring and data collection. The Hindu Analysis
- Population exposure surveillance via biological and environmental monitoring can inform risk attributions within health programmes already in place to reduce the burden of maternal and child health as well as non-communicable diseases.
- Control all the Lead pollutants – Earlier the source of lead pollution was from leaded petrol which was replaced with unleaded petrol.
- However the other sources must be controlled which includes
 - unsound recycling of lead-acid batteries
 - e-waste without pollution controls
 - spices contaminated with lead
 - pottery glazed with lead salts
 - lead in paint and other consumer products

Anshul Verma

Copyright Infringement

CONTEXT:

The Supreme Court has passed a far reaching judgment resolving the question of whether copyright infringement which is punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend upto 3 years under the Copyright Act of 1957 is a cognizable offense under the code of CrPC, 1973, in Knit Pro International V. The state of NCT judgment.

ABOUT COPYRIGHT ACT

- The Copyright Act, 1957 paves the way for 3 years of jail with fine.
- It extends to whole of India

CONSEQUENCES OF THE JUDGMENT

- Making copyright infringement a cognizable offense will pave the way for police to impinge on civil liberties.
- The immediate consequence of this judgment is that many copyright owners, especially in the software and music industries, will use the threat of police involvement to scare potential infringers to extort license fees in excess of the amount payable in a scenario where the police cannot get involved without prior judicial authorisation.
- As a result of the offense being made cognizable and non-bailable, it takes away the right of the accused to post a bail bond with the police and shifts the responsibility on to the courts for judicial determination on a case by case basis.
- Section 52 of the copyrights act talks about the fair use, that cannot be determined properly by the investigating officer.

BACKGROUND OF COPYRIGHT ACT IN INDIA

- In 1914, when the British extended the imperial copyright act, 1911 to India, copyright infringement was punishable only with a monetary fine
- It was in independent India that introduced imprisonment for one year as punishment for the offense of copyright infringement in 1957.
- Since 1957, the prison term for copyright infringement has been tripled by Parliament to Three years.

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON COPYRIGHT

- Article 61 of the The Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of

- Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) requires criminal measures to be applied for at least “willful copyright piracy” on a commercial scale.
- Although copyright piracy itself remains undefined in TRIPS.
- India’s international law obligations under the TRIPS do not require India to criminalize all kinds of copyright infringement.

CONCLUSION

- All piracy of copyright work is an act of infringement but all infringement cannot be termed as piracy.

Ayush Sir

Ahead of sowing, Kharif MSP revealed

AHEAD OF SOWING, KHARIF MSP REVEALED – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

CONTEXT

The Union Cabinet raised the minimum support price (MSP) for paddy by Rs. 100 a quintal for the Kharif season of 2022-23. The rates for 14 crops have been increased in the range of 4% to 8%.

This is similar to the increase in MSP in 2021-22, which was in the range of 1% to 7%.

MSP for paddy (common), which was Rs. 1,940 a quintal in 2021-22, and paddy (grade A), which was Rs. 1,960 a quintal, had increased by Rs. 100. The highest increase had been for two varieties of jowar at the rate of 8%. And the lowest increase of Rs. 92 had been for maize, whose price was Rs. 1,870.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

WHAT IS MINIMUM SUPPORT PRICE (MSP)?

Minimum Support Price (MSP) is a form of market intervention by the Government of India to insure agricultural producers against any sharp fall in farm prices. The minimum support prices are announced by the Government of India at the beginning of the sowing season for certain crops on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs

and Prices (CACP). MSP is price fixed by Government of India to protect the producer – farmers – against excessive fall in price during bumper production years. The minimum support prices are a guarantee price for their produce from the Government. The major objectives are to support the farmers from distress sales and to procure food grains for public distribution. In case the market price for the commodity falls below the announced minimum price due to bumper production and glut in the market, government agencies purchase the entire quantity offered by the farmers at the announced minimum price.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE OF MSP : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The Price Support Policy of the Government is directed at providing insurance to agricultural producers against any sharp fall in farm prices. The minimum guaranteed prices are fixed to set a floor below which market prices cannot fall. Till the mid 1970s, Government announced two types of administered prices :

- Minimum Support Prices (MSP)
- Procurement Prices

The MSPs served as the floor prices and were fixed by the Government in the nature of a long-term guarantee for investment decisions of producers, with the assurance that prices of their commodities would not be allowed to fall below the level fixed by the Government, even in the case of a bumper crop. Procurement prices were the prices of kharif and rabi cereals at which the grain was to be domestically procured by public agencies (like the FCI) for release through PDS. It was announced soon after harvest began. Normally procurement price was lower than the open market price and higher than the MSP. This policy of two official prices being announced continued with some variation upto 1973-74, in the case of paddy. In the case of wheat it was discontinued in 1969 and then revived in 1974-75 for one year only. Since there were too many demands for stepping up the MSP, in 1975-76, the present system was evolved in which only one set of prices was announced for paddy (and other kharif crops) and wheat being procured for buffer stock operations.

DETERMINATION OF MSP : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

In formulating the recommendations in respect of the level of minimum support prices and other non-price measures, the Commission takes into account, apart from a comprehensive view of the entire structure of the economy of a particular commodity or group of commodities, the following factors:-

Cost of production

Changes in input prices

Input-output price parity

Trends in market prices

Demand and supply

Inter-crop price parity

Effect on industrial cost structure

Effect on cost of living

Effect on general price level

International price situation

Parity between prices paid and prices received by the farmers.

Effect on issue prices and implications for subsidy

The Commission makes use of both micro-level data and aggregates at the level of district, state and the country. The information/data used by the Commission, inter-alia include the following :-

Cost of cultivation per hectare and structure of costs in various regions of the country and changes there in;

Cost of production per quintal in various regions of the country and changes therein; The Hindu Analysis

Prices of various inputs and changes therein;

Market prices of products and changes therein;

Prices of commodities sold by the farmers and of those purchased by them and changes therein;

Supply related information – area, yield and production, imports, exports and domestic availability and stocks with the Government/public agencies or industry;

Demand related information – total and per capita consumption, trends and capacity of the processing industry;

Prices in the international market and changes therein, demand and supply situation in the world market; The Hindu Analysis

Prices of the derivatives of the farm products such as sugar, jaggery, jute goods, edible/non-edible oils and cotton yarn and changes therein;

Cost of processing of agricultural products and changes therein;

Cost of marketing – storage, transportation, processing, marketing services, taxes/fees and margins retained by market functionaries; and

Macro-economic variables such as general level of prices, consumer price indices and those reflecting monetary and fiscal factors.

The increase in MSP for Kharif Crops is in line with the Union Budget 2018-19 announcement of fixing the MSPs at a level of at least 1.5 times of the All-India weighted average Cost of Production (CoP), aiming at reasonably fair remuneration for the farmers.

CROPS COVERED : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Government announces minimum support prices (MSPs) for 22 mandated crops and fair and remunerative price (FRP) for sugarcane. The mandated crops are 14 crops of the kharif season, 6 rabi crops and two other commercial crops. In addition, the MSPs of toria and de-husked coconut are fixed on the basis of the MSPs of rapeseed/mustard and copra, respectively. The list of crops are as follows.

- Cereals (7) – paddy, wheat, barley, jowar, bajra, maize and ragi
- Pulses (5) – gram, arhar/tur, moong, urad and lentil
- Oilseeds (8) – groundnut, rapeseed/mustard, toria, soyabean, sunflower seed, sesamum, safflower seed and nigerseed
- Raw cotton
- Raw jute
- Copra
- De-husked coconut
- Sugarcane (Fair and remunerative price)
- Virginia flu cured (VFC) tobacco

INDIA EXPORT RESTRICTION ON WHEAT

INDIA EXPORT RESTRICTION ON WHEAT – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

India, which surprised the world with its decision to bar wheat export with immediate effect, appears to be on the defensive now.

WHAT IS THE CASE FOR THE PROHIBITION OF WHEAT EXPORTS?

India is the second-largest producer of wheat in the world whereas China ranks first.

- The global agriculture market has been destabilised by the Russian invasion of Ukraine, a major wheat producing nation that is a big supplier to the European market.
- Citing the sudden spike in the global prices of wheat and threat to food security, the government has prohibited export of wheat. The Hindu Analysis
- There was also a decline in the opening stock of wheat compared to the last fiscal.
- The officials emphasised the prohibition is not a ban, and is aimed at preventing the speculative trading in wheat to stabilise the agriculture sector.

India produced around 7 million tonnes of wheat during 2021-'22 and out of that nearly 50% was imported by Bangladesh.

WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THE PROHIBITION? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- In the absence of clear guidelines, many nations have decided to exert their influence and leverage their bilateral relationship with India to varying degrees in search of wheat. The Hindu Analysis
- India's decision has faced criticism from the G-7's Agriculture Ministers as it is necessary for Delhi to play a greater role in ensuring global food security.
- The recently concluded Prime Ministerial visit to Germany, Denmark and France also experienced pressure from these countries.
- The US envoy to the United Nations said that the US was asking other countries to avoid stopping wheat exports and hinted that the issue would be discussed at upcoming multilateral meetings. The Hindu Analysis
- The European Union's trade chief Valdis Dombrovskis called export-restrictive measures a tendency that can only actually aggravate the problem.
- Interestingly, China defended India's position, saying that blaming developing countries like India won't solve the global food crisis.

HOW DOES THE SUDDEN TURNAROUND IN THE EXPORT POLICY IMPACT DOMESTIC FOOD SECURITY? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Wheat production was 103.6 million tonnes in 2018-19, 107.8 million tonnes in 2019-20, and 109.5 million tonnes in 2020-21.
- Currently, the procurement of wheat by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) has been low but there is not a big shortfall in production relative to previous years.
- Given the low levels of procurement, the Government has reduced the procurement target for the current season. The Hindu Analysis

- In terms of availability of food grain, if policy measures ensure adequate distribution through the food rationing network and open market operations, it is not a serious concern.
- It is essential that the PDS and open market operations be used to cool down food price inflation.

WHAT ARE THE OTHER MATTERS OF CONCERN? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Remunerative prices to farmers– After the reports of the National Commission on Farmers, the announced minimum support price (MSP) for wheat has often been inadequate.
- The year-long farmer protests were largely driven by the fear that the new Farm Acts were weakening public commitment to remunerative prices for agricultural produce.
- Costs of production– Over the last two years, costs of production have risen sharply. The Hindu Analysis
- Government policy– Farmers are worried about the lack of involvement of the Government in procurement.
- Rather than overcoming the shortfall in public procurement by increasing the procurement price and buying more, the Government has allowed traders to build up stocks of wheat.
- The benefits from future sales (domestic or in the export market) are thus likely to go to traders rather than farmers.

WHAT IS THE NEED OF THE HOUR? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Food security is both an immediate and long-term concern and does not require surgical strikes.
- A well-functioning PDS can control prices and offer relief to consumers.
- At the same time, a procurement policy can and should offer a reasonable income to farmers.

Anshum Verma

Uniform Civil Code : An analysis in context to its future

UNIFORM CIVIL CODE : AN ANALYSIS IN CONTEXT TO ITS FUTURE – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Uniform Civil Code : An analysis in context to its future Uniform Civil Code : An analysis in context to its future

Context : Recently the government of Uttarakhand constituted a panel to enquire about the possibilities of the implementation of common civil code in the state and this committee is also asked to prepare a draft in this regard .

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

INTRODUCTION

- The issue of UCC (Uniform Civil code) has been the agenda of BJP for a long time and all the states ruled by the BJP are supporters of the implementation of the Uniform civil Code. However many Muslims Ulema have been opposing this UCC for long time also because they argue that , in civil affairs nothing can be accepted against the Muslim personal Laws (Laws based on Saria) . However the subject of UCC exists in our constitution in Directive Principles of State Policy .It means , the state should work in framing the UCC gradually. But some time UCC contradicts with the right of religious practice also (Fundamental right)

OPPOSITION TO UCC : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Muslim religious priest have been protesting against UCC for long time. Through various means the Muslims have shown their agitation against the UCC to the government . All India Muslim personal law board has also already shown its opposing view to the government . Besides this board , many other institutions related to Islamic culture in India have shown their discontent against UCC
- Actually the creation of the AIMPLB in 1973 was the result of the fear among Muslims. They feared that the Indian government could impose new laws against the sharia laws through parliamentary position. Therefore the Muslims of the Deoband under the leadership of Muhammad Taiyab initiated the concept of AIMPLB. Actually a bill was introduced by the law minister in 1973. And it was understood that this bill was the precursor of the UCC. The Hindu Analysis
- However when Hindu code bill passed the rightist of Hindu community also sought against the Hindu code bill or in the favor of UCC. The rightist argued that either UCC should be implemented or Hindu code bill should be repealed . Ex Prime minister Atal

Bihari Vajpayee also favored UCC and emphasized on national debate on UCC . For the progressive society , he favored the UCC. But the restoration of the old days religious practices or marriage system even in Hinduism is not rational also. Ex PM Narasimha Rao argued that the age-old tradition of marriages between uncles and nieces among Hindus in Andhra Pradesh. Should this practice be restored in Andhra . No. Narasimha Rao sh argued that , for the progressive society, progressive value system and rituals should be opted by all the religious communities . Since Hindu are more literate so they can understand the liberal and progressive elements of the religion so Hindu code bill is right to implement but UCC should be implemented after taking Muslims in confidence . Moreover, Flavia Agnes and other feminists have recognized many anti-women biases in the Hindu Code Bill, which are not adequately brought forward in Indian public debate. This has resulted in the public perception that Muslim personal laws alone need reform.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

CONCLUSION

As per the above discussion, the UCC is necessary for the country but it should not be implemented suddenly. Gradually it should be implemented . Indian parliament has already passed triple talaq and similarly some reformative rules must be passed by the parliament for the Muslims separately . In this way , the path of the UCC would be automatically paved. Once the reformative rules would be passed by the parliaments all the obstacles of the UCC would also be eliminated and the criticism of the UCC would lose its significance automatically

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Fintech challenge is a fantasy

FINTECH CHALLENGE IS A FANTASY – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

CONTEXT:

- Digital banks are a threat, not so much to banks as to banking stability on account of the systemic risk they pose.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

WHAT ARE DIGITAL BANKING UNITS (DBUs)?

- A digital banking unit is a specialized fixed point business unit or hub housing certain

minimum digital infrastructure for delivering digital banking products and services as well as servicing existing financial products and services digitally in self-service mode at any time.

WHO CAN SET UP DBUs? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Commercial banks (other than regional rural banks, payment banks and local area banks) with past digital banking experience are permitted to open DBUs in tier 1 to tier 6 centres, unless otherwise specifically restricted, without having the need to take permission from the RBI in each case.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND RESOURCES OF DBUs : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Each DBU shall be housed distinctly, with the separate entry and exit provisions. They will be separate from an existing Banking Outlet with formats and designs most appropriate for digital banking users.
- For front-end or distribution layer of digital banking, each bank would choose suitable smart equipment, such as Interactive Teller Machines, Interactive Bankers, Service Terminals, Teller and Cash Recyclers, Interactive Digital Walls, Document uploading, self-service card issuance devices, Video KYC Apparatus, secured and connected environment for use of own device for digital banking, Video Call / Conferencing facilities, to set up an DBU. These facilities can be insourced or outsourced while complying with relevant regulatory guidelines.
- The back-end including the Core Banking System and other back office related information systems for the digital banking products and services can be shared with that of the incumbent systems with logical separation. Alternatively, banks can adopt more core-independent digital-native technologies offering better scalability, flexibility in creating new/reusable digital environments through continuous development / software deployment and interconnectivity specifically for this business segment, based on their digital strategy. The Hindu Analysis
- If the digital banking segment of a bank uses an API layer (integration layer) to connect with external third-party application providers, the same should be tested in an isolated/test environment before being integrated to bank's core systems backed by comprehensive risk evaluation and adequate documentation.
- Banks are free to adopt an in-sourced or out-sourced model for operations of the digital banking segment including DBUs. The outsourced model should specifically comply with the relevant regulatory guidelines on outsourcing.
- As the purpose of DBUs is to optimally blend digital infrastructure with 'human touch', remote or in situ assisted mode arrangements in right proportion should be planned and

put in place by the banks. The Hindu Analysis

- The establishment of DBUs should be part of the digital banking strategy of the bank. The operational governance and administrative structure of the DBUs will be aligned with that of the Digital Banking Segment of the bank. However, in order to accelerate digital banking initiatives, each DBU will be headed by a sufficiently senior and experienced executive of the bank, preferably Scale III or above for PSBs or equivalent grades for other banks who can be designated as the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of the DBU.

WHAT ARE THE SERVICES THAT WILL BE PROVIDED BY THESE UNITS? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- As per the RBI, each DBU must offer certain minimum digital banking products and services. Such products should be on both liabilities and assets side of the balance sheet of the digital banking segment. Digitally value-added services to conventional products would also qualify as such.
- The services include savings bank accounts under various schemes, current accounts, fixed deposits and recurring deposit accounts, digital kit for customers, mobile banking, Internet banking, debit cards, credit cards, and mass transit system cards, digital kit for merchants, UPI QR code, BHIM Aadhaar and point of sale (PoS). The Hindu Analysis
- Other services include making applications for and onboarding of customers for identified retail, MSME or schematic loans. This may also include end-to-end digital processing of such loans, starting from online application to disbursement and identified government sponsored schemes that are covered under the national portal.

HOW WILL THESE DBUs COMPETE WITH FINTECHS? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Currently, fintechs operating as neobanks offer digital banking services but they do so in partnership with non-banking financial companies (NBFCs). Some of the neobanks offering services in India are Jupiter, Fi Money, Niyo, Razorpay X.
- Compared to conventional banks with online and mobile banking facilities, neobanks or digital banks excel at product innovation and offer far better digital solutions. However, given the arrangement they have currently with NBFCs or scheduled banks to conduct the actual banking part, some in the industry have pegged these digital banks as “glorified digital distribution companies”

Pradeep Kumar

Birsa Munda : A great leader of Tribal Movement

BIRSA MUNDA : A GREAT LEADER OF TRIBAL MOVEMENT – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

- Context : Birsa Munda was an Indian tribal freedom fighter, religious leader, and folk hero who belonged to the Munda tribe. He led the tribal movement against the British and finally the British captured Birsa Munda and He was martyred in 1900 in Ranchi Central Jail .

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

INTRODUCTION

- The rebellion (Ulgulan) of Munda tribesmen , led by Brisa Munda occurred during 1899-1900. For over thirty the Munda sardars had been struggling against the destruction of their system of common land holding by intrusion of Jagirdars , Thekedras (revenue farmers) and merchant money lenders

WHO WAS BIRSA MUNDA : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Birsa was a religious leader who took birth in the tribal area of Lohardaga district of Bengal Presidency in 1874 .Presently his birth place is situated in Jharkhand . His family was a poor sharecropper. He believed in God because his family was also a religious family. In fact during British rule the entire land revenue system has been transformed for the benefits of the Zamindars and the capitalist class. Tribal could not tolerate the intervention of the Dikus (outsiders) in their land and they protested against British rule. The Hindu Analysis
- Birsa organized the tribe on the grounds of religion . He declared himself to be a divine messenger , possessing miraculous healing powers .He organized thousands of the people against the British rule he declared himself as the Messiah and started to deliver religious messages . Under the influence of the sardars , the religious movement soon acquired an agrarian and political content . Birsa began to move from village to village , organizing rallies and mobilizing his followers on religious and political grounds. On Christmas Eve, 1899, Birsa proclaimed a rebellion to establish Munda rule in the land and encouraged “the killing of thekedars ” and “Jagirdars ” and Rajas and hakims and Christians . satyug would be established in place of the present day kaliyug. He declared that “ there was going to be fight with Dikus, the ground would be as red as the red flag with their blood. The non tribal poor were not to be attacked .
- To bring about liberation, the Birsa gathered a force of 6000 Mundas armed with swords, spears, battle axes and bows and arrows. He was, however, captured in the beginning of

February 1900 and he died in Jail in June . The rebellion had failed . but Birsa entered the realm of legend

WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE MUNDA REVOLT : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- The Munda revolt was a significant incident of the Indian national movement. Thousand of the people raised the voice against the economic exploitation and the incursion and The Mundas showed their bravery however they could not get proper support of the intellectual but many leaders of the congress praised their bravery. 1857 revolt was the revolt of the sepoy or those rulers whose states were snatched by the British but the Munda movement was a movement of grassroot level people those fought against British even in the lack of the sophisticated weapons .

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

CONCLUSION

- As per the above discussion , it is analyzed that we should be inspired from the freedom fighter who sacrificed his life for the liberty of his land and his values. The Munda rebellion did not kill the poor people (Non Tribal). Our government should develop the ancestral place of the Birsa Munda also. Birsa Munda is relevant in modern days also. He lifted the arms when he lost every options to get liberation .But in democracy , we have the tool of electoral procedure so in democracy the violent way of protest should not be accepted but still the protest for the Rights and liberty in non violent way should be encouraged.

IN THIS ARTICLE WE MENTION ALL INFORMATION ABOUT BIRSA MUNDA : A GREAT LEADER OF TRIBAL MOVEMENT TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

April IIP sizzles, hits 8-month high of 7.1%

APRIL IIP SIZZLES, HITS 8-MONTH HIGH OF 7.1% – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

CONTEXT:

Factory output growth surprised in April hitting an eight-month high of 7.1 per cent up from 2.2 per cent in March.

The sharp increase in industrial growth comes after data released last month showed that the country's eight core industries grew 8.4 per cent in April, up from the revised 4.9 per cent in March.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

WHAT IS 'INDEX OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION'?

The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is an index which shows the growth rates in different industry groups of the economy in a stipulated period of time. The IIP index is computed and published by the Central Statistical Organization (CSO) on a monthly basis.

IIP is a composite indicator that measures the growth rate of industry groups classified under,

1. Broad sectors, namely, Mining, Manufacturing and Electricity
2. Use-based sectors, namely Basic Goods, Capital Goods and Intermediate Goods.

Currently IIP figures are calculated considering 2011-12 as base year.

IIP calculates the data of eight core sectors namely;

1. Coal: Its total weightage is 10.33% in the core sectors
2. Crude: Its total weightage is 8.98% in the core sectors
3. Natural gas: Its total weightage is 6.88% in the core sectors
4. Refinery products: Its total weightage is 28.04% in the core sectors
5. Steel: Its total weightage is 17.92% in the core sectors
6. Cement: Its total weightage is 5.37% in the core sectors
7. Fertilizers: Its total weightage is 2.63% in the core sectors
8. Electricity: Its total weightage is 19.85% in the core sectors

The eight-core sectors comprise 40.27% of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

THE IIP IS COMPILED USING DATA RECEIVED FROM 16 SOURCES AGENCIES; THE HINDU ANALYSIS

1. Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion,
2. Indian Bureau of Mines
3. Central Electricity Authority
4. Joint Plant Committee

5. Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas
6. Office of Textile Commissioner
7. Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals
8. Directorate of Sugar
9. Department of Fertilizers
10. Directorate of Vanaspati, Vegetable oils and Fats
11. Tea Board
12. Office of Jute Commissioner
13. Office of Coal Controller
14. Railway Board
15. Office of Salt Commissioner
16. Coffee Board

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BASE YEAR IN THE INDEX OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION (IIP); THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- 1. The base year for IIP is always given a value of 100.
- 2. The base year of IIP has been revised to 2011-2012 (in the month of May)
- 3. This has been done in order to bring the IIP data at par with GDP data (GDP base year has been revised to 2011-2012).

WHAT BASE YEAR SHOWS : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Suppose the value of IIP in April 2022 is 135, this means that there has been a 35% (135-100) increase in the industrial activities in India as compared to the industrial activities in 2011-2012.

THE SECTORAL COMPOSITION OF THE IIP IS AS FOLLOWS : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- The new series of IIP has a total of 809 items occurring in the manufacturing sector in the item basket (405 item groups).

Sector	Base year 2011-12		Base year 2004-05	
	Weights (%)	Item groups	Weights (%)	Item groups
Mining	14.373	1	14.157	1
Manufacturing	77.633	405	75.527	397
Electricity	7.994	1	10.316	1
Total	100	407	100	399

- The Index of Industrial Production was bolstered by a sharp growth in manufacturing at 6.8 per cent, while mining and electricity output surged 7.8 per cent and 11.8 per cent, respectively, according to data released by the Statistics Ministry.

THE FOLLOWING TABLE GIVING THE USE-BASED CLASSIFICATION; THE HINDU ANALYSIS

New Series (base 2011-12)	Item groups	Weights (%)
Primary goods	15	34.05
Intermediate goods	110	17.22
Capital goods	67	8.22
Infrastructure/ construction goods	29	12.34
Consumer durables	86	12.84
Consumer nondurables	100	15.33
TOTAL	407	100

- On use-based classification, both capital and primary goods did well in April recording growth rates of 14.7 per cent (2 per cent) and 10.1 per cent (5.7 per cent), respectively. While the consumer durables sector rose 8.5 per cent (-2.6 per cent), consumer non-durables grew a tepid 0.3 per cent (-4.6 per cent). The lackluster show on the non-durables sector is a reflection that consumers are wary of spending as inflation rages on.
- The essence of the article is that the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is like the thermometer of an economy. It shows the real picture of all the main sectors of the economy. If the performance of these 8 core sectors of the economy is good then the overall development of the country is inevitable.

Pradeep Kumar

Pt Ram Prasad Bismil : A great revolutionary of India

PT RAM PRASAD BISMIL : A GREAT REVOLUTIONARY OF INDIA – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Context : Its birth anniversary of the great revolutionary of modern India today (11th June). He led the foundation of the Revolutionary movement of the 2nd phase (After 1920s) . On the occasion of the 75th anniversary of India's independence , the entire nation is paying its humble tribute to great revolutionary Pt R.P Bismil .

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

INTRODUCTION :

- Pt Ram Prasad Bismil was a great revolutionary of modern India . In fact after the sudden withdrawal of the Non Cooperation movement , many young people became against the congress and they lost their faith in non violence style of the protest. Pt Ram Prasad Bismil led their movement . Besides him some other prominent revolutionaries were Jogesh Chandra Chatterji, Surya Sen, Jatin Das Chandra Sekhar Azad etc. The name of Pt Ram Prasad Bismil is incomplete without Asfaq Ullah Khan . The Hindu Analysis
- The revolutionaries in northern India were the first to emerge out of the mood of frustration and recognition under the leadership of the old veterans PT RP Bismil , Jogesh Chatterji and SN. Sanyal whose Bandi Jeevan served as a test book to the revolutionary movement. They founded the Hindustan republican Association (or Army) in 1924 in Kanpur to organize armed revolution to overthrow colonial rule and establish in its place a federal republic of the United States of India whose basic principle would be adult Franchise

BIOGRAPHY : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Pt Bismil born on 11th June 1897 in Shahjahanpur , U.P He was a great India poet . He participated in the Mainpuri conspiracy case also . Beside, the Kakori incident is a significant incident of Indian freedom struggle ((Aug 1925). Under his leadership , the train was looted near to Kakori, Lucknow and this incident shocked entire British empire in India . However many revolutionaries were caught after this incident . Pt Bismil was also caught and was hanged on 19 December 1927 by British. He became popular with the last name "Bismil " only.also translated the books Catherine from English and Bolshevikon Ki Kartoot from Bengali . He was inspired by Lala Hardayal, a great Ghadar revolutionary.Bismil composed a poem in Hindi titled Mera Janm. Beside these a collection of poems Man Ki Lahar (en: A sally of mind) and Swadeshi Rang was also written by him. In Swadeshi rang , He composed a song like mera rang de basanti Chola which in later period was developed by many poets and

this song became the ideal song for all the revolutionaries . He wrote his autobiography when he was in central jail . His autobiography was published under the cover title of Kakori ke shaheed by Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi in 1928. A rough translation of this book was prepared by the Criminal Investigation Department of United Province in British India.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

CONCLUSION

As we discussed above , Pt Ram Prasad Bismil was a great leader and He immortalized the poem Sarfaroshi Ki tamanna ab hamare Dil me hai . However in modern days , Mera rang De Basanti Chola and the Sarfaroshi ki tamanna are sung on every occasion of the National day. First time R P Bismil type revolutionaries gave the idea for the revolution of socialist ideas. He did not believe only in person killing but he wanted to get rid from British exploitation. He wanted to make such a new India which would be free from exploitation and where social, economical and religious justice should be given to all the people . Pt Bismil was secular and never believed in communalism . Today , all of us should learn a lesson from our ancestors who sacrificed their life for the establishment of a secular country . establishment of the secular society or communal harmony in the society would be the great tribute to Pt Bismil on his birth anniversary.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai



CURRENT AFFAIRS

JUNE 2022

Carbon – The Crop of the Future

CARBON – THE CROP OF THE FUTURE – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Carbon farming promises a new agricultural business model — one that fights climate change and creates jobs.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

WHAT ARE THE ISSUES WITH MODERN INDUSTRIAL AGRICULTURE?

Agriculture is now a surgical economic activity that leads to the new epoch of corporate-environmental food monopolies with various issues including,

- Less food out of the ground
- Fewer nutrients
- Less efficient
- More expensive
- Greater environmental devastation

It has also kept a colonialist imprint on the planet with

- Differentiated access to nutritious food
- Reducing the biodiversity of our diet
- Injudicious ecological practices like monocropping and systematic erosion of soil
- Mounting cost of technology, chemicals exiling the farmers out of their fair share of the progress
- Deepening the climate change crisis

According to the 3rd biennial update report submitted by the Union government in 2021 to the UNFCCC, the agriculture sector contributes 14% of the total GHG emissions.

WHAT CAN FIX THE BROKEN FOOD SYSTEMS OF OUR TIMES? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Carbon farming promises a bold new agricultural business model in order to fight climate change, create jobs and save farms.
- Carbon farming is a whole farm approach to optimise carbon capture on working landscapes by practices that improve the rate at which CO₂ is removed from the atmosphere and stored in plant material and/or soil organic matter. The Hindu Analysis
- The total value of the global carbon markets grew by 20% in 2020.
- April 2022 has been the biggest year in carbon capture investment with big tech companies like Stripe, Alphabet, Meta and Shopify announcing millions of dollars of carbon removal offsets.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF CARBON FARMING? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Profit for farmers– Carbon farming can help the farmers shift their focus from improving yields to functioning ecosystems and sequestering carbon that can be sold or traded in carbon markets. The Hindu Analysis
- It provides boosted/secondary income from carbon credits for the marginalised farmers.
- Soil health– It not only improves the health of soil but can also result in improved quality, organic and chemical-free food (farm-to-fork models)
- Decarbonisation- Soil acts as an efficient carbon sink and can be capitalised to achieve the Net Zero target and decarbonising pathway. The Hindu Analysis
- An initiative called “4 per 1000”, launched at the 2015 Paris climate conference, showed that increasing soil carbon worldwide by 0.4% yearly could offset that year’s new growth in CO₂ emissions from fossil fuel emissions.

Studies show that soil removes about 25% of the world’s fossil-fuel emissions each year.

WHAT IS THE CASE OF MEGHALAYA REGARDING CARBON FARMING? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- In India, Meghalaya is currently working on a blueprint of a carbon farming’ Act to create a prototype of sustainable agriculture model for the entire North-East region.
- Out of the 5.5 million hectares of cultivated land available in the North-East, organic farming barely covers 3% of arable land highlighting the tremendous potential.
- A pioneering Carbon Farming Act with a robust transition plan can effectively demonstrate

the idea of creating a carbon sink.

- It can improve nutrition, reduce the inequalities within farming communities, alter the land use pattern and provide the much-needed solution to fix our broken food systems.

Anshum Verma

Indic civilization and Indianness : An analysis

INDIC CIVILIZATION AND INDIANNESS – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Context : Indian culture and civilization has been the matter of our pride for thousands of years. Because there are some fundamental values of Indian culture which taught the lesson of peace , harmony and humanism to the world . for the unity of India , the Indian civilization plays a significant role

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Introduction : The history of Indian culture and civilization goes back thousands of years back. One of the oldest civilizations of the world evolved in the Indian subcontinent . One of the oldest and vast empires of the world was the Mauryan empire and one of the oldest political institutions and ideas existed in Indian culture . India is the birthplace of Jainism and Buddhist which taught the world the lesson of peace , non violence . Our culture spread beyond the boundaries of Indian subcontinent and reached up to south east Asian countries also

Our cultural heritage can glue all the Indians as a nation . But for some months, it is observed that the conflicting elements in the society are being more dominant over our rich cultural heritage . Actually our past cultural elements should be revived so that It could bring the national unity

THE IMPACT OF INDIAN CULTURE IN ABROAD : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Indian culture spread in southeast Asian countries like Java, Sumatra , Indonesia. However many of the Southeast Asian countries have opted the Islam but they do not forget their culture . the kings of Thailand are crowned in the presence of Brahmin priests. the Muslims of Java still use Sanskritised names. Garuda is Indonesia's national airline. Ramayana is the best-selling brand of clove cigars of Indonesia. The Philippines has produced a pop-dance ballet about Rama's quest for Sita who had been abducted by Ravana . The old Thai kingdom of Ayutthaya derived its name from the Indian Ayodhya. The Thailand is also associated with Indian culture. The Hindu Analysis

These cultural elements of India were brought here by the pacific merchants , saints not by the

Indian invaders . The pacifist has been the characteristic of the Indian culture

ARE WE CONSERVING OUR CULTURAL HERITAGE ? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Unity in Diversity has been the fundamentals of Indian culture . For a long time we have been respecting the various belief systems. India is a “civilization-state” rather than a “nation-state. Some people , who believed that the Idea of Indian culture relates to the Hindu culture. In fact they forget the value system of Hinduism. Indian culture has been the hybrid of the various belief systems , religion , race etc . The modern Indian culture is the hybrid of the the influence of Islam, Buddhism, Christianity, and Sikhism. There are many Islamic elements which have been merged in Indian culture . Today, the Hindu wear Sherwani on every auspicious occasion. This attire arrived in India after the arrival of the Muslims . There are many Arabic, Persian and the Urdu terms merged in several sacred texts of the Hindus. Tulsidas also used many Arabic and the Persian terms in his Ram Charit Manas. We like Cricket which was brought after the arrival of the British . Nowadays this is the most popular game in India . Some years , all the Hindus voted for the Taj mahal as the world’s most surprising monument We did not vote for Ankorvatt . Therefore , it can be concluded that , communal harmony is the essence of the protection of the Indian culture

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

CONCLUSION

As per the above discussion , it is concluded that Indian culture is the hybrid culture in which the cultural elements of the various beliefs have been associated for a long time. All acceptability has been the characteristic of Indian culture . Indian culture is not the extremist Hindu culture . We should conserve our cultural heritage . Through our cultural heritage we can unite all the Indians as a nations.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

The Indian Patent System and Its Conflict with US Norms

THE INDIAN PATENT SYSTEM AND ITS CONFLICT WITH US NORMS – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

In a recent report, the United States Trade Representative (USTR) stated that India is one of the most difficult economies to protect and enforce intellectual property.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

HOW IS INDIA'S PATENT REGIME?

The Indian Patent Act of 1970 governs Indian patents. Patents are granted under the legislation if the innovation meets the following criteria:

- It must be unique.
- It must have novel steps or be non-obvious.
- It should be suitable for industrial use.
- It should not be subject to Sections 3 and 4 of the Patents Act of 1970.

Following its admission to the World Trade Organization in 1995, India became a party to the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement.

The original Indian Patents Act did not offer patent protection to pharmaceutical items, but it was amended in 2005 to comply with TRIPS and was reintroduced after the 2005 revision. India has also ratified a number of IPR treaties, notably the Berne Convention (governs copyright). The Hindu Analysis

India has also ratified a number of IPR treaties, notably the Berne Convention (governs copyright), The Treaty of Budapest, The International Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property (Paris Convention)

The Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT).

WHAT WERE THE CHALLENGES RAISED BY USTR? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The USTR publishes the Special 301 Report on intellectual property (IP) every year.

It places trading partners on the Priority Watch List or Watch List if they do not adequately/ effectively defend and enforce IP rights or deny market access to U.S. inventors and creators who rely on IP protection. The Hindu Analysis

The United States Trade Representative's (USTR) 'Priority Watch List' continues to include India due to a lack of appropriate IP rights protection and enforcement.

Concerns have been expressed about what can be patented, how long it takes to get a patent, reporting requirements, and data security.

The US Trade Representative also raised concerns about the danger of patent revocation, the lack of a presumption of patent validity, and the narrowness of patentability requirements. The Hindu Analysis

Despite the passage of the Commercial Courts Act in 2015, the USTR study raised concerns about judicial delays.

It has also indicated opposition to the Tribunals Reforms (Rationalisation and Conditions of Service) Ordinance, 2021, which would abolish IPAB.

WHAT IS INDIA'S STANCE ON THE ISSUE? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on IPR conducted a 'Review of the Intellectual Property Rights Regime in India' to address the challenges.

Section 3 and Section 3(d) of the Indian Patent Act deal with what does not qualify as an invention under the Act. The Hindu Analysis

The clause serves as a protection against spurious inventions, avoiding patent "evergreening," according to the Parliamentary Standing Committee.

By patenting only innovative and genuine inventions, Section 3(d) provides for generic competition. The Hindu Analysis

According to the report, it ensures the growth of generic medication manufacturers and public access to affordable medicines.

The Committee cites the Novartis vs. Union of India decision, which affirmed the constitutionality of section 3(d) and found it to be in compliance with the TRIPS agreement and the Doha Declaration.

WHAT IS THE DOHA DECLARATION? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The WTO member states endorsed the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health in 2021.

It recognises the seriousness of public health issues confronting developing and least developed countries, and emphasizes the need of TRIPS as part of broader national and international efforts to address these issues.

Among these options are:

- The authority to award obligatory licences and the conditions under which such licences may be granted
- The authority to determine what constitutes a national emergency or other extreme situations, such as public health emergencies.
- The right to create its own framework for intellectual property rights exhaustion.

WHAT POSITIVE STEPS WERE TAKEN BY INDIA REGARDING IPR? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Accession to treaties- One of India's recent positive initiatives has been to join the World Intellectual Property Organization's (WIPO) Performances and Phonograms Treaty.

In 2018, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) signed the WIPO Copyright Treaty (also known as the WIPO Internet Treaties).

To eliminate redundancy of information submission by patent applicants in India, India produced a revised Manual of Patent Office Practice and Procedure in 2019 and a revised Form 27 on patent working in 2020.

After the IPAB was abolished, the Delhi High Court established an IP division in 2021, for which draft regulations have been made available for public opinion.

The Cell for Intellectual Property Rights Promotion and Management (CIPAM) has been working to raise IP awareness in India.

Vivek Raj

Tackling the crisis of rising global food prices

TACKLING THE CRISIS OF RISING GLOBAL FOOD PRICES – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

INTRODUCTION- Global food prices are characterised by year-to-year volatility as well as steep and severe periodic price shocks that can lead to some sort of a crisis at the global and national levels.

The the form of crisis –

- Food shortages
- Trade disruptions

- Rise and spread in hunger and poverty levels
- Depletion of foreign exchange reserves for net food importing countries
- strain on a nation's fiscal resources due to an increase in spending on food safety nets,
- Threat to peace
- Threat to social unrest also in some places

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

BACKGROUND –

Historical data on food prices compiled by international agencies such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Bank/International Monetary Fund show that since the onset and the adoption of Green Revolution technology in the early 1960s,

The world has been struck thrice by food price crises.

All the three food price crises during 1973-1976, 2007-12, and the recent one which began towards the end of 2020 have one thing in common — they were triggered by factors outside agriculture.

- They were not caused by any serious shortfall in agriculture production
- The interval between two consecutive price shocks has narrowed down considerably
- The severity of shock is turning stronger

THE RECENT SPIKE – THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The recent spike in food prices due to-

- COVID-19
- The Russia-Ukraine war
- The diversion of food for biofuel needs.

The current food price spike first began in vegetable oils and then expanded to cereals.

- The trade patterns of these commodities show that around 38% of the vegetable oil produced and consumed is globally traded.
- In the case of wheat, dependence on trade to meet global demand forms 25%, while only one tenth of rice output or consumption is traded.

- Trade dependence for maize is 16%. The Hindu Analysis
- The effect of global trade disruption will be higher for commodities that are traded more and vice-versa.
- The proportion of vegetable oil used for biodiesel increased from 1% in 2003 to 11% in 2011; it went up to more than 15% in 2021.
- When crude prices increase beyond a certain level it becomes economical to use oilseeds and grains for biodiesel and ethanol, respectively.
- The second reason for the use of food crops for biofuel is the mandates to increase the share of renewable energy resources. The Hindu Analysis
- Food prices are also expected to go up in the current and next harvest season because of an increase in the prices of fertilizer and other agrochemicals.
- The international price of fertilizer has increased by 150% between April 2021 and April 2022.
- The international price of a bag of urea (50 kg) has increased from less than ₹1,000 to more than ₹3,000 in the last 15 months.

IMPLICATIONS FOR INDIA : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Export and import in the agriculture sector constituted 13% of gross value added in agriculture during 2020-21.

When international prices go too low, India has checks on cheap imports to protect the interests of producers; and when international prices go too high, the country liberalises imports and imposes checks on exports to ensure adequate availability and reasonable food prices for domestic consumers.

- The policy of having a buffer stock of food staples has also been very helpful in maintaining price stability especially in the wake of global food crises.
- The importance of agriculture exports to mop up food and agriculture surplus from the country is increasing. The Hindu Analysis
- Ongoing trends in domestic demand and supply imply that India will be required to dispose of 15% of its domestic food output in the overseas market by 2030.

WHEAT EXPORT RESTRICTIONS : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The recent ban on wheat exports and restrictions on the export of other food commodities by

India need to be seen in the light of an abnormal situation created by spikes in international prices.

- The international market is looking for around 50 million tonnes of wheat to compensate for the disruption in wheat exports from Russia and Ukraine.
- If India had not imposed a ban on wheat export, it would have resulted in a severe shortage of wheat within the country.
- India should continue with a policy of strategic liberalisation, as followed in the past, to balance the interests of producers and consumers.

The policy of buffer stock has also been very helpful in maintaining price stability in the face of global price shocks.

WAY FORWARD – THE HINDU ANALYSIS

As the steam of Green Revolution technology slowed down with the start of the 21st century, food prices began increasing in real terms. At the same time, the resilience of the food sector against price shocks has also weakened.

- The world requires new breakthroughs such as Green Revolution technology, for large-scale adoption in order to enable checks on food prices rising at a faster rate. The Hindu Analysis
- Requirement of increased spending on agriculture research and development
- There is a need to strengthen and rejuvenate the global agri-research system under the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) which is heading towards disarray.
- Biofuel protocols have contributed to the global food crisis for the second time in the last 15 years.
- Diversion of land under food crops and food output for biofuel should be carefully calibrated with implications for food availability. The Hindu Analysis
- The last three food price crises were primarily caused due to an increase in energy prices and disruptions in the movement of food across borders.
- Factors related to climate change are going to be an additional source of supply shocks in the years ahead.

The situation requires coordinated and timely action by the global community.

Rajeev Yadav

States Reluctance to cut Fuel Tax

STATES RELUCTANCE TO CUT FUEL TAX – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

- After announcing the excise duty cuts on petrol and diesel, the Finance Minister had reiterated the Prime Minister's plea for States that had not cut their taxes since November 2021.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND?

- The price of the Indian basket of crude oil has risen by more than 33% since November.
- With a bulk of the surge coming in the wake of the Ukraine war in February, state-run oil marketing companies had raised retail fuel prices sharply over a 16-day period starting March 22. The Hindu Analysis
- As a result of the higher fuel prices and quickening food costs, inflation based on the Consumer Price Index accelerated to 7.8% last month, while wholesale price gains soared to a multi-decade high of 15.1%.
- So, the RBI intervened and opted to raise interest rates earlier this month.

WHAT IS THE ISSUE WITH THE CENTRE'S LEVY OF TAXES? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- In the past seven years, the Union government's levies on petrol had gone up substantially, resulting in a manifold increase in its revenues, but the States did not see a matching increase in their revenues.
- This is because the Union government has increased the cess and surcharge on petrol and diesel while reducing the basic excise duty that is shareable with the States. The Hindu Analysis
- The Centre is expected to transfer the unshareable cess to the designated reserve funds but the CAG has observed that the centre retained 40% of all cess collections in FY2019.
- The Union government had never consulted the States when it increased the taxes on petrol and diesel multiple times. The Hindu Analysis
- The exorbitant increase in taxes by the Union government has been only partially reduced through the cuts and the taxes continue to be high, compared with the 2014 rates.

WHAT IS THE STANCE OF THE STATES? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- The Maharashtra government cut off its value added tax (VAT) levies on petrol and diesel

by Rs 2.08 and Rs 1.44 per litre respectively.

- Telangana Finance Minister termed the Centre's partial reduction of the cess levied on petroleum products 'bogus' and 'humbug'. The Hindu Analysis
- Tamil Nadu Finance Minister P.T.R. Palanivel Thiagarajan called for further cuts in the Union taxes as they had been hiked sharply since 2014.
- Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said he would consider if duty cuts were feasible.
- Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had said that duty cuts would be possible only if Centre cleared its pending dues of about Rs 97,000 crore.

WHAT LIES AHEAD? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Fiscal measures that help cool price pressures and leave an extra rupee or two in the consumer's pocket can only aid to undergird vital consumption demand in the economy.
- All States must realise that the best way to safeguard their revenue interests would be to ensure that the growth momentum in the economy as a whole remains well supported.
- The policymakers at the different levels of government must realise this and act in concert..

Anshum Verma

Kabir : A great social and economic reformist thinker

KABIR : A GREAT SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC REFORMIST THINKER – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

- Context : Today , the followers of Kabir are celebrating this day as the Kabir Prakat Divas (Birth anniversary) . On this occasion many conferences , seminars and programmes are organized in India . Kabir was the most prominent thinker and philosopher of the medieval period . The birth anniversary of kabir is celebrated on the full moon (Purnima) in the Hindu month Jyestha

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

- Introduction : Kabir was one of the great saints of the medieval period who showed the path of Bhaktism and monotheism to Indian people . He paved the way for communal harmony in India . He preached not only about the social reforms but also about the

economic reforms .Kabir openly criticized the orthodox elements of the both religions (Hindu and Muslims equally. He propagated the spirit of love, affection , and Bhaktism in the society . One side Kabir adopted the concept of meditation from Buddhism , Siddh and Naths , and Bhaktism of the Vaishnavas , on other side he openly criticized social , economical, religious, political inequality . In this way Kabir established the progressive and revolutionary ideology in the medieval period . The Hindu Analysis

- Up to maximum extent Kabir succeeded to influence contemporary society . He forced on the simplicity or ease of the religion . He stated that every human being has the right to access the god . God is of all human beings . No person of the society had privileges or specific rights to achieve God . Kabir openly criticized the superiority of Brahmanism .
- Kabir was the first saint of medieval India who remained Grahasth in his entire life and he propagated the dignity of labor. In his view all professions are equal . therefore he remained weavers in his entire life. The Hindu Analysis
- He did not adopt all the ideas of any religion. Although he criticized all the orthodox elements of every religion. Generally kbir used the name of Ram as his God . But this Ram of kabir was the symbol of Brahma/ Monotheism .

SOCIAL AND ECONOMICAL IDEAS : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- In Indian culture, Buddha was the first who criticized casteism and opposed the superiority of Brahmanism . In fact , similar to the Buddha , Kabir also criticized the superiority of the race and caste also . He strongly condemned the caste system of the medieval period and played an important role in the unification of discredited Hindus . Kabir propagated that all are equal by birth . Through their karma , people get status in society . All professions are dignified and we should do our duty honestly .
- Kabir emphasized on Divine unity . many Hindu and Muslim became the disciples of the kabir .
- Kabir was the first person before Marx who raised his voice against the economical inequality and he stated that the root cause of every social and political issue lies in the economical inequality . Kabir Criticized the excess collection of the production also . he wrote that
- साई इतना दीजिये जामे कुटुंब समाये , मै भी भूखा ना रहूं साधु न भूखा जाये
- Sai, give so much that the family can be accommodated, I too should not remain hungry, the monk should not be hungry. In today's vocabulary, Kabir was a communist and raised the voice against every type of the exploitation

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

CONCLUSION

- As per the above discussion , in sum, it can be said that Kabir sowed the seeds of that ideology which paved the way for the communal harmony , idea of socialism , secularism and expulsion of the communal elements , simplicity . These ideas of the Kabir were not based on any self interest of the kabir . Therefore without any fear or favor he openly propagated his own ideas

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Agnipath scheme of Indian Army : A Critical analysis

AGNIPATH SCHEME OF INDIAN ARMY : A CRITICAL ANALYSIS – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

- Context : Rajnath Singh, the defence Minister of Government of India announced the 'Agnipath' scheme for recruitment of youth in various armed forces on temporary bases (For four years). This scheme was announced by 14th of June 2022

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

INTRODUCTION

- The 'Agnipath' is launched by the Ministry of defense , Government of India . As per this scheme the youths of India would be recruited in Indian armed forces for 4 years . Very soon , the Indian government will announce the process of the recruitment . Only soldiers will be recruited through this schemes in all three services of the defense

BENEFITS / SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS SCHEME : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- As the Government described , the scheme would be beneficial for the youth as well as for the Indian economy . The benefits and the Significance of this scheme can be analyzed as followings
- The youth can get employment during their study . During their training in the armed forces , they would be given some credits also and as per the New education Policy , they would be eligible for higher education also . After the fours years these you can pursue their higher study. The Hindu Analysis

- Their experience in the armed forces would be counted in every service of the government of India or state governments . they would be given preferences in the services of state police, para military forces etc
- During their employment , they would get a handsome salary (4.76 lakh in the first year to 6.92 lakh in the fourth year, apart from risk and hardship and other allowances as applicable.) and the life insurance . at the time of retirement , they would get Min 12 Lakh Rs and if any of them martyr , government would give 1 crore Rs as compensation. The Hindu Analysis
- The rate of unemployment would be reduced and the GDP of the country and per capita income will increase after this scheme
- 25 % of Agniveers would be adjusted for the regular service

DRAWBACKS OF THIS SCHEME : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Apart from these benefits some people raise some issues related to its drawback. The main opponent political party Congress also raised some issues in this regard. Congress said that Agnipath scheme for recruitment of soldiers into the Army, Navy and the Air Force, largely on a short-term contractual basis, alleging the decision could 'compromise' the efficiency and operational capability of the three Services. Congress also expressed their concern about the future of the youth.

- Apart from the criticism of the opponent political party , there are some issues related to the drawback of this scheme which should be tackled or addressed by the concerned authority . These concerns are
1. Since this recruitment is short term recruitment , so the efficiency and loyalty of the soldiers may be affected
 2. After the expulsion from the armed forces , if these youth could not get job in any of the sector (Private , government , or in any business), they may be frustrated and their accumulated discontent may create the problem for law and order because , these discontented youth have been trained (army) and for the state police , their discontent would not be tackled easily . So government should make sure fort , that every Agnivor after the retirement should be adjusted in any of the services (Government/ Private or business)
 3. This practice may encourage the system of the contract recruitment in army in future which would be dangerous for the country

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

CONCLUSION

- As per the above discussion, it can be concluded that the Agnipath scheme is a revolutionary scheme through which, On one side, the government will enhance the power of armed forces and on other side, it would provide the education to youth with fixed earning (Earning while learning). However there are some grievances raised by some experts and the politicians, which should also be addressed by the government.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

ISSUE OF MALNUTRITION AND ANAEMIA

ISSUE OF MALNUTRITION AND ANAEMIA – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

INTRODUCTION :

Good nutrition has the power to empower the present and future generations.

A child's nutritional status is directly linked to their mother. Poor nutrition among pregnant women affects the nutritional status of the child and has a greater chance to affect future generations.

Undernourished children are at risk of under-performing in studies and have limited job prospects. This vicious cycle restrains the development of the country, whose workforce, affected mentally and physically, has reduced work capacity.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

MARGINAL IMPROVEMENT

While there has been some progress in tackling malnutrition among children and women over the past decade, the improvement has been modest at best.

This is despite declining rates of poverty, increased self-sufficiency in food production, and the implementation of a range of government programmes.

The National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) has shown marginal improvement in different nutrition indicators, indicating that the pace of progress is slow.

Children in several States are more undernourished now than they were five years ago. The Hindu Analysis

- Wasting is defined as low weight-for-height
- Stunting is defined as low height-for-age.
- Anaemia is defined as the condition in which the number of red blood cells or the haemoglobin concentration within them is lower than normal.

A/C REPORT, There is a reduction in stunting rates (35.5% from 38.4% in NFHS-4) The Hindu Analysis

13 States or Union Territories have seen an increase in stunted children since NFHS-4 this includes Gujarat, Maharashtra, West Bengal and Kerala.

A/C NFHS surveys, wasting has either risen or has remained stagnant over the years. The Hindu Analysis

India also has the highest prevalence of anaemia in the world

- The NFHS-5 survey indicates that more than 57% of women (15-49 years) and over 67% children (six-59 months) suffer from anaemia.
- Assam is among the low-performing States with a huge burden of anaemic cases — 66.4% of women (15-49 years) and 68.4% children (6-59 months) are affected.
- Developing countries lose up to 4.05% in GDP per annum due to iron deficiency anaemia; India loses up to 1.18% of GDP annually.
- Experts have pointed out that Saksham Anganwadi and the Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment (POSHAN) 2.0 programme have seen only a marginal increase in budgetary allocation this year (₹20,263 crore from ₹20,105 crore in 2021-22). The Hindu Analysis
- Additionally, 32% of funds released under POSHAN Abhiyaan to States and Union Territories have not been utilised.

India must adopt an outcome-oriented approach on nutrition programmes.

- There has to be direct engagement with nutritionally vulnerable groups (this includes the elderly, pregnant women, those with special needs and young children), and contribute toward ensuring last-mile delivery of key nutrition services and interventions. The Hindu Analysis
- This will ensure greater awareness on the one hand and proper planning and implementation of programmes at the grass-roots level on the other, which can then be replicated at the district and national levels.
- With basic education and general awareness, every individual is informed, takes initiatives at the personal level and can become an agent of change.

TO CONCLUDE : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Various studies highlight a strong link between mothers' education and improved access and compliance with nutrition interventions among children.

We must ensure our young population has a competitive advantage; nutrition and health are foundational to that outcome.

The country's response to its burden of malnutrition and growing anaemia has to be practical and innovative.

Rajeev Yadav

ASHA WORKERS

ASHA WORKERS – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

The WHO has recognised India's 10.4 lakh Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) as 'Global Health Leaders'.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

WHO ARE ASHA WORKERS?

The ASHA programme was based on Chhattisgarh's successful Mitani programme, in which a Community Worker looks after 50 households.

- ASHA workers are volunteers from within the community who are trained to provide information and aid people in accessing benefits of various healthcare schemes of the government.
- They act as a bridge connecting marginalised communities with facilities such as primary health centres, sub-centres and district hospitals.
- Role – The role of these community health volunteers under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) was first established in 2005.
- Eligibility– ASHAs are
 - primarily married, widowed, or divorced women between the ages of 25 and 45 years from within the community
 - must have good communication and leadership skills
 - should be literate with formal education up to Class 8, as per the programme guidelines

- Aim– The aim is to have one ASHA for every 1,000 persons or per habitation in hilly, tribal or other sparsely populated areas.
- Presence– There are around 10.4 lakh ASHA workers across the country, with the largest workforces in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh.
- Goa is the only state with no such workers, as per the latest National Health Mission data available from September 2019.
- Salary– Since ASHA workers are considered volunteers, governments are not obligated to pay them a salary and most states don't.
- Their income depends on incentives under various schemes and all this adds up between Rs 6,000 to Rs 8,000 a month.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF ASHA WORKERS? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Go door-to-door in their designated areas creating awareness about basic nutrition, hygiene practices, and the health services available
- Focus primarily on ensuring that women undergo ante-natal check-up, maintain nutrition during pregnancy, deliver at a healthcare facility, and provide post-birth training on breast-feeding and complementary nutrition of children
- Counsel women about contraceptives and sexually transmitted infections
- Motivate children to get immunised
- Provide medicines daily to TB patients under directly observed treatment of the national programme. The Hindu Analysis
- Screen for infections like malaria during the season
- Provide basic medicines and therapies to people under their jurisdiction such as oral rehydration solution, chloroquine for malaria, iron folic acid tablets to prevent anaemia, and contraceptive pills
- Get people tested and get their reports for non-communicable diseases
- Tasked with informing their respective primary health centre about any births or deaths in their designated areas

HOW DID THE ASHA NETWORK HELP IN PANDEMIC RESPONSE? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- During the pandemic, when everyone was scared of the infection, ASHA workers had to perform a myriad of functions.
 - Check people for Covid-19 symptoms

- Inform the authorities and help the people reach the quarantine centres
- Explain the quarantine procedure to the people
- Provide the patients with medicines and pulse-oximeters
- Motivate people to get their vaccination shots
- Collect data on how many people are yet to get vaccinated

WHAT ARE THE ISSUES OF CONCERN? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- They get performance-based payments, not a fixed salary like government servants.
- In many states, the payout is low, and often delayed.
- They do not get any benefits like pension or health insurance.
- There have been agitations demanding employee status for ASHA workers.
- There is a strong argument to grant permanence to some of these positions with reasonable compensation as sustaining motivation.

Anshum Verma

The Reserve Bank of India has made it easier for cooperative banks to lend to the housing sector:

THE RESERVE BANK OF INDIA HAS MADE IT EASIER FOR COOPERATIVE BANKS TO LEND TO THE HOUSING SECTOR – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

WHY IS THIS IN THE NEWS?

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to raise the current limits on individual housing loans provided by cooperative banks.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

WHAT IS THE RBI'S CURRENT POSITION?

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has increased the lending limits for individual housing loans issued by Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs).

Additionally, Rural Co-operative Banks (RCBs) would now be permitted to lend up to 5% of their total assets to commercial real estate or residential housing projects. The Hindu Analysis

Limits for tier 1 and tier 2 urban cooperative banks (UCBs) have been increased from 30 lakh to 70 lakh to 60 lakh to 140 lakh.

The limits for rural cooperative banks (RCBs) have been raised from 20 lakh to 50 lakh for those with a net worth of less than 100 crore, and from 30 lakh to 75 lakh for the rest.

WHAT IS THE STATE OF INDIA'S COOPERATIVE BANKS? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Co-operative banks are financial institutions that are owned and operated cooperatively by its members (the customers of a co-operative bank are also its owners).

In India, co-operative banks are separated into two groups: urban and rural.

Rural cooperative banks (RCBs)—RCBs can be either short-term or long-term. Short-term cooperative credit organisations are further classified into the following categories:

COOPERATIVE STATE BANKS : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

District Central Cooperative Banks are a type of cooperative bank that operates in a district. Agricultural Credit Institutions (Agriculture Credit Institutions) (Agriculture Credit Institutions) Institutions with a long-term focus are Rural Development Banks and State Cooperative Agriculture Banks UCBs are either scheduled or non-scheduled urban cooperative banks.

There are two types of UCBs: scheduled and non-scheduled.

- UCBs with several states
- UCBs with a single state of operation

Co-operative banks are regulated in India under the States Cooperative Societies Act.

They are also regulated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) under two laws.

- The Banking Regulations Act of 1949 was enacted to regulate the banking industry.
- The Banking Laws (Co-operative Societies) Act of 1955 was enacted to make it easier for cooperative societies to operate.

WHAT ARE THE PROBLEMS THAT COOPERATIVE BANKS FACE? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- The advance to deposit ratio for UCBs is roughly 60% at the aggregate level, which is significantly lower than that of scheduled commercial banks.
- The fact that these banks' credit bases are smaller can be attributable to a variety of factors.

The Hindu Analysis

- Only leading states have a disproportionate presence of UCBs.
- Regulation-related concerns of duality
- credit limitations in high-potential industries such as housing
- Increasing non performing assets (NPAs) combined with a need to lend to the primary sector. The Hindu Analysis
- Banks' expansion through banking correspondents and FinTech acceptance
- Borrowings are a major source of income for the RCBs (27 percent of total liabilities compared to 1 percent of UCBs).

WHAT IS THE BENEFIT OF THE RBI'S MOVE? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

UCBs have a credit exposure of around \$3.25 billion, with one-third going to MSMEs and about 8% going to the housing sector.

The RBI's decision to increase credit to the housing industry will improve credit flow and protect banks from rising non performing assets (NPAs) by increasing the amount of secured loans available. The Hindu Analysis

UCBs and RCBs, on the other hand, must increase their asset base by expanding access through banking correspondents and seizing the current loan flow opportunity to the household sector.

Vivek Raj

India and Iran Relations

INDIA AND IRAN RELATIONS – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

During delegation-level meetings recently, India and Iran discussed boosting bilateral relations and strategic issues.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

- The relationship between India and Iran has spanned millennia and has been distinguished by profound contacts. The two countries shared a border until 1947, and their languages, cultures, and traditions have a lot in common.

RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN POLITICIANS : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

On March 15, 1950, India and Iran signed a friendship treaty. In 2001, Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee visited Tehran and signed the “Tehran Declaration,” which outlined areas where the two governments could cooperate.

It recognised then-Iranian President Mohammad Khatami’s concept of a “conversation among civilisations” as a model of international relations founded on values of tolerance, pluralism, and variety respect. Both sides signed “The New Delhi Declaration” in 2003, which outlined India and Iran’s.

STRATEGIC ALLIANCE OBJECTIVE : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

SECURITY

On security issues, India and Iran consult with one another. At the level of National Security Advisors and Deputy National Security Advisors, there are regular bilateral meetings.

RELATIONSHIPS ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

India’s trade connections with Iran have traditionally been dominated by Indian crude oil imports from Iran. In 2019-20, bilateral trade was \$4.77 billion, down 71.99 percent from \$17.03 billion in 2018-19.

Rice, tea, sugar, soya, medicines/pharmaceuticals, man-made staple fibres, electrical machinery, and other items are among India’s key exports to Iran. Inorganic/organic chemicals, fertilisers, cement clinkers, fruits and nuts, leather, and other items are all major imports from Iran.

CONNECTIVITY : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The deal for the Shahid Beheshti port of Chabahar, which includes an investment of \$85 million for port equipment, was signed during Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi’s visit to Tehran in May 2016. The arrangement also includes the provision of a line of credit in the amount of USD 150 million for the port’s development.

AID TO THE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

India has also stepped in to assist Iran in the aftermath of natural catastrophes and health crises. During the COVID-19 crisis in April 2020, India delivered supplies to Iran, including PPE kits and PCR machines.

CULTURAL RELATIONS : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

In 2013, an Indian Cultural Centre was established in Tehran. In 2018, the Cultural Centre

was renamed the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC), and in 2019, it was given its own space. In 2018, 2019, and 2020, the International Day of Yoga will be held.

Sri Guru Nanak's 550th birthday was also commemorated. Yoga and Hindi sessions are held on a regular basis at the centre.

CONTACTS BETWEEN PEOPLE : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Both countries have a strong commitment to promoting and facilitating people-to-people interactions. Every year, thousands of Indian pilgrims travel to the Shia pilgrimage circuit in Iran (Qom, Mashhad, Hamedan) and Iraq (Najaf and Karbala).

LATEST UPDATE : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

India and Iran want to portray themselves as independent strategic actors committed to building a new multipolar order in their common Eurasian neighbourhood as well as globally.

Despite the challenges created by decades of US sanctions, Iran has continued to work on the multimodal International North-South Transport Corridor with India, Russia, and a few other Eurasian countries (INSTC).

CHABAHAR'S INTEGRATION INTO THE 13-NATION INSTC IS BEING PUSHED BY INDIA.

The two countries agreed to step up their efforts to develop a railway line connecting Rasht, Iran's Caspian port, and Astara, on the Iran-Azerbaijan border. The 130-kilometer route will link Iran's, Azerbaijan's, and Russia's railway networks.

Despite a number of geopolitical hurdles, the activation of an alternative Caspian Sea route says volumes about Iran, India, and Russia's hopeful perspective on this corridor.

Finally, against the backdrop of Russia's war in Ukraine and Western sanctions, Iran has been trying to persuade New Delhi to resume crude oil purchases that were halted in 2019 due to US sanctions threats.

INDIA'S CONCERNS

SANCTIONS BY THE UNITED STATES : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Following Iran's withdrawal from the nuclear deal in 2018, the US put sanctions on the country, which may have effectively devastated India-Iran commerce, particularly India's energy imports from Iran.

ANTI-IRAN ALLIANCE : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

New Delhi's surprise decision to join the Israel-India-UAE-US group, characterised as a

“anti-Iran” coalition, and accusations of Iranian assistance for Yemeni Houthis behind the drone strike on a UAE oil complex, in which an Indian was killed, looked to have strained relations.

STAKES IN TERMS OF STRATEGY : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Iran also serves as India’s entrance point for trade with Central Asian countries, where India’s geographic reach is limited. India has been concerned about the strategic stakes of China’s growing influence in Iran. India’s access to the Chabahar port could be strategically crucial.

India may face governance and energy security concerns as a result of China’s growing connections with oil producers.

CONCLUSIONS AND WAY FORWARD : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

India voted no during the recent IAEA vote on the US and its allies’ resolution to punish Iran. This is consistent with its policy of settling conflicts through discussion. India’s commercial connections with Iran could be boosted if the nuclear deal is resurrected. India and Iran must repair ties that have been harmed by recent global events.

India must strive to maintain political engagement with Iran in order to gain a deeper understanding of each other’s sensitivities, compulsions, and shared interests.

To achieve energy security, India must take the lead in establishing institutional structures with Iran and Afghanistan, as well as pursue the Turkmenistan–Afghanistan–Pakistan–India (TAPI) gas pipeline project.

Vivek Raj



CURRENT AFFAIRS

JUNE 2022

CHINA'S stand w.r.t. Abdul Rahman Makki

CHINA'S STAND W.R.T. ABDUL RAHMAN MAKKI – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIR

CONTEXT : China's decision on June 16 to block the UN Security Council designation of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) deputy chief Abdul Rahman Makki as a terrorist, given that Beijing had repeatedly blocked the designation of the Jaish-e-Mohammad chief Masood Azhar until 2019, and other terror designations prior to that.

Here too, the pile of evidence against Abdul Makki is considerable:

He is part of the command and control of the UNSC-designated terror group LeT, later renamed the Jamaat ud Dawa /(JuD), (also a UN-designated terror group)

Member of the governing body or "Shura"

Served as the head of its "foreign relations" department

Raised funding. The Hindu Analysis

A member of LeT chief Hafiz Saeed's family (brother in law)

He is on India's UAPA list of designated terrorists and also the U.S.'s Specially Designated Global Terrorists with a \$2 million reward for information that would convict him.

INDIA : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- India and the U.S., which forwarded the proposal to put him on the UNSC's 1267 list of terrorists linked to the al Qaeda and ISIL.
- India wants him for his involvement in attacks over the past two decades, including the Red Fort attack in Delhi in 2000, and more recently, in attacks on security forces in Jammu and Kashmir.

How India reacted ? New Delhi has termed China's move as "regrettable" and "extremely

unfortunate”.

CHINA : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- While China's actions may be motivated by growing acrimony with the U.S. and India, it is necessary to analyze the situation beyond bilateral tensions.
- Beijing's last-minute hold on Makki's listing came even as the Financial Action Task Force was meeting in Berlin to credit Pakistan's actions on terror financing, and begin the process to relieve it from the grey list, pending an on-site visit in the next few months, may not be a coincidence. The Hindu Analysis
- While China defends its actions on Makki and previous designations that it blocked as “technical objections” based on “procedural” loopholes, it is clearly part of a pattern of protecting Pakistan internationally.

TO CONCLUDE : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

It is also notable that as a result of China's objections or otherwise, none of the following terror organisations (under UNSC 1267) contains charges against them for any attacks carried out in India-

- LeT commander Zaki ur Rahman Lakhvi in 2008
- Hafiz Saeed in 2009
- Masood Azhar in 2019

The Government of India should continue to gather evidence and systematically build its case on cross-border terrorism on the international stage that cannot be derailed by political or geopolitical considerations.

Rajeev Yadav

TOKYO QUAD SUMMIT

TOKYO QUAD SUMMIT – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Leaders of the U.S., Japan, Australia and India gathered in Tokyo for a summit of the “Quad”.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

WHAT IS THE QUAD?

- The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue began as a loose partnership after the devastating 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami to provide humanitarian and disaster assistance.
- It includes the countries of the U.S., Japan, Australia and India.
- It was formalised by former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in 2007, but then fell dormant for nearly a decade.
- The group was resurrected in 2017, reflecting changing attitudes in the region toward China's growing influence. The Hindu Analysis
- The Quad leaders held their first formal summit in 2021.
- While the Quad members say that the group is meant to deepen economic, diplomatic and military ties, China terms the grouping as an "Asian NATO".
- The group has held "Quad-plus" meetings that have included South Korea, New Zealand and Vietnam, which could form the basis for future expansion or partnership in the region.

WHAT AREAS WERE DISCUSSED? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- **Russia's invasion of Ukraine**- US, Japan and Australia have taken an unequivocal stand against Russia's aggression, while India's position is neutral that calls for respect of territorial sovereignty and integrity and the UN charter.
- **The threat of China**- Every Quad statement has proxy references to China in the repeated emphasis on a "rules based international order" and a "free and open" Indo-Pacific.
- In 2008, Australia pulled out of the Quad because it did not wish to antagonise China, with which it has deep economic ties. The Hindu Analysis
- But China's militarisation, aggressive foreign policy and determined push on its territorial claims had the effect of bringing the four together again in 2017, in what was called Quad 2.0.
- The pandemic, its controversial origins in China, and the resulting disruption of the global supply chain have also been instrumental in bringing the four closer.
- But, each Quad member views the Chinese threat differently.
 - For the US, it is about trade and Taiwan.
 - For Australia, trade and establishment of a Chinese military base in the Solomon Islands was the biggest issue.
 - Japan and India are closest to China, and both face Chinese claims to territory.

- **Adherence to international law**– Following international law as reflected in the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and in maintaining freedom of navigation and overflight was also discussed.
- The challenges to the maritime rules-based order, including in the East and South China Seas were a matter of discussion. The Hindu Analysis
- **Non-security initiatives**- Cutting-edge technology, pharmaceuticals and infrastructure have been described as key battlegrounds in the contest with China.

WHAT MESSAGES WERE AFFIRMED BY THE LEADERS? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Against unilateral actions– The Quad leaders affirmed to strongly oppose coercive, provocative, and unilateral actions by Beijing that seek to change the status quo and heighten tensions across the region.
- For this, a military coordination between the dialogue members will continue to provide strategic depth to the mission, including notably the annual Malabar exercise.
- Leveraging resources– They seek to leverage resources in areas such as
 - Vaccine delivery
 - Climate action
 - Supply chain resilience
 - Disaster response
 - Cyber security infrastructure
 - Economic cooperation

Anshum Verma

INDIAN SOCIETY and GOVERNANCE

INDIAN SOCIETY AND GOVERNANCE – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

CONTEXT : With his announcement that 10 lakh government jobs will be provided over the next 18 months on a “mission mode”, Prime Minister Narendra Modi sent four messages.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

1. The creation of employment is indeed a problem and can no longer be hidden from the public discourse.
2. The private sector, especially modern sectors such as the service and manufacturing sectors, which are dominated by multinational companies, have not created many jobs.

Even if the Information Technology sector or the modern gig economy have created jobs, these are either very high-skilled jobs or low-skilled ones.

1. The government in the Nehruvian scheme of development occupied an important place in the labour market. The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government, is now ironically forced to step in as persistently rising inflation, unemployment and underemployment threaten to politically affect it.
2. The NDA government has blown the 2024 general election bugle.

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

A populist announcement made by any government needs to be critically studied. Let's look at some employment data.

1. The NDA government is at present relying on the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation/National Pension System/Employees' State Insurance Scheme registrations and exits as indicators of the formal labour market. Hence, this might be more a case of formalisation rather than employment generation.
2. Media reports show that more than 85% of those aspiring for those 10 lakh jobs could be consumed by existing vacancies in Central government departments (8,72,243). In that sense, the pronouncement possibly does not indicate 10 lakh new jobs. The Hindu Analysis
3. 241 central public sector enterprises (CPSEs) have been shedding jobs in recent years — jobs declined from 10.84 lakh in 2017-18 to 10.71 lakh in 2018-19 and to 9.22 lakh in 2019-20.

The 10 lakh jobs creation also needs to be seen in the context of the labour market.

DEVELOPMENTS : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Even though the labour force and workforce participation rates have increased marginally, there is a decline in the quality of jobs
viz. There is a rise in the unpaid segment of the self-employed and a rise in the share of the

agricultural sector in total employment over the last three Periodic Labour Force Surveys (43% to 47%).

- The manufacturing sector's share in national income has declined in 2020-21 (10.9%) compared to that in 2018-19 (12.1%).
- The educated unemployment rate (secondary school and above) in general and youth unemployment (15-29 years) in particular in the urban areas have very marginally fallen from 2019-20 to 2020-21, but they still high enough to cause concern (in double digits).
The Hindu Analysis
- Employment shares in the informal enterprises have increased — for men (71% to 75%), women (55% to 57%) and all persons (68% to 71%) from 2017-18 to 2020-21.
- Even though the share of regular salaried workers who did not have a formal employment contract, paid leave and eligibility for any form social security have declined for both genders, the level is still high.
- Even as the Nehruvian model of development is attacked in the current dominant political discourse, we cannot avoid placing the government at the centre of employment creation beyond a certain point. The Hindu Analysis
- The private sector creates jobs in response to market forces and while taking into consideration radically altering technological developments. We cannot rely on the projections about employment generation by the gig economy.
- They are estimates computed by a trade body or by consulting agencies which have vested interests. As they are political economy agents influencing government policies, their predictions need to be read with many pinches of salt.
- The job recovery stories, which are published from to time in the pink press, based on employment service providers such as Monster Employment Index, need to be seen in the context of a highly job-impooverished economy such as ours.
- Projects in the modern private sector consume a lot of capital to generate very few jobs.

For instance, recently, there was a report that the Adani Group has invested ₹70,000 crore (or ₹700 million) in Uttar Pradesh to create merely 30,000 jobs. Foreign Direct Investment, which at any rate is highly capital-intensive, goes mostly into the non-manufacturing sectors.

ANALYSIS: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Employment is not merely about numbers and growth figures. We need to concentrate on enabling the creation of decent work and a sustainable labour market to which India is committed as a member of the United Nations and the International Labour Organization.

- Wittingly or otherwise, the government's role in employment generation has entered into popular discourse and discussions on policy formation. While even one job is a miracle, we need millions. The government should play a significant role soon. The Hindu Analysis
- A lean and mean government, which is often prescribed by the neoliberal project, often results in governance deficit.

TO CONCLUDE : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The government should re-establish its role as the principal employment generator through jobs in its ministries and CPSEs and through assured employment generation programmes like MGNREGA.

Rajeev Yadav

SC Directions on Sex workers

SC DIRECTIONS ON SEX WORKERS – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

- A long-standing demand of sex workers that their work be decriminalised has been partially fulfilled with the Supreme Court

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

WHAT WAS THE CASE ABOUT?

- In 2010, an appeal was filed in the SC against a 2007 order of the Calcutta High Court which upheld the life imprisonment imposed on a man named Budhadev Karmaskar, found guilty of murdering a sex worker in Kolkata's red light area in September 1999.
- The court suo motu converted the case into a PIL to address the problems of sex workers. The Hindu Analysis
- The court held that the Central and the State Governments should prepare schemes for rehabilitation for physically and sexually abused women commonly known as prostitutes through Social Welfare Boards.
- The Court had ruled in Budhadev Karmaskar (2011), that sex workers are also entitled to a "life of dignity" under Article 21 of the Constitution

- The SC also appointed a panel to make suitable suggestions on prevention of trafficking and rehabilitation of sex workers who wish to leave sex work.

WHAT DID THE PANEL SAY IN ITS REPORT? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- In its final report submitted in 2016, the panel noted that sex workers
 - Found it difficult to acquire proofs of identity such as ration cards or voter cards because they lacked a proof of residence
 - District authorities did not recognise the identities of sex workers and their children. The Hindu Analysis
 - No access to schemes meant for their rehabilitation
 - No access to credit offered by states, because the lack of documents prevented them from opening bank accounts
- The committee recommended that amendments should be made to The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956.
- **Centre's response**– In 2020, the government informed the SC that a Group of Ministers has been constituted to examine the two draft legislations and the SC panel report shall be taken into consideration by the Group of Ministers.

WHAT IS THE RECENT COURT RULING? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- In 2020, the SC directed States and Union Territories to provide dry rations to sex workers identified by National Aids Control Organisation (NACO) without insisting on proof of identity.
- Recently, the court noted that despite its assurances, the Centre was still to bring a law on the subject. The Hindu Analysis
- The court used its extraordinary powers under Article 142 and directed that the recommendations in respect of sex workers and other connected issues be implemented by states and UTs.
- Recommendations to be implemented- The order listed 10 recommendations of the panel, and directed that six of them should be implemented.
 - provision for immediate medical assistance for any sex worker who is a victim of sexual assault
 - direction to states to do a survey of all Immoral Trafficking (Prevention) Act Protective Homes
 - sensitising police and other law enforcement agencies to the rights of sex workers and to ensure that police treat them with dignity and should not abuse them verbally and

physically. The Hindu Analysis

- ask the Press Council of India to issue appropriate guidelines for the media to take utmost care not to reveal the identities of sex workers
- measures that sex workers employ for their health and safety must neither be construed as offences nor seen as evidence of commission of an offence
- The Additional Solicitor General had conveyed that the Government has certain reservations on some of the panel's recommendations.

HOW SIGNIFICANT IS THE COURT ORDER? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- By holding that basic protection of human decency and dignity extends to sex workers and their children, the Court has struck a blow for the rights of an exploited, vulnerable section.
- The court's order comedown heavily on the brutal and violent attitude of the police toward sex workers. The Hindu Analysis
- It has asked State governments to do a survey of protective homes to review the cases of adult women detained there and process their release in a time-bound manner.
- The Court's observations shall help sensitise the police, media and society toward sex workers

Anshum Verma

NEED FOR AN EDUCATION DATA

NEED FOR AN EDUCATION DATA – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

- India lacks and needs data which can hold the local vision of education and local actors accountable.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

WHAT IS THE CASE OF RAJASTHAN?

- Media writings have highlighted the marked fall or improvement in learning outcomes, depending on the dataset
- Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) led by the NGO, Pratham
- The National Achievement Survey (NAS) led by the National Council of Educational

Research and Training (NCERT). The Hindu Analysis

- According to ASER 2019 data, Rajasthan was among the bottom five States in learning levels, while in NAS 2017, Rajasthan was among the top performers.
- Despite near consensus among policymakers and the intense efforts to disseminate data among the end-users, it is rarely used by poor parents.
- For them, schooling is about examination outcome, which is a proxy for learning, English language skills and a chance for secondary and graduate level degrees.
- Data on school infrastructure at the district level, or learning levels at the State level cannot galvanise the masses.

WHAT ABOUT THE PRESENT STATUS? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Data has to be linked with a vision of school education which addresses the anxieties and aspirations of parents.
- A national-level policy should encompass the essence of the vision of the people at the national, State, district and local levels. The Hindu Analysis
- The district and school development plans such as the District Primary Education Programme (DPEP) and Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) were not representative of parent-school consensus.
- Community-based consultative bodies such as the school management committees and parent-teacher committees could not become platforms to facilitate this.

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is Government of India's flagship programme for achievement of Universalization of Elementary Education (UEE) in a time bound manner, as mandated by 86th amendment to the Constitution of India.

WHY IS THE EDUCATION DATA SO SIGNIFICANT? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- It is only when data is connected with a locally developed and politically owned vision of school education that it will move beyond the administrator and the activist.
- The education data is essential to hold the local actors accountable.

Anshum Verma

The retirement age of judges

THE RETIREMENT AGE OF JUDGES – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

CONTEXT : The age of retirement of Supreme Court of India judges is to be increased to 67 years, not immediately but in a couple of months

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

With increase in the age of retirement-

- Current CJI may continue for a long ex. Justice U.U. Lalit
- Next CJI may take a long time to take the office ex. Justice D.Y. Chandrachud

Since the next Lok Sabha election is due by May 2024. Therefore, much hangs on age.

DEVELOPMENTS : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Judges, like other men and women of law, are professionals who have long working spans and are capable of good useful work well into their 60s. Age does not wither them easily.
- The obvious negative fallout of a differential retirement age simply is intense pressure and competition to make it to the top court and thus get three more years. If this is done away with, several judges of mettle would prefer to be Chief Justices and senior judges in the High Courts exercising wide power of influence rather than being a junior judge on a Bench of the Supreme Court.
- We can take a leaf from making the appointment of the Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court. Only five of its 17 Chief Justices served earlier as an Associate Justice, the rest came fresh to the Court. It is part of a system designed to relieve excessive power and pressure.

A CULTURE OF SERVICE IS NEEDED : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Several focus on arbitrations and amass considerable fortunes with high fees and multiple sittings. Indeed, some say that they make more money in one year of arbitration than in their entire judicial careers.

- A minority of judges devote themselves to public service; sadly, this is a very small minority.
- Another lot are appointed to various constitutional posts and tribunals and commissions. The Hindu Analysis
- It would be worthwhile reform to create a cadre of public service for retired judges and from this pool make appointments to the constitutional and statutory posts and special assignments.

- Such judges should receive the full pay and the facilities of a judge of the Supreme Court for life.

Obviously they should be barred from arbitrations; it should further be provided that if any judge is unwilling to be a part of the cadre and instead wishes to pursue arbitrations post retirement, then senior positions on the Supreme Court such as the membership of the collegium ought not to be available for them.

SERVE EQUALLY : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Article 124 merely states that the President will appoint every judge of the Supreme Court, and this includes the Chief Justice, and each of these judges shall hold office until they attain the age of 65 years.

- The requirement about appointing the seniormost judge to be the CJI is a sleight of hand devised in the Second Judges case (1993) and the consequent Memorandum of Procedure which is an obvious and naked usurpation of the President's power and a blatant attempt to rewrite the Constitution.
- It has no constitutional legitimacy.
- Human frailties are human frailties, and judges are no exception much as they may consider themselves to be. The Hindu Analysis
- There are sufficient examples in India's judicial history of aberrational judicial conduct with the Holy Grail in view, as also refusing to hear contentious cases which may provoke the executive red or orange light.
- Indeed, there is no good reason why any one particular person should have a vested interest in the top job, and we are better served by eliminating such expectation.

Let all serve equally under the constitutional throne for the entire length of their tenure.

QUESTION REMAINS : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

WHO THEN SHALL BE PRIMUS INTER PARES, THE FIRST AMONG EQUALS?

For the court needs a leader. Go back to the Constitution again; among its catchpool for judges of the Supreme Court are judges of the High Court, senior advocates and distinguished jurists.

Since we want to keep serving sitting Supreme Court judges inviolate from all but the purest influences, let us say that when a serving CJI retires, his successor should be the best reputed Chief Justice of a High Court who has proved himself worthy both in judicial office as well as administrative leadership and has those qualities of heart and head which mark a good

leader.

Case of M.C. Chagla and P.V. Rajamannar, two of our most eminent judges, retired as Chief Justices of the Bombay High Court and the Madras High Court, can't be forgotten.

- The appointee should have a clear three year term — not the truncated weeks and months that some CJIs now get. The Hindu Analysis
- But he should not function as the primus super pares as many CJIs nowadays do — calling the shots and having their unfettered way.
- He should instead function in a true collegiate manner, especially in regard to the roster of allotment of cases, especially the sensitive ones, and appointments to the Supreme Court and High Courts and other important matters of judicial and administrative importance. The Hindu Analysis
- Such a combination of CJI so chosen working with senior ranking colleagues will make collegiate functionality both a natural course and an imperative necessity.

TO CONCLUDE : It is high time that we do away with the disparity between the retirement ages of High Court and Supreme Court judges. High Court judges now retire at 62 and Supreme Court judges at 65.

We should have a culture of public service for senior judges, and those who do not fit in such culture should not be a part of senior ranks.

Rajeev Yadav

International Yoga Day

INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

- Date: – June 21 and has been celebrated annually on since 2015
- The theme of this year's Yoga Day celebrations is "Yoga for Humanity"
- PM leads the main event at Mysuru Palace.
- The idea of an International Day of Yoga, initially proposed by Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, was promoted by the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, during his speech at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), on 27 September 2014. The Hindu

Analysis

- According to Hindu legends, Shiva is considered to be the originator of yoga and also called Adiyogi, the first yogi (adi = "first").
- Summer solstice holds importance in the yogic culture as it is considered to be the very beginning of the yoga. The Hindu Analysis
- Yoga was brought to the people by the "Saptarishis". (The Saptarishi, are the seven rishis in ancient India, who are extolled at many places in the Vedas and other Hindu literature. The Vedic Samhitas never enumerate these rishis by name, though later Vedic texts such as the Brahmanas and Upanisads do so.)

Anoop Singh

Kaziranga National Park

KAZIRANGA NATIONAL PARK – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

- Location: – Golaghat and Nagaon districts Assam, India.
- Located on the edge of the Eastern Himalaya biodiversity hotspot.
- The park, which hosts two-thirds of the world's great one-horned rhinoceroses, is a World Heritage Site. The Hindu Analysis
- Kaziranga National Park was declared a Tiger Reserve in 2006.
- Kaziranga is recognized as an Important Bird Area by Bird Life International for conservation of avifaunal species.
- The park area is circumscribed by the Brahmaputra River. The Hindu Analysis
- Four main types of vegetation exist in this park i.e. Alluvial inundated grasslands, Alluvial savanna woodlands, Tropical moist mixed deciduous forests and Tropical semi-evergreen forests.

Anoop Singh

Need for an Education Data

NEED FOR AN EDUCATION DATA – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

India lacks and requires data that may hold local players and their educational visions accountable.

WHAT IS RAJASTHAN'S SITUATION?

Depending on the dataset, media articles have highlighted a significant decline in learning outcomes or an improvement. The NGO Pratham produces the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER).

Rajasthan was one of the best performing States in (National Achievement Survey) NAS 2017 but was one of the five States with the lowest learning levels according to ASER 2019 statistics. The Hindu Analysis

Poor parents hardly ever use it, despite the near-unanimity among policymakers and the strong efforts to disseminate data among the end users.

For them, education focuses on the results of exams, which serve as a proxy for learning, English language proficiency, and the potential to pursue secondary and graduate degrees. The Hindu Analysis

Data on state-level learning standards or district-level school infrastructure cannot inspire the masses.

WHAT ABOUT THE PRESENT STATUS? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Data must be connected to a vision of schooling that takes into account the concerns and aspirations of parents. A national policy should reflect the core of the goals of the people at the federal, state, local, and district levels.
- The District Primary Education Programme (DPEP) and Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), among other school and district development initiatives, did not reflect the agreement of parents and schools.
- Parent-teacher committees and other locally based consultative groups like school management committees could not serve as platforms to support this.

WHY ARE EDUCATION STATISTICS SO IMPORTANT? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Data won't advance beyond the administrator and the activist until it is linked with a locally

established and politically held vision of schooling.

To hold local actors accountable, the education data is crucial.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

WAY FORWARD:

- The best course of action is to integrate data with a vision of schooling that answers parents' concerns and ambitions and is implementable at the level of government that is closest to them, i.e. the local administrative and political system, in order to inspire reform. When the data speaks to the poor and they have a voice with the authorities who have the authority to act, the poor will speak up.
- A compelling vision for education can take many forms, including a national policy. It should ideally capture the essence of the populace's viewpoint. Additionally, the vision will take on numerous shapes in both policy and non-policy contexts at the national, State, district, and local levels — For instance, consider how panchayat schools operate when they emphasize migrant children's learning and personality development, or how non-governmental organization programmes build teacher capacity for bilingual classrooms. There is now no vision for education below the national level, especially at institutions that cater to the disadvantaged.

Vivek Raj

BRICS

BRICS – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

- BRICS is the acronym coined to associate five countries: Brazil, Russia, India, China (PRC), and South Africa.
- Formed in September 2006 (UNGA 61st session), but first BRIC summit was held on 16 June 2009.
- Originally there were group of four countries (i.e. Brazil, Russia, India, China (PRC)), in 2010 South Africa joined the group. The Hindu Analysis
- Headquarters: – BRICS Tower, Shanghai, People's Republic of China.
- 1st Summit was held on 16-june-2009, host country Russia and 14th Summit held on 23-

06-2022, host country China.

- The New Development Bank (NDB), formally referred to as the BRICS Development Bank is a multilateral development bank operated by the five BRICS states. The Hindu Analysis
- According to the Bank's Articles of Agreement all members of the United Nations could be members of the NDB, but the share of the BRICS nations can never be less than 55% of voting power. In September 2021, Bangladesh, the United Arab Emirates and Uruguay joined the NDB and in December 2021, Egypt became its new member.

Anoop Singh

Krishna River

KRISHNA RIVER – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

- The Krishna River is a river in the Deccan plateau, and the third-longest river of India (after the Ganges and Godavari)
- Major source of irrigation in following states i.e. Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. The Hindu Analysis
- It originates in the Western Ghats near Mahabaleshwar (Maharashtra) at an elevation of about 1,300 mtr.
- Mouth of the river:- Bay Of Bengal
- Tributaries :- Bhima, Dindi, Peddavagu, Musi, Paleru, Munneru, Kudali (Niranjna) Venna, Koyna, Panchganga, Dudhaganga, Ghataprabha, Malaprabha, Tungabhadra. The Hindu Aalysis
- Krishna river basin also known for rich mineral deposits such as iron, oil & gas, coal, laterite, limestone, gold, dolomite, granite etc

Anoop Singh

Keibul Lamjao National Park

- Location:- Bishnupur district (Manipur)
- It is the only floating park in the world, located in North East India, and an integral part

of Loktak Lake.

- The park is composed of moist semi-evergreen forests, aquatic, wetland and terrestrial ecosystem
- It was created to preserve the natural habitat of the endangered Eld's deer (Cervus eldi eldi).

Anoop Singh

Focus on the Indian health sector before helping others: An analysis in context to migration of health workers

FOCUS ON THE INDIAN HEALTH SECTOR BEFORE HELPING OTHERS – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

CONTEXT:

- During the Covid period, the Indian government announced medical support to many countries, and even though we provided vaccination to many South American and African countries. However that time, in India, vaccination for all could not be started because of the lack of coordination between the central and state government

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

INTRODUCTION

- Health is an essential sector of the economy of any country. India successfully achieved the target of the vaccination for all adults (at least one dose) but still, there are some areas of the health sector left on which we have to work. This time the countries of the world are spending the money on the health sector. India is one of the most populated countries in the world. In such a ratio, India required nearly two million more doctors and nursing professionals to attain the minimum threshold ratio of healthcare professionals to the population.
- As per the report of the WHO, the availability of skilled medical professionals in India is very less and there is no possibility of improvement in this field in near future. But India should bring a drastic change in this field. The Hindu Analysis
- Such inadequacies are further compounded by the legions of healthcare professionals

who remain inactive and outside the labor force. Many renowned doctors and medical professionals left the job because of political reasons or a bad working atmosphere. Government should bring those skilled doctors into their active profession

SOFT POWER PROJECTION : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- As per the objective of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS), health care services should be moved across the borders. And after globalization and liberalization, the health facilities were moved across the border easily. But there must be some restrictions on the free movement of the health care facilities across the borders. Government should make the laws in the domestic interest in this regard

NEED TO OPT FOR SOME MEASURES IN THIS REGARD : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- It is observed that developed countries hire Indian medical professionals on handsome salaries without any effort (only through the Online advertisement). Since we do not have the proper data of all the working professionals, therefore at the time of a medical emergency we can face the deficiency of these working professional
- At the national level, state level, and district level, the government should have a record of all the health professional categories. For example, how many nurses are there in a district, how many compounders are there in a district and similarly how many skilled doctors are there in a district. Accordingly, we should ensure the migration of the health profession should not be more than the adequate requirement of the health profession for domestic services.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

CONCLUSION

As per the above analysis, it is concluded that Nation is the first policy that must be applied in the health sector also. However, we should help other countries also but priority should be given to our country. We faced the problem of deficiency of the vaccine however we were sending vaccines to others. Therefore we should learn a lesson from the past. We should spend more money on the budget of the health sector. In health care, which is characterized by perennially scarce resources and a surfeit of challenges, everything revolves around identifying the priorities right. And no amount of political or political expediency or cultural chauvinism should be allowed to undercut national health interests.

Since it has been our culture of Paropkar (charity), but on the cost of Paropkar (charity) our health care system should not suffer. We, as Indians, wish for the well-being of the world and provide all possible assistance to the world.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

The global crisis in oil refining

THE GLOBAL CRISIS IN OIL REFINING – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

WHAT'S THE ISSUE?

Fuel prices are skyrocketing, and expenses are rising for industrial production, electricity generation, and building heating, which is hurting drivers around the world at the pump.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

BACKGROUND

Before Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24, prices were already high. While crude prices have barely slightly increased since mid-March, fuel prices have skyrocketed.

Lack of sufficient refining capacity to convert oil into gasoline and diesel to fulfill growing worldwide demand is a major contributing factor.

HOW MUCH CAN GLOBAL REFINERIES GENERATE PER DAY? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

According to the International Energy Agency, there is enough capacity in the world to process around 100 million barrels of oil per day, but only about 20% of that capacity is actually put to use.

In Latin America and other regions where there is a dearth of investment, a large portion of that unused capacity is located.

The remaining anticipated capacity is probably between 82 and 83 million barrels per day (bpd).

HOW MANY REFINERIES HAVE BEEN SHUT DOWN? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The world's daily refining capacity has decreased by 3.3 million barrels, according to the refining industry, since the year 2020.

These losses were split roughly evenly between the United States, Russia, China, and Europe.

Early in the epidemic, when lockdowns and remote work were common, fuel demand fell.

Before that, there had been at least three decades where refining capacity had increased.

REASONS BEHIND THE HIGH PRICES : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Refineries are running at lesser capacity than they were prior to the epidemic in the United States, China, Russia, and Europe.

US refiners have reduced their capacity by around a million barrels per day (bpd) since 2019.

Russia: According to sources who spoke to Reuters, about 30% of Russia's refining capacity was idle in May. Russian fuel is being rejected by many Western countries.

China: Its capacity for refining is the lowest.

Exports of refined goods are only permitted in accordance with official quotas, which are typically given to big state-owned refineries rather than independent small businesses.

China's independent refineries averaged 65.5 percent, compared to 71.3 percent for state-backed refineries. Though lower than average historically, that was up from earlier in the year.

WHAT OTHER FACTORS ARE INVOLVED IN THE HIGH PRICES? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Due to increased global demand and sanctions against Russian boats, the cost of shipping goods overseas has increased.
- The high cost of natural gas, which fuels refineries' operations, limits their ability to operate throughout Europe. The Hindu Analysis
- Vacuum gas oil is another intermediate fuel used by some refiners.
- The shutdown of some gasoline-producing units was caused by the loss of Russian vacuum Gas Oil.

WHO STANDS TO GAIN FROM THE EXISTING CIRCUMSTANCES? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Refiners, particularly ones that ship a lot of petroleum abroad, like US refiners.
- Due to the widespread fuel shortages, refining margins have reached all-time highs, with the crucial 3-2-1 crack spread approaching \$60 per barrel.
- For US-based Valero and India-based Reliance Industries, this has resulted in significant profits.

WILL OIL REFINING INCREASE IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- The capacity of the world's refineries is expected to increase by 1 million barrels per day in 2022 and by 1.6 million bpd in 2023.
- Daily processing of 78 million barrels in April was significantly lower than the pre-pandemic average of 82.1 million bpd.
- As Chinese refineries restart, the IEA anticipates that refining will increase this summer to 81.9 million bpd.

WHAT IS THE POSITION OF INDIA? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

According to the IEA, India refines more than 5 million bpd and has been buying inexpensive Russian crude for both internal use and export.

By year's end, the IEA predicts a 450,000 increase in output.

WHAT SHOULD WE DO NEXT? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

To accommodate the rising demand, more refining capacity is expected to go online in the Middle East and Asia.

The need can be satisfied until nations like the US, Russia, and China resume their pre-pandemic levels of operation.

Vivek Raj

NAMBI NARAYANAN (FORMER ISRO SCIENTIST)

NAMBI NARAYANAN (FORMER ISRO SCIENTIST) – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

- S. Nambi Narayanan is a former ISRO scientist
- He was awarded the Padma Bhushan, in 2019.
- Played important role in developing the Vikas engine that would be used for the first PSLV that India launched and also he was in-charge of the cryogenics division. The Hindu Analysis
- He introduced the liquid fuel rocket technology in India in the early 1970s as he knew the need and importance of liquid fueled engines for ISRO's future civilian space programmes.
- In 1994, he was falsely charged with espionage and arrested in April 1996, finally the charges against him were dismissed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and in 1998, the Supreme Court declared him not guilty. The Hindu Analysis
- In 2018, the Supreme Court awarded Narayanan a compensation of ₹ 50,00,000. However the Government of Kerala decided to give him ₹ 1.3 crore. The apex court also constituted a committee headed by retired Supreme Court judge D. K. Jain to inquire into the role of officials of the Kerala police in the arrest of Narayanan.

Anoop Singh

OPEN NETWORK FOR DIGITAL COMMERCE (ONDC)

- Meaning :- ONDC is a network based on open protocol and will enable local commerce across segments, such as mobility, food order & delivery, grocery, hotel booking and travel etc. to be discovered and engaged by any network-enabled application
- It is a Not-for-profit organisation that will offer a network to enable local digital commerce stores across industries to be discovered and engaged by any network-enabled applications.
- GOI focused on ONDC with an aim to “democratise” the country’s fast growing digital e-commerce space. Currently dominated by Amazon & Walmart. Presently ONDC is the pilot stage in five cities- Delhi NCR, Bengaluru, Bhopal, Shillong and Coimbatore, with a target of onboarding around 150 retailers.
- GOI also setup of Advisory Council to analyze the potential of ONDC as a concept and recommend the government on measures needed to accelerate its adoption.
- For next Five Years, ONDC expects to bring on board 90 crore users and 12 lakh sellers on the network and 730 crore additional purchases. It will standardize operations like inventory management, order management, cataloguing etc.

Anoop Singh

Significance and implications of Majoritarian politics in Indian democratic system: An Analysis

SIGNIFICANCE AND IMPLICATIONS OF MAJORITARIAN POLITICS IN INDIAN DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

CONTEXT :

- India is a country of diversified cultures. Numerous races, ethnic groups, religions, and languages are part of Indian cultures. Among all the religions Hindus are in majority. The democratic system is the number game of majority votes. But In democratic countries, if the minorities are marginalized, it could destruct the objectives of the welfare state

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

INTRODUCTION

India is democratic cutlery as well as a country of diversified culture. Therefore, in front of India, it is a big challenge to implement welfare measures in the country without any discrimination. Majoritarianism is the big flaw of democracy. Generally, political parties prefer to attain power only for all the measures they adopt.

The polarization of the votes for any political party would be the key to power. Therefore every political party prefers to polarize the votes of the majority only. In this way, the majorization would be imposed in the diversified country and the people of the minority sector can feel inferior and finally segregated and marginalized. Therefore this is the duty of the state to prevent such an atmosphere. In the policy-making process, the minorities should not be ignored

CASE STUDY OF THE NORTHEASTERN STATE : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The northeastern states are small and have less representation in parliamentary politics. therefore the people of the northeast would always have the feeling of being marginalized. Therefore, the Government should ensure to give maximum representation to those people.

THE EROSION OF SECULARISM : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The ruling party ensured that she would get the power again through the support of the majority votes of the Hindus. Therefore, for the power, they may adopt the extremist policy in the favor of Hinduism. However, Such parties would get success in the election but It can destruct the secular nature of the country. Therefore this is the duty of every citizen of India to intact the diversified cultural structure of this country. The Hindu Analysis

However, our continuation protects the rights of minorities but it should be reflected in the act of the institutions of the government.

For the last several years, it has been observed that the decision of the honorable courts also was in the favor of the majority. However, these decisions should not be criticized on the parameter of the merits and the fundamentals of the constitution but up to a certain extent they dented the faith of the minorities towards government institutions

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

CONCLUSION

diversity in public institutions is essential to promote stability and integration of the state as an institution of governance since an underlying premise of democracy is power-sharing

along multiple axes — religious, linguistic, regional, caste, tribal, etc. The extent to which ethnic or racial minorities are present in legislatures can be viewed as a litmus test for the effectiveness of a country's democratic system and for redressing ethnic inequalities or addressing discrimination.

For a democratic country, we should protect ourselves from the evil of the polarization of the majority votes. The majorization of democratic countries disintegrated the state. Because polarization on the ground of religion and the caste would be dangerous for the stability of the country. Therefore this should be the duty of every responsible institution and the citizen to protect this country from the veiling practice of majoritization and the religious polarization. the measure should opt for the socially, and politically marginalized people also.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Exit of foreign portfolio investment (FPIs)

EXIT OF FOREIGN PORTFOLIO INVESTMENT (FPIs) – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

WHAT'S THE ISSUE?

The pressure on the Indian currency is likely to continue as a result of the growing inflation and tightening monetary policy in the US.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

WHY IS MONEY LEAVING THE COUNTRY?

Large-scale capital outflows from a country as a result of political or economic unrest have a detrimental impact on that nation's economy. This phenomenon is known as capital flight.

FPIs, who currently control about 19.5 percent of the market capitalization, had taken out Rs 42,000 crore in June.

CAPITAL FLIGHT CAUSES : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- The US Federal Bank tightening of monetary policy
- Other central banks, like those in Britain and the Eurozone, have raised interest rates. The Hindu Aanlysis
- Apprehensions on the probability of a US recession
- increased inflation

WHAT ARE FPIs' LEGAL STANDINGS IN INDIA? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- An investor who purchases foreign financial assets such as equities, mutual funds, and fixed deposits is said to be engaging in foreign portfolio investment (FPI).
- The largest non-promoter shareholders in the Indian market are FPIs, and their investment choices have a significant impact on stock prices and the market's trajectory as a whole.
- According to data from the National Securities Depository Ltd., the US accounts for a sizable portion of FPI investments as of May 2022, followed by Mauritius and Singapore (NSDL). The Hindu Analysis
- The FPIs are run by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
- The Foreign Portfolio Investors Regulations, 2019, were just released by SEBI.
- FPIs must also abide by the Foreign Exchange Management Act of 1999 and the Income-tax Act of 1961.

HOW DO FPIs FUNCTION? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- The goal of investing in international markets is to diversify the portfolio and get a sizable return.
- Foreign portfolios raise volatility and risk at the same time.
- Foreign investors engage in a risk-off trade during periods of global unpredictability, increasing their holdings of bonds and gold while reducing their exposure to riskier assets like equities. The Hindu Analysis
- When interest rates rise in the US and other developed nations, investors pull money out of emerging markets like India and put it into domestic bond markets instead.

HOW DO THE MARKETS AND THE RUPEE FARE AS A RESULT OF CAPITAL FLIGHT? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Capital market: The withdrawal has lowered investor confidence in the stock and FX markets.
- Increased market volatility and falling equity prices are two indicators of how FPI selling has affected markets.
- Forex- As of June 10, 2022, India's foreign currency reserves have decreased by \$596.45 billion, primarily as a result of the strengthening dollar and FPI withdrawals.
- Depreciation: Against the dollar, the rupee has fallen 7.3 percent to an all-time low of 78.30/32.
- Another drawback is that FPI outflows would persist if the rupee does not rise.

- Inflation: As import costs rise due to the weaker rupee against the dollar, inflation continues to rise.
- Indians studying or travelling abroad will need to pay extra rupees to banks in order to purchase dollars.
- People are immediately harmed by the rupee's decline due to the sharp rise in fuel prices.
- Retail and domestic institutional investor (DII) inflows are both declining, and if the FPI outflows continue, the markets may decline even more.

Vivek Raj

Surrogacy – A comprehensive analysis

SURROGACY – A COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

WHAT IS SURROGACY?

- The bill defines surrogacy is when another woman carries and gives birth to a baby for the couple who want to have a child. There is also gestational surrogacy, wherein eggs from the mother are fertilised with the father's/donor's sperm and then the embryo is placed into the uterus of the surrogate, who carries the child to term and delivers it.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

SURROGACY (REGULATION) ACT, 2021

- Proposes complete ban on commercial surrogacy and allow only altruistic surrogacy. So, under no circumstance's money shall be paid to her, except for medical expenses including insurance (36 months).
- Only Indian married couple, foreigners with Indian spouse, and divorcee or widow single women would be allowed. The Hindu Analysis
- It allows single women including divorcees and widows to become surrogate mother.
- Setting up of a regulatory body at centre and state level.
- They have to take the child irrespective of any deformity at birth.

ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS TO MAKE USE OF THE SERVICES OF A SURROGATE MOTHER : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Any couple that has 'proven infertility'.
- The couple should be Indian citizens who have been married for at least five years.
- The female must be between 23 to 50 years and the male, 26 to 55 years.
- They cannot have any surviving children (biological, adopted or surrogate); However, this would not include a 'child who is mentally or physically challenged or suffers from life threatening disorder or fatal illness.'

WHY LEGISLATION IN THIS REGARD IS NECESSARY? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The 228th report of the Law Commission of India has also recommended for prohibiting commercial surrogacy and allowing ethical altruistic surrogacy to the needy Indian citizens by enacting a suitable legislation.

CURRENT MECHANISM : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- At present, the surrogacy business functions under the regulatory guidelines issued by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).
- India offers one of the best fertility 'packages' in the world. Intending parents can get a fertility visa and get their IVF procedures done, hire healthy surrogates, return home, and monitor the entire pregnancy from there. They can also get proper exit visas to take the children home. This all is done on written contract basis.

REASON FOR INCREASING SURROGACY : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Most of the surrogate mothers are poor and middle class women.
- Comparatively low cost of medical services, easy availability of surrogate mothers and lack of laws to regulate it.

Egg donation: Egg donation is legal in India under which the women gets around 25000 for one egg. Donations has to be carefully managed and properly spaced but unfortunately, due to exigencies for money and usually due to no information about the side effects due to frequent ovarian stimulation, their exploitation happens.

PROBLEMS THEY FACE : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- They face several hardships during the process, including ambiguous contracts, health concerns, exploitation by middle men or hospital authorities, lack of enforceability of contract by mothers due to their socio-economic vulnerability.

- Unregulated surrogacy leads to human trafficking also.

PRO AND CONS : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- It could hamper the Medical tourism in india and can lead to substantial loss to the multi-billion industry.
- Govt. should have done something better for regulating this industry rather than banning. For example. Thailand, a popular destination for fertility tourism, suddenly banned commercial surrogacy. The result was chaos– A number of surrogates in various stages of pregnancy were left in limbo. Intending parents did not know how to collect their babies. Consequently, the surrogacy industry got pushed underground. Which made it even more derogatory.
- In many of the bigger and better organized fertility clinics, the surrogates are housed in special homes, given proper diet, medical check-ups and maintenance allowances. The only problem is absence of any regulating law and no proper statistic on IVF clinic or Surrogates.

WHAT TO BE DONE? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- The babies born through surrogacy whose citizenship and right to be protected by their biological parents should be of prime importance.
- For the intending parents, surrogacy is a boon which gives them the child they never could have. For this they are willing to pay good amount and willing to protect and nurture the surrogates.
- For the fertility specialists they have to be trained in better manner. The problem lies with the bogus embryologists and doctors, the agents and touts who lure and cheat surrogates, as well as intending parents. This should be curbed.s

Vikas gupta

National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013

NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY ACT (NFSA), 2013 – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

- This act aims to provide subsidized food grains to 67% Indians. It extends to the whole of India including J&K.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

IMPORTANT FEATURES OF THE SCHEME:

- 75% rural and 50% of the urban population are entitled for 5 kg food grains/person/month at 3 Rupees, 2 Rupees, 1 Rupee per kg for rice, wheat and coarse grains (millet), respectively for 3 years and will get food security allowance in case of non-supply of food grains.
- Pregnant or lactating mothers and children of 6 to 14 yrs age are entitled to a nutritious extra “take home ration”. Govt. will use ICDS for it.
- The central government will provide funds to states in case of short supplies of food grains. While the states will determine eligibility. The Hindu Analysis
- Under the scheme, the eldest woman in the household, 18 years or above, is the head of the household for the issuance of the ration card.
- There will be state and district level redress mechanisms and State Food Commissions will be formed to implement and monitor the provisions of the Act.
- The poorest who are covered under the Antodaya yojana will remain entitled.
- It mandates govt. to provide cash to lactating or pregnant women through Indira Gandhi Matritya Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY).
- Free meal to children from 6 to 14, govt. intend it to do through MDM.
- The State Food Commission will apply a penalty if a public worker or authority fails to comply with the remedies proposed by the District Grievance Redressal Officer.

PUCL:

- IGMSY has less coverage than mandated by the act
- MDM will not reach to all children

COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Centre has been extending the rollout of the scheme, without the Parliament's approval.

- NFSA has been rolled out in 33% of the regions so far. Even in them, only 51% of the eligible beneficiaries have been identified using the old database, available with the state. The Hindu Analysis
- Centre has failed to resolve the issues raised by states.
- Major reason for non-implementation is the lack of identification of beneficiaries under the socio-economic caste census, lack of infrastructure facilities, insufficient funds and manpower.

CAG RECOMMENDATIONS : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Centre, in consultation with state governments, should issue guidelines for the identification of the beneficiaries to maintain transparency.
- Centre “must assure itself, of the actual beneficiaries by following transparent processes before allowing states to revise/enhance entitlements.”

Cashless distribution of food grain: Gujarat is the first state to implement such system.

The GoI has made Aadhar card mandatory for receiving subsidised food grains from all PDS shops under the National Food Security Act (NFSA).

STATE FOOD COMMISSION : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Every State Government shall constitute a State Food Commission. Recently SC reprimanded the states for not establishing state food commission because the act allows the states to designate existing bodies as the state food commission. Using the leeway the states has not established any food commission yet.

Vikas gupta

Whistle Blowers Protection Act 2014

WHISTLE BLOWERS PROTECTION ACT 2014 – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

The Act aims to protect the people who exposes corruption, wilful misuse of power or commission of a criminal offence against a public servant.

- It has broad definition of whistle blower as it includes government officials and any other person or NGO.
- The WBP law has provisions for concealing the identity of a whistle-blower, if so desired, following cases such as Satyendra K. Dubey, whose murder led to demand for such legislation.
- The law empowers the competent authorities to accord them protection, which includes police protection and penalising those who victimise them.

WEAKNESSES : THE HNDU ANALYSIS

Its jurisdiction is restricted to the government sector and encompasses only those who are working for the Government of India or its agencies. It means that it does not cover the state-government employees or Private Sector (Satyam Scam).

- It outlines sanctions for false complaints but does not provide any penalty for attacking a

complainant.

- It does not allow anonymous complaints.

WHISTLE BLOWER PROTECTION (A) BILL 2015 : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The Bill sought to dilute the Whistle blowers Protection Act, 2014.

- The Bill prohibits the reporting of a corruption related disclosure if it falls under any 10 categories of information:
 - Economic, scientific interests and the security of India.
 - Cabinet proceedings.
 - Intellectual property.
 - Received in a fiduciary capacity.
- The Act permits disclosures that are prohibited under the Official Secrets Act (OSA), 1923. This Bill disallow disclosures that are covered by the OSA.
- Any public interest disclosure received by a Competent Authority will be referred to a government authorised authority if it falls under any of the above 10 prohibited categories. This authority will take a decision on the matter, which will be binding.

KEY ISSUES AND ANALYSIS : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- The 10 prohibited categories are modelled on those under the RTI Act, 2005. However, this comparison may not be appropriate. Unlike the RTI Act, disclosures under the Bill are not made public but in confidence to a high level constitutional or statutory authority.
- With regard to the 10 prohibited categories, the RTI Act allows–
 - The public authority to disclose information if he considers it to be in public interest.
 - A two stage appeal process if information is not made available. The Bill does not contain such provisions.
- A Competent Authority is required to refer a prohibited disclosure to a government authority for a final decision. However, the Bill does not specify the minimum qualifications required or the process of appointment of this authority.
- Whistle-blower laws in other countries also prohibit the disclosure of certain types of information.

Vikas gupta

Implications of the winning of Gustavo Petro in the presidential election of Columbia

IMPLICATIONS OF THE WINNING OF GUSTAVO PETRO IN THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION OF COLUMBIA – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

CONTEXT:

- In the presidential election of Columbia, a Latin American country, Gustavo Petro wins with a huge majority. He is a leftist, therefore, Should it be assumed whether the leftism has returned in Latin American countries or liberal leftism has emerged in the form of a Pink tide

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

INTRODUCTION :

The winning of a leftist leader in a Latin American country should not be underestimated. Gustavo Petro, who has been recently elected for the president of the Columbia has been the extremist leftist leader of the Columbia (a former urban guerrilla, a member of M-19) and he had been involved in many violent revolutions in Columbia. The election of Mr. Petro would bring a drastic change in the politics of the Latin countries. The election of the Mr petro should be understood as the return of liberal leftism in the form of pink tide in Latin American countries or not, the time will tell in this regard

WHAT IS THE CONCEPT OF PINK TIDE? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The term Pink tide is used by the media for the new form of leftism. This concept is moving away from the neoliberalism of the 21st century. Unlike extreme leftism, this concept believes in democratic values but believes in equal distribution of production. However it also supports the violence for the abolition of the government of the bourgeoisie but simultaneously, it opts for the liberal means to abolish it.

WHAT ARE THE POLITICAL CHANGES IN LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Covid crisis and the maladministration of the governments of the Latin American countries paved the way for the rise of leftism once again which had lost its significance after globalization. These countries are badly affected by the covid pandemic. Almost 30 % of deaths in the world have been recorded however the population of the Latin American countries is only 8% of the world's population. the reason behind these deaths has been considered the maladministration of the rightist government. The Hindu Analysis

The election of Gustavo Petro should be seen in the sequence of the elections of Gabriel Boric in Chile, Xiomara Castro in Honduras, Luis Arce in Bolivia, Pedro Castillo in Peru, and earlier victories of Andrés Manuel López Obrador in Mexico and Alberto Fernández in Argentina. All these leaders are from leftist ideas. The political experts predicted that in the coming days the ideology of leftism would be rapidly spread in Latin American countries

WHAT IS THE AGENDA OF BOGOTA : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The agenda of Bogota is clear to implement the leftist ideology in his country and we are at the beginning of another “political cycle”, marked by the ascendancy of the Left. But the time will tell which type of leftist ideology would be implemented. Extreme leftism or liberal leftism

Mr. Petro, 62, an economist, and a former mayor of Bogotá, is especially attuned to the environmental challenge. His main agenda is to wean Colombia away from its dependence on fossil fuels such as oil and coal (40% of the country’s export revenues come from oil), stop fracking (a technique used in natural gas and petroleum production), and move towards an energy transition.

Another agenda would be working on gender issues. Gender equality would be the main agenda of the Petro (his Cabinet has a larger number of women than men). The Hindu Analysis

Another agenda would be to reduce the economical gap which has been increased in the Columbia in last some years. The new government would try to stop the human trafficking as well as the drugs trafficking also

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

CONCLUSION

As per the above discussion, it is concluded that once again leftism is returning to Latin American countries with its new form. As the possibilities of ideological conflict evolve, once again NAM shows its significance. It is also concluded that in economically deprived countries the ideology of leftists emerges easily. The changing politics of the Latin American countries would open new chapters of learning for the entire world.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai



CURRENT AFFAIRS

JUNE 2022

G-7 (Group of Seven)

G-7 (GROUP OF SEVEN) – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

- It is an inter-governmental political forum consisting of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States. Also European Union is a 'non-enumerated member'. It formed as on 25 March 1973.
- As of 2020, the collective group accounts for over 50 percent of global net wealth (which is \$418 trillion), 32 to 46 percent of global gross domestic product, and approximately 770 million people or 10 percent of the world's population.
- The G7 is not based on a treaty and has no permanent secretariat or office and its presidency rotates annually among the member states. The Hindu Analysis
- First Summit was held in France (Nov-1975) as G6 and further Canada joined the group, forming G7. Recently 48th Summit held in Germany (26-28 June-2022)
- Besides India, Germany has also invited Argentina, Indonesia, Senegal and South Africa as guests for the summit to recognise the democracies of the world as its partners.
- India focused on following issues such as Climate, energy, food security, counterterrorism, environment, gender equality and democracy.

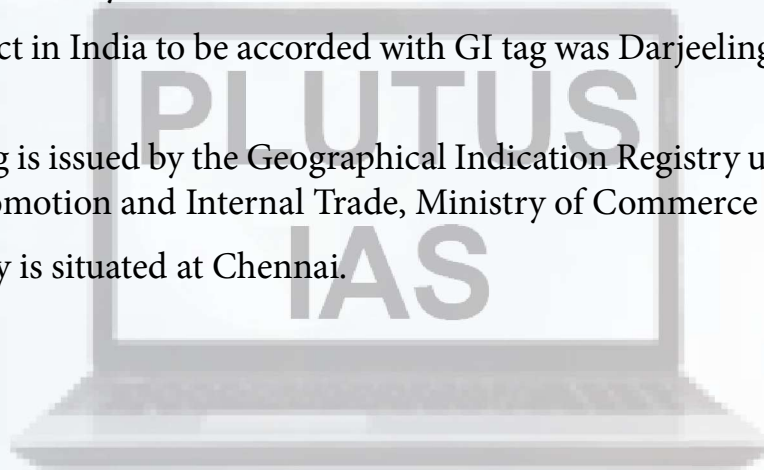
Anoop Singh

Geographical Indication (GI)

GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATION (GI) – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

- A geographical indication (GI) is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin like region, country and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin. In order to function as a GI, a sign must identify a product as originating in a given place.

- The use of a GI, as an indication of the product's source, is intended as a certification that the product possesses certain qualities, is made according to original & traditional methods, or enjoys a good reputation due to its geographical origin. And also there is a clear link between the product and its original place of production. The Hindu Analysis
- GI Tags are used for agricultural products, handicrafts, industrial products etc.
- GI Tag ensures that none other than those registered as authorized users are allowed to use the popular product name.
- GI are covered as a component of Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) under the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property and also governed by the World Trade Organisation's (WTO's) Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).
- In India, GI registration is administered by the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 which came into force with effect from September 2003. The Hindu Analysis
- The first product in India to be accorded with GI tag was Darjeeling tea in the year 2004-05.
- In India this tag is issued by the Geographical Indication Registry under the Department of Industry Promotion and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- The GI Registry is situated at Chennai.



Anoop Singh

Global Health leaders Award 2022

GLOBAL HEALTH LEADERS AWARD 2022 – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

India's ASHA volunteers have received arguably the biggest international recognition in form of the WHO's Global Health Leaders Awards 2022.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

HOW DID ASHA EVOLVE?

- India launched the ASHA programme in 2005-06 as part of the National Rural Health Mission.
- Initially rolled out in rural areas, it was later extended to urban settings as well.

- The core of the ASHA programme has been an intention to build the capacity of community members in taking care of their own health and being partners in health services. The Hindu Analysis
- The ASHA programme was inspired from the learnings from two past initiatives.
 - In 1975, a WHO monograph titled 'Health by the people' and then in 1978, an international conference on primary health care in Alma Ata.
 - The biggest inspiration for designing the ASHA programme came from the Mitandin initiative of Chhattisgarh, which had started in 2002.

WHAT ABOUT THE KEY FEATURES OF ASHA? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- The ASHA selection involved key village stakeholders to ensure community ownership for the initiatives and forge a partnership.
- ASHAs coming from the same village where they worked had an aim to ensure familiarity, better community connect and acceptance.
- The idea of having activists in their name was to reflect that they are the community's representative in the health system, and not the lowest-rung government functionary in the community. The Hindu Analysis
- Calling them volunteers was partly to avoid a painfully slow process for government recruitment and to allow an opportunity to implement performance-based incentives.
- ASHAs have become pivotal to nearly every health initiative at the community level and are integral to demand side interventions for health services in India.

WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES OF THE PROGRAMME? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Salary- ASHAs do not have a fixed salary.
- Career progress- They do not have opportunities for career progression.
- Delays- Though performance-based incentives are supplemented by a fixed amount in a few Indian States, the total payment continues to remain low and often delayed.
- Protests- The issues have resulted in dissatisfaction, regular agitations and protests by ASHAs in many States of India.

WHAT IS THE NEED OF THE HOUR? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- High remuneration- Indian States need to develop mechanisms for higher remuneration for ASHAs.
- Capacity building- It is time that in-built institutional mechanisms are created for capacity-building and avenues for career progression for ASHAs.

- Social services- Extending the benefits of social sector services including health insurance for ASHAs and their families should be considered. The Hindu Analysis
- External review- While the ASHA programme has benefitted from many internal and regular reviews by the Government, an independent and external review of the programme needs to be given urgent and priority consideration.
- Permanent staff- Considering the extensive shortage of staff in the primary health-care system in India, ASHAs can be made permanent government employees.

Anshum Verma

G7 Summit 2022

G7 SUMMIT 2022 – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

WHY IN NEWS?

- In order to attend the G7 Summit in Schloss Elmau, a century-old resort in the Bavarian Alps, Prime Minister Narendra Modi travelled to Germany.

WHAT IS G7? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Members- The G7 is an informal grouping of the world's seven most industrialised countries, including the United States, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the United Kingdom.

At the G7 heads of state and government gathering every year, the European Union is always represented.

In 1975, the first “World Economic Summit,” which later evolved into the G7, was established.

Germany, France, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, and the US made the original G6.

The panellists discussed the 1970s' economic issues, including the first oil crisis and the fall of the fixed exchange rate regime (Bretton Woods).

G7: Canada joined the organisation in 1976, and the first G7 summit was held in Puerto Rico.

The European Community (now the European Union) has participated in every working session since the Ottawa Summit in 1981.

The G7's focus widened to encompass matters of foreign and security policy in the 1980s.

G8: When the Group of Eight was established in 1998, Russia joined but was expelled in 2014 for violating the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine.

Importance: By 2022, the G7 countries will account for 10% of the world's population, 31% of its gross world product, and 21% of its carbon dioxide emissions.

HOW WAS THE MOST RECENT G7 SUMMIT? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

This year was Germany's sixth G7 leadership, with the overriding theme of "Progress towards an equal world."

This objective is to use five areas of action to direct the G7's activity.

- planetary sustainability
- stability and change in the economy
- A healthy life
- Putting money toward a brighter future
- stronger collectively

India, Argentina, Indonesia, Senegal, and South Africa have been invited to the summit in 2022 as partner nations by the German Chancellor.

The UN, WHO, WTO, IMF, and World Bank were among the international organisations that attended the summit.

The G7 leaders discussed a variety of issues at the three-day gathering, including Ukraine and working together on foreign policy.

- energy and food security issues
- Promoting partnerships for infrastructure and investment while investing in climate and health
- influencing the world economy
- Promotion of gender equality
- Developing global collaboration

WHAT WERE THE SUMMIT'S MAIN RESULTS? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Communiqué – The G7 leaders signed a communiqué to jointly preserve democratic values, universal human rights, the multilateral system of rules, and the resiliency of democracies.

Ukraine: The G7 leaders reiterated how strongly they disapproved of Russia's illegitimate and unjustified aggression against Ukraine.

The G7 nations are firmly committed to supporting Ukrainian reconstruction through an international reconstruction plan and have pledged and supplied EUR 28 billion in fiscal help. The Hindu Analysis

Security of food and energy supplies was a commitment made by the G7 leaders to gradually reduce reliance on Russian energy.

They investigated further measures, such as price controls, to safeguard the energy supply and lessen price spikes.

Through the Global Alliance on Food Security, the G7 nations will also improve nutrition and food security worldwide. The Hindu Analysis

Economic concerns: The G7 leaders are still committed to working together to collaborate on economic security, increase supply chain resilience, and address citizens' rising cost of living.

Environment and climate: The G7 leaders backed the plans of a global Climate Club to hasten the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

The G7 leaders made a pledge to

a significantly carbon-free road sector by 2030

a power industry that is substantially or completely carbon-free by 2035

accelerating the phase-out of domestic unabated coal power as a top priority

Investments- The Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII), a cooperative project to finance infrastructure projects in underdeveloped nations, has been created by the G7 nations. The Hindu Analysis

Through the cooperation, they hope to close the global investment gap by mobilising USD 600 billion over the following five years.

The G7 will strive toward new Just Energy Transition Partnerships with Indonesia, India, Senegal, and Vietnam while building on their current cooperation with South Africa. The Hindu Analysis

Health: The G7 leaders reaffirmed their dedication to ensuring that everyone has access to vaccines, medicines, diagnostics, and other important medical supplies that are safe, effective, and reasonably priced.

The G7 agreement on pandemic preparedness was also endorsed by leaders.

Democratic principles: The G7 leaders will work with partners and civil society to strengthen our countries' resilience.

- Internet and offline advocacy for human rights
- Deal with misinformation
- Obtain gender parity

Vivek Raj

Small Government Savings Rate

SMALL GOVERNMENT SAVINGS RATE – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

- Why in news?

For the quarter of July to September in FY23, the Central Government maintained the interest rates for modest savings programmes at their current levels.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

SMALL SAVINGS SCHEMES: WHAT ARE THEY?

Small Savings Schemes (SSS) are a collection of savings instruments run by the federal government with the goal of encouraging all residents, regardless of age, to save consistently.

The government, banks, and public sector financial organisations all introduce these programmes. The Hindu Analysis

The interest rates for modest savings schemes have been reviewed by the Finance Ministry every three months since 2016.

The National Small Savings Fund (NSSF), which is utilised by the central government to pay its fiscal deficit, collects all deposits made under various small savings programmes. The Hindu Analysis

Classification: The programmes can be divided into three categories: social security plans, savings certificates, and post office deposits.

Post Office Deposits: These include monthly income accounts, time deposits with maturities of 1, 2, and 3 years, recurrent deposits, and savings deposits.

National Savings Certificates and the Kisan Vikas Patra are two examples of savings certificates. The Hindu Analysis

Public Provident Fund, Sukanya Samriddhi Account, and Senior Citizens Savings Scheme are examples of social security programmes.

Benefits:

Returns that are typically higher than bank fixed deposits are made available
has tax advantages and a sovereign guarantee.

They are very trustworthy since the government supports them.

not impacted by stock market fluctuations

Encourage people to develop a habit of saving money

HOW DOES THE GOVERNMENT FEEL ABOUT THE LOW SAVINGS RATES? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Calculating the tiny savings rate Small savings rates and benchmark government bond yields are related.

However, the government hasn't lowered interest rates in the past two years despite changes in G-Sec (government securities) yields.

At this time, the government has chosen to maintain the same interest rates on modest savings instruments. The Hindu Analysis

The National Savings Certificate (NSC) and Public Provident Fund (PPF), for example, will continue to offer yearly interest rates of 7.1 percent and 6.8 percent, respectively, in accordance with the recent decision.

One to five-year term deposits will provide interest rates between 5.5 and 6.7 percent, while five-year recurring deposits would yield a higher rate of 5.8 percent.

WHAT DOES THIS ENTAIL FOR SAVERS AND BANKS? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Negative real rate of return: The decision was made at a time when bond yields have increased to over 7.4 percent and inflation is over 7 percent.

After accounting for inflation, the choice might give savers and pensioners a negative real rate of return. The Hindu Analysis

Technically speaking, negative real rates encourage spending rather than conserving, which may drive greater inflation and further negative real rates.

Slow down the deposit rate increase: Banks are currently less inclined to pursue a significant increase in deposit rates.

Vivek Raj

India's law on abortion

INDIA'S LAW ON ABORTION

WHY IN NEWS?

Some issues are not addressed in the 2021 amendment to the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act.

EVOLUTION OF INDIA'S ABORTION LAW

Following a spike in the incidence of induced abortions in the 1960s, the Union government mandated the formation of the Shantilal Shah Committee to consider the country's abortion legalisation.

The Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act was put into effect in 1971 with the goal of lowering maternal mortality caused by unsafe abortions.

This law establishes the guidelines for how and when a medical abortion may be performed. It is an exemption to the Indian Penal Code (IPC) provisions of 312 and 313.

A person who "voluntarily induces a woman with child to miscarry" is subject to punishment under Section 312 of the IPC, which carries a maximum three-year prison sentence, a fine, or both, unless it was done in good faith with the intention to preserve the pregnant woman's life.

In India, this clause effectively outlaws all forms of abortion.

According to Section 313 of the IPC, a person who induces a miscarriage without the pregnant woman's agreement, regardless of whether she is far along in her pregnancy, will be subject to a fine, life in prison, or a prison sentence that could last up to 10 years.

EVOLUTION OF MTP BETWEEN 1971 AND 2021

The MTP Act underwent its most recent modification in 2021. Prior to that, new regulations were introduced in 2003 to permit the use of misoprostol, an abortion drug that had just been discovered, to end a pregnancy up to seven weeks into it.

Abortion is legal following a doctor's recommendation under certain conditions, according to the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Act of 2021.

The 2021 Act expanded the maximum gestational period to which a woman may obtain a medical abortion from the 20 weeks allowed by the 1971 Act to 24 weeks.

This updated upper limit is only applicable in certain circumstances.

Up to 20 weeks of gestation, MTP might now be accessible based on the recommendation of a single licensed medical professional.

Two licensed medical professionals' opinions are needed between 20 and 24 weeks.

A medical abortion up to 12 weeks of pregnancy required the approval of one registered doctor under the previous version of the Act, while abortions up to 20 weeks required the approval of two doctors.

Additionally, if a pregnancy must be terminated beyond 24 weeks of gestation, only a four-member Medical Board, established in each State under the Act, may do so on the basis of fetal abnormalities.

Despite any of the aforementioned restrictions, the legislation also stipulates that an abortion may be performed whenever necessary by a single licenced medical professional in order to preserve the pregnant woman's life.

Because the 2021 Act does not include the need for spousal consent, unmarried women may also seek abortion under the aforementioned conditions. However, a guardian's approval is necessary if the woman is a minor.

JUDICIAL ACTIONS TAKEN IN CASES INVOLVING ABORTIONS

The decision by a pregnant person to continue a pregnancy or not is part of that person's right to privacy as well as their right to life and personal liberty under Article 21 of the Constitution, the Supreme Court held in the landmark Right to Privacy judgement in the 2017 case Justice K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India and others. Despite the fact that the country's current laws do not permit unconditional abortions

In February 2022, the Calcutta High Court granted a 37-year-old woman's request for a medical abortion at 34 weeks of pregnancy because the foetus had been identified as having an intractable spinal disorder.

OBJECTIONS TO THE ABORTION LAW

A 2018 report published in the Lancet estimates that as of 2015, India saw 15.6 million abortions annually.

The latest National Family Health Survey 2019–2021 found that 27% of abortions were performed at home by the mother herself.

Around 8 women perish every day in India as a result of unsafe abortions, according to the State of the World Population Report 2022 by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

According to the MTP Act, only gynaecologists or obstetricians are permitted to perform abortions.

Critics claim that because the law prohibits abortions performed at any time, it forces women to acquire unsafe, illegal abortions.

According to statistics, 8,00,000 unsafe and illegal abortions are carried out annually in India, many of which result in maternal death.

As "woman" is used in the legislation, pregnant transgender and non-binary people who are biologically able to have children are excluded.

They are compelled to ignore their gender identification and identify as one of the gender-binary.

Affordability and social stigma that encourage unsafe abortions are other major problems.

Private medical facilities with abortion services are pricy and only accessible to those with sufficient funds.

CONCLUSION

India's condition is far from ideal, so now is the time to consider global progressive practices and learn from them.

We should work toward reproductive equity, total physical autonomy, and inclusivity.

We shouldn't start governing by gauging our progress by the rate of regression.

Legal, medical, and societal considerations must be taken into account while evaluating bodily autonomy and reproductive rights.

One cannot say that India is paving the way for the West until women and non-binary pregnant people have complete authority over their own bodies according to these standards

Vivek Raj

