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CURRENT AFFAIRS (DECEMBER 2021)

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India on the path of technology :
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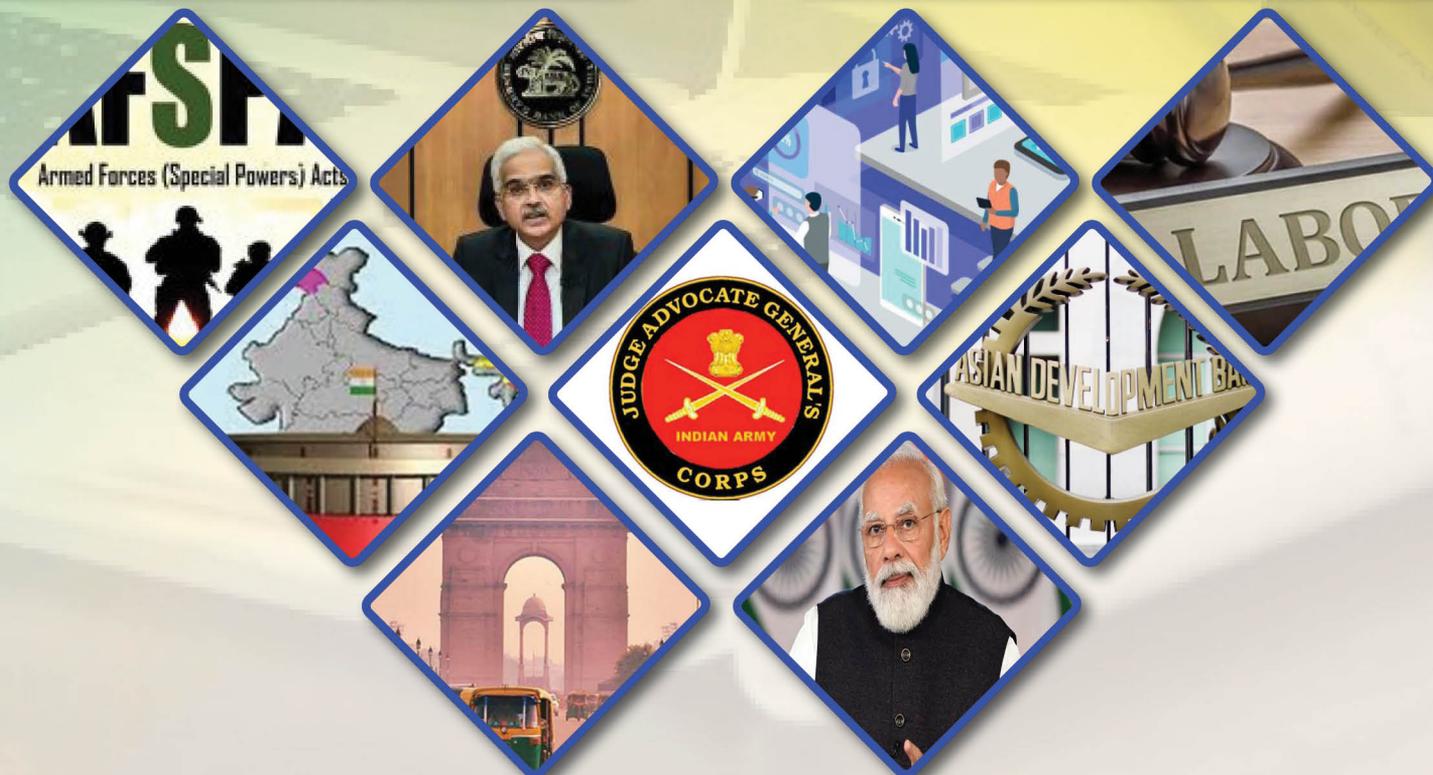
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RELEASING DIGITAL INDIA
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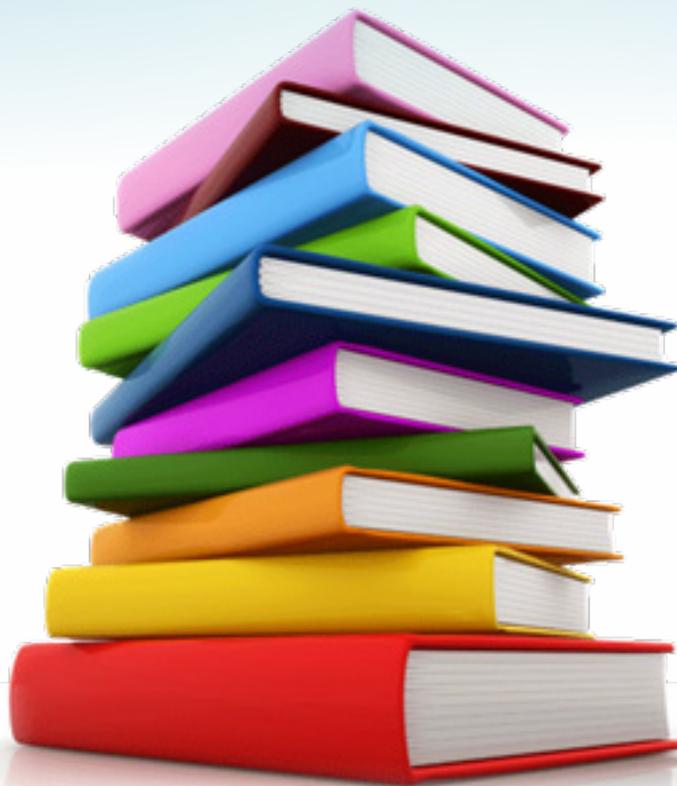
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CURRENT AFFAIRS

DECEMBER 2021

NATIONAL FAMILY HEALTH SURVEY IN POLICY FORMULATION GS- 2 SOCIAL ISSUES

National family health survey is conducted across India at the district level in a multiphase manner and is often considered pointer to the future and NFHS began in 1992 for demographic assessment and its fifth edition is pending the survey of 2019- 2020 has given the silver lining for demographic transition. The result of the National family health survey is significant as it provides a detailed comprehensive multidimensional status of National health and demographic trajectory.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OF NATIONAL FAMILY HEALTH SURVEY-5: TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

1. **Population stabilization**– TFR has declined and is below the replacement level of 2:1 i.e on average carrying two children over a lifetime is indicated by the fact that this generation of population will be exactly replaced. In fact I state wise breakup of national family health survey data confirm the declining tfr total fertility rate and has demonstrated India's way of population stabilization.
2. **Improvement in sex ratio**- it is the first time nationally that data of adult women is 1020 per 1000 men. As per National family health survey 2015-16, there were 991 women per thousand men as it is a greater improvement.
3. Sex ratio at birth registered only a marginal improvement i.e 929 female child per thousand male child, which is only a bit higher than national health family survey-4 i.e, 919 female child per thousand male child. Despite improvement, male children have a higher chance for survival due to the persistent “son” preference mindset.

Negative outcomes of national family health survey-5: The Hindu Analysis

- **Anaemia**– it has increased to 67% from 58.6 %.
- Lack of nutrition and inadequate intake of fruit and vegetables result in the deficiency of iron and vitamin b12. The significant increase in the proportion of enemies indicates that the centre program “Anaemia mukt Bharat” has remained stagnant.
- **Malnutrition**– stunting, wasting and underweight are the indicators of multi nutrition and has shown an overall improvement, which is insufficient and requires a collective improvement in the field of poverty, maternal health and education. The improvement in this indicator of malnutrition is on account of the pandemic which led to the under-counting of incidence.
- **Overweight**– increase in the phenomena of obesity among children, women and men is a cause of concern as it will further give rise to non communicable diseases. National family health survey measured for the first time blood sugar and hypertension among the population to raise concern regarding lifestyle diseases

- **Micronutrient deficiency**– many essential vitamins and minerals are missing from Indian plate due to junk food habits and changing lifestyle which has gradually sidelined the traditional food habits.
- **Women reproductive health**– there is increase in cesarean births and mostly private health facilities promote C- section for monetary gain.
- **Low participation in family planning**– female sterilization has increased to 37.9% which shows that the stereotype still remains to be broken.

CONCLUSION

Given India's poor infrastructure and less expenditure on health and education, coupled with paint make hit the progress is above mentioned dimension is remarkable that data provided by National family health survey-5 will help in shaping the policies to correct the shortcoming and ensure equitable accessibility of service to all especially those impacted with social determinants input on demographic trends, health women's empowerment, fertility, family planning etc, by National family health survey is secondary to the decadal census, yet it need to be recognised by policy makers to improve development indicators.

Anshum Verma

Significance of (GS paper I, History Optional Paper-II, Essay)

CONTEXT :

Today is the 65th death anniversary of great architect of Indian constitution Dr Bhim Rao mabedlkr and entire nation is paying its tribute to the great social reformer today

Introduction: Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar Today Current Affairs

Bodhisattva Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar was born on 14 April 1891 and graduated from London School of Economics and Political Science. He opted four time PhD in for various streams like economics, law, Anthropology and in political science. He had versatile knowledge and He played important role in uplifting the social status of deprived persons In 1990, He was awarded by highest Civilian award Bharat Ratna also

Role of Ambedkar in National Movement : The Hindu Analysis

He was the person who shaped the national movement in a new dimension.

He brought all those people of India (deprived people) who were left behind in this national movement.

In His view, first depressed class people should be educated and then they should be aware to realize their exploitation.

In fact he wanted every Indian free. In his view, if India became free without the social freedom of deprived persons, India would never be strong and in future civil war or conflict between these deprived people and upper class people may occur in future. So first he wanted to eliminate untouchability and this caste descrimibatin under British rule. Without eliminating this descrimination he was not ready to accept freedom of Indian under the dominance of upper class people

Ambedkar knew that economic interdependence is equally important as political freedom. For national integration, deprived people could not be left behind, these people were majority in numbers therefore after independence he emphasized on the concept of equality under the fundamental rights. Social justice and economic justice, both are essential for the integration of a country.

Our National movement was also going on some direction and Congress had also declared about Fundamental Right during Karachi session 1931 and our revolutionists were also shouting for social and economic justice.

In the Peasant movement during the 3rd decade of the 20th century, the Eka movement was led by lower-class people Madari Pasi. With all those awareness among Dalits or deprived people, Ambedkar played a very significant role in the upliftment of the status of lower class people with the national integration. Once he said *“if i have to choose between the interest of the country and the interest of the deprived class, definitely I will choose the interest of deprived people”*. In this way he wanted to describe that, “a nation can not be formed without the upliftment of the status of marginalised people”. Many times he opposed some decisions of the congress also regarding the concept of nationalism. Congress thought that once freedom is acquired and then we would implement social justice (Through abolishing the untouchability) but Ambedkar thought in its reverse,, first it should be ensured about social justice then there would be any significance of Freedom.

CONCLUSION :

Definitely the role of Ambedkar was very appreciable in the National movement. He never fought against British rule directly but he fought against the social evils that existed in India. He fought against untouchability. He fought against the weakness of Nations that was the social gap (Exploitative nature of Brahmanis). In this way, He awarded deprived people so that they could also involve them self with the processes of nationalism and after Independence, the work of constitution making is really praiseful and appreciable

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

The Wage Rate Index and Minimum Wages (GS 3, Economics, The Hindu, Indian Express, PIB)

NEWS/CONTEXT :

The Labour Bureau under the Central Ministry of Labour and Employment has recently revised the base year of Wage Rate Index from the old series of 1963-65 to 2016. Now The Wage Rate Index value for 2016 will be taken as 100 in place of 1963-65, and a new series will be developed.

The Wage Rate Index basically shows the relative change or percentage in wages during a period of time for different industries. Wages rate for base year is considered as 100 for a particular industry.

Supposedly the average daily wages for manufacturing industry in the year 1963-65 was 5 Rupees, then the Wage Rate Index value will be considered as 100. And say in 2020 the average daily wages for the same manufacturing industry is 350, then the Wage Rate Index value will be calculated as 7000. It simply means that the daily wages in the manufacturing industry have become 70 times more costly. Thus the Wage Rate Index measures the inflation in wages. It helps policy makers and economic analysts in revising key economic policies and analysing the economy respectively. Likewise he government periodically revises the base year for major economic indicators to reflect the changes in the economy such a, for the indicator of economic growth i.e. GDP (Gross Domestic Product) was revised from 2004-05 to 2011-12; for the indicator of retail inflation i.e. CPI-C (Consumer Price Index- combined) was revised from 2010 to 2012.

The coverage and scope in terms of industries and occupation in the new series (2016=100) has been enhanced in comparison to previous one (1963-65=100). Earlier Wage Rate Index were including 21 industries in manufacturing like cotton, cement, jute, sugar,silk, cigarette, mining, plantation of coffee, rubber and tea, etc., and now it will be adding petroleum, garments and footwear etc. Oil mining has been included to make the mining sector more representative. 46% of the total weight in the new series come from the top five industries like garments textile, coal mines, motor vehicle, cotton textile, iron and steel.

The revised Wage Rate Index will play an important role in determining the national floor wages and minimum wages and some other parameters.

The All India Wage Rate Index Number for the first half of the 2020 for all the 37 industries, as per the new series, stood at 119.7. Hence it can be understood that if average wage rate in 2016 was 100, it became 119.7 for the first half of the 2020, or say an increment of 19.7%. The highest Wage Rate Index in 2020 (half yearly 2), at sector level was reported in Plantation Sector (126.5) followed by Manufacturing Sector (119.6) and Mining Sector (116.7).

Minimum wages as per International labour Organization have been defined as **“the minimum amount of remuneration that an employer is required to pay wage earners for the work performed during a given period, which cannot be reduced by collective agreement or an individual contract”**

Minimum Wages Act : India introduced the Minimum Wages Act in 1948, giving both the State government and the Central government jurisdiction in fixing wages. The act is legally non-binding, but statutory. It will be considered as forced labour if payment of wages goes below the minimum wage rate. **Wage boards from time to time have been set up and review the industry’s capacity to pay and fix minimum wages such that they at least cover a family of four requirements of calories, shelter, clothing, education, medical assistance, and entertainment.** Under the law, wage rates in scheduled employment differ across states, sectors, skills, regions and occupations owing to differences in costs of living, regional industries’ capacity to pay, consumption patterns, etc. Hence, there is no single uniform minimum wage rate across the country and the structure has become overly complex.

The minimum wage, until last year, was regulated under the purview of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. The parliament passed the Code on Wages Act, 2019 in August and amended the existing act.

**Md Layeeque Azam,
Economics Faculty**

Afforestation Fund : An effort of Government for environmental Conservation (GS paper III)

CONTEXT :

The Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning authority (CAMPA) has so far released more than 48000 crores to the provinces of India.

INTRODUCTION :

A forestation is the process of planting new trees on the earth. Generally Afforestation term is used for alternative sources of forest resources or forest produce. Afforestation is not used in natural forests. Reforestation is quite a different term with afforestation. Reforestation means the meantation of new trees in those areas where the forests are continuously decreasing. In Afforestation the plantation is done in desert area or any unfertile ares. Deforestation means the destruction of the forest for the work of infrastructural development

Afforestation is of high importance to ensure continued sustainability of our planet and here we will look at the importance, advantages, disadvantages and even major efforts of Afforestation

What is The Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning authority (CAMPA)

To conserve the environment and to provide compensation against environmental degradation, by an order of the supreme court The Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning authority (CAMPA)

was formed in 2001. In fact after 1998, in Delhi many trees and plants were destroyed because of the metro construction and at that time the supreme court ordered the DMRC to compensate for this environmental loss by forestation of desert areas of Rajasthan. Gradually in 2001, Supreme Court ordered to constitute any body in this regard then finally government established Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning authority (CAMPA) in 2006

The objective of CAMPA is mainly to provide financial assistance to the state as well as to compel the states and any other authority to compensate the value of any type of environmental degradation

If suppose any company destroys the forest area of 100 acres, this company had to give to compensation for this deforestation among which 80 % would be given to state CAMPA and 10 % to central CAMPA and centre and state would use this fund for afforestation purpose and that company must provide that alternative land for such afforestation.

As per the report presented in Loksabha Chhattisgarh and Odisha have had the maximum amount transferred to them or close to 5700 crore and followed by Jharkhand and Maharashtra at around 3000 crore.

To provide legality to this work of environmental conservation government made an act called **THE COMPENSATORY AFFORESTATION FUND ACT, 2016** and this states whole of the India and there would be to CAMPA- state level and centre level

SIGNIFICANCE :

In modern day the significance of afforestation and reforestation is continuously increasing and these issues are nowadays burning issues. Through these two works we could prevent our earth from global warming. Our Government, social workers and activists, leaders and honorable courts are too conscious of this issue nowadays. We are facing the problem of pollution in the month of November and December mainly in Delhi. In this way the Plants can play a very significant role and on the cost of environmental degradation any type of infrastructural development should be avoided. This could also be ensured by the state and centre government that this fund must be used for conservation work such as reforestation and afforestation and solid protection

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

ELECTRIC VEHICLES-PROMISING FUTURE TO INDIA'S TRANSPORT SECTOR. GS- 3 SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY & INFRASTRUCTURE

India's vision for future mobility is based on 7C's: Common, Connected, Convenient, Congestion free, Charge clean and Cutting edge. As per the report of niti aayog electrical vehicles are the future of India's transportations system and could save billions of dollars in fuel cost while also reducing pollution given the rising number of automobile consumers, electrical vehicles seems to be a viable option as it will prevent the increase in conjunction of conventional fuels and will pave the way towards achieving India's net zero emission by 2070.

WHY IS THERE A NEED FOR ELECTRICAL VEHICLES IN INDIA?

- **Climate change-** India's Cop25 Paris commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emission intensity by 33% to 35% below 2005 level by 2030 and India's Cop26 Glasgow committed to net zero emission by 2070.
- **Energy security-** India's import 80% of the transport fuel which produces forex in addition to carbon emission.

- **Innovation**-if India gets well equipped in electric vehicles manufacturing capacity, then it will become competitive at the global level.
- **Employment**- promotion of electric vehicles and creation of its manufacturing base will facilitate employment growth in this sunrise sector.
- **Infrastructure**- given a proper infrastructure support a majority of car owners will switch to electric cars. It will also require a long term policy priority to scale up lithium battery production and solar charging infrastructure.

GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE:

1. Government has set the target of manufacturing electric vehicles up to 30% of new sales of car and two vehicles by 2030
2. National electric mobility mission plan (NEMMP) and faster adoption and manufacturing of hybrid electric vehicles (FAME) has been launched to build a sustainable electric vehicles ecosystem.
3. NEMMP was launched to achieve National fuel security by promoting hybrid and electric vehicles.
4. Fame India scheme was launched with the aim to support hybrid electric vehicle markets system and manufacturing ecosystem.
5. The second phase of FAME India scheme will support electrification of public and shared transportation through subsidised electric vehicles including buses, passenger cars and two wheelers.
6. Charging of electric vehicles batteries has been categorised as services that will help charging stations operate without license.
7. Smart cities will also use the growth of electric vehicles.

CHALLENGES:

1. India lacks the requisite technology for the production of electronics like batteries, semiconductor, controllers etc. that act as the backbone of EV industry.
2. The servicing cost of electric vehicles are higher which further involves higher level of skills, but India lacks a dedicated training course or such skill development.
3. Electric vehicles are expensive and its charging is also time-consuming
4. Lack of charging stations as per 2018 report the number is only 650.
5. Being a capital intensive sector, it requires a long term planning but uncertainty in government policies might discourage investment in the industry.
6. The battery production requires lithium Cobalt for which India is dependent on other countries which inhibits India's aim of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

WAY FORWARD:

1. There is a need to shift focus from vehicle subsidy to battery subsidy, because batteries constituted 50% of electric vehicle cost.
2. The use of electric two vehicles should be incentivised as it accounts for 75% of the vehicle and consumes most of the fuel.
3. Charging points should be made available at public places like bus depot tech parks and multiplexes.
4. Investment in charging stations should be made a part of CSR compliance.
5. They should be encouraged for private investment in battery and manufacturing plants and in low cost production technology.
6. For long-term planning in this capital intensive sector a policy road map is required.

7. It is important to acquire lithium fields in Bolivia, Austria and Chile as it is an important raw material to manufacture batteries for electric vehicles.

Anshum Verma

NIRF RANKING (CENTRE AND STATE EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS)- GS PAPER II& III

A GENERAL ANALYSIS: To rank Institutions of higher education in India, the Ministry of Education, Government of India, adopted the methodology of the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)

The parameters mainly cover the following-

- Teaching
- Learning and Resources
- Research and Professional Practices
- Graduation Outcomes
- Outreach and Inclusivity
- Perception

The ranking of higher education Institutions (HEIs),run by the States as well as the Institutions funded by the centre, like –

- The Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs)
- The Indian Institute of Science (IISc)
- The National Institutes of Technology (NIT)
- Central Universities

The State universities and colleges are being compared with the Ivy League of India.

The Central government earmarked the following funds in the Union Budget 2021-

- ₹7,686 crore to the IITs
- ₹7,643.26 crore to central universities

According to an All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2019-20 report, Out of total higher education Institutions (1,043) :-

- 48 are central universities
- 135 are institutions of national importance
- one is a central open university
- 327 are State private universities
- one is a State private open university
- 36 are government deemed universities
- 10 are government aided deemed universities
- 80 are private deemed universities
- 386 are State public universities
- 5 are institutions under the State legislature act
- 14 are State open universities

The ranking of State-run and centrally-funded higher education institutions by NIRF, on a common scale, is having a number of issues.

In India, out of 1,043 HEIs :-

184 institutions are funded by the centre, to which the Government of India generously provides the financial resources.

State governments provide inadequate financial support to their respective State public universities and colleges.

Out of total student enrolment –

The undergraduate students is the largest in number (13,97,527) in State public universities. At the second number, its the State open universities (9,22,944).

Deficiencies in the focus

The financial health of HEIs, sponsored by the states, is known to all, where salary and pension liabilities are hardly managed. Hence, rating such institutions in relation to centrally funded institutions does not make any sense.

Cost-benefit analysis of State versus centrally funded HEIs on economic indicators, is not carried out by any agency like–

- return on investment (by the Government) vis-à-vis
- the contribution of their students in nation building

Students passing out of elite institutions, prefer going abroad in search of higher studies and better career prospects, a majority of State HEIs contribute immensely in building the local economy.

- In India, 420 universities are located in rural areas

To compete with centrally sponsored and strategically located HEIs, the main issues are :-

- Scarce resources
- lackadaisical attitude of States

Ranking parameters

The NIRF ranks HEIs on 5 parameters :

- Teaching
- Research and professional practice
- Graduation outcome
- Outreach and inclusivity
- Learning and resources
- Perception

2 NIRF parameters in the context of State HEIs can be considered as follows –

- Teaching
- Learning and resources

Student strength include :-

- Doctoral students
- Faculty-student ratio

Importance of

1. Emphasis on permanent faculty
2. Faculty with the qualification of PhD

3. Financial resources and their utilisation

In the absence of adequate faculty strength, most State HEIs lag behind in this crucial NIRF parameter for ranking.

The depleting strength of teachers, from 15,18,813 (2015-16) to 15,03,156 (2019-20) due to-

- continuous retirement and
- low recruitment

The faculty-student ratio with an emphasis on permanent faculty in HEIs has reduced.

Research and professional practice encompasses :-

- A combined metric for publications
- A combined metric for quality of publications
- Intellectual property rights/patents
- The footprint of projects
- Professional practice
- Executive development programmes

As most laboratories need drastic modernisation, State HEIs fare miserably in this parameter as well while comparing against central institutions.

Share of PhD students is :-

- The highest in State public universities → 29.8%,
- Institutes of national importance → 23.2%
- Deemed universities – private (13.9%)
- Central universities (13.6%)

State HEIs receive lesser funds compared to centrally funded institutions.

As the dependency on **quality research publications** and the **number of patents filed** in State HEIs are :-

- well-equipped laboratories
- modern libraries
- generously funded infrastructure

WHERE STATE HEIS STRUGGLE?

State HEIs are struggling to embrace emerging technologies like :-

- Artificial intelligence
- Machine learning
- Block chains
- Smart boards
- Handheld computing devices
- Adaptive computer testing for student development
- Other forms of educational software/hardware to remain relevant as per the New Education Policy

TO CONCLUDE:

It is high time that NIRF should plan a mechanism to rate the output and the performance of different institutes in light of the available constraints and the resources with them.

Rajeev Yadav

ASSISTED REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGY(ART) BILL 2021 GS -2

HEALTH, SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

The technological revolution has helped India become a major global centre of fertility industry in the field of medical tourism through the use of assisted reproductive technology the pace with which the fertility industry has gained significance call for regulation to curb unethical practices like sex selection, gametes-sale etc. It is due to this lack of standardisation of protocols, the Lok Sabha has passed the assisted reproductive technology bill 2020. Its operationalization depends on the upper house clearing surrogacy bill in addition to the ART bill.

Assisted reproductive technology- The Hindu Analysis

- The bill says that ART facilitates a pregnancy by handling the sperm or the Oocyte (immature egg cell) outside the body and later transferring the gamete or the embryo into the women's reproductive system. The provision of ART services spans gamete donation, intrauterine insemination, IVF, gestational surrogacy etc.
- **Regulation of ART clinics-** it will be mandatory for the assisted reproductive technology clinics and banks to get registered under the National register of banks and clinics of India. It will act as a central database of all ART clinics. Registration process will be facilitated by the authorities appointed by State governments. The registration will be valid for 5 years and can be renewed for a further 5 years. In case of contravention, the registration may stand cancelled or suspended.
- **Condition for gamete donation-** donation will be done only at registered ART banks. A male between 21-55 years and female between 23-35 years are eligible for donation. A bank cannot supply gametes of a single donor to more than one commissioning couple.
- **Conditions for offering ART services-** written informed consent will be required to carry on the procedure. There is a provision of insurance coverage to Oocyte donors by the commissioning couple. Pre-determined sex selection is prohibited in the clinic. The bill also required checking for genetic diseases before the embryo implantation.
- **Right of a child born through ART-** The ART born child will be treated on par with the biological child enjoying equal rights and privileges. A donor will have no parental right over the child.
- **National and state boards-**
 - 1) To advise the Central Government on ART related policy matters.
 - 2) to review and monitor the implementation of the bill.
 - 3) to formulate code of conduct and standards for ART clinics and banks.
 - 4) To oversee various bodies constituted under the bill. The state boards will coordinate for the same.
- **Offences and penalties-**
 - 1) Abandoning or exploiting children born through ART.
 - 2) selling, purchasing, trading or importing embryos/gametes.
 - 3) To use intermediaries to obtain donors etc.

Punishment will be between 5 lakh to 10 lakh for the first contravention and for subsequent contraventions there will be imprisonment for a term between 8-12 year and fine between 10-20 lacs.

CONCERNS

- Discrimination in accessibility-single men, cohabiting heterosexual couples and LGBT individuals are excluded from the ambit assessing ART services.
- Duplicacy- creation of multiple bodies for registration will be chaotic and will result in duplication or lack of regulation.

- Cost of the services- there is a need to monitor the cost of procedure so that it remains accessible to all.

WAY FORWARD

- To ensure ethical practises ART clinics and banks must have at its committee along with the mandatory counselling services, to guide the Commissioning couples regarding advantages and disadvantages.
- Adoption as an alternative to ART should also be informed to the childless couple.
- ART 2021 Bill should be synchronised with the surrogacy regulations bill.
- All ART bodies should follow the directions of central and state governments in the national interest, public order,decency and morality.
- There should be a review of its constitutional, medico-legal, ethical and regulatory aspects.

Anshum Verma

IS AFSPA VALID- CASE OF NAGALAND INCIDENT? [GS – PAPER II, III]

CONTEXT :

The SHOCKING killings of 6 coal miners and the deaths of 9 civilians and 1 soldier in the wake of the incident in Mon district, Nagaland.

Tensions are going on in the north-eastern state of Nagaland, in India following the killing of 14 civilians by Indian soldiers.

Armed Forces Special Powers Act -1958, (AFSPA), is an act of the Parliament of India which grants **special powers** to the Indian Armed Forces to maintain the public law and order in **the disturbed areas**.

DEVELOPMENTS-

- Internet services have been shut down by the Authorities and curfew has been imposed to crush mass protests.
- Violence started (on 4 December 2021,Saturday) when by mistake, an army patrol, in Mon district, held a group of labourers as militants and opened fire and killed approx six of them.
- Though the army have named it a “case of mistaken identity” but the locals have vehemently opposed this claim.
- The mismanaged Army operation in Nagaland is yet another reminder of the reason why AFSPA should go.

Even after the rationale has been provided by the Union Government and the armed forces for the killings of 6 coal miners and the deaths of 9 civilians and 1 soldier, the residents of Nagaland, and indeed many in North-east India, will only take this incident as an outcome of impunity as per the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, or AFSPA.

Undoubtedly, the 2 Chief Ministers — Conrad Sangma of Meghalaya and Neiphiu Rio of Nagaland — have immediately demanded the repeal of AFSPA; the Act still remains intact in Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, and 3 districts of Arunachal Pradesh, and areas falling within the jurisdiction of 8 police stations of the State bordering Assam, with the authority to use force or open fire to maintain public order in “disturbed areas”.

The soldiers of the 21 Para Commando Unit fired at them, and attributed it to a case of mistaken identity. The Hindu Analysis.

This action should be also be considered as problematic even in the garb of AFSPA, as atleast there should have been the warnings, given to them before opening fire.

That an ambush was purportedly laid on insurgents of the NSCN (Khaplang-Yung Aung) faction following an intelligence input and yet a civilian vehicle which offered no hostility was fired upon, donot suggest the positive developments.

The Government has promised an inquiry by a Special Investigation Team. The Hindu Analysis.

Unfortunately, the incident could put an obstruction in the Naga peace talks between the Government and the National Socialist Council of Nagalim (NSCN-IM) and 7 Naga National Political Groups for a solution.

An approach that shows genuine repentance for the actions, brings the culprits to book and seeks conciliation with the Konyak Nagas through compensation for the violence, besides a renewed purpose to conclude the peace talks with the Naga groups, is now the only crucial development.

Rajeev Yadav

The role of International Institution for democracy and electoral assistance in strengthening democracy in the world (GS Paper II, Essay) Source – The Hindu

CONTEXT:

The former Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Rora had Joined International Institute for Democracy and electoral assistance as the members of board of advisors.

Introduction of democracy and electoral assistance : The Hindu Analysis

International Institute for Democracy and electoral assistance (IDEA) is an intergovernmental organization of 34 members which is working to sport nations for strengthening democratic value systems and to provide assistance for electoral reform also. The basic object of this organization is to make democracy more efficient and relief. Its objective is to promote peace and democracy world wide as a universal aspiration and an enabler of sustainable development

Relevance of Democracy and which form of democracy is appropriate for the public welfare state:

- In fact democracy is a tool to be used as the maximum representation of the public in law making procedure but still in democratic procedure some people would be left behind. Now the term strengthening democracy means, how to bring maximum people in the law making procedure so that every citizen would be stakeholder in the procedure of development of country
- There are various forms of democracy in the world and it can not be said that any particular type of democracy is perfect or not. The objective of this organization is to make democracy strong.
- Many Indians have participated in this organization. V.B Quraishi was ex CEC and also participated in this organization before Suneel Arora.

TOOLS USED BY THIS ORGANIZATION :

- They used the tool of Voter Turnout Database through which it collects the data from voters around the world and then analyzes. How many voters participated in the election procedure, If they do not

participate in the election procedure what are the reasons. This is the main resource of the anysing of democratic values in any country and this is the best tool to measure the democratic value

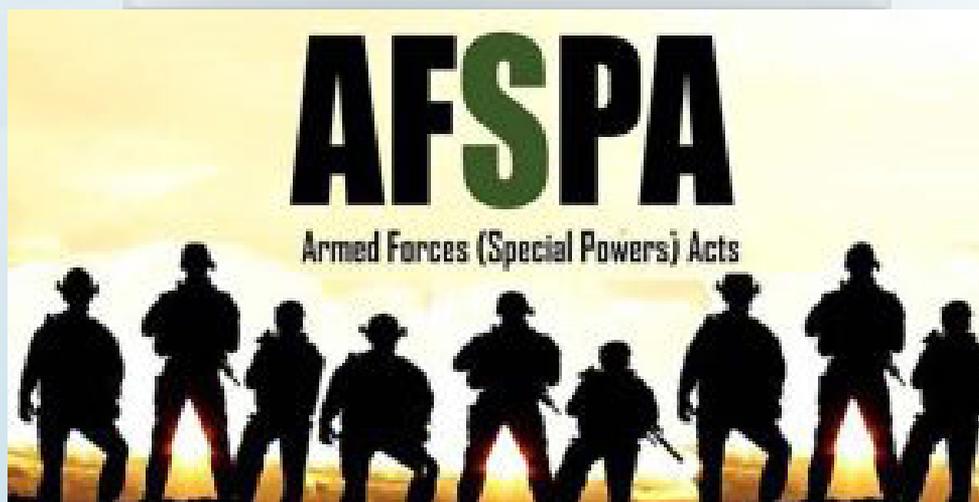
- In Indian context it has been observed that many Indians do not participate in the election procedure and they do not cast their vote to anybody.
- The election day is considered a holiday for them. On the bases of data collected by some private agencies, it was found that some Indians had lost their faith over democracy and reform in election procedure and even in election commission is also needed and Government should consider this thing also. If in any election, all criminals are contexting, there is no appropriate candidate to choose, what voter will do, NOTA should also be made strong.
- Many people do not have trust over the election commission, a most significant and responsible institution and this is the responsibility of the government to reduce such type of distrust through reform in the election commission also.
- Now all the powers exist in the hands of CEC, other members of the Election commission are nominal one. They could be terminated on the recommendation of CEC any time. This should be reformed.
- Election commission must be a multi-member organization and all must have equal power like Judges of supreme or high courts and all the decisions must be taken in democratic way. One the faith of public on democracy will be increase, democracy would be strengthen

CONCLUSION

These type of institution is assisting the countries of world wide for further reform in their institutions on the bases of the data which this organization collects from various countries

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

AFSPA and the Debate (GS 3, Economics, The Hindu, Indian Express)



NEWS/CONTEXT :

The debate over the Armed Forces Special Power Act (AFSPA) is once again rekindled in the backdrop of recent mistakenly killings of civilians by security forces in the village of Mon district in Nagaland.

AFSPA is a law that provides enormous discretion to the armed forces over civilian population. Nagaland's Chief Minister Neiphiu has urged the centre to repeal AFSPA from Nagaland and termed the law as "black spot on the image of the country". Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma also demanded for the removal of AFSPA. Sangma is also the president of the National People's Party, which is a part of the NDA.

Looking back in development and enactment of AFSPA, why it gets controversial and demand for its removal growing louder : The Hindu Analysis

AFSPA provides special powers to armed forces to control "disturbed areas". Under its provision, the armed forces can arrest any person who has committed a cognisable offence, enter and search without warrant and even open fire, all with immunity from being prosecuted.

As per the **Section 3 of AFSPA**, an area can be declared "disturbed" if it is the "opinion of the Governor of the state or the **central government**" which "makes the use of armed forces in aid of the civil power necessary". Earlier the states were having the power to declare a territory as "disturbed area" but in 1972 the power passed to the Centre.

At present AFSPA is in effect in Jammu and Kashmir, Assam, Nagaland, parts of Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur (excluding seven assembly constituencies of Imphal). AFSPA was repealed in Tripura and Meghalaya in 2015 and 2018 respectively, as insurgencies in these states have subsided and the central government is of the opinion that the region could be managed by police forces.

Historical Development : AFSPA is based on the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Ordinance of 1942, which was issued by the British to curb down the Quit India movement in 1942. AFSPA was enacted by Parliament in 1958 in the backdrop of rising Nagas insurgency in the then state of Assam. The then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru defended the law saying " "No infirm government can function anywhere. Where there is violence it has to be dealt with by government, whatever the reason for it may be; because otherwise you drift; the country drifts into, if I may use the word, Fascist methods, all groups, private groups and others, indulging in violence and trying to coerce the governmental authority by organized violence." It was first implemented in the Northeast and then Punjab.

Why is it controversial? The law has often been criticised as a "Draconian Act" as it gives unbridled power to armed forces with impunity. Under AFSPA, the "armed forces" may shoot to kill or destroy a building on mere suspicion. A non-commissioned officer or anyone of equivalent rank and above may use force based on opinion and suspicion, to arrest without warrant, or to kill. He can fire at anyone carrying anything that may be used as a weapon, with only "such due warning as he may consider necessary".

Once AFSPA is implemented, "no prosecution shall be instituted except with the previous sanction of the central government, in respect of anything done or purported to be done" under this Act.

In 2004, the Jeevan Reddy Committee formed had recommended a complete repeal of the law and said "**The Act is a symbol of hate, oppression and an instrument of high handedness**".

Reaction from people : In an infamous incident of Imphal commonly known as Malom massacre, in November 2000, 10 civilians were allegedly gunned down by the 8th Assam Rifles at Malom Makha Leikai in Imphal, Manipur. This incident prompted Irom Sharmila, known as the Iron lady of Manipur, to begin a hunger strike, which later developed into a prolonged hunger strike against the AFSPA. In 2004 AFSPA was withdrawn from the Imphal Municipal Area. Irom ended her hunger strike in 2016.

In another incident of the state in 2004 when the bullet-ridden body of Thangjam Manorama, who was raped and murdered, allegedly by a group of Assam Rifles men, around 30 Manipuri women marched naked in Imphal city with a banner that read: "Indian Army Rape us".

The Stance of Supreme Court regarding AFSPA : In 2016 while ruling on a petition Supreme court held that the Act doesn't provide blanket immunity to army personnel in anti-insurgency operations and its continuance in any region symbolises, as per the apex court, "failure of the civil administration and the armed forces". The SC also ruled that alleged fake encounter cases (over 1500) must be investigated.

Human Right Activists allege that many instances of people simply disappearing have gone unreported over the years and blame AFSPA for the killings, alleging that the law gives blanket protection to the Army and the Manipuri commandos to kill with impunity.

Here we mention all information about AFSPA and the Debate (GS 3, Economics, The Hindu, Indian Express) Today Current Affairs. The Hindu Analysis.

**Md Layeeque Azam,
Economics Faculty**

Russia Ukraine Relations GS – 3 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

In the backdrop of the recent tension in the Russia Ukraine border, as reported by a US intelligence report, it could be isolated into a major security crisis for the region. Ukraine has alleged that Russian troops have concentrated on the border and the apprehension of war lurks in Europe.

BACKGROUND

Both Ukraine and Russia have remained a part of erstwhile USSR and their shared Heritage has been exploited for electrical and military purposes. Post USSR disintegration Ukraine has shared its Russian imperial legacy and moved closer to the west.

2014-Ukraine president Viktor Yanukovich denied the association agreement with the European Union and tried closer ties with Moscow, but this led to the mass protest and ousted him. In response Russia annexed Ukraine Crimean Peninsula, fuelling separatist insurgency in eastern Ukraine after criminal annexation both signed a ceasefire agreement at Minsk in 2014 and 2015.

MINSK AGREEMENT

- Minsk I- Ukraine and Russian backed separatist agreed to a 12 point ceasefire deal in September 2014. The provision included prisoner exchange and the withdrawal of heavy weapons but the agreement broke down with violation on either side.
- Minsk 2- To end the fighting in the Rebel regions.

RUSSIAN RESENT OVER UKRAINE: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Cultural ties- Russian President considered Russian and Ukrainian as “one people”.
- Influence of the west- 2015 peace deal was violated and the Kremlin has accused that the west has failed to encourage Ukraine's compliances.
- Affinity with US and NATO-Ukraine aspiration to join NATO representation right line for Moscow.

The cornerstone of incomplete Russian Ukraine is insufficient communication. The current military build up can be viewed as a display of a powerful and capable Russia and it might entail repercussions from the international community, so it will be pragmatic if the Russian President demonstrates diplomatic skill not to indulge in another geopolitical endeavour.

WAY FORWARD

- Ukraine and Russia need support from global community but not in a military form
- Constructive dialogue should be gained among the stakeholders.
- To seek a peaceful resolution to the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

- Minsk agreement should be implemented in letter and spirit.
- Negotiation should be followed up with Mutual consensus and possible compromises as well as mediations..

Here we mention all details about Russia Ukraine Relations GS – 3 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS Today Current Affairs. The Hindu Analysis.

Anshum Verma

Significance of CDS post (GS Paper 2)

CONTEXT :

The CDS post is the highest post in defense services and General Bipin Rawat was the first CDS who was unfortunately martyred when a chopper carrying him along with 13 more soldiers crashed after collision with a tree

INTRODUCTION : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The Post Chief of the Defense staff was constituted by the government of India in 2001. Infact, India was the only big country in the world where there was not any single authority who could take any strategic decision related to war. There were three chieives like army chief, air force chief and Navy chief on equal positions. There was no single authority who could coordinate them and worked as the defense advisor for the government of India. After the creation of CDS, this vacuum is filled. Our Prime minister did a tremendous reform in higher defense management in the country and created the post of Chief of Defence Staff in the rank of a four-star General with salary and perquisites equivalent to a Service Chief. He heads the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) and would act as the Principal Military Adviser to Raksha Mantri on all tri-Services matters.

When India became free and we did not have any experience regarding administration. Therefore we maintained the equality of all the chiefs of the Military, Airforce and Navy. In fact, during that time (Just after 1947), there was a big threat of the formation of a military state instead of democratic state. But when we got success to establish our democratic system strongly, and we realized that our democracy has not any type of threat, we decided to reform in our defense sector and during the time of our honorable Prime minister it was materialized also

HISTORY OF ARMY OFFICERS WHO HOLD FOUR OR MORE STARS : TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Field Marshal Kodandera Madappa Cariappa was the first army head who held the five star and was first Indian commander in Chief. Up to that time the constitution of India was not formed, this post held 5 stars (Even Cariappa Holded it up to his retirement). This five star rank was not given to anybody and Sam Manekshaw was another person who was given five stars.

Presently all the chiefs (General, Admiral and Marshal) are having stars. Even though in Rank, Chief of the army staff also hold 4 starts equal to other chief of the Army staff, Naval staff and Air staffs but He could on single advisor of defense ministry on the affairs of Army, Navy and Air force

CONCLUSION :

Generally at the time of the formation of this post (Chief of the Army staff), some apprehensions raised

during that time are proved baseless and Now we feel the huge significance of this post. After the death of General Rawat, it would not be easy for the government to appoint any cable person to that post.

The basic criteria for appointment of the CDS is any senior most commander in chief of all three services should be appointed on this post but it is sole right of President of India In fact our prime minister stated the significance of this post in his inaugural speech which is published in PIB of 24 Dec 2019 that ***“Our entire military power will have to work in unison and move forward. All the three (Services) should move simultaneously at the same pace. There should be good coordination and it should be relevant to the hope and aspirations of our people. It should be in line with the changing war and security environment with the world. After formation of this post (CDS), all the three forces will get effective leadership at the top level.”***

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Dam safety bill 2019 GS- 3 INFRASTRUCTURE, SOCIAL SECTOR

Recently the landmark Dam safety bill (2019) was passed by the Rajya Sabha, which was earlier approved by the Lok Sabha in August 2019 and hence clears the way for sanctioning of the Dam Safety Act in the country. India ranks 3rd globally after China & USA, as a dam- owning nation and accounts for 5,745 large dams. Out of these nearly 227 dams are over 100 years old but still operational. Aging of dams in the country has been a matter of concern and also the unwarranted dam failures and its poor maintenance issues calls for a specific Safety law.

The Dam Safety Bill provides for inspection, operation, surveillance, and maintenance of all the large dams in the country so as to prevent dam failure related disasters. Given that water is the state subject, the ownership of dams and their maintenance predominantly falls in the purview of the states. The Bill provides for an institutional mechanism at both Central and State level to address structural and non structural measures requisite for safe functioning of dams.

PROVISIONS OF DAM SAFETY BILL, 2019: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

1. The Bill covers dams with height of over 15 meters and between 10 and 15 meters with certain stipulations.
2. It has the provision for creation of two national institutions viz – 1. National committee on Dam Safety – it is to evolve dam safety policies and recommend necessary regulations. 2. National Dam Safety Authority- it is to implement policies and address unresolved issues between two states.
3. The bill also envisions the formation of the State Dam Safety Organization and State Committees on Dam safety.
4. Dam owners will be held responsible for construction, operation, maintenance and supervision of dams.
5. The bill also addresses in a comprehensive manner critical concerns related to dam safety on account of emerging climate change.
6. The bill provides for regular inspection and hazard classification of dams.
7. The bill also provides for the drawing up of emergency action plans and comprehensive dam safety reviews by an independent panel of experts.
8. There is also provision for an emergency flood warning system to address the safety concerns of downstream inhabitants.

CHALLENGES ENTAILED IN THE BILL- TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

1. Water being a State subject, the Dam Safety bill is alleged to encroach upon the sovereignty of States to manage their dams, hence disturbing the federal principles and powers of the state governments. Thus since 2010 states like Karnataka, Kerala, Tamilnadu and Odisha are opposed to the legislation. It is to be noted that in 2007, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal Assemblies empowered Parliament to come up with a legislation on dam safety under Article 252.
2. The Dam Safety bill is also alleged to be unholistic, given its silence on the payment of compensation to people affected by dam projects. A proper rehabilitation scheme seems missing from the bill.

On the other hand, while framing the legislation the Centre declared that " it is expedient in public interest that the union should take under its control the regulation of uniform dam safety procedure for specified dams". Also the interstate basins cover 92% of the country's area and majority of the dams, hence the centre is competent to enact such a law.

CONCLUSION

India always had the requirement of a specific central law that would govern and regulate the disasters associated with dam-ageing and dam outbursts with respect to the public interest. Rajya Sabha has passed the bill only after the deliberate scrutiny by the related committees. The only drawback was that the concerned states were not consulted on various aspects of dam safety. Lack of communication with states has made the bill contentious. Yet, the centre still has its way out by holding talks with the states to allay their fears and frame rules as per the constitution.

Anshum Verma

Climate Change and Food Security GS-1 POPULATION

With strong cooperation and partnership between citizens, governments and the private sector, the world is on the verge of transformation to make the **world free of hunger by 2030** and deliver targets for **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.

Major International democracies at the UNFCCC **COP26 Summit** also put forth a sum of 350 million U.S. \$ in new support to protect the most vulnerable.

As much as all these efforts are applauded, the plight of food security on planet Earth is still prevalent and is further exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic as well.

Ensuring global **food security** requires a **complete makeover of the present food system** towards equilibrium growth and sustainability, Mitigating climate change, ensuring healthy, safe and affordable food and investments for the same from governments and the private sector.

CLIMATE CRISIS AND HUNGER: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- **Connect between Climate Change and Food System:** The climate crisis impacts the complete food system from production to consumption. Climate change **impacts land, crops, kills livestock, depletes marine resources**, and cuts off transport to markets which further impacts food production systems, availability, diversity, access, and safety. At the same moment, food systems also impact the environment and are a driver of climate change. Estimates show that the food sector emits around 30% of the world's greenhouse gases.
- **Climate-Hunger:** The target of ending world hunger and malnutrition in all its forms by 2030 has some major roadblocks as the climate crisis worsens. **The add on was the Covid-19 pandemic** that has

doubled the population under chronic hunger from 130 million to 270 million. The **UN World Food Programme (WFP)** has estimated that with a minute **2°C rise in average global temperature** from pre-industrial levels **will see a staggering 189 million additional people** in the grip of hunger.

- **Vulnerable Worst Sufferer:** Vulnerable communities, who majorly rely on subsistence agriculture, fishing, and livestock and, who contribute the least to the climate crisis, will continue to bear the brunt of the impacts with limited means to cushion the blow. **The top 10 most food-insecure countries in the world contribute 0.08% of global carbon emissions.** Crop failures, water scarcity, and declining nutrition threaten millions who rely on agriculture, fishing, and livestock. The **absence of social protection measures** such as food safety nets forces the food insecure to depend on humanitarian aid for their daily means.
- **World Food Program's (WFP) Initiatives:** The WFP is working with communities to adapt to the changing climate that threatens their ability to grow food, secure incomes, and withstand shocks. It has supported 40 governments, helping them realise their national climate targets. In 2020, the **WFP implemented climate risk management solutions** in 30 countries, which benefited more than 6.5 million people so that they are better prepared for climate shocks and stresses and can recover faster. In India, the WFP and the Environment Ministry is the nodal ministry **planning to develop a best practice model on adaptation and mitigation** with potential support from the Adaptation Fund.

WAY FORWARD

- **Building Resilience for the Poor:** Adaptation and resilience-building for poor and vulnerable communities are essential for achieving food security. Considering the fact that the severe impacts of climate extremes on people and nature will continue to increase with rising temperatures, there is a **strong emphasis on the urgency of scaling up action and support** in form finance, capacity-building, and technology transfer.
- **Role of India:** India has a greater role to play with its ongoing and now substantial policy work at the national and State levels. It has to transform its food network systems making it more inclusive and sustainable for higher farm incomes and nutritional security. **Diversification of cropping patterns** is needed for more equal distribution of water, sustainable and climate-resilient agriculture.
- **Adaptation Finance:** The recent pledges made by the developed countries on enhancing **climate finance** to support adaptation in developing countries is a positive gesture. However, the **current climate finance** for adaptation and base of stakeholders still **remain insufficient** to respond to worsening climate change impacts.
- **Multi-Pronged Approach for Tackling Climate-Hunger Crisis:** Creating **resilient food security solutions** by protecting and improving the livelihood of vulnerable communities in the world. **Enabling women's control and ownership** of production processes and assets and increased value addition and local solutions. Promoting a resilient agriculture sector by **creating sustainable opportunities, access to finance, and innovation for small-holder farmers**, with climate information and preparedness.
- **Sustainable Food Systems:** Sustainability has to be achieved in production, value chains and consumption. Climate-resilient cropping patterns have to be promoted. Instead of giving input subsidies, cash transfers can be given for farmers for sustainable agriculture.
- **Role of Non-Agriculture Sector:** Labour-intensive manufacturing and services can reduce pressure on the agricultural sector. Income from agriculture is not sufficient for marginal holders and informal workers. Strengthening rural MSMEs and food processing sector is part of the solution.

Anshum Verma

Significance of the Summit for democracy organized by United States (GS Paper 2)

CONTEXT :

On 8-9 December a Summit for Democracy was organized by the US and more than 100 countries participated in this summit including India. Joe Biden forced over strengthening democratic institutions

INTRODUCTION :

On December 9-10, 2021, A summit for democracy was called by USA in which more than 100 leaders from different countries participated in this summit and Joe Biden, the president of America warned the world from backwardness of democratic institutions and forced to strengthen these institutions for the establishment of peace and order in the world.

In his sight, democracy is only tool accepted by the common people for the welfare and stability of any state. In this summit the US did not invite Russia and China and the US indirectly criticized non democratic acts of Russia and China. Biden appealed to the democratic countries of the world to come forward and face such challenges to strengthen democratic institutions

Indian Prime minister Narendra Modi also participated in this summit. He stated that democratic spirit, including respect for rule of law and pluralistic ethos, is “ingrained in Indians”.

The objective of this summit was to discover new ways to strengthen the democratic institutions and make such laws through which democratic values and ethos would be strengthened. Apart from strengthening democratic institutions, another subject of concern of this summit was corruption. How to curtail this corruption from democratic institutions. Without the curtailment of corruption democratic institutions would not be strong.

In this summit, Human right was the big issue raised by the US president that, on the cost of democracy, Human Right should also not be affected Because Human Rights are essential for democracy.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), an independent agency of the United States federal government that is primarily responsible for administering civilian foreign aid and development assistance, will work for strengthening democracy and supporting democratic ambitions. USAID plans to announce a bold suite of new programming at the Summit to strengthen democracy work and expose, track, and disrupt transnational corruption and mitigate its impact on democratic governance and development progress by working at the local, national, regional, and global levels.

Biden stated that, Countries like America, India which has long history of democracy are not immune to the strains and they could also take required steps to strengthen democracy

He stated that, we see, even in America some states are making laws to curtail their opponent. Many local officials are resigning from their posts. We should take strong action against it. We should create faith and trust among the public towards democracy so that they could release their anger at the time of election In such a way peace could be established in those regions where insurgency is going on

CONCLUSION :

This summit is relevant in two ways in Indi's perspective. First, India is the largest democracy of the world and through this the US is trying to bring India in his favor and Russia is not democratic and India Russia deal would be against the interest of America. Therefore, through this summit US wants to influence India Russia relations but our prime minister wisely stated that democracy is the spirit of Indians and democratic value system is the Indian cultural characteristic.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Cyclone Jawad GS-1, 3

WHY IN NEWS?

- Recently cyclone Jawad made landfall on the coastal region of the Odisha and West Bengal unleashing the heavy rainfall in the area.

THE NOMENCLATURE OF THE CYCLONE: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- The name Jawad was given by Saudi Arabia, it means liberal or merciful.

WHAT ARE TROPICAL CYCLONES? TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

- Tropical cyclones are a natural weather phenomenon that originate over the ocean in the tropical areas. It is characterized by the low pressure area with violent winds, very heavy rainfall and Storm surges.
- Tropical cyclones are known by various names like Hurricanes in the Atlantic, Typhoons in the Western Pacific and South China Sea, Willy willies in the Western Australia.

The conditions favourable for the formation and the intensification of the Tropical storms;

- Large sea surface having temperature more than 27 degree Celsius.
- Presence of coriolis force
- Small variations in the vertical wind speed.
- Pre-existing weak low pressure area for low level cyclonic circulation.
- The Upper divergence above sea level system.
- The energy that intensifies the storm comes from the condensation process in the cumulonimbus cloud surrounding the centre of the storm.

MECHANISM FOR THE FORMATION OF TROPICAL CYCLONE:

- When the warm and moist air over the ocean rises up from near the surface, a cyclone is formed. When air rises up and away from the ocean surface, it creates an area of lower air pressure below. It causes the air from surrounding areas with higher pressure to move towards the low-pressure area which further leads to warming up of the air and causes it to rise above.
- As the warm and moist air rises and cools the water in the air forms clouds. Along with the ocean's heat and water evaporating from the ocean surface. The complete system of clouds and wind spins and grows.
- As the wind system rotates with increasing speed, an eye forms in the middle. The centre of a cyclone is very calm and clear with very low air pressure. The difference of temperature between the warm, rising and the cooler environment causes the air to rise and become buoyant.

TROPICAL CYCLONE AND INDIA: TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

- Geographical location of India makes it prone to tropical cyclones. This natural disaster has wreaked havoc in the country and continues to do.

IMPACT OF TROPICAL CYCLONE ON INDIAN ECONOMY: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- It has led to the loss of human life and human resources and caused damage to the properties.
- **Impacts fertility** : excessive rain and strong winds erodes the coastline and leads to soil erosion and thus reducing fertility.

- **Agriculture:** The High tide may bring saline water and sand mass making the fields unsuitable for agriculture
- Storms and floods can result in loss of harvest or livestock, increased susceptibility of livestock to disease, contamination of water bodies, and promotes the destruction of agricultural infrastructure such as roads and fences.
- **Small farmers** are highly vulnerable to the impact of cyclones and experience significant crop losses, food insecurity and income loss.
- The cyclone induces poverty by destroying the infrastructure and livelihood. Because of which people are forced to migrate to a safer place.

Various measures have been taken by the state and the central governments to mitigate the impact of cyclones.

- In addition to setting up the Odisha Disaster Management Authority (ODMA). The Odisha government has constructed 809 multipurpose cyclones and flood shelters,
- **Zero casualty** by the Odisha Government is another welcome step to reduce the calamity.
- Creation of the National Disaster Relief Force by National Disaster Management Act 2005 has certainly improved our post response.

THESE MEASURES NEEDS TO BE SUPPLEMENTED BY:

- Developing a Vigilant disaster management system which can help enhance and improve the early warning system.
- Centre state coordination is key for effective management of the pre and post disaster response.

Humans may not have control over the natural disaster but certainly it can reduce the impact through sustainable response mechanisms.

Swarn Singh

All India Judicial Services : How far it is needed for the country **Source : Indian Express (GS Paper 2)**

CONTEXT:

According to data provided by ministry of Law and Justice in the parliament, only two state government Haryana and Mijoram and only two high courts Tripura and sikkim High court are in the favor of All India Judicial Services as proposed by Government of India in 2015

INTRODUCTION:

Judiciary is one and most important pillar to maintain democracy, but in India the rate of dispensation of Justice is very slow. To Increase this rate of dispense of Justice, the issue of All India Judicial Services has been raised many times and thus government had proposed All India Judicial Services like All India administrative and Police services in 2015 but many state and the high court denied this proposal and still it is the subject of debate

In fact, law and order is the subject of the state list described in schedule 7 where the powers of center and state have been divided. In the affairs of Judiciary, it is already an extremely centralized system. The decisions of the supreme court are bound for all high courts and similarly the decisions of the High court are also bound to lower courts. In such extreme centralization of the Judiciary system what is the necessity

of All India Judicial services? Our courts of law and order give an argument that through this efficiency and transparency would bring in the selection procedures of Judges and through this marginalized people would also be benefited and since this selection would be done through center agency so uniformity in the selection procedure could also be maintained.

WHY STATES ARE NOT READY: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

In fact though this, the central government would be encroaching on the matter of legal affairs also. For the maintenance of federalism Law and order should not be uniform and centralized for the entire country because of the cultural diversity. If any central agency would conduct exam, it is very difficult to organize any exam satisfying the needs of all the states simultaneously

LEGALITY OF THESE SERVICES:

As per the provision of constitution Articles 124, 217 and 222, the procedure of appointment of the judges of SCs and HCs are described, and after 42 nd amendment of the constitution, Article 312 (1) empowered the Parliament to make any laws for the creation of any All India services or any services for two and more states. And simultaneously the Rajya Sabha has also been empowered to pass any resolution regarding all India services through Article 312 of the constitution But the issue remains that the state of enchantment of center in the affairs of state also.

CONCLUSION :

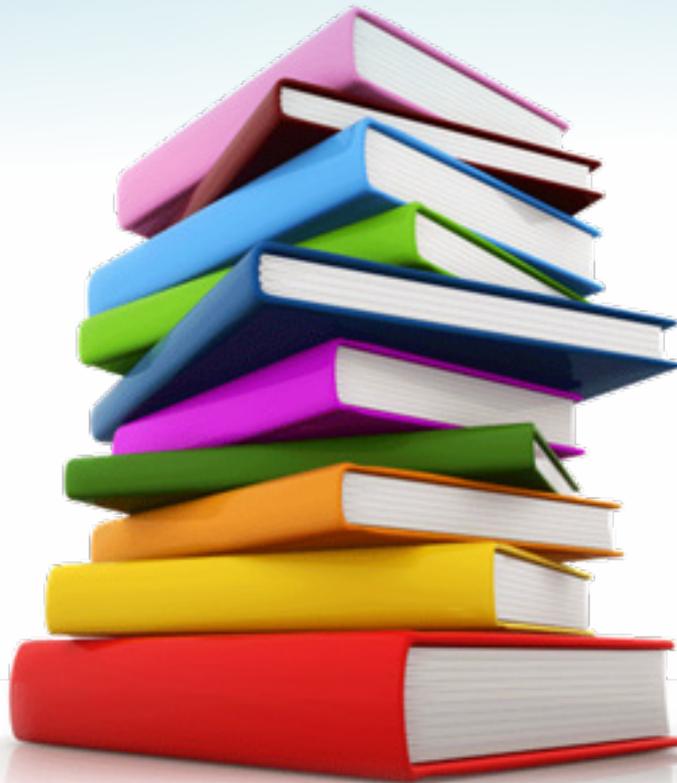
The rapid and transparent dispense of justice is the right of every citizen of India and it is a necessity of democracy also but on the cost of rapid dispense of Justice, our basic structure of Indian democracy which is federalism should also be not impacted. Therefore, If All India Services is required for the reform in Judiciary to bring uniformity in Justice, then the government should also ensure that the cultural diversity of the country should also be protected and the fundamental structure of India that is federalism should also be maintained.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai



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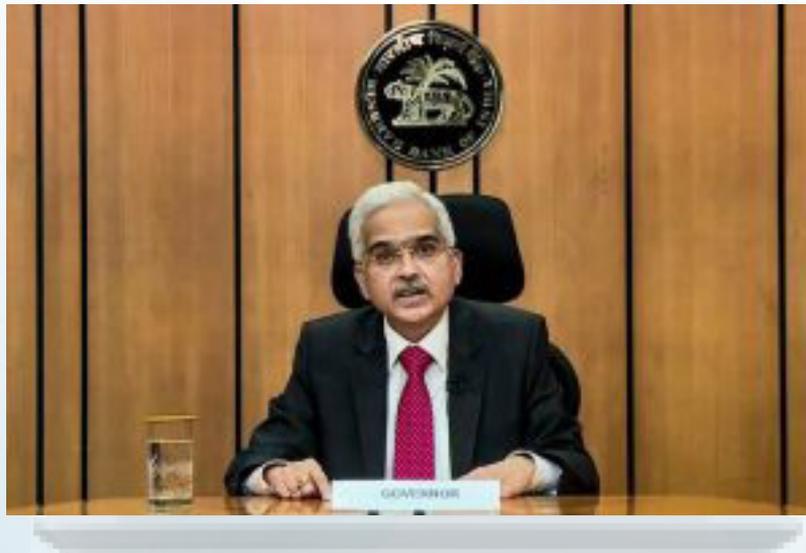
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CURRENT AFFAIRS

DECEMBER 2021

Repo rate remains unchanged at 4%, RBI following Accommodative stance (GS 3, Economics, The Hindu, Indian Express, RBI)



NEWS/CONTEXT :

Based on assessment of the macroeconomics conditions and outlook, the Monetary Policy Committee of RBI voted unanimously to keep policy rate status quo and to retain the Accommodative Policy stance by a majority of 5 to 1.

The policy repo rate consequently will remain unchanged at 4% and RBI will follow the accommodative stance as long as required to revive and sustain economic growth.

It is noted here that the monetary policy Committee of RBI comprises 6 members in total, three are the representatives of RBI including the RBI Governor and three represents the central government and decisions are taken on the basis of majority, with the RBI Governor having casting vote in case of a tie.

The RBI is of the view that there must be enough liquidity in the economy to recover from the impact of COVID-19 while ensuring the inflation remains within the target that is 4% +/- 2% band (i.e. 2 to 6%) with respect to Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation. It is to understand here that generally in any economy if money in circulation is increased, it can increase the aggregate demand in the economy as ultimately people will be getting that increased money in circulation (either from the government or banking system) and will be buying things and thus increasing the aggregate demand.

The repo rate is kept at 4% as CPI inflation for the month of October was 4.48%. The repo rate (also termed as policy rate, benchmark policy rate or simply interest rate of RBI) is the interest rate at which RBI gives short term loans to banks and its other clients. If this rate is kept as low (say less than current rate of 4%), the banking system could be taking more loans from the RBI (as loan for banks became cheap), money in circulation will increase, which increases aggregate demand and as demand increases, prices also increases, which normally results in demand pull inflation and CPI- Combined can go higher than the permissible upper limit of 6%.

Thus it is understood here that by keeping the repo rate towards the lower side, better growth can be achieved to recover the economy (from COVID 19 slowdown or any general recession), but at the same time inflation can also take place. The RBI monetary policy stance will always be to achieve a balance between growth and inflation, or say growth as much as possible keeping the inflation within the permissible limit (best if CPI- Combined inflation moves around 4%, which is also termed as moderate inflation).

This time RBI has kept repo rate as 4% as it is already towards lower side (because it was kept as more than 6% during 2018 and more than 5% during 2019) and thus will be following accommodative policy stance basically to push for fast recovery and growth in backdrop of Covid19 slowdown.

Accommodative monetary policy, also known as loose credit or easy or cheap monetary policy, occurs when a central bank (such as RBI or Federal Reserve) attempts to expand the overall money supply to boost the economy when growth is slowing (as measured by GDP). The policy is implemented to allow the money supply to rise in line with national income and the demand for money.

The other rates like Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) and bank rate remain unchanged at 4.25%. MSF is the interest rate at which RBI gives loans only to Schedule Commercial Banks even if they don't have government securities (G-secs) to keep as collateral with RBI. Schedule Commercial Banks can use the G-secs kept in Statutory Liquidity ratio, which is not supposed to be used in general circumstances. Here it is to note that banks are required to keep some statutory reserves intact, which means this much money cannot be used in giving loans. The two statutory reserves are Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) and Statutory Liquidity ratio (SLR).

Here we mention all information about Repo rate remains unchanged at 4%, RBI following Accommodative stance The Hindu Analysis.

**Md Layeeque Azam,
Economics Faculty**

Is China a democratic ? : Various views on Democracy (Source : The Hindu, GS Paper 2)

CONTEXT:

For the counter of the Democratic Summit hosted by Joe Biden, An American President, the Chinese government capped a week-long campaign criticizing liberal democratic systems by attacking America's democratic malaise. Chinese foreign ministry on friday said democracy was a common value of humanity instead of a geostrategic tool and the summit this week was aimed t defending US hegemony, which is out and out anti democratic

INTRODUCTION :

For a long time debate on democracy has been going on. There are various views on democracy but one

thing is common whether the participation of the public is in the lawmaking process or not ? This is the more acceptable parameter of democratic value and The democracy stands where the numbers of participants in the law making process stands. In democratic system it should ensure the maximum consent of the public in the lawmaking process.

The form of democracy may be different as per the requirements of any country. It is not necessary that one party system, or two party system and multi party systems are the parameters of democracy. In China one party system can impose democratic values if in the lawmaking process it is ensured to take consent from maximum Chinese people. The election of the one single party in China is also occurs in democratic way as described by the high officials of the China. In 2016 and 2017, more than 900 million voters participated in elections to people 's congresses at the township and and country level- the world's largest direct election as white paper issued by China said. However it did not maintain that the congress, both at lower level and at the national level, maximum institutions are rubber stamps. No institution had right to ask any question to communist party policies or in other word it can be said as one party candidate, including for the post of president and Premier, are not uncommon

In this paper it has been also warned by China that in the name of democracy America is trying to establish its political hegemony and countries of the world should not blindly follow the democratic patten of America only otherwise it may be problematic and dangerous for those countries. The form of democracy should be in accordance with the cultural diversity and stability of the country. The Chinese official media pointed to India that His political system is chaotic and inefficient to justify. The Chinese published a commentary entitled "Women's status in China and India : who has human rights and democracy " authored by a foreign scholar at Beijing's Renmin University. Chinese women are far superior to those of Indian Women. The white paper entitled "" Democracy that works and published by China's State Council states CPC leadership is the fundamental guarantees for the whole progress of people. China did not duplicate western model of democracy

CONCLUSION:

On the basis of the above analysis it can not be said that the American democratic system is perfect and other countries of the world should follow western democratic system. In fact the objective of the democratic government is to make a welfare state. As per the needs of the country on the basis of cultural diversity, democratic system should be adopted and it should be kept in the mind that democracy should not remain a numbers game only. The protection of the interest of minorities (Linguistic, religious, racila etc) must be priory of that democratic system

Swarn Singh

COCO ISLAND GS- 2 INTERNATIONAL RELATION, BILATERAL RELATION

Coco islands are a small group of islands located in the North-eastern part of Bay of Bengal. It is situated 30 miles North to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands group of India, to 250 km south of the Burmese mainland and 1255 km south-east of Kolkata.

North of this Island group lies Preparis Island also belonging to Myanmar, and to the South lies the land for Island belonging to India.

Coco Island group consists of four islands on the great Coco reef and another Rai Coco island on the little Coco reef.

HISTORY OF COCO ISLAND: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- The islands were first discovered by Portuguese sailors. The name is Coco Island because of the majority of coconut trees being there.
- In the 19th century the British government in India established a penal colony in the Andaman. Coco Island was the source of food for it and remained part of Andaman and Nicobar Island.
- Due to the remoteness of the Coco islands it was difficult for the British to govern them in 1882 the Britisher transferred the control of coco Island to the British government of Burma.
- After the separation of Burma from India this Island became a self-governing crown colony in 1937.
- At the eve of independence in 1947 the status of Coco Island was in Limbo just like Lakshadweep Island Andaman and Nicobar Island.
- The British raj was planning to deny the free India certain strategic locations including the island of the Lakshadweep, Andaman Island and also the Coco Island.

However the statesman shape of sardar Patel saved these islands for the country as he put strong negotiation with the British and did not yield to the British pressure.

In 1969 it was in last to house an increased number of political prisoners, in 1971 after the closing of the penal colony the facilities on great coco island were transferred to the Burmese Navy.

LEASE TO CHINA: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

In 1994 China got this Island only from the Myanmar military. China supposedly established SIGNIT intelligence gathering station on Great Coco Island in 1992. They have signal intelligence facilities, Maritime bases, Android facilities and military airports in these islands.

STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE

Most sea lines of communication pass through the bay of Bengal and Andaman sea. Coco Island is located at the centre of these two seas. Coco Island is situated in proximity to the strait of Malacca which is a crucial point for the global supply route of oil from the gulf. In addition to this Coco Island provides a great strategic advantage to any world power to increase its influence in the Indian ocean region.

EFFECT ON INDIA: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- China has established its SIGNIT(signal intelligence) facility in coco Island to monitor Indian missile launches. Deccan monitor the missile testing facility of India located at Chandipur and Kalam Island and estimate even the classified detail of the missiles. In addition to this China can even monitor the Indian naval presence and its development in the region.
- China has already started working on its string of pearls theory to contain India in the region. They have already taken control of Hambantota in Sri Lanka, Gwadar port in Pakistan, Chittagong port in Bangladesh and have won the right of the Kyaukpyu port project in Myanmar. Along with all these strategic ports, Coco Island gives them Direct access to the bay of Bengal.

CAN INDIA TAKE IT BACK?

The Indian defence minister George Fernandes in an interview with the BBC in 2003, had stated that prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru had “donated” the Coco Island to Burma in the 1950 and the surrender of vital strategic assets. Many other reports also claimed that the Indian government had gifted the Coco Island to Myanmar in 1950. If we had gifted these islands, then definitely we can send our military and can take over land back, because India can blame myanmar that these islands are helping China To do anti Indian activities

and India had gifted these Island to the the government of Myanmar for its own use not for giving it on lease to the third party like China so we can take it back.

WAY FORWARD- TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

- India needs to understand the strategic importance of the Andaman sea and needs to develop the infrastructure in the Andaman to make it a strong military and economic hub in the IOR.
- It is already home to a tri service command of the Indian armed forces. But the development and proper utilisation of this Island are still an issue.
- Radar station in the narcondam island and also need a push at appropriate level.

Anshum Verma

Significance of the revival of vaccine PSUs for Public health system GS Paper 3 Source – The Hindu

CONTEXT :

The honorable supreme Court Stated yesterday (13th Dec 2021 that it wanted to know the real status of the revivla policy of the government regarding vaccine PSUs

INTRODUCTION :

Entire world is facing the problem of coronavirus. The new variant of the coronavirus omicron increased the concern of the Indian government also. In this situation the Indian government should ensure the availability of the vaccine against the coronavirus. In this situation we should not rely on the private sector completely. Therefore Government wants ato revive the PSU and those PSUs will utilize their full production capabilities by placement of purchase order

Yesterday the Supreme court asked about the real status of the revival scheme. In fact a social activist and former IAS officer Amulya Ratna Nanda filed a case in this regard and during a hearing, a bench of Supremecourt headed by Justice Chandrachurna suggested that the government should file a response to that petition.

The petition had urged the Supreme court to push the reluctant Union government to put these PSUs to use, especially after public funds were once spent to make them compliant with good manufacturing practice

From the side of Government Solicitor General tushar Mehta stated that the revival of PSUs is the primary issue and policy of the government.

In fact, the Government was instructed earlier in 2016 regarding the revival of PSUs for the public health system but unfortunately the government did not honor its commitment.

CENTRAL PSUs AND STATE PSUs IN INDIA

After the liberalization and privatization policies, 17 PSUs were shut down by 2005 and in 2007, only 7 PSUs remained operational in India. Out of this, two are state level PSU and 5 central level PSUs.

STATE PSUs

- King Institute of Preventive Medicine (KPIM, Chennai), a state level PSU has not produced any vacancies for the past 2 decades.

- The only functional state level PSU today is Haffkine Institute and its commercial arm, Haffkine Biopharmaceutical Co Ltd Mumbai.

CENTRAL LEVEL PSU

- Bharat Biologicals and Immunologicals Ltd,
- Indian Institute of Immunologicals,
- Central research institute in kasauli,
- Pasteur Institute of India in Coonoor
- BCG vaccine laboratory

GOVERNMENT 'VIEW':

Government of India is also aware with the importance of vaccine PSU, because, in this period definitely demand of the vaccine will be increasing, and PSU would be revived by government through huge investment as described by Commerce and Industry minister Piyush Goyal. he said that India is planning to produce 5 Bn doses of covid -19 vaccine next year. and India will be increasing its export of the vaccine gradually.

CONCLUSION :

This period is very crucial for the government of India in economical as well as health sector also. Improvement in the economy is also an important factor. Government can use the money collected in the Prime minister relief fund for the revival of these PSUs. Government should invest huge money in the revival programme of these PSUs. Through this one side, govt could revive PSU and enhance economy and other side govt would strengthen its health system also

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

NATIONAL HEALTH ACCOUNTS ON HEALTH EXPENDITURE (GS -2 DEVELOPMENT & MANAGEMENT RELATED TO HEALTH)

National health accounts has reported that there is decline of out of pocket expenditure from 64.2% in 2013-14 to 48.8% in 2017-18,owing to the increased government expenditure on health. The NHA estimates are based on internationally accepted system of health account 2011, provided by the World health organisation this report will be helpful to assist in policy formulation and strategy development and will enhance capacity building.

KEY POINTS

- There is an increased govt share in the total GDP, for the year 2017-18. The increase has registered to 1.35% in 2017-18 from 1.15% in 2013-14.
- In terms of per capita, the government's health expenditure has increased from 1042 to 1753 billion 2013-14 to 2017-18.
- The share of primary healthcare has also increased from 51.1% in 2013-14 to 54.7% in 2017-18. Primary and secondary care together accounts for more than 80% of the current govt. Health expenditure.
- The share of social security expenditure on health which encompasses social health insurance programmes, govt financed health insurance schemes and medical reimbursement in the public sector,has also led.

- Due to the rise in the share of government expenditure in the total budget to 40.8% there has been a decline in out of pocket expenditure to 48.8% for 2017-18. This has been possible due to the increased utilisation of government health facilities and reduction in the cost of services at the health care facilities.
- The government initiatives like Ayushman Bharat, Pradhan mantri Jan arogya yojana, Rashtriya bal swasthya karyakram, janani shishu Suraksha karyakram etc has helped the beneficiaries to access the healthcare facilities hence maximising the coverage of public health sector.

ISSUES WITH HEALTH SECTOR

- Limited existence of primary healthcare services,with limited services like pregnancy care,childcare and provision of national health programmes.
- Lack of training and supervision has led to the poor health management skills and has compromised the quality of health services for example As per the report of John Hopkins Bloomberg school of public health in 2019, nearly one out of every 100 children does not celebrate their 5th birthday either due to diarrhoea or pneumonia also suboptimal access to clean water and sanitation have challenged the eradication of such diseases.
- Lack of funding- India spent only 1.8% of its GDP on health in 2020-21 and its total out of pocket Expenditure is around 2.3% of GDP.its is comparatively low with regard to OECD countries average 7.6% and Brics countries average of 3.6%.
- India has less than the required number of doctors i.e one doctor over the population of 1445 against the norm of 1:1000.

WAY FORWARD

- India needs to optimize it's primary healthcare services so that non-communicable diseases can be early detected and prevented and children could be given protection from diarrhoea and pneumonia.
- There is a need to encourage investment in other colleges in lines of AIIMS to ramp up quality health services in low costs
- Public private partnership should be emphasised to leverage the expertise of the private sector.
- Research and development should be incentivised by additional tax deductions to further support greater investments in new drug developments and reducing GST on life saving and Essential drugs.
- More attention is required to be given towards training, reskilling and knowledge upgradation of the existing healthcare workforce so that quality services could be provided.
- There is a need to have a single authority responsible for public health that is legally empowered to enforce compliance of the health standards.

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Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Significance of UAPA for national Security (GS paper 3, Internal Security) (Source The Hindu)

CONTEXT :

Nealy 53% of persons arrested under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) in 2018, 2019 and 2020 were youngsters mostly below 30 years. This information is given by Union home ministry (MHA to the Lok Sabha)

INTRODUCTION

UAPA is an act to prevent unlawful activities and It was enacted for internal security of the country. The objective of THE UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES (PREVENTION) ACT, 1967 was to curtail those activities which would disrupt the peace in the society. But after that it was amended in 1969, 1972, 1986, 2004, 2008, 2012 and in 2019 as per the requirement of the government.

It was also cleared that presently no amendments in UAPA are under consideration. Maximum arrest under UAPA of persons below 30 years of age was made in Uttar Pradesh (205) followed by Jammu Kashmir(166), Manipur (113) and Jharkhand (35). Now these facts are to think whether this is UP where anti national activities are going on in large numbers? If we observe, we find the answer NO. Kasmir, and the state of northeast and the state influenced with naxals are distrubed regions and the use of UAPA should be more in these states but the data is little more surprising

WHETHER THIS UAPA USED IN UP IS FOR POLITICAL BENEFITS ONLY :

If we analyze the data provided by the National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB), we see that the conviction rate of the arrest under the UAPA is very poor, only 10 -15 % of people could be convicted under this act. This data is for national level. If we see the date for UP, we see that the condition is more poor in UP

During the last few days, we saw the arrest of some students of UP under UAPA who were celebrating the victory of Pakistan in T20 world cup cricket. Can they be convicted? This is the big question.

SIGNIFICANCE OF UAPA ACT : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Definitely, when this act was enacted by the parliament, at that time India was facing the problem of the disintegrating elements and the Punjab crisis was also there. But nowadays, the nature of internal security has changed. Therefore, in 2019, the government changed this UAPA act, but the implementation of this act is not proper. Sometimes we see the arrest of people only because of political reasons. This must be avoided otherwise the significance of this act would fade.

Our police and investigating agencies must be mere professional so that the conviction rate should be increased otherwise, the trust over this act would not be for a long time and it will lose its significance.

Therefore this is the duty of state and the center government also to use this act properly and this is the most significant act to control over anti national activities but another dark phase of this implementation of this act is that it is being used for political benefits and those students and the youngers who are not aware with the concept of nation, national integration and indian constitution, commit any crime unwillingly, our agencies must investigate in this direction also and try to use this act when they have proper and sufficient evidence against the accused

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Need to Regulate Social media (GS-2,3, The Hindu)

The need for regulation of social media platforms has accelerated after the episode of facebook whistle blowers revelations. This is in the context that handful of companies yields more money and power than that of the several governments, their extraordinary influence on economy, society and policies and hence there is an urgent need to put certain checks and balances on their unbridled power.

RISE OF SOCIAL MEDIA IN RECENT DECADE: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- The phenomenal rise of social media platforms like facebook, twitter, whatsapp etc. has become a double edged sword in terms of functioning of democracies.
- It has democratised access to information, while on the other hand it has concentrated power over that information with a handful of private companies, their billionaire owners, and certain ideologically committed activist groups.
- It has become easy for billions of netizens around the world to bypass traditional curators of information such as journalists and editors in order to get the content of their choice.
- In addition to being the consumer, netizens have also become creators and disseminators of content.
- Misinformation on social media can alter public opinion for the worse and create a sense of panic and restlessness among the public, which is a threat to democracy.
- It is to be noted that social media provides a liberal platform which allows common citizens to put forward their views regarding policies and acts and let them directly communicate with their leaders and vice versa.
- Thus the public opinion gets amplified on social media, which consequently makes democracy more transparent and stronger.

NEED FOR REGULATION

- Whatsapp has about 400 million active indian users 300 million Fb users, 250 million youtube users, which is more than the US.
- With such a large market share, these significant data fiduciaries have an obligation to abide by the law of land, in the interest of the data subjects in India at large.
- Data fiduciaries are using their significant market power to defy rules of the land in which they operate.
- India being a democratic country always has legal recourse and the judiciary to oversee undue exercise of power by the state.

CHALLENGES BEFORE THE GOVERNMENT: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- A stringent policy of policing social media could violate the individuals right to privacy.
- It will be not easy to compel fb Inc, the owner of whatsapp to give up on the app's unique selling proposition to the users of complete end to end confidentiality.

WAY FORWARD

- The benefits of technology can not be ignored, especially social media with wide outreach. In the midst of a pandemic there was whatsapp fb and twitter for SOS calls.
- In the pandemic era followed by prolonged periods of lockdown, social media has given respite to people from mental distress.

- There can be no dispute that social media is necessary in order to connect with peers.
- The government should regulate these social media platforms, but not to the extent that it becomes difficult for them to do business in india.

CONCLUSION

India is not a surveillance state, there must not be any unconstitutional check on the right to privacy and freedom of speech and expression. Further, there is a need for social media awareness to enable citizens to distinguish between right content and wrong control and also to know when democratic processes are being manipulated. There must be a balance as the constitution itself has provided several limitations on one's right to speech and expression. Social media platforms need to provide safeguards in the event when democratic processors are being intentionally disrupted or harmful falsehoods are spreading and enable people to find out what is true.

Anshum Verma

Zero budget natural farming (ZBNF) (GS-1,3)

Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) is a set of farming methods which supports chemical-free agriculture practice drawing from traditional Indian practices. It was also a grassroots peasant movement, which spread to various states in India especially in the southern India state of Karnataka where it first evolved. This practice was originally propagated by an agriculturist and recipient of Padma Shri Subhash Palekar, along with the state's farmers association called Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha (KRRS), put together these zero budget farming practices as an alternative to many unsustainable agricultural practice under Green Revolution that were driven by chemical fertilizers, pesticides and intensive irrigation.

The liberalization and the green revolution of Indian agriculture led to a deep crisis in Indian agriculture that made small scale farming an impractical profession as seeds became costly, inputs, and markets were inaccessible and expensive for small and poor peasants. Indian farmers increasingly find themselves trapped in a vicious cycle of debt, because of the high production costs, high interest rates for credit, the volatile market prices of crops, the rising costs of fossil fuel based inputs, and private seeds. Debt especially taken from non institutional sources, is a problem for farmers of all sizes in India. Under such circumstances ZBFN promises to end poor peasants' reliance on loans and drastically cut production costs, ending the debt cycle for them.

The word 'budget' refers to earning and expenses, thus the phrase 'Zero Budget' means without using any money, and without spending also on the purchase of inputs. 'Natural farming' means farming in sync with Nature and without chemicals.

THERE ARE FOUR PILLARS OF ZBNF: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

1. Jivamrita/jevamrutha
2. Bijamrita/beejamrutha
3. Acchadana – mulching
4. Whapasa – moisture

1. JEEVAMRUTHA:

Jeevamrutha is the first and important pillar of zero budget farming. It is a blend of aged cow urine and fresh cow dung from India's indigenous jaggery, water, pulse flour, soil, and cow breed. This mixture is one type of

natural fertilizer that not only provides nutrients, but also acts as a catalytic agent that promotes the activity of microorganisms, especially earthworm in the soil, which is applied to farmland.

2. BIJAMRITA:

It is the second pillar used for the treatment of seeds, seedlings or any planting material. It is a blend of tobacco, green chilies, and neem leaf pulp etc so that it became effective in protecting young roots from fungus as well as from soil-borne and seed-borne diseases. It provides a kind of natural protection to seeds.

3. ACCHADANA (MULCHING):

Acchadana (Mulching) is the third pillar of this farming practice. It helps to maintain soil moisture content by any of the 3 mulching practices- Soil Mulch, Straw Mulch, Live Mulch. This pillar helps to protect the topsoil of the farmland and does not ruin it by tilling.

4. WHAPASA (MOISTURE):

It is a condition where both water and air molecules are present in the soil. It helps to reduce the extra irrigation requirement.

ADVANTAGES OF ZERO BUDGET NATURAL FARMING: TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

- Reduces the initial cost of farmers for inputs
- Farmer's income will increase automatically
- The soil ecosystem will improve
- Cow dung which is full of nutrients and available locally, will add soil value
- Cow dung's bacteria will decompose the organic matter in soil and will make soil suitable for the plants
- Low consumption of electricity and water
- Improves the productivity of the soil
- It will decrease the risk of diseases attacking the crop.
- Farming production quality improves as we use no chemical fertilizers

There are many government initiatives for supporting practices like organic farming, zero budget based natural farming etc.

The Government of India is promoting these initiatives in the country through schemes like Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) etc.

In the revised guidelines of the PKVY scheme during the year 2018, various organic farming models like Natural Farming, Rishi Farming, Vedic Farming, Cow Farming, Homa Farming, Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) etc. have been included.

The prerequisites for the success of COP26: Climate justice along with climate finance (GS-3)

In the run-up to the Conference of the Parties (COP26), there is a mounting pressure on developing countries like India to curb emissions but nobody is talking much about cumulative historical global emissions that heated the earth by 1.1% above the pre-industrial levels.

If we fail to arrest these emissions and curb the rise in the temperature 0.5C below the preindustrial level

then it will lead to many disasters like unprecedented rise in sea levels, sudden weather changes, increased number of cyclones like we see today in arabian sea, crop failure, unpredictable monsoon, submergence of small island countries and storms will make a huge part of the planet prone to disaster and uninhabitable.

Greenhouse gases (GHGs) like carbon dioxide (CO₂), CO, SO_x, CH₄, and nitrous oxides (NO_x) etc. contribute to global warming but they have varied impact on global warming depending on their respective warming potential. CO₂ stays for the longest in the atmosphere, whereas methane, second most abundant greenhouse gas after carbon dioxide (CO₂), is comparatively short-lived but is 28 times more powerful than CO₂ as it can warm up the planet 80 times more than CO₂ in 20 years of their release.

India is the third largest emitter of CO₂ but its per capita share is very less as compared to countries like USA and CHINA. India comes at 21st in the descending order of magnitude of per capita emissions. Contrarily, the historical emissions place India as a fairly low emitter. India's lead in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) 1992, by introducing Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC), paved the way for the principle of equity and climate justice.

IN COP26, INDIA'S PROMISE ON FIVE POINTS DESERVE APPRECIATION: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

1. To power 50% of our energy needs from renewable sources
2. Increasing the renewable installed capacity to 500 gigawatts (GW) by 2030 from the present 100 GW
3. Reducing the total emission to 1 billion tonnes from its projected emissions from now till 2030
4. Reducing the carbon intensity of the economy by 45% by 2030
5. Pledging net zero by 2070.

India represents 17% of the global population, but its historical cumulative emissions are only 4% of the global emissions (Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change).

Any commitment to net zero by India and similar developing countries will not bring a sizable reduction in GHG emissions unless the United States (US), European Union (EU), and China whose combined emission accounted for almost half of the total emissions, take any concrete measures. The failure of the COP25 was attributed to the poor initiative by the highest polluters. The Paris Agreement of 2015 talked about "loss and damage" but did not say much on liability and redress. The proposal of climate finance by the US to the tune of \$100 million annually was brought in and recorded as early as 2009, but the deadline of 2020 has been pushed to 2023.

The basic idea behind climate finance is to compensate the countries facing natural disasters caused by global warming. The other route to protect the planet from depletion and devastation is by technology transfer to ensure clean production practices. This calls for the initiative of the historical emitters to lead by sharing their clean technology, which they acquired. Although technology transfer was never on the table of previous conferences, the UNFCCC aims at the adaptation of the climate goals through several means, including this.

India is predominantly an agricultural economy, and more than half of its population is dependent on agriculture for employment. Livestock and agriculture is central to the economy but both these activities emit methane. Signing a pledge to stop deforestation and cut methane emission may put the rural economy in peril. Livestock emission—from the gastroenteric releases and manure—make up 32% of anthropogenic methane emissions. The NO_x from fertilisers also contribute to global warming. The destruction of peatland contributes to methane ending up in the atmosphere. But any disproportionate stress on methane or NO_x emission reduction will disturb the food chain causing other imbalances in addition to the rise in food insecurity in less developed and developing countries. The solution lies in farmer-friendly technologies to

reduce emissions from livestock and bring climate-friendly paddy cultivation practices within the reach of farmers.

The climate change debate involves the classic case of global commons exploited by the players because of non-excludability. The abstract notion of universalism versus national interests results in different approaches of the players (nations). In the former, all humanity is a composite whole aiming at protecting the environment vis-à-vis the latter with priorities of the individual nations for their well-being leading to the trade-off between securing more rights for their group/nation/bloc. The brouhaha over net-zero emission pledges does not guarantee any check on the emissions before the target date but determining the growth curve of emissions will help.

Although many countries have submitted their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and others have even revised their submissions upwards, the scenario is, at best, suitable for a rise of 2.7% above the pre-industrial levels by the end of the century. All this, too, is only subject to complete fulfilment of the commitments made by the nations. The negotiators at the summit should aim higher with the principle of universalism, considering the basic needs of the poorest of the poor. The protection of vulnerable communities and regions from the vagaries of the environment is as much a necessity as the basic needs of all the dwellers of the planet and should not be posed as competing goals. Hence, climate finance should include technology transfer as well to serve the needs of all.

Swarn Singh

Sedition Law : Is it a tool to crush the voice of opponent **GS paper II, Paper I The Hindu**

INTRODUCTION :

Union Law minister Kiran rijuju, on 10 Dec 2021 told the Loksabha that the ministry of home affairs had no proposal under consideration to scrap section 124 A of Indian Penal code which is related to sedition

What is section 124A of India penal code

This was a law of the colonial period through which the British government crushed any protest and discontentment of the Indians.

Under Section 124A of IPC, a person would be charged if that person by words or otherwise brings or attempts to bring into hatred or contempt, or excites or attempts to excite disaffection towards the government established by law.

The sedition law which is enshrined in Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) was introduced by the British government in 1870 to tackle dissent against colonial rule.

For last 2 decades it has been observed that many opponent people were booked through this section and even supreme court rejected this section many time because this section had lost its credibility therefore it should be revoked by the central government but as per the statement of union law minister that government still understand its significance so it should not be revoked or curtailed

HISTORY OF 124 A CHARGE OVER INDIAN FREEDOM FIGHTER: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

According to the LOC (Library of Congress)blog, the first known instance of the application of the law was the trial of newspaper editor Jogendra Chandra Bose in 1891. Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Mahatma Gandhi many times were booked through this section of Indian Penal code. In modern India, it has also been observed that those who criticized the prime minister, chief minister or any other important government were arrested

with this charge. Therefore, nowadays this section is continuously losing its significance. Recently in a case filed by Major General (retired) SG Vombatkere, during the hearing, Chief Justice of India N V Ramana stated that this is colonial rule and it should be repealed.

In fact Major General (retired) SG Vombatkere had challenged the validity of this section 124 A in the court on the grounds that it has a “chilling effect” on speech and poses an unreasonable restriction on the fundamental right of free expression. Indian citizens were given the fundamental right of freedom of speech and expressions.

This sedition law has been challenged before this incident because generally the government has been using this section as a tool to crush the voice of the opponent.

CONCLUSION

The section of IPC 124 A has been the subject of debate for a long time. Just after independence communist leaders opposed this section and appealed to the government many times to repeal it. And nowadays it was also suggested by the honorable supreme court to remove this section. Now the ball is in the court of the legislature whether the government would remove this section or will amend this section. As per the situation of the country it looks that this section would not be removed in near future even though the possibility of the amendments are still there

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Legal Guarantee to MSP: The Demand of farmers and Obligations under AoA of WTO (GS 3, Economics, The Hindu, Indian Express)

CONTEXT:

The demand of farmers for the legal guarantee of MSP has many dimensions of debate. For example, will it not be heavy fiscal burden on the government to procure all 23 crops for which government announces MSP?, what about logistic and storages if procured by the government, and what about obligations made under Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) under WTO regarding de minimis limit of trade distorting domestic support, like MSP.

The WTO endeavors for fairly competitive international trade practices. It does not favor the support from the governments to their respective producers. The logic behind is that if a government directly supports its producer, the producer would be making more products, resulting in a production surplus which ultimately results in cheap export, and thus the domestic producer of this country can capture the international market. All this became possible only due to support from the government (domestic support) to its producer. Hence this kind of support is considered as trade distorting and against the principle of free and fair market system, which is advocated by WTO.

These kinds of domestic support (Subsidies) restrictions are mentioned in the Agreement on Agriculture (AoA), which is one of the many agreements under WTO. In AoA, the domestic support from the governments or Subsidies are categorized in terms of green boxes, blue boxes, amber boxes and development boxes.

GREEN BOX :

Under green box subsidies are not considered as trade distortive. These subsidies must not be products specific

and must not involve price support (such remunerative price or MSP). They can include environmental protection and regional development programmes. Examples of green boxes are domestic policies dealing with research, extension, inspection and grading, environmental and conservation programs, disaster relief, crop insurance, domestic food assistance, food security stocks, structural adjustment programs, and direct payments not linked to production. At present there are no limits on spending on blue box.

DEVELOPMENT BOX :

Agriculture Agreement allows developing countries additional flexibilities in providing domestic support. The type of support that fits into the developmental category are measures of assistance, whether direct or indirect, designed to encourage agricultural and rural development and that are an integral part of the development programmes of developing countries. They include investment subsidies which are generally available to agriculture in developing country members, agricultural input subsidies generally available to low-income or resource-poor producers in developing country members, and domestic support to producers in developing country members to encourage diversification from growing illicit narcotic crops.

BLUE BOX :

It is also called as “amber box with condition”. These are subsidies which tend to limit the production. Here farmers are given support to limit/reduce the production so as to neutralize the production distortion. Actually the story behind is that in the 1970s and 1980s the US and European countries were hugely incentivizing their agriculture production by directly supporting the farmers which was later seen as trade distortive. These countries got enough fixed resources like land and others behind agriculture production because of huge government incentives. The crux is that now to fix the trade distortion problem, they shall not be using all resources for production, maybe sometimes like leaving the land fallow. This will obviously reduce the income of the farmer. Here if farmers are given some support/benefits from the government to balance their reduced income, then this support/benefits/subsidies will be counted in blue box. For example subsidies linked with capping of acreage or number of animals. There is no WTO cap for blue box subsidies.

AMBER BOX :

Nearly all domestic support measures considered to distort production and trade (with some exceptions) fall into the amber box, which is defined in Article 6 of the Agriculture Agreement as all domestic supports except those in the blue and green boxes. These include measures to support prices, or subsidies directly related to production quantities.

These supports are subject to limits. “De minimis” minimal supports for both product-specific and non-product-specific support are allowed, defined as a share of the value of agricultural production. This threshold is generally 5% of the value of agricultural production for developed countries, 10% for most developing countries.

THE ISSUE IN LEGALIZING MSP :

Procuring all the 23 crops at MSP, as against the current practice of procuring largely rice and wheat, will result in India breaching the de minimis limit making it vulnerable to a legal challenge at the WTO. Even if the Government does not procure directly but mandates private parties to acquire at a price determined by the Government, as it happens in the case of sugarcane, the de minimis limit of 10% applies. Very recently, a WTO panel in the case, India – Measures Concerning Sugar and Sugarcane, concluded that India breached the de minimis limit in the case of sugarcane by offering guaranteed prices paid by sugar mills to sugarcane farmers.

WAY FORWARD/ALTERNATIVES :

India can shift the support system from Price-based (in the form of MSP) to Income-based, which will not be trade distorting under the AoA provided the income support is not linked to production. Or alternatively, Price-based (in the form of MSP) can be given to the de minimis limit and can be supplemented with Income-based support policy. But in the backdrop of three repealed farm laws, whatever is to be done in the near future regarding agriculture reforms, the government has to engage and convince the farmers priorly.

MD. Layeeque Azam

Annexation of Goa : The first diplomatic victory after independence of India GS : Paper I Sources : Times of India, Indian Express, The Hindu

CONTEXT :

Today is the Goa liberation day and Our Honorable prime minister will visit Goa on liberation day celebration

INTRODUCTION :

At the time of Independence, Goa was neither under the control of the British Indian Government nor it was a princely state. Goa was directly controlled by the Portuguese government and the British never interfered in the internal affairs of administration of Goa. Therefore, it was a big challenge to merge Goa.

HISTORY OF GOA IN BRIEF : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

As per some scholars this area of Goa was mentioned in Mahabharata also and Its name was Gomantak and the port near the mouth of mandovi river was named as Gowapura on which The Portuguese named it Goa. Aryans culture (Led by saraswat Brahman) remained here for a long time.

During medieval era, Bahmany invaded this region and in this way Islam reached here Portuguese captured Goa in 1510 under the leadership of Alfonso de Albuquerque, even though Dutch also seized Goa many times but when British made an alliance with Portuguese, Goa was brought under the direct control of Portuguese authority and Bombay was given to British.

ANNEXATION OF GOA :

During the British Rule in India, Goa remained free and always enjoyed independent rules under the control of the Portuguese government. After the independent Goa's authority did not surrender Goa to the Indian government, even the public of Goa wanted to be merged with India. But since Goa was not part of the British Indian Government, so Goa was not bound to sign any instrument of the annexation.

In the mid of 1954, the nationalist leaders of the Goa demanded to free Goa and merge it with India but Goa authority rejected this demand then these nationalist had to compel for the protest against Goa authority. Many times the Indian government appealed to the British to intervene in this matter. In the mid of 1954 pro nationalist people seized the Portuguese enclave of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and established pro Indian administration (Self rule). This encouraged other nationalist of Maharashtra and nearby places to liberate Goa from Portuguese control. Thousands of Satyagraha from different parts of India reached Goa but Goa's authority seized the border and did not allow any outsiders to enter. After some time thousands of the

Satyagarhis tried to enter the territory of Goa. Police of Goa started a fire and many people were killed who were fighting with non violent manner.

The Indian government raised this issue at international level and warned Portugal to suspend all diplomatic relations with Portugal. This tension enlarged after 1961 when Indian government decided to send his army in Goa on the ground of humanism because many satyagarhis were arrested and being tortured by Goa authority. Indian troops supported by naval and airforce invaded Goa on 18 Dec 1961 and declared an integral part of India. People of Goa overwhelmingly supported this annexation. Finally Portugal authority had to recognise this victory of India over Goa. In this way All three territories Goa, Daman, Diu subsequently became part of India. Goa became a state in 1987.

CONCLUSION :

The annexation of Goa with minimum casualties was a big achievement. Definitely it was the appreciable diplomatic skill of our leaders so that we could annex Goa with military support. Now Goa is free and an integral part of India and enjoying status as a State. Similar technique was adopted in the annexation of Sikkim (1973). The matter of Sikkim was not very typical in comparison to Goa because it was a princely state but China could interfere in this matter. Both were annexed after independence through our wise diplomatic skill

RELEVANCE FOR UPSC- TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

For Prelims: MCQ related to annexation of Goa, History of Goa etc may be asked

For mains :

After the Independence of India, annexation of some states like Sikkim and Goa was a big challenge in front of the Indian Government. Discuss this and explain how the Indian government tackled these challenges?

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Pacific Ring of Fire (GS-1)

An earthquake of magnitude 7.3 hit eastern Indonesia whose epicenter was in the Flores Sea, north of East Nusa Tenggara province.

Why do so many earthquakes come to Indonesia?

Indonesia is vulnerable to earthquakes because it's in the world's most seismically active region famously called the Ring of Fire, an area where most of the world's volcanic eruptions occur and it is on the fault lines in the basin of the Pacific Ocean. Though the whole Ring of Fire has seen a large amount of activity in recent days, Indonesia still experiences more due to its position on a large grid of tectonic plates.

There are three major continental plates– the Pacific, the Eurasian and the Indo-Australian plates and one smaller Philippine plate on the confluence of these plates that Indonesia sits on. As a result, a number of volcanoes, earthquakes etc. occur every year. Indonesia is home to more than 400 volcanoes, out of which around 1/3rd are currently active, accounting for about a third of the world's active volcanoes.

What is the Ring of Fire?

It is the Circum-Pacific Belt only which is referred to as “The Ring of Fire,” is a path along the Pacific Ocean characterized by active volcanoes and frequent earthquakes. Almost 40,000 kilometers (24,900 miles) is the length of this ring. It marks the boundaries between several tectonic plates including 3 major plates like the

Pacific, Indian-Australian, and North American and many smaller ones like Juan de Fuca, Cocos, Nazca, and Philippine Plates.

Seventy-five percent of Earth's volcanoes, more than 450 volcanoes, are located along the Ring of Fire. Almost 90 percent of Earth's earthquakes take place along this ring, including the most violent and dramatic earthquakes of this planet.

The abundance of volcanoes and earthquakes along the Ring of Fire is caused by the amount of movement of tectonic plates in the area. Along this Ring of Fire, most of the plates formed convergent boundaries resulting in subduction zones. In this one plate will be pushed down, or subducted, by another plate above. As rocks in the plate get subducted, they melt and become magma. The abundance of magma so near to Earth's surface as a result of subduction, gives rise to many volcanic activities.

Here is a significant exception to this ring, is the border between the Pacific and North American Plates as these two plates form a transform boundary, in which plates move sideways past one another. These types of transform boundary movements generate a large number of earthquakes as tension in Earth's crust builds up and is released periodically.

RISK:

The people most at risk from earthquakes and volcanism are people of those countries that lie on so-called subduction zones in the Ring of Fire, like the US west coast, Chile, Japan, Indonesia and island nations including the Solomon Islands etc, as here boundaries mark the collision between two tectonic planets.

FORMATION OF RING OF FIRE : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The Ring of Fire is the result of convergent plate movements from subduction of oceanic tectonic plates beneath lighter continental plates and their meeting zone is called a subduction zone.

Why is the Ring of Fire the home to most of the earthquakes?

- The deepest earthquakes took place in subduction zone areas as tectonic plates scrape against each other resulting in tremors and the Ring of Fire has the world's biggest concentration of subduction zones.
- The tectonic plates were forced to move and crash up against each other because of the energy released from the earth's molten core, causing friction. The friction only causes a build-up of energy and when this energy is finally released it causes an earthquake. If this happens at sea it can cause devastating tsunamis.
- Tectonic plates usually only move on average a few centimetres each year, but when an earthquake strikes, they speed up massively and can move at several metres per second.

*Earthquake : A sudden violent shaking of the ground, typically causing great destruction, as a result of movements within the lithosphere as a result of plate movements or volcanic action.

The focus of an earthquake is the point inside the earth's crust at which the seismic waves are initiated and the epicenter is the point directly above the focus on earth's surface.

Swarn Singh

Significance of Biological Diversity Act, 2002 (Source – The Hindu) (GS paper II, III)

CONTEXT :

Many environment actives and social workers are opposing biological diversity act 2002 when Government introduced some amendment in this Bill in Lok Sabha

INTRODUCTION :

This act is called Biodiversity Act in short. This act was enacted by the Indian parliament in 2002 and the objective of this act was to conserve the natural resources as well as environment also.

This act would be implemented in entire India including Kashmir. This act has 65 sections and applicable on foreign nationals also. This act was introduced in parliament for fulfilling the obligations of India described in the convention of biological diversity in 2002 (which is an international organization of 196 countries) and India had participated in this convention in 2002. Under the Act, the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) has been formed and is headquartered at **Chennai**.

Convention on Biological Diversity: the objectives of this convention are to conserve biodiversity, to protect earth from environmental degradation and to make acts accordingly. India participated in 2002 in this convention

PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- The important provision of this act is the establishment of the state biodiversity board and the power and function of the boards also described in this act
- This act established national biodiversity fund and state biodiversity fund also
- The orders of this act would be under the jurisdiction of Civil Courts
- There are provision of the punishment also (imprisonment of 5 years and fine of 10 Lac) and the offense is cognizable offense

WHAT IS THE MAIN CONCERN OF THIS BILL: TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Many traditional Indian medicine practitioners, seed sector, and industry and researchers demanded for some relief or relaxation in this bill so that they could extract and explore more herbal seeds and medicines. In the favor of these people, the Government introduced the amendment bill which provides the exemptions to registered AYUSH medical practitioners and the people of having certified traditional knowledge on the herbal seeds from giving prior intimation to State biodiversity boards for accessing biological resources for certain purposes.

Even Though Government Ensured that through this amendment there would not be any effect over the effort of government in conserving the biodiversity

But Indian Environmental experts oppose this amendment because they think that these industrialists based on herbal meditation would exploit natural resources beyond the limit for earning profit and in this way they could harm the environment also. Even though the Legal Initiative for Forest and Environment (LIFE) stated that this new amendment will be beneficial for the Ayush Ministry and through this bill neither local communities would be benefited nor the protection of biodiversity would be strong. The Bill in the current form would pave the way for “bio piracy” and would mean AYUSH manufacturing companies would no

longer need to take approvals and thus it would be contradictory to the objectives for which this bill was enacted earlier.

CONCLUSION AND WAYFORWARD : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The Biodiversity Bill is to ensure the protection from environmental degradation as well as protection of biodiversity but simultaneously on the cost of conservation of biodiversity, the development in the field of medical research and Ayurveda and herbal medicines should not be influenced. Keeping the concerns of the environmentalist Government should take appropriate action in this regard and should ensure the development of medical research and the environmental conservation. Government should also be concerned towards the interest of local communities also because in the process of development these communities should not be left behind.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai





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DECEMBER 2021

India on the path of technology : Issues and Road Ahead (GS 3, Economics, The Hindu, Indian Express)



WE HAVE SO MANY CELEBRATED TECHNOLOGISTS AROUND THE WORLD FROM INDIA, BUT WHY IS INDIA STILL BEHIND IN THE GLOBAL TECHNOLOGICAL LADDER?

The popular narrative behind India's failure is that India lacks to tap the market driven growth opportunities. Market driven economy works on the principle of competition and thus favors efficiency. India's earlier commitment towards socialism favored the public sector and planning and thus damaged the opportunities to tap the efficient labor and resources. The talented left the country for the US and Europe. As of 2019 around 2.7 millions were Indian immigrants in the US who are most educated and professionally efficient.

US is a country of immense opportunities. Research shows that the US government has played a crucial role in the introduction of new technologies. From Computerization, ICT, internet, to nanotechnology and biotechnology, the US government agencies were proactive during the uncertain phases of their research.

In China also, the government is playing a prominent role in making its industries from low wage manufacturing to modern technological based products like alternative fuel cars and renewable energy. China has successfully tapped the combined strength of the public sector, market and globalization. State owned enterprises (SOEs) in China too, were bureaucratic and inefficient, but rather making them private the government restructured them. Manufacturing and export-oriented sectors were left for the private sector and the SOEs strengthened their presence in strategically important sectors such as telecommunication and petrochemicals as well as in technologically dynamic industries such as electronics and machinery.

When India initiated industrialisation and planning in the early 1950s, it was possibly the most aspiring and progressive of such initiatives among the developing world. Government funding of the modern technologies of the time including atomic and space research and the establishment of institutions such as the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) were among the hallmarks of that effort. Many of these institutions have attained world-class standards over the years. The growth of pharmaceutical industries and information technology has been the fastest in Hyderabad and Bengaluru. **However, the roadblocks to progress have been many, including India's poor achievements in school education and rural health services.**

In 1991, when India embraced globalization and favored market economy, it should have redoubled efforts to strengthen its technological capabilities. Instead, the spending on research and development as a proportion of GDP declined in India from 0.85% in 1990-91 to 0.65% in 2018. In contrast, this proportion increased over the years in China and South Korea to reach 2.1% and 4.5%, respectively, by 2018.

India still poses the favorable supply demand dynamism. The number of persons enrolled for tertiary education in India (35.2 million in 2019) is way ahead of the corresponding numbers in all other countries except China. Further, graduates from STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) programmes as a proportion of all graduates was 32.2% for India in 2019, one of the highest among all countries (UNESCO data).

Internet users will soon be double that in the US, exhibiting a large market and huge opportunities for all kinds of modern technologies. For instance, the country is operating far below its potential in electronic manufacturing. Electronic goods and components are the second largest item, after oil, in India's import bill. Also, the country's imports are almost five times its exports in this industry (based on 2020-21 data).

WAY FORWARD : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- India has to look into high value electronics components in the manufacturing which at present are manufactured by big MNCs.
- In the backdrop of its huge consumer base India needs to do better negotiation with these MNCs in terms of localizing the production and sharing technologies with domestic firms.
- Apart from ease in business, Indian industry have to broaden and deepen its technological capabilities.
- Universities and government institutions are needed to be emboldened and strengthened to enter into areas of technology developments as the private sector may have neither the resources nor the patience.
- PSUs should be engaged to create technologies and strategic and knowledge assets for potential long term contribution to economic growth, rather than just using them in short term fiscal benefits.
- Private businesses and Medium and Small enterprises will flourish more and widen their entrepreneurial base if diffused with public created technologies, along with better availability credit, finance and other forms of support.

Hopefully in the near future, the next big stories of any technological development will come from some remote entrepreneurs of the country.

**Md Layeeque Azam,
Economics Faculty**

Patriots Polles in Hong Kong : Its significance in Indian Context

GS Paper II Source – The Hindu

CONTEXT :

The election for Legislative council (LegCo) was conducted yesterday after the radical overhaul of the special administrative region's electoral system and During this election In comparison to election held in 2016, less people came out and participated in election.

INTRODUCTION :

The election conducted for the Legislative Council in Hongkong is named as the Patriot Polls because through this election, it would be ensured that only patriot people could run the administration. Even though the definition of the patriotism in China is contradictory to the concept of democracy

NEW PATTERN OF ELECTION : LESS DEMOCRATIC- THE HINDU ANALYSIS

After the transfer of Hong Kong to China First time elections of this system were held. Even though the Chinese government increased the number of seats in the Assembly from 70 to 90, the seats of direct election were reduced from 35 to 20. The election for 70 seats would be indirect among which 40 would be elected by a 1200 member committee and most of the members of the committee will be from the government of China which would ensure that you are loyal towards China or not. Remaining 30 would be elected by the corporate sector. these constituencies are called functional constituencies

In this way China just conducted elections of LegCo of Hong Kong and showed the world that democratic institutions are also there but the reality is that many people of Hongkong those who protested against the Chinese government either escaped from China or they were detained. people of Hong Kong, they are also not happy with the Chinese administration as their fundamental rights are being crushed daily.

SIGNIFICANCE FOR INDIA :

India is a democratic country and China is not practicing true democracy and therefore it is the compulsion for the Chinese government to opt aggressive policy towards the other countries because this aggressiveness is the only tool through which the Chinese government could earn popularity among people. The despotic and theocratic rules or administration could be survived through the emotion of patriotism. Patriotism is a concept through which you feel emotional attachment towards your motherland.

Through this patriotism despotic and autocratic rule have been justifying for a long time. One side he is adopting the despotic policies on other side, China is organizing elections to show the world that she believes in democratic institution

In fact, the main concern for India is that any non democratic countries would be dangerous for India in a long time because the survival of an autocratic country is always based on war. Therefore the establishment of the democratic institution in China would be beneficial for India

Western world and other responsible countries of the world which are advocating democracy should expose China regarding pseudo democracy. Indian Government should also expose this pseudo democracy of China

CONCLUSION :

The declaration of The election for the legislative Council of Hongkong as patriotic polls by China should be condemned by the Indian government and should expose the reality of this election on the world forum.

The term Patriotism should also be defined by the Indian government and compare it with the patriotism of China. Patriotism is not contradictory to Humanism. To support the government against human rights is not patriotism. This patriotism is a tool to justify the despotic rule

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Significance of AFSPA in Modern Days (GS Paper II) (Source – The hindu)

CONTEXT :

The Nagaland Assembly has demanded the repeal of the contentious Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act from the state and elsewhere in the Northeast and an apology from the appropriate authority for the botched army operations that led to the death of 14 civilians

INTRODUCTION

When India became free, India had to face huge violence in North East regions, Internal administration of Northeast region could not stop such violence and the threat of the disintegration of these regions was big issue, therefore the contemporary government (Nehru was the prime minister) had to bring this AFSPA on 22nd May of 1958. In which some special powers have been given to the members of the armed forces in disturbed areas in the State of Assam and Union Territory of Manipur. Later the Ordinance was replaced by the Armed Forces Special Powers Bill.

PROVISIONS OF THE AFSPA: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- This Act is valid in the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura
- Any person can be arrested without any warrant if in the sight of the armed forces that person is involved in cognizable offense
- Armed forces has right to search any houses without warrant
- After the arrest of that person, person must be made over to the police in earliest time
- Through a notification, Governor of that state can declare any area as disturbed area

LIST OF AMENDING ACTS: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- The State of Mizoram Act, 1986 (34 of 1986).
- The State of Arunachal Pradesh Act, 1986 (69 of 1986).
- The Armed Forces (Assam and Manipur) Special Powers (Amendment) Act, 1972 (7 of 1972).
- The Armed Forces Special Powers (Extension to Union Territory of Tripura) Act, 1970.
- The Repealing and Amending Act, 1960 (58 of 1960).

SOLUTION FOR THE NAGA ISSUE: TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

In the Naga house of 60 members, overwhelmingly voted that other alternatives should be considered to strengthening the ongoing efforts to find a peaceful solution treated “Naga Political Issue ”

The house appreciated and supported local citizens and the civil societies for demanding the removal of

AFSPA and delivery of Justice. The house stated that Naga people is seeking for peace and an early solution of the long pending issue

SIGNIFICANCE: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Since the northeast region have been disturbed for long time and we had to control these regions through the armed force definitely we should not deny from our failure in this regard. This AFSPA is definitely the only tool in the hand of the government to control these disturbed regions and in the present situation is not in favor of the repeal of this act as we are threatened by China also. Therefore an amendment should also be brought in AFSPA through which armed forces could be made more accountable toward civil or citizen laws.

CONCLUSION

Any reason and any state can not be controlled by the power for a long time therefore we should think in this regard also. Emotional attachment is the only tool through which we could control any reason or state for a long time so government should focus on the second tool of control. Government should promote cultural activities and should bring Naga culture up to the central level. The Naga people must be recognized and awarded by the government. Government should invest money for the development of these regions and Government should convince them that government is committed for public welfare only and the right of the public would be protected

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Election Laws (Amendment) Bill 2021 : A critical Evaluation (GS Paper II) (Source – The Hindu/Indian Express)

CONTEXT :

The union law minister Kiran Rijju introduced Election Laws (Amendment) Bill 2021 in Loksabha on 20th Dec 2021 and finally Loksabha passes Bill to link electoral rolls with Aadhar

INTRODUCTION :

To strengthen democracy, free and fair elections play an important role. In India, there are many flaws in our electoral system which should be addressed by our law makers. Among those flaws, one big flaw is that a same person could be enrolled in voter lists from multiple constituencies and there is no any mechanism to prevent such type of discrepancies. In this bill, the aadhar card of the voter would be linked with the voter card so that the enrolment of one person in multiple constituencies could be stopped.

But this provision is voluntary and not free from objections. Opposition leaders made their objections on the ground of privacy and the possibility of forged voters. An Aadhar card is not proof of citizenship, it is just the evidence of identity. In this way non citizens could also be enrolled as the voters. Another objection behind the passing of this bill is that without debate this bill was passed. This bill should be brought after proper and long debate in the parliament

THE PROVISIONS OF THE ELECTION LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- It empowers to electoral officer to demand aadhar number of the people who want to enroll themselves in voter list

- The electoral officer can also demand to show the aadhar card from those people who had also enrolled in voter list
- The objective of Bill to curb the duplicacy of the voters registered in various constituencies

WHAT ARE THE OBJECTIONS OF OPPOSITIONS: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

1. The privacy of individuals may be affected. The aadhar card could be used as the sources for getting personal data of the person
2. The procedure of the passing of this bill. This bill should be passed after a big debate in the parliament and even after the debate in the public also. Because it is related with the democracy therefore it must be passed through proper democratic manner
3. Voting is a legal right and Aadhar is beyond legal right. If any body does not have Aadhar card can not be deprived from voting right
4. It is against the Supreme Court judgment in the Puttaswamy case.

CONCLUSION

In fact, there are many flaws in our election procedure even though the reform in the election commission is also necessary. An amendment should be brought to make the election commission more efficient and more impartial.

The Amendments are also required in the eligibility of the candidates and even after the elections, there must be provision to control representatives. But instead of these important amendments, the provision of linking Aadhaar with the voter list is not a sufficient tool regarding electoral reform. Rather than linking the Aadhaar, evidence proving citizenship must be shown at the time of elections. Once the election completes (After casting the votes) a unique code may be generated (On the bases of biometric identification) and through this further duplicacy may be prevented. For address proof, any supporting documents may be asked.

Conclusively It can be said that, The amendment brought by the government is definitely the effort of the government to curb the duplicacy but this should be brought after proper debate and government should also ensure to protect the right to privacy of the person.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

India's Focus on digital Infrastructure GS-3 TECHNOLOGY & GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

In recent times, millions of Indians have connected to the internet. This has been made possible due to the infrastructure investment in digital technology coupled with the expansion of low-cost smartphones which has eased its accessibility to many sections of the society in fact access to computer system has also increased dramatically among enterprises and households, which has led to the growth of internet consumption in digital digit. This digital transformation has paved way for the growing wave of technological entrepreneurship.

PRESENT SCENARIO: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Asia has become the modern hub for technological entrepreneurship.
- Asia leads the world in terms of manufacturing of smartphones as it constitutes 90% of the total manufacture.
- Asia is home to four of the world's top 10 technology companies by market capitalisation.

- In terms of mobile and fixed broadband performance India is ahead of European countries, however it still lags behind china.

NEED FOR DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Digital transformation has initiated a change in landscape development.
- A constant expansion is seen in the number of services that can be transported digitally e.g banking, insurance claims, call centres, compiling audit, completing tax returns and much more.
- Digital world has transformed the way patients communicate with doctors and students access their high quality education via virtual classrooms.
- Jobs and hiring of employees are increasingly done online.
- Due to digital transformation, the service sector is growing much faster than the manufacturing sector.
- Growth convergence between India and the developed world is now much faster in the services sector as compared to the manufacturing sector.

TECHNOLOGY AND NEW SPATIAL TRENDS: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- In India the formal and organised sector has made a transition from urban areas towards rural areas.
- With the informal/ unorganised sector transitioning towards urban areas, technology has made the informal sector more tradeable.
- Low-tech services have grown exponentially in large cities.

CHALLENGES- TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

- India digital transformation represents both the challenge and opportunity.
- There is a reduction in investment by more than 50% in 2019 due to shrinkage of private sector participation in infrastructure projects.
- Due to pandemic infrastructure the segment was hit hard and was brought to near standstill.
- In today's globalised world, technological sluggishness could cost a heavy price in terms of development.

WAY FORWARD

- In order to fulfil the promises of digitalization there is a need to align financing and investment strategies.
- This could be accompanied by active participation of the policy makers, The World bank, The IMF and the UN.
- As the working age population in advanced countries is aging, India has the advantage of demographic dividend with a youth bulge.
- India alone produced more than 70% of the World science technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) graduates between 2016-2018.
- India can easily expand its role in the growing global market for digital transformation, technology services by increasing investment in human and physical-digital infrastructure, and increasing cooperation with local and global entrepreneur

Anshum Verma

Artificial Intelligence with Cloud Computing

GS-3 SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Artificial intelligence is a combination of artificial intelligence with cloud computing and AI cloud as a concept has now begun to be implemented by enterprises. The concept of AI cloud is driven by two factors-

1. Artificial Intelligence tools
2. Artificial Software

Together they are delivering new, increased value to cloud computing which is no more just an economical option for data storage and computation but is playing a significant role in AI Adoption.

BACKGROUND: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Artificial intelligence has become the hallmark of the digital era, and has taken over many tasks that were once relegated to humans.
- The use of AI is encountered everyday in the form of automated phone systems, getting directions on phones or getting real time traffic alerts on GPS.

WHAT IS ARTIFICIAL CLOUD COMPUTING: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- The merging of the machine learning capabilities of artificial intelligence with cloud based computing environments results in Artificial intelligence cloud computing.
- Digital assistants such as Siri, Amazon, Alexa, Google home combine artificial intelligence technology and cloud based computing resources to enable users to make purchases or listen to a favourite song instantly.

WHAT DOES AN AI CLOUD CONSISTS OF? TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

- An AI cloud supports numerous projects and AI workloads simultaneously, on cloud infrastructure at any given point in time.
- The AI cloud brings together AI hardware and software to deliver. AI software as a service on hybrid cloud infrastructure.
- AI cloud provides enterprises access to AI and enables them to harness AI capabilities.
- There is a requirement of a significant amount of processing power to run AI algorithms, making it unaffordable for many enterprises, however this deterrent is being eliminated by the availability of AI software as a service on the lines of software-as-a-service or infrastructure -as-a-service.

WHY AI CLOUD: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- The most compelling advantages of AI cloud are the challenges it addresses.
- It democratizes AI, making it more accessible.
- With lowered adoption cost and facilitation of co-creation and innovation, artificial intelligence cloud is made accessible to enterprises.
- Artificial intelligence will make cloud computing significant more effective.
- Artificial intelligence driven initiatives are supported by the cloud flexibility, agility, anti-scale to power search intelligence massively.
- It dramatically increases the scope and sphere of influence of artificial intelligence, beginning with the user enterprises and then the larger marketplace.

- Investment by enterprises in using artificial intelligence will gain multifold return through the cloud.
- Workload for videos, speech for large text data need huge memory and processor footprint that can be easily provisioned with cloud scaling resources.
- Artificial intelligence clouds give more processing power for big data analytics that could eventually streamlined delivery services, project diseases, forecast stock portfolios and real estate investment and much more.
- Smart machines can be connected and the massive amount of data they generate can be easily managed.

WAY FORWARD: TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

- Organisations need to build an enterprise-grid artificial intelligence platform strategy bringing together multiple technologies.
- The management of models, data sets and data pipes need to be standardized at the enterprise level.
- Future exists in collaborating with enterprises to create domain specific scenarios and models for different industries such as telecom, manufacturing, healthcare finance, and insurance.
- Infrastructures like hyperscalers, algorithms and artificial intelligence tooling seeks are required.

Anshum Verma

The four Labour Laws to be implemented in FY23 and Issues ahead (GS 3, Economics, The Hindu, Indian Express)



NEWS :

The four Labour Laws on wages, industrial relation, occupational safety and social security are likely to be implemented by the next financial year 2022-23, as some states have already framed draft rules on these laws.

CONTEXT :

Labour comes under the concurrent list of constitution. Thus both Parliament and state legislatures can make

laws to regulate labour. There are over 100 states and over 40 central laws regulating various aspect of labour related to working conditions, industrial disputes, wages and social security. The National Commission on Labour (NCL) found these existing laws complex and inconsistent and thus recommended the consolidation of central labour laws into broader groups like industrial relations, wages, social security, safety, and welfare and working conditions.

In 2019, the Ministry of Labour and Employment introduced four Bills on labour codes to consolidate 29 central laws. These Codes regulate: (i) Wages, (ii) Industrial Relations, (iii) Social Security, and (iv) Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions.

Later, after the passage of the bills in parliament, the central government has notified four labour codes, namely, the Code on Wages, 2019, on August 8, 2019, and the Industrial Relations Code, 2020, the Code on Social Security, 2020, and the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020 on September 29, 2020.

KEY ISSUES IN LABOUR LAWS (THAT WOULD STILL EXISTS): THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Most labour laws apply to establishments over a certain size (typically 10 or over). In order to avoid to avoid compliance with labour regulations, the establishment may choose to remain small. This basically stops them to grow. And if the threshold size is increased, the labours in establishments with below threshold size would not be getting benefits of labour laws. Further, these laws only cover the organised sector (around 7% of the workforce as 93% workforces are unorganised).
- As per the Industrial Disputes Act (IDA) 1947 mines, factories and plantations employing 100 or more workers require to obtain prior permission of the government before closing down, or laying off or retrenching workers. Critics say that requirement of prior permission would create an exit barrier for the firms and would also hinder their ability to adjust labour workforce according to the production demands. The Hindu Analysis.
- Various labour laws have different compliance requirements for employing units which simply results in multiple inspections, returns and register
- Some states are reported to have 423 labor related Acts, far more compliances and related filings. On the other hand, it has also been argued that machinery for the labour enforcement has not been that effective because of poor enforcement, inadequate charges and penalties and bribe seeking behaviour of inspectors. Further processes to the dispute resolution need reform to make them more effective.
- The number of registered trade unions are like huge including several within establishments. Which union is really representing the laborers and can formally talk and negotiate with the management. Many times settlement made with unions are binding only to the participating members. This affects the collective bargaining powers of workers. Further the matter regarding permission of non employees to join trade unions has also been raised.

WAY FORWARD :

As we say, the devil lies in the details. The central government has issued draft rules under the codes and the state governments are yet to adopt them and may make changes in them. States have to look into conflicts of interest between opposing stakeholders and should not be overlooking it in making the enactment of laws rapid. The Hindu Analysis. To achieve a goal of 5 trillion economy, the centre and state government must go in harmony, roll out the codes by balancing the interest of stakeholders and introduce much needed labour reforms as soon as possible.

MD. Layeeque Azam

Chillai kalan : A local geographical term related to Weather

GS Paper I Sources- The Hindu, Indian express

CONTEXT :

During the month of December the weather of Kashmir sometimes becomes very cool. Kashmir is in a deep freeze as the 40 days harshest spell of winter locally called chillai kalan started on tuesday (21st Dec 2021), with the minimum temperature already sub zero in entire valley

INTRODUCTION :

The weather of Winter starts in India after the month of November when the earth tilts away from the sun. In this season many animals become hibernated due to unbearable cold weather. Snowfall and winter storms are very common in this season.. Northern India feels extremely cool during this season. In India cold or winter season lasts up to the month of February

The weather of mountain region during this time become more cold and the temperature reached below to the minus 40 degree centigrade

WHAT IS CHILAI KALAN: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Chillai kalan is a persian term which means extreme cool where the temperature reaches below -40 degree centigrade. During this period all the mountains of Kashmir will be covered with snow. There is maximum chance of the snowfall during this period and the people have to face the problem of connectivity (Blockage of roads etc)
- This Chillai Kalan begins from 21 december and ends with 31st january
- 'Chillai Kalan is followed by 20 days of Chilai Khurd which mean little less cold but it does not mean the cold has ended. Khurd means minor or small (or smaller). During Muslim period, they used these term kalan and Khurd as suffix with the name of village. Khurd for smaller village and kalan for bigger village
- Chilai Khurd is followed by 10 days of Chilai bacha. This is a pleasant weather and people enjoy this weather
- As per the Persian tradition the night of 21st December is celebrated as Shab-e Yalda-“Night of Birth”, or Shab-e Chelleh. – “Night of Forty”.Iranian Azerbaijanis call it Chilla Gejasi, which marks the beginning of the first 40 days of winter. The Iranian concept also survives in Kashmir, where Chillai Kalan designates the 40-day harshest winter period.

GEOGRAPHICAL REASON OF THE SEASONS IN INDIA: TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

After the monsoon season, temperature starts to decline gradually because of the motion of the earth around the sun and the distance between earth and sun increases gradually. Because of the tilt of earth, the northern Hemisphere feels colder during this time. Sun's vertical rays move south to the equator. In northern region of India, because of the Himalaya, temperature reduced rapidly and during the month of Jan, February, people feel more cool in kashmir and even in Gangetic plain. The Hindu Analysis.

CONCLUSION

India is the only country of the world where we feel different types of the seasons, Even Though this Chillai kalan is the harsh condition but still it makes kashmir valley beautiful and attracts tourists also. Government of kashmir should ensure medical facilities during this season because the incidents of heart attack may

increase. Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir will be witness of 60 to 70 % snowfall during this month

Relevancy for UPSC

For prelims – What is Chiallia Kalan, Khur etc

For mains- Discuss the geographical reasons for seasons in India

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Anti- National, A word of not fixed definition but related with the emotion : An Analysis (GS paper I, II, III, Essay) (Source – The Hindu)

CONTEXT :

By Tuesday (21st December 2021), The ministry of Home Affairs informed the Loksabha that the word anti national has not been defined in statutes. Minister of state for Home Nityanand Rai said that the anti national activity was inserted in the constitution during emergency in 1976 but was removed later

INTRODUCTION :

Nowadays the debate is common regarding nationalism or anti nationalism. Everybody criticizing the government is alleged with an anti-national tag and those who are supporters of the government are rewarded with the tag of Nationalism. But We must know about nationalism, before understanding the nationalist activities we should know about the concept of nationalism. In fact, Nationalism is a feeling of oneness, it is a psychological concept. It is an emotional attachment towards the nation. All humans are the elements of any nation, therefore nationalism must be equilibrium with the concept of Humanism. Anti human activities are also equal to anti national activities. The Hindu Analysis.

There is criminal legislation and various judicial pronouncements to sternly deal with unlawful activities which are detrimental to the unity of the country.

During the period of emergency, in 1976, the anti national activities are defined in the constitution and these were written in 31D which was further omitted by the 43rd constitutional amendment 1977

WHAT IS THE SITUATION OF ANTI NATIONAL ACTIVITIES AS PER NCRB DATA

In 2019, as per the NCRB data (national Crime record bureau) included first time a chapter on Crime committed by anti national elements (The crime was based on 2017), In this chapter the activities of insurgency in northeast were listed apart from this Left wing extremists and terrorist(including Jihad terrorist) are defined as anti national activities

WHAT ARE THE ANTI NATIONAL ACTIVITIES: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Any activities which are destroying the harmony and efforting to harm integrity of India
- Any activities which are challenging and denying the constitution
- Any Activities which are not honoring the territories of India and demanding the disintegration of any part of India from Indian territory
- Any unlawful activities on the cost of protection of culture and religion is antinationa activity
- Activities which encourage the communal conflict

- Activities which exploit the nation and its people
- Activities related to destruction of cultural heritage of India which are the recognition of India
- Communal violence are a type of anti national activity
- Untouchability is also anti national activity because, prohibition of untouchability is the fundamental right provide by the constitution of India (It mean it is guaranteed by a nation and we, collectively provide this right), If anybody is following untouchability are unknowingly doing anti national activity

CONCLUSION

Nationalism is the broader concept, the criticism of the government is not antinationalism. The government is just a tool to derive a nation. We are the elements of the nation and we must understand that nation and the government, both are different things. In democratic form of the government, In fact, protesting against the government is not an anti national activity, Even Though it strengthens nationalism. We must respect our constitution and must do all activities which strengthen the nationalism (Concept of oneness or unity)

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

ARCTIC AMPLIFICATION AND DISTRESS: GS-1

CONTEXT:

The arctic report card 2021, which was released recently, shows that the arctic region is warming up almost at double the rate than the rest of the world. There are many indicators like sea ice extent, volume, surface air temperature, which tells how the region has been heating up for quite some time now. The arctic region which is characterised by frozen landscapes, has recorded a significant sea ice loss in the past year.

ARCTIC AMPLIFICATION:

The Arctic is getting warmer at almost double the speed then the rest of the world in recent decades. This phenomenon is known as Arctic amplification. Water vapors are increasing in the atmosphere, Cloud cover over the arctic is changing its colour, more atmospheric heat is getting transported from the regions of low latitudes resulting in declining sea ice, which can all be the main contributing factors to this amplification.

SOME STATISTICS OF THE REPORT: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- The autumn of 2020 was the warmest ever for the arctic region since 1900.
- In April, the volume of sea ice in the northern hemisphere was the lowest since the data are available.
- Since April 2002 the Greenland ice sheet has lost nearly 5000 gigatonnes of mass.

The Arctic/Polar Amplification Effect is mainly a combination of many things, not one factor alone as discussed below: Today Current Affairs

GLOBAL WARMING:

The chief component that results in increasing the temperature all over the world and also in arctic regions is global warming. This results in the change in magnitude of ice extent and snow cover loss. This will result in more dramatic changes in the climate over the polar region. The Hindu Analysis.

MORE LAND IN THE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE:

The arctic region is surrounded by more land from all sides as compared to the south pole. We all know that land heats up faster than water resulting in an increase in temperature in all the areas including arctic regions. As a result, the arctic region will have more temperature and more melting of ice.

CHANGES IN CLOUD COVER:

Another potential contributor to this increased warming that's investigated in this report is changes in cloud cover. However, increased cloud cover is expected to cause surface warming because clouds have a warming influence in spring. Thus resulting in more amplified heating in this region in spring like recent near-surface Arctic warming.

Ice melting: The melting of the ice in the arctic is increasing at a rate of 13% per decade. As ice reflects more sunlight than it absorbs but if this ice will melt it will reveal the darker areas of land or sea. As a result the absorption of sunlight will be increased and so will be the associated warming.

In recent decades the scientists have noticed that the water vapor content in the arctic atmosphere has increased and this may amplify Arctic warming. The Hindu Analysis.

Shift of jet streams: The latitudinal shift of the jet-stream will be increased as a result of increased global warming. As a result the land area will be dried out further to the north resulting in changes to vegetation and land albedo as well as increased fire risk (all of which translate to increased CO₂ and increased warming).

Poor mixing of cold polar air with surrounding air: Colder dense air over the Antarctic prevents some degree of mixing with air mass from other regions, thus helping this region retain cold air mass longer than the in Arctic region which is subject to many factors that can move heat or cold energy in and out of the polar region through the ocean or the atmosphere.

EFFECTS OF ARCTIC AMPLIFICATION: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Albedo: Acting like a highly reflective blanket, the Arctic cryosphere protects Earth from getting too warm. Snow and ice have a high albedo. They reflect almost all the incoming solar radiation and this will help in keeping the earth cool. Thus, the heating and cooling of the Earth's surface depends a lot on the presence or absence of snow and ice in that area. As a result this albedo influences the energy balance of the whole planet.

Means Sea Level Rises: As the Earth is becoming warm the world is seeing a rise in sea level by 1-2 mm each year. The melting of the glaciers and ice sheets, which add water to the oceans, are some of the reasons for sea-level rise that were once trapped on land. Some glaciers and ice sheets are generally more vulnerable than others. These have become less stable because of global warming resulting in their faster movement towards the ocean, and will add more ice into the water.

Feedback Loop: The ocean and land that were underneath this ice will get exposed to the sunlight because of the melting of more snow and ice each summer because of global warming. Because of their dark colour, the ocean and land absorb more incoming solar radiation as they have low albedo and then release the heat to the atmosphere. This causes more global warming. In this way, it will become a cycle or loop as melting ice causes more warming and so more ice melts. This is known as a feedback loop.

Melting Permafrost Releases Greenhouse Gas: The soils in the polar regions are getting thaw because of global warming which were frozen for as much as 40,000 years. As a result of thawing, the carbon that was trapped in this soil will be released in the atmosphere as methane and it is a powerful greenhouse gas resulting in further global warming and in return more frozen soils will be melted.

Ocean Acidification: Scientists are suggesting that the release of CH₄ from the permafrost seafloor in this region could enhance ocean acidification in that region over the next century.

Storage of Carbon: The cryosphere locks the greatest amount of CO₂ in the world. The permafrost of the

polar region has trapped tonnes of carbon inside its soil. The Hindu Analysis.

Arctic biodiversity is under serious threat from climate change and arctic amplification.

Swarn Singh

Significance of EU after Brexit (GS Paper I, II)

Source : The Hindu

CONTEXT :

The EU announced on wednesday (22 Dec 2021) it is launching legal action against Poland for ignoring EU law and undermining the independence of the national judiciary

INTRODUCTION:

The European Union (EU) is an organization of 27 Countries. It is a political and economic organization. It was founded on 1 November 1993, Maastricht, Netherland.

Britain was one of the largest economic partners of the European Union, but by June 23, 2016, through referendum Britain decided to leave the European Union and Brexit took place by 31st Jan 2020. The Hindu Analysis.

After the implementation of Brexit, The free movement of Human and Economic affairs between EU and England has ended which would bring adverse social, economical and political consequences.

There was a huge debate after the exit of Britain about what would be the future of the EU. The EU would lose its significance and gradually it would be finished. But Still this organization is relevant for European affairs.

EUROPEAN UNION REFORMED IN ITSELF AND MADE ITSELF RELEVANCE FOR THE EUROPE- TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

In July EU leader agreed to form a reserve for the emergencial assistance to european countries and this fund was of €5 billion fund (in 2018 prices) to be paid until 2025. EU countries will start receiving the resources by December, following parliament's approval

Present days, the image of the European Union is not goot. Its image is negative as its many decisions were taken without any appropriate democratic pattern.. In the European Union, Law making body is the council of ministers and the European parliament. The Ministers are sent from the national governments and which holds the power as the democratic nature of the respective nature. If any flaws are there in the democracy of any country.

There must be that flaw in the EU. Members of the European parliament are directly elected. Thus, the decision-making bodies in the European Union have the same democratic legitimacy as national governments and parliaments. If there is a democratic deficit, it is the same at the national and European levels, and both national and European institutions should be examined and reformed.

The European Union is an institution known for the promotion of globalization but Unfortunately European Union after Brexit had failed to create a single and open market in Europe also. In fact, there is no institution in Europe which could influence social policies and these social policies are generally governed by the national government. There must be such institutions in the European Union also which could also interfere in the social policies also and which could make social rules as per the requirement of the European society. However, the hands of these authorities have been shackled by the same European institutions' fiscal rules.

The EU's fiscal rules not only make it extremely difficult to compensate the losers from globalization, but they have actually amplified their hardship. European Union today is that, instead of helping those who suffer from globalization, it has implemented policies that hurt these people even more. The Hindu Analysis.

CONCLUSION:

Poland has been a member of EU since 2004. But it generally undermines the judicial system of the EU and violates the laws of the EU. This was the reason the EU had to go for legal action. After Brexit, definitely the power and prestige of the EU has been influenced but it does not mean that the EU has become irrelevant and non-significant for European affairs. Still in the EU, one of the most economical and political and strategic sound countries are there. If EU does better reform in their decision-making process, it can improve its more credibility and authenticity and significance.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Kerala's Silver Line : What is the Controversy GS paper 3 and Essay Source : Indian Express

CONTEXT :

Protests are taking place across Kerala against Silver line, a semi high speed railway project that envisages trains running at 200km/hr between the state's northern and southern ends. The project estimated to cost 63940 crs RS, is billed as one of the biggest infrastructure plans being pushed by Pinarayi Vijayan Government

INTRODUCTION :

Kerala silver line is a project of high speed railway. It would be run through Kerala Rail Development Corporation (K-Rail). Kerala Rail Development Corporation (K-Rail) is a joint venture of Kerala government and ministry of railway, government of India. Dr V. B Joy is the Chairman of the K Rail. The Hindu Analysis. According to K Rail, the project will have trains of electric multiple units (EMU) type each, preferably nine cars-raking can seat a maximum of 675 passengers in business and standard class. This train can run at the maximum speed of 220 km/hr on standard track.

FEATURES OF SILVER LINE PROJECT: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The proposed 529km long line will link Thiruvananthapuram in south to Kasaragod in north, covering 11 districts to 11 stations

The line will also reduce greenhouse emissions, help in expansion of Ro Ro services, produce employment opportunities, integrate the airport and its corridors also.

WHY PEOPLE ARE PROTESTING: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Many people are protesting against this project. Many political parties such as Congress, BJP and Indian Union Muslim League are also opposing this project.
- Citizens had formed an organization to oppose this project. The name of the organization is Silverline Viruddha Janakeeya Samiti. This organization is launching a huge protest against the government.
- 17 MPs of the opposition political party are protesting in the name of scam. They alleged that the government had done corruption in the land acquisition and the proper rules were not followed by the

government.

- In the sight of the protesters this project is not economically viable and it will face huge loss in future.
- This project would lead the displacement of huge population of approximately 30000 families.
- Samiti and the green activities and other environmental conservation activists also oppose this project in the name of environmental degradation.
- According to them this project will harm the environment as its route cuts through precious wetland, paddy fields and hills.
- As per the samiti this project will block the natural drainage system as many embankments were built during these projects these embankments were built either of the side of the major portion of the line.
- The embankment would be another reason for the flood in the rainy season. this samiti requested the government to stop this project and find out any alternative solution, any other way of sustainable development.
- The metroman Sridharn, ex head of the Delhi Metro also opposed this project and equated this with ill project and he stated that present project needs a lot of correction because it has multiple defects.

CONCLUSION :

In fact Development of humans should not be at the cost of degradation of the environment and marginalized people. This project would definitely bring prosperity for those reasons and economical activities will flourish rapidly but we should also evaluate that in the process of the development whether the marginalized people should not be left behind. We should be very careful about environmental conservation. Therefore, after eliminating the flaws of this project, this project would be beneficial for the public of Kerala.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

FROM FARM TO FOLK (GS-1,3)

India is one of the major agricultural economies. Out of the total workforce of the country, half is still employed in agriculture and in GDP agriculture contributes hardly 15-18% of the country's total GDP. Despite the pandemic-led contraction in other sectors, the agriculture and allied sectors have shown a robust growth rate of 3.4% at constant prices during the year 2020-21.

In a typical farm to fork value chain, there are various components like production, Post-Harvest Infrastructure (PHI), processing and value addition, distribution, marketing, and consumption. The role of the farmer hitherto was limited to production and the other functions in the value chain like storage, distribution, and selling of produce were taken up by intermediaries. The Hindu Analysis.

About 85% of the farmers in India are small and marginal farmers who hold less than two hectares of land and their exposure to education is minimal to zero. Some of these can be targeted at the production phase and some of them can be applied during post-harvest management and marketing stages.

PRODUCTION PHASE: TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Though India is one of the top producers in agricultural commodities, India's per unit productivity is very low compared to countries like China, USA etc. due to subsistence farming. The recommendations from NITI Aayog to improve farm productivity are classified into six broader aspects that need immediate attention to lift the economic status of millions of farm families. These are Quality Inputs, Technology, Land Fragmentation, Irrigation & Electricity, Farm Credit, and Crop Insurance.

Initiatives like Soil Health Management under National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture, Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture, National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), and scientific techniques like bio-stimulants are being implemented with the objectives to make agriculture more productive, sustainable, adopt comprehensive soil health management practices and to optimise utilisation of water resources on the farm. An increase in the agricultural credit flow has been raised to Rs 15 lakh crores, ensuring convenient access to loans at concessional rates. These programmes will facilitate access to quality inputs, micro-irrigation techniques, and farm credit which boosts farm productivity. The Hindu Analysis.

Technology is massively empowering the farmers, from giving information on seeds, soil, fertilisers, weather reports, etc. through the Kisan Suvidha Portal. The use of high-quality certified seeds together with neem-coated urea and bio-stimulants has shown a phenomenal increase in the yield per hectare. The increase in income is factored-in by two parameters – quantity and quality of the yield. The use of high-quality inputs not only produced a higher yield per hectare but also a higher quality of the produce in terms of nutrients.

Effective use of irrigation at the field level can improve on-farm water utilisation, reduce water wastage, and expand the cultivable area under assured irrigation. While there is 35%-40% of overuse in surface irrigation systems, and 65% in case of groundwater use, water-efficient irrigation like micro-irrigation has not entered many parts of the country. The adoption of water-saving technologies can recharge the aquifers and promote watershed development. The PMKSY is one such initiative that aims to boost productivity by ensuring irrigation facilities. The objective is to ensure access to efficient water conveyance and precision water application devices to agricultural farms through the programme 'Per Drop More Crop'. The impact evaluation of micro-irrigation in 2018 shows that the farmers were able to save the irrigation cost between 20-30% and reduction in fertilisers ranging from 7-21% varying across the States and soil conditions. The overall income enhancement of farmers of 14 States surveyed is in the range of 20-50%. The combined effects of implementing high-quality inputs and precision irrigation at the farm level generate higher returns by almost 50-90% to the farmer's income considering the impact of external factors to be minimal.

POST HARVEST PHASE: TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

As per the estimates, the total food loss in agricultural products ranges between 4-10% for cereals, pulses, and oilseeds whereas 5-16% for fruits and vegetables. Post-harvest losses are primarily caused by a failure in the handling and connecting of food produced to consumption points or markets. Under the umbrella scheme Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana, the Government is implementing various schemes which include Mega Food Parks, Integrated Cold Chain, and Value Addition Infrastructure, Infrastructure for industries based on agriculture and for the development of both forward and backward linkages. The Hindu Analysis.

The Government has launched the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme with an outlay of 1.97 lakh crores in 13 key sectors, including the food processing sector, for enhancing India's manufacturing capabilities and improving exports. The food segments identified include ready-to-eat/ready-to-cook, marine products, processed fruits & vegetables, mozzarella cheese, and innovative/organic products.

Minimising the post-harvest losses through value-addition products and an efficient value chain can prevent distress sale of the produce benefitting the farmers with returns ranging from 1.4-2.5 times. Through knowledge-based inputs, informed decisions can be taken up by the farmers to implement various scientific methods at the farm level, and by adopting effective post-harvest management techniques, farmers can upscale the productivity and develop new integrated farming approaches while doubling their income.

Swarn Singh

Demolishment of the symbols of democracy in Hong Kong after the patriotic elections : A Challenge and Shame for Art lovers and International cultural Agencies (GS Paper I and II)

(Source – The Hindu)

CONTEXT :

By 22nd December a construction crew quietly worked to dismantle one of Hong Kong's most distinctive statues and works of Art. the timing of the statue's removal as well as the scaffolding carefully put into place to obscure any view s of the process – underlined the sensitivity of the decision by Hong kong university to remove what was the popular picture on its campus for close to 25 years

INTRODUCTION :

In Fact after the protest for democracy emerged in Hong Kong, China started its suppressing policy and crushed almost the entire democratic movement of Hong Kong. One side China is crushing the democratic movement, on the other side China is reforming in its legislature. The Hindu Analysis.

Through its reform China reduced the share of directly elected representatives in Hong Kong's Legislative Council (LegCo), down from 50% to 22%. The new rules also introduced a review committee to decide on the eligibility of candidates to ensure only "patriots" could run for office.

After that China conducted a patriotic election last week and all those people who were raising their voice were not allowed to participate in the election, either they were detained or they had to escape Hong Kong. The Hindu Analysis.

Now China is destroying all the symbols which reflect the concept of democracy and liberty, whether those are related to the culture of China. The pillar of Shame, a haunting eight-meter tall sculpture showing intertwined bodies with hollowed eyes and open mouths — an anguished mass of humanity — was created by Danish artist Jens Galschiot as a tribute to the victims of China's crackdown in Tiananmen Square in June 1989.

HOW FAR IT IS CORRECT TO DEMOLISH THE WORK OF ART AND CULTURE : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

History of the culture is associated with the dignity of the community. The destruction of the culture means the destruction of dignity. By doing so, the Chinese government not only destroyed the statue but also tried to abolish the cultural dignity of the Hong Kong people at the cost of patriotism.

Chinese government is not restricting all those activities whether these activities are related with the culture of Hong Kong or not which are the symbol of democracy or liberty. The Hindu Analysis.

The University of Hong Kong and other intellectual and Art lovers of China have not dared to criticize the Hong Kong authority. Chinese government had changes the laws of the Honk Kong authority also.

CONCLUSION

Art and culture is the symbol of humanity. All the art lovers of the world should criticize these acts of the Chinese government and these international agencies should pressariese China to take strong action against such activities. Art reflects the emotions of Humans and the dectrion of the art is the anti Human activities also UNESCO should intervi=ene in this matter and put strong sanction over China so that China could be

exposed and her symbolically patriotic election should also be exposed. definitely this work of the Chinese government is condemnable.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Significance of Myanmar Government for India: India Seeks early return of democracy (GS Paper II) (Source : The Hindu)

CONTEXT :

Indian Foreign secretary Harshvardhan Shringla meets Junta leader Min Aung Hlaing and Indicates that India can mediate. He advocated the support of India regarding installation of democracy

INTRODUCTION :

Myanmar is a neighboring country of India and strategically it is the important country for India's perspective. In the Indian ocean it is one of the most reliable countries in the context of India. Myanmar is the gateway for the trade with southeast Asian countries and If India has good relations with Myanmar, It could prevent China from the eastern side of Indian ocean. Indians know very well that China is continuously increasing its influence over Myanmar through giving loans and creating disturbance in Myanmar, therefore India seeks the establishment of peace in Myanmar. Peaceful and prosper and stable Myanmar would be beneficial for India

HISTORY OF MYANMAR : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Myanmar is the largest country in mainland SouthEast Asia. Myanmar was colonized by the British and after the government of India Act 1935, Myanmar was detached from India and became a separate colony of the British. After the independence of India in 1948, it became liberated from Britain and the power was transferred to General Aung San of the National Army. Since it had been the colony of British definitely they were aware regarding democratic elements so they declared themselves as a democracy

HISTORY OF MILITARY RULE IN MYANMAR- TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

The democracy in Myanmar could not survive for a long time because of the foreign intervention. The first time military rule came into existence was in Myanmar in 1958 but direct military rule also started in Myanmar through a coup d'état in 1962. After 1962, the entire power transferred to military and human rights of Myanmar people were violated and this lasted up to 2011. It means that this military rule was definitely supported by China, directly and indirectly

Burma Socialist Programme Party decreed its dictatorship for 26 years and this party claimed that this dictatorship was necessary to prevent Myanmar from disintegration. This was a type of constitutional dictatorship. In 2011 military junta was officially dissolved and fresh election was conducted and a nominally civilian government was installed. In Feb 2021, The Tatmadaw (This is the official name of the armed force of Myanmar) detained all government officials including state counselor *Aung San Suu ki* and president *Win Myint* and in this way Burma's Commander-in-chief of the armed forces, *mal ma aye loe*, became the head of the state

SIGNIFICANCE OF MEET OF SHRINGLA WITH JUNTA LEADER MIN AUNG HLAING : TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

During the visit of our foreign secretary with chairman state administrative council Min Aung Hlaing who has been internationally isolated because of the violence crackdown on protesting citizens. Our foreign secretary emphasis india's interest in seeking Myanmar return to democracy at the earliest, release of detainees and prisoners, resolution of issues through dialogue and complete cessation of all violation

But it is surprising that Shringla did not meet with Suu Ki, Even though he wanted to meet Suu ki but Junta did not give permission for that. Our foreign secretary also met with pro military Union Solidarity and development party's representatives. The Hindu Analysis.

The Indian emphasized its problem of illegal trade of drugs, insurgency from the border of Myanmar. India shared 1700 km long border with Myanmar that runs along Arunachal, manipur, nagaland and Mizoram. He raised the issue of recent killing of the commanding officer of Assam Rifles along with his wife in an ambush by militants in Manipur. Therefore stability and peace is much required in Myanmar for India. He also emphasized that during the last 10 month the mobility of arms and ammunition inside Myanmar had increased which would influence India;s security.

CONCLUSION

This visit of India's foreign secretary in myanmar has much significant visit because, we seek stable Myanmar and democratic Myanmar so that, the insurgency and illegal activities form the side of Myanmar could be curtailed.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

The Jammu and kashmir Delimitation and Political hue and cry (GS 2, Indian Polity, The Hindu, Indian Express)



The Delimitation Commission for J&K has proposed seven additional assembly seats for Jammu and Kashmir, one in Kashmir valley and six in Jammu division. In addition to this the commission has also proposed nine seats reserved for STs and seven seats reserved for SC community on the basis of proportion of their population.

After the proposed addition of seven seats, the total Assembly constituencies in Jammu and Kashmir will be raised to 90 from 83 earlier. The number of seats in Jammu has gone up from 37 to 43 and in Kashmir Valley from 46 to 47.

The commission has also proposed an additional 24 seats to be reserved for Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK). The Hindu Analysis.

As per the sources, districts of Rajouri, Kathua, Samba, Doda, Reasi, and Kishtwar in Jammu division and Kupwara in Kashmir Valley will get one additional Assembly Constituency. The commission in a statement said that it has proposed the carving to balance the representation for geographical areas with inadequate communication and lack of public convenience because of their excessive remoteness or inhospitable conditions on the International border.

The Delimitation Commission is chaired by justice (retired) Ranjana Prakash Desai with Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra and Jammu and Kashmir Election Commissioner K K Sharma as two ex-officio members in the panel. Three MPs of National Conference and two MPs of Bharatiya Janata Party are associate members in the panel. The National Conference members are of the view that the delimitation exercise was being done under Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act which in itself is sub judice in Supreme Court and it is not based on the 2011 Census.

Political parties of the state have criticised the proposal saying it tilted things in the favour of Jammu. While no seats are proposed in Jammu district, seats are reserved for the first time for STs comprising the Gujjar and Bakarwal communities in Pir Panjal and Chenab valley regions, which may give a boost to the BJP in the states as per the political observers. The Hindu Analysis.

The provision in the Delimitation Acts from from 1952 onwards says that other than Population, factors like Physical Features, Communication Facilities, Boundaries of Administrative Units and Public Convenience Should be taken into consideration while drawing the constituencies boundaries.

Section 9 (1) (a) of the Delimitation Act, 2002, read with Section 60 (2) (b) of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, specified that all “constituencies shall, as far as practicable, be geographically compact areas, and regard shall be had to physical features, existing boundaries of administrative units, facilities of communication and public convenience”.

Generally delimitation is conducted on the basis of population. However if there are issues that can impede the smooth conduct of elections, they should be addressed.

There could be a constituency split by a hill or river, or if there is a need to correct the wrong delimitation done in the past.

WHAT IS DELIMITATION: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Delimitation is the process of redrawing the limits of a constituency. Article 81 of the Indian Constitution says that seats in the Lok Sabha should be allocated among the different states in such a manner that, “the ratio between that number and the population of the state is, so far as practicable, the same for all States”. The Indian Constitution also said that constituencies in each state should be divided “in such a manner that the ratio between the population of each constituency and the number of seats allotted to it is, so far as practicable, the same throughout the state”. Because the population of any state or country is changing constantly, there must be a periodic review of the population and hence the allocation of seats also must be updated.

The President of India appoints the Delimitation Commission, which works in collaboration with the Election Commission of India. A Retired Supreme Court judge heads the commission with Chief Election Commissioner and Respective State Election Commissioners as its ex- officio members.

The Commission is a powerful and independent body whose orders cannot be challenged in any court of law. The orders are laid before the Lok Sabha and the respective State Legislative Assemblies. However, modifications are not permitted.

The J&K Delimitation Commission is an independent body headed by a retired Supreme Court judge, and included members of the Election Commission. There are five MPs from the state that are part of the commission (Associated members). The Hindu Analysis.

MD. Layeeque Azam

The concept of Good Governance : Tools to achieve it – In special reference to India GS Paper II, Essay, Paper I Source – The Hindu, Indian Express

CONTEXT :

Today is the 98th birth anniversary of Ex Prime Minister of India late Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. India is celebrating this day as the Sushasan day (The day of Good governance).

INTRODUCTION :

The concept of good government is related to several features of governance. These features are participatory, consensus oriented, accountable, transparent, responsive, effective and efficient, equitable and inclusive and follows the rule of law. In good governance, the corruption must be minimum and the transparency of the governance must be maximum. responsibility and accountability are another feature of the good governance

THE HISTORY OF GOOD GOVERNANCE: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The concept of good governance is not new for India. In ancient India, this concept was very popular. The concept of Ram rajya, in fact, is the concept of good governance. Good governance can be identified with its output which should be measured on the parameter of Happiness. One of the oldest full fledged empires of the world Mauryan Empire followed the concept of good governance despite its despotic and autocratic nature of the monarchy. but it ensured the maximum happiness of the people. In Arthashastra it has been written

(प्रजा-सुखे सुखम् राज्ञः प्रजानाम् तु हिते हितम्, न आत्मप्रियम् हितम् राज्ञः प्रजानाम् तु प्रियम् हितम् ।)

In the happiness of the people lies the happiness of the king, he should see his own interest in the interest of the people. The king's interest is not in what he likes, his interest is in what the people like.

Similarly the administration of Ancient India tried to reach on maxum public welfare through good governance.

TOOLS TO GOOD GOVERNANCE: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- In culturally diversified countries extreme democracy and federalism is only tool to provide public welfare

and therefore for the good governance, enhancing of democratic values, transparency, accountability are prerequisite of the good governance.

- In Indian Context, our maximum governance must be transparent through the use of technology and through strengthening RTI acts
- Government should ensure maximum participation of the public in any policies related to public.
- In democratic countries the rule of Law based on equality must be implemented properly.
- Hate speeches must be strictly prohibited because it could create conflict in society and the Government should never tolerate such speeches. Offenders of such crimes should be treated strictly. This is unfortunate of India, sometime for the political benefits, our politicians encourages such types of speeches for polarizing the vote bank.
- Equity and inclusiveness are also important tools to achieve good governance. No portion of the society should be left behind in the process of development. It also should be ensured by the government.

CONCLUSION

As per the above discussion, it can be concluded that good governance is an ideal and the government should achieve the maximum level of good governance by using the above tools. There are some obstacles and hurdles also in front of good governance like communalism, hate speeches and communal violence and riots etc. The concept of good governance is indigeneous concept so government should protect, preserve and enhance this concept by proving maximum transparency (Strengthening RTI), accountability, participation (Strengthening democratic values) and reducing corruption and we should measure the output of the good governance on the parameter of HDI and happiness index and Hunger Index etc. On the basis of these parameters, we can measure where we are in the affairs of good governance. Then we can re-evaluate our tools for achieving good governance.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Webb Telescope : Exposure of New secrets of the Universe GS paper III, Source : The Indian Express

CONTEXT :

Today, by Saturday (25th Dec 2021) international space agency NASA's James Webb Space Telescope (JWST), the largest and most powerful space telescope ever built will be launched from French guiana, on the northeast coast of the south America, on the European Ariane 5 Rocket, The Hindu Analysis

INTRODUCTION:

What is Webb telescope : The Hindu Analysis

- This telescope is also known as the name of next generation space telescope (NGST)
- The name of this telescope is on the name of James Webb who is former NASA administrator and a great scientist of America
- This telescope is built with international collaboration of various space agencies like NASA, ESA (European Space Agency), CSA (Canadian Space Agency).
- It is an engineering marvel comparable to the earth based Event Horizon telescope (EHEHT) that

produced the photographs of black holes. With the help of the photographs of black hole we could detect gravitational waves

- It is also positioned much deeper into space, at a spot L2 (one of the Lagrange Points).
- It has the large mirror (Approximately, the diameter of the mirror is 21ft and the height is approximately almost up to two story building)
- The mirror will capture infrared light directly coming from deep universe while facing away from the sun
- It is shielded five layered, a big size approximately 78 and 36 ft, kite shaped sunscreen which is capable of blocking the heat coming from the sun and it would bring the temperature down. The temperature of the sun facing side would not be more than 110 degree centigrade while on the other side it would be maintained at – 200 to -230 degree centigrade.
- The extremely cold temperature is required to detect the extremely faint hot signals from various galaxies so that further research would be done.
- The size of the mirror and the sun screen are too large therefore it was very difficult to fit into any rocket. Therefore some foldable items were made which would be unfolded in the space.

LAGRANGE POINTS: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

There are 5 lagrange points. Lagrange points are the points where the gravitational force of two body systems (Mass) enhance the region of attraction and repulsion. This can be used for the less fuel consumption for the spacecraft and maximum stability of spacecraft.

L2 is the position directly behind earth in the line joining the sun and earth

It would be shielded from the sun by the earth

HISTORY OF TIME MACHINES IN THE SPACE: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Powerful space telescope is often called a time machine. because with the help of these telescopes we can predict far away objects. The light coming from various galaxies and stars and other sources of the universe started their journeys millions years ago. With the help of these telescopes we predict the period of time when these lights started their journeys. Hubble space telescope was sent during the decade of 1990 and present telescope is much more developed

CONCLUSION

On the basis of the above description, we can understand the mechanism of a telescope and the utility of a telescope in space. ISRO has also launched many telescopes in space. Among them, ASTROSAT was an important one. For prediction of the climate, weather, we can use these telescopes. The Webb telescope definitely would be helpful to unlock the universe secret

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND ROLE OF SDGs (GS-3, 2)

The 2030 agenda for ‘Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)’ by the United Nations was implemented with effect from January 1, 2016; in ensuring peace, prosperity and opportunity for all along with health and well being and to put a full stop on all kinds of deprivation evils like poverty and inequality.

The agenda enlisted 17 SDGs with 169 Targets, which are the milestones of holistic socio-economic transformation, having priority focus on the wellbeing of people and planet earth at large. As a global mandate, the SDGs cover three key dimensions of sustainable development viz., (a) economic growth (b) social inclusion and (c) environmental protection: which are closely interconnected and inevitable, as a part of the wellbeing of the individuals, communities, nations and world development. The primary focus of SDGs has been on proactive participation of all the stakeholders like National and State Governments of UN member nations, policymakers, local governance bodies, industries, local communities and people across all layers of society. Although it has been universally accepted by 193 countries, its success predominantly depends upon the country-specific development initiatives and commitment in effective implementation of SDGs, with the “GLOCAL (Global thinking, Local action)” approach. In this regard, it is a gratifying fact that India is committed, by heart and soul, for the effective and integrated implementation for attaining the desired SDGs by 2030, especially focusing on “Leave No One Behind” and “A Life of Dignity for All”. The Hindu Analysis.

The SDGs and Rural Development in India The well-being of the Indian economy certainly depends upon the living and livelihood patterns of the rural economy. India is a country where almost 2/3rd population lives in rural areas as compared to urban areas where hardly 1/3rd of the population live, so rural development in itself becomes all the way more important when we talk about public policy making. Thus we can use the ‘integrated rural development’ index in sustainable development appraisal that focuses on the enlargement of people’s choices and their capabilities, across India. So the mantra for the success of SDGs in India’ predominantly based on the all inclusive and holistic development of rural India.

To find out the nature of association between SDGs and rural development, we have used the qualitative scale 1-3 to measure the degree of linkages. The parameters of associations are mostly framed from the SDGs descriptions and outcomes. It was found that out of 17 SDGs, 8 SDGs are highly linked in the scale of 3 with rural development, and 4 SDGs are moderately associated in a scale of 2. Similarly, 4 SDGs are dimly linked in a scale of 1 and the last one goal, SDG-17 is not directly connected with rural development. So, based on the nature and degrees of association, it is found that the SDGs can be better achieved only when rural development is given additional importance in the policy making and in our nation’s fiscal landscape. Rural development contributes to 4 ‘P’ out of the 5 ‘P’ as delineated in the policy agenda and these are – People, Planet, Prosperity, and Peace.

EFFECTS OF COVID-19 ON SDGs: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The whole world is facing a recession of the worst kind because of covid pandemic. Most of the social and economic going on have come to a nix due to COVID-19 pandemic. As a consequence, there has been widespread poverty, inequality and joblessness in most parts of the world. Mass unemployment, stories of jobs cut from various companies are pretty alarming.

This pandemic has devastated the life of everyone be it a rural area or urban area. This pandemic has stalled the developmental processes especially socio-economic because of recession of the worst kind and acts as the biggest challenge in attaining SDGs by 2030. The linkage and matrix of ‘Rural areas and SDGs’ is done for environment mapping, which is crucially important, along with integrated socio economic rural development

RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND SDGs: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The initiatives like Make in India, Skill India, Digital India, Start-up India and Stand-up India, etc., have been successfully launched and effectively operationalised since 2015-16 in India, which has enabled India to expedite socio-economic development. However, amidst of COVID-19 crisis, several steps have been taken by various Ministries to overcome the bottlenecks and focus on the basic and fundamental of provisioning for human subsistence, especially for the marginalised section of the society, who are significantly affected

by pandemic by (a) affecting livelihoods, (b) reduced income/ employment, (c) increased inequality due to adverse effects of pandemic, just to mention a few. It's needless to mention that vital roles are being played by media (print/electronic/digital), NGOs, civil society, CSR initiatives in creating awareness, enrollment, effective participation in embracing the SDGs and their implementation, as proactive partners. Further, with the significant focus on livelihood enhancement through MGNREGA, agriculture, dairy farming, fisheries and poultry, horticulture, forestry etc systems can be hoped to rejuvenate and strengthen the integrated rural development in Indian context.

The three 'f' i.e. funds, functions, and functionaries are needed to optimally operate to enhance the desired benefits that can percolate down to the last person in the society. With proper strategic planning, effective implementation with timely execution on large scale with proper monitoring and evaluation while setting the accountability etc. will ensure the success of SDGs. This in turn will lead to the overall of the country attaining the SDGs along the way.

Swarn Singh





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DECEMBER 2021

Desmond Tutu : A tireless activist, Archbishop and a nobel laureate fought against apartheid (GS paper I, II, Essay) (Source – The Hindu)

CONTEXT :

South African anti- apartheid icon Archbishop Deshbond Tutu, described as the countries' moral compass, died on 26th December 2021, sparking an outpouring of tribute for the outspoken nobel Peace Prize laureate

INTRODUCTION :

South Africa has been colonized by the British and after winning its independence from British rule, South Africa had to face the issue of Apartheid. Many activists had to fight against Apartheid. Because of the political, social and religious movement against the issue of Apartheid, finally, Apartheid was ended in Africa in 1994.

WHAT IS APARTHEID:

Apartheid was a type of political system of South Africa under which white people were ruled with more liberal laws as they were provided more political freedom and rights while there were other rules made for black races people. Black people will be ruled by some more oppressive rule and those people were deprived from several political rights and freedom. And This apartheid was justified on the ground of civilization

This racial discrimination sanctioned by the legislature of Africa was introduced just after the arrival of British rule in South Africa. Even though Africa won its freedom, this Apartheid continued. Black people were not having political rights, they could not participate in the election procedure of South Africa. Nelson Mandela led South Africa out of apartheid and into an era of reconciliation and majority rule.

WHO IS TUTU : TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Desmond Tutu was a South African Anglican Bishop and theologian. He was born in 1931, the era when In Africa informally ended British rule even though its full detachment from the British completely in 1961. He has been the secretary of the general council of the South African Church. He became the Bishop in 1986 in Johannesburg. Up to that time Aprateid was at its peak in South Africa and a political movement was going on against Aprateid under the leadership of Nelson Mandela who was in jail at that time. Mandela was released in 1990 and this movement rapitacady spreaded in not only Africa but also in the entire world. All the supporter of Human right,, globalization and liberalization, were advocating to abolish this Aprateid

from South Africa and finally in multiracial election of Africa held in 1994, Mandela became the first black president of South Africa. Tutu also played an important role in the removal of Apartheid. After the general election in South Africa in 1994, Tutu was elected as the chairman of Truth and reconciliation commission to investigate the past truth and the violation of human right. Tutu also campaigned for gay rights. He also criticised the Palestine Israeli war and criticised many times South African government in this regard.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF TUTU IN RELIGIOUS MOVEMENT : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

As Tutu rose to prominence in the 1970s, He started to criticize Apartheid and thus he was very popular among the black majority. During his tenure as archbishop he advocated for international sanction against apartheid, and later to lobby for rights globally. He was also a follower of the principle of non violence and. He filed a petition in favor of Mandela's release. After 1986, he convinced the entire world against Apartheid so for his work he won the Nobel prize the same year. Even though he has earlier been nominated for a Nobel prize.

CONCLUSION :

As per above discussion we see that many warriors were there on the earth who fought for humanity and peace. The name of Tutu would be remembered among those person and Entire world, all supporter of peace and humanity is paying tribute on his death

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Olive Ridley Turtles GS- 3 Conservation

Scientists of the **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)** are researching out **tagging of Olive Ridley turtles at three important mass nesting sites** – Gahirmatha, Devi River mouth and Rushikulya. The **research was undertaken in Odisha** after a span of about 25 years and 1,556 turtles had been tagged.

KEY POINTS

Significance of tagging: The scientific tags affixed to turtles are **non-corrosive**, which can be easily removed later **and they do not harm the turtle in any way**. The tags are **uniquely numbered containing information details** such as the name of the organisation, country-code and email address. If researchers trace the turtle in other countries/regions and come across the tagged turtles, they will email their location in longitude and latitude to researchers in India. There is an established network working on turtles. It would **help them trace the migration path and places followed by them** visited by the marine reptiles after congregation and nesting.

Olive Ridley Turtles: The Olive Ridley turtles are the **smallest and most abundant** of all sea turtles found in the world. They are **carnivores and get their name** from their olive colored carapace. Ridley turtles are **best known for their unique mass nesting**, where thousands of females come together on the same beach to lay eggs such nesting pattern is called as **Arribada**

Habitat: They are **found in tropical waters of the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian oceans. In India, Odisha's Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary** is known as the world's largest colony of breeding animals of olive ridley turtles. The Hindu Analysis.

Protection Status: It is **protected under Wildlife Protection Act, 1972:** Scheduled 1 which prohibits their hunting. Internationally they are under **IUCN Red List:** Vulnerable category. They are also covered under **CITES:** Appendix I category.

THREATS: TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

- Marine water pollution and increasing waste. **The Hindu Analysis.**
- **Human Consumption as seafood:** They are extensively hunted in the coastal south asian countries for their meat, shell and leather, and eggs.
- **Plastic pollution:** An ever-increasing debris of plastics, fishing nets, discarded nets, polythene and other garbage dumped by tourists and fishing workers.
- **Fishing Trawlers:** Overexploitation of marine resources by use of trawlers often violates the rule to not fish 20 kilometers within a marine sanctuary.

Anshum Verma

AGRICULTURAL LAND LEASING GS- 3 AGRICULTURAL MARKET

Land leasing is a commercial agreement in which the user or lease acquires the right to use the land in lieu of a certain amount of payment in the Indian context, given the low investment in agriculture, fragmented land holding any change in the occupational structure in rural areas, there is a need to bring reforms in agricultural land leasing.

PRESENT LAND HOLDING STATUS: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

1. The average size of farm holdings declined from 2.3 hectares in 1970-71 to 1.08 hectares in 2015-16.
2. The share of small and marginal farmers increased from 70 % in 1980-81 to 86% in 2015-16.
3. The average size of marginal holding is only 0.38hectares (less than one acre) in 2015-16.
4. The shrinking size of farms is a major factor responsible for low income and farmer distress.
5. The viability of marginal and small farmers is a major challenge for Indian agriculture.

NEED FOR LAND LEASING: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

1. The meagre returns farmers get from fragmented land holdings prevent mechanisation and investment in agriculture and its profitability.
2. Fear of losing land prevails amongst the farmers due to the absence of long term tenancy laws and hence land leases are limited to one year.
3. Lack of confidence in renewal of tenancy has led to zero incentive for capital investment in agriculture.
4. With growth in the manufacturing and services sector, the occupational structure of rural areas has changed which has further resulted in an increased number of fallow land.
5. There is a need to bring the informal land lease market under the Ambit of regulation.
6. In the informal tenancy, tenants are often exploited due to lack of legal security and high rents.
7. Further, consolidation of land holding can accrue large benefits and Hence can help in reducing Agrarian distress.

BENEFIT OF LAND LEASING: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

1. It will attract investment in terms of capital, machine and other inputs.
2. Small land holders can be largely benefited, as after leaving their land, they can be engaged in other occupations and hence can diversify their source of income.

3. Corporatization of farming could go a long way in bringing much needed reforms in the agriculture sector.
4. Industries can also benefit with reduced cost of land acquisition.
5. Fear of loss of land titles can also be allayed as the lease agreement can be negotiated after the expiry of his tenure.

CONCERN: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- It will prevent redistribution of land through transfer ownership as people will prefer leasing instead of selling.
- Land leasing will promote absentee landlords.
- Corporatization of farming creates fear that entities with big pockets will control agriculture by taking large pieces of land on lease.

WAY FORWARD

- Land leasing needs to be complemented by several other factors to address the problems faced by agriculture.
- Modernization and digitisation of land records will reduce litigation related to the land leasing and land pooling.
- There needs to be an establishment of an independent regulator for the resolution of disputes.
- Modernization of the agriculture market along with the standardization of lease agreement.
- There is a need to enhance credit and insurance facilities for agriculture.
- Transformation of agriculture as a business-cum- livelihood activity so that investments are plan based on long term strategies and hedged from market and environmental risks.
- Awareness and education among the rural population among the benefits of land leasing so that they can diversify their means of livelihood, an agriculture sector can also benefit as a whole.

Anshum Verma

Approval of two more vaccines for fighting against COVID: Would these be sufficient? (GS Paper II) Source : The Hindu, Indian Express

CONTEXT:

India has approved two more covid-19 vaccines and the antiviral drug under emergency use authorisation, Union health minister Mansukh Mandaviya told the nation.

INTRODUCTION:

From the mid of December, the cases of coronavirus agins have started to increase in India. In this festive week of December because of inappropriate covid behavior these cases are continuously increasing. Therefore, our scientist and the government are jointly trying to fight agist this virus scientifically. Two new vaccines Coebvax and Covovax and one pill Monupiravir are approved in this sequence

WHAT IS CORBEAUX:

This is a vaccine developed by Hyderabad based Biological E Limited and the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, US and the US company Dynavax Technologies. This is a protein subunit vaccine which means that instead of whole virus, it uses fragmented parts of it to trigger an immune response. In this case this subunit contains a harmless S protein. Once the immune system recognizes the proteins, it will produce antibodies to fight against that protein.

The efficiency of this vaccine is good as per the clinical trial data. It can also neutralize the delta virus. Its effectiveness is more than 80%. It has also conducted Phase III active comparator clinical trials to evaluate if this vaccine is superior to Covishield. In the pivotal phase of immunogenic superiority it demonstrated superior immune response in comparison with Covid Shield when assessed for neutralizing Antibody Geometric Means titers against the Ancestral Wuhan Strain and the globally dominant Delta variant.

WHAT IS COVOVAX : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Covovax is produced by Serum Institute of India under license from Novavax, a US based biotechnology company. This vaccine has also been approved by the World Health Organization (WHO) under its emergency use.

On the basis of trials of 3 phases it showed its efficiency of 96.4% against the original virus strain, 86.3% against Alpha and 89.7% efficiency overall. After its trial in the US and Mexico that demonstrated 100% protection against moderate and severe disease and 90.4% efficiency overall.

MOLNUPIRAVIR:

This is also approved by US Food and Drug Administration, close on the heels of Paxlovid by Pfizer Inc, is said to be a promising drug for those with mild and moderate disease and also easily administered as a pill. Molnupiravir comes in 200 mg pills; the recommendation in India is for 800 mg twice daily for 5 days. In India it will be manufactured by 13 drug makers like Dr Reddy's, Natco, MSN, Hetero, Optimus, Aurobindo, Mylan, Cipla, Sun Pharma, Torrent, BDR, Stride and Pune based Emcure.

The drug regulator of the UK covered its effectiveness. It did not authorize this pill for use of more than 5 consecutive days, or a patient younger than 18 as it may affect bone and cartilage growth. In India, this is recommended for those patients who are adults and have an oxygen level over 93% and who have a high risk progression of the disease.

CONCLUSION: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Therefore we can conclude on the basis of the above description, we should fight with coronavirus through scientific research and by improving our health system. Besides the duty of our scientist and government we should also follow the instruction of the government and we should follow the covid appropriate behavior to fight with covid.

FOREST RIGHTS ACT (FRA) GS-3 CONSERVATION

The need to have FRA is to deal with the rights of the forest dwelling communities that have been denied to them over the years because of the continuation of forest laws from the colonial era in the country. The Forest Rights Act is also known as the Scheduled Tribe and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers Act or Tribal Rights Act or Tribal Land Act. The passage of Forest Rights Act 2006 accorded legal recognition to the rights of traditional forest dwelling communities and partially addressed the injustice caused by colonial forest laws.

SIGNIFICANCE OF FRA 2006: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

1. Community rights and right over common property resources have been recognised for the first time.
2. It ensures the livelihood and food security of the forest dwellers, scheduled tribes and other forest dwellers and strengthens the conservation reserve of the forest.
3. Empower local self governance as gram sabha is the authority to initiate a process to vest rights on tribal communities.
4. This act protects intellectual property rights and traditional knowledge related to culture diversity and biodiversity.
5. It extends the mandate of the fifth and sixth schedule of the constitution that protect the claims of indigenous communities over tracts of land and forest they inhabit.
6. The displaced communities rights are secured by the FRA 2006.
7. The rights of marginal and tribal communities over development activities are also recognised and secured by FRA 2006.
8. Forest rights can also be claimed by any member and community who has for at least 3 generations prior to the 13 December 2005 primarily resided in forest land for bona fide livelihood needs.
9. The act ensures that people get to manage their forest on their own which will regulate the exploitation of forest resources by official improved forest governance and better management of tribal rights.

CHALLENGES: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- The forest right act 2006 is debated to lead to even more encroachment of already travelled forest land.
- The act defeats the purpose when the eviction rate of families from these lands increases as their claims on these lands are not accepted by the government.
- The tribes and communities like the capability to prove their occupancy over the forest land and the law turns out to be weak to strengthen their claim.
- Government role of allowing commercial plantation integrated land is also debated as the degraded land makes up 40% of forest.
- The Act provided equal rights and titles for women but on ground they are hardly visible in this regard.
- Lands possessed by the tribal people, including the lands recognised under the FRA are small, of poor quality and are not very fertile.

WAY FORWARD: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

1. To effectively represent claims a fair understanding of the act by the tribal people and its implementation process is necessary.
2. Livelihood of the tribal people would improve if horticulture practices are promoted in addition to bamboo and aloe vera plantation within an assured market.
3. A popular recommendation is medical and ecotourism along the lines of the Kerala model.
4. Providing skill based education with job opportunities on a large scale in proportion to the demand in the tribal areas.
5. The schemes and programmes drafted for the tribal people must be implemented in letter and spirit across the country.
6. With protective laws like PESA 1996 in place it is only a matter of will.
7. Inducted people who are sensitive to the cause of tribal people in the decision making process at every stage.

8. Right to fair compensation and transparency in in hand acquisition rehabilitation and resettlement act 2013, safeguard against displacement of scheduled Tribes.

Anshum Verma

RELEASING DIGITAL INDIA (GS-3, Technology)

The Digital India programme has surfaced not only as an action but also as an aspiration for the country. As per the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, it's a flagship programme of the Government of India with a vision to transfigure India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge frugality'1. The enormous breadth of the Digital India programme has pitched it as an integrative force which would transfigure the society by technologically empowering the people and accordingly, elevating their standard of living. The vision areas under this programme, as delineated by the Ministry, include Digital Structure as a Core Mileage to each Citizen,' Governance and form on Demand and Digital Commission of Citizens'. The Hindu Analysis.

Considering the big size of the country, digitally connecting the outermost townlets of the country – through broadband and high- speed internet – is one among the pivotal structure musts of the state. Under this programme, the government aims to supply high speed internet connectivity across the length and breadth of the country. In addition, it also aims to determine and work the unique identity (Aadhar) as a mode to make sure digital identity, fiscal addition, and straightforward access to the Common Services Centres (CSCs).

Through the National eGovernance Plan2005, India had recognised eGovernance as forward for icing delivery of public services Realising 'Digital India' through its different Pillars to the millions. The Digital India Programme took one step ahead and aspired to give seamlessly integrated services across departments or authorities by espousing a single window frame. It also promotes the application of Open source and Open API, to make sure interoperability of alle-governance operations and force access to data and services for promoting participation of citizens. The Unified Payments Interface might be considered a pathbreaking development, which is an illustration of open source operation and proved to be a vital step for India towards getting cashless. The Hindu Analysis.

Digital Knowledge is extensively recognised as a crucial element necessary to successfully apply the eGovernance enterprise under the Digital India programme. With over one billion people in India, there is an immediate got to promote digital knowledge platforms and influence the beginning eventuality of India. The CSC and thus the CSC2.0 schemes are aimed towards creating an enormous tone- sustaining network of CSCs spread across India. The CSCs would be responsible for carrying out standardisation of services and capacity structure of stakeholders. The Digital India programme has been recognised to retain a transformational effect on India's Digital geography also because of the profitable script of the country. By bridging the digital peak in India, it's possible for the country to palliate major sections of the society and influence the beginning eventuality to realize a worldwide leadership status. With the appearance of the epidemic, profitable and technological dislocations have replaced the earth and India has been at the middle stage in terms of the COVID-19 response measures. Considering the big size of the country, digitally connecting the outermost townlets of the country – through broadband and high- speed internet – is one among the pivotal structure musts of the nation. T The Digital India Programme took one step ahead and aspired to give seamlessly integrated services across departments or authorities by espousing a single window frame. It also promotes the application of Open source and Open API, to make sure interoperability of alle-governance operations and force access to data and services for promoting participation of citizens. 6

Kurukshetra December 2020

Broadband Highways Internet being evolved as one of the introductory musts of ultramodern life, icing access to broadband, has been a crucial responsibility of the Government. Considering the massive size and population of India, a comprehensive decision to establish the needed structure has been recognised and initiated under this pillar of the Digital India Programme. This pillar has three factors including Broadband for pastoral, Broadband for civic and Public Information Structure. Over village panchayats are being brought under the dimension of the National optic fiber Network under the Broadband for Rural design. Under the Broadband for Urban design, the Ministry aims to use Virtual Network Drivers for service delivery and communication structure. The National Information Structure aims to integrate India's Network and pall structure to grease high speed connectivity also as a pall platform for colorful government realities. The NII includes networks similar as State-Wide Area Network, National Knowledge Network, National Optical Fibre Network, Government Stoner Network and the MeghRaj Cloud.

Universal Access to Mobile Connectivity The fleetly growing smartphone penetration and constantly declining data rate have Pillars of Digital India handed a boost to the mobile connectivity across India. Mobile Phones have moved ahead from being a mode of communication to becoming a source of data and connectivity. Under this pillar, the Ministry aims to attach over townlets which do not have mobile content, with an end to ground the digital peak. As a neighborhood of the Digital India Programme, the Ministry has been furnishing mobile content to uncovered townlets. Mobile content to remaining uncovered townlets would be handed over during a phased manner. The Department of Telecom has been assigned as the Nodal Agency for this design.

Public Internet Access Programme the general public Internet Access Programme aims to determine the structure mechanisms for enabling access to public internet for the folk. The Public Internet Access Programme concentrated substantially on two factors including CSCs and revamping Post Services as multi-service centres. Under the Digital India programme, the Ministry under the CSC2.0 design aims to determine a tone- sustaining network of two.5 lakh CSC centres at gram panchayat position. Around post services are proposed to be converted into multi service centres and this design is being driven by the Department of Posts. Considering the breadth of presence of post services, this design could have a huge transformational effect on the public internet access program. The Hindu Analysis.

Swarn Singh

India- France Relationship GS-2 International relation

India and France enjoy traditionally close and friendly relations and have progressed through many landmark agreements like strategic partnership agreement 1988 and civil nuclear agreement 2008. The area of defence and security cooperation, space cooperation and civil nuclear cooperation constitutes the principle pillars of our strategic partnership with France. India and France are increasingly engaged in new areas of operation like security in the IOR climate change including the international solar alliance and sustainable development among others.

AREAS OF COOPERATION: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

1. **Strategic cooperation**– France was decided to be part of India's Indo Pacific Ocean initiative.
 - France has always been an important partner in the development of advanced technologies.
2. **Defence collaboration**- India has signed an intergovernmental agreement with France in September 2016 for prakat mint of 36 Rafale fighter jets at a cost of around 58000 crore. The Hindu Analysis.
 - India entered into a contract with transform to build 6 scorpion submarines in India Malegaon dockyard through a technology- transfer management in 2005.

- The two countries also signed the agreement regarding the provision of reciprocal logistic support.
- 3. **Energy-** India France alliance is the main pillar of international solar alliance. The Hindu Analysis.
- 4. **Political corporation-** It began with France's support for India and its security concerns in the backdrop of 1998 nuclear testing. France supports India's permanent membership in the United Nations security council. Transport had been vital in India's entry to MTCR in 2016.
- 5. **Space cooperation-** France providing training to Indian astronauts for Gaganyaan mission 2022. They welcome the launch of a space climate observatory that enhances Indo French cooperation on combating climate change besides TRISHNA joint mission and accommodating Argos in OceanSat-3.
- 6. **Bilateral trade-** France has emerged as a major source of FDI for India with more than a thousand French establishments already present in India with a total turnover of 20 billion dollars and employing around 3 lakh persons.
 - France is the ninth largest foreign investor in India.
 - The two countries jointly agreed that the high level in France India economic and financial dialogue should be reactivated as quickly as possible.
- 7. **Global agendas-** Climate change, biodiversity, renewable energy, terrorism, cybersecurity and digital technology etc. are the areas where convergence of interests lies.

WAY FORWARD: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

1. France which has sought strategic autonomy within the framework of its alliance with the US and India are natural partners in forging new coalitions for an uncertain era.
2. France also opens the pathway for deeper engagement with Europe and global issues especially after the uncertainty in the region due to BREXIT.
3. The new partnership with friends Germany and other like minded countries Japan would hopefully turn out to be far more consequential for India's influence on the global stage.
4. India and France share the same vision for a new balanced multipolar world and by ensuring national security and making strategic choices the shared principles and visions can be realised.

Anshum Verma

Significance of Palestine President's visit to Israel GS Paper II Source : The Hindu

CONTEXT:

Israel unveiled a package of "Confidence building measures" for the occupied West Bank on Wednesday (29th December 2021), after defence minister Benny Gantz hosted talks with Palestine President Muhammad Abbas on his first visit in years.

INTRODUCTION :

Arab-Israel conflict has been continuing for long time, just after the birth of Israel. Israel, with the support of western world, had occupied many regions of Palestine. The hostility between two countries, some time creates the problem not only for middle east countries but also for entire world because religion is another reason of this hostility and on the basis of Christianity and Islam, many countries are polarised either in the

favour of Israel or in the favour of Palestine. The establishment of peace definitely will bring stability in the Middle East.

HISTORY OF THE ARAB ISRAEL CONFLICT : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The history of the hostility between Palestine and Israel starts with the emergence of Israel on 14 May 1948. Israel merged as a Jewish state on the basis of Jewish races. Jews were the migrated people from Europe and during the time of the Second world war, most of the Jews had migrated from Germany because of the Hitler. The concept of Modern Israel is related with religious and political sources both. In fact Jerusalem was the religious place for Judaism (Judaism is an Abrahamic, monotheistic, and ethnic religion comprising the collective religious, cultural, and legal tradition and civilization of the Jewish people.). By 1800 more than 25000 Jews had settled in their home land Jerusalem. In the entire 19th century Jews were trying to consolidate themselves as the political power. During the first world war, the Zionists persuaded the British government to issue the Balfour Declaration, a document that committed Britain to facilitate the establishment of a "Jewish homeland" in Palestine. The British got recognition of the Jewish state from the League of Nations also.

After the second world war, This Jewish state declared its sovereignty in 1948 after occupying some regions near Gaza strip. With the west support Israel defeated five Arab States (Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Iraq) from then this conflict is continuing

ISRAEL PALESTINE TALKS (EFFORT TO ESTABLISH PEACE): THE HINDU ANALYSIS

After becoming the new prime minister of Israel Naftali Bennett made efforts to establish peace in middle east Asia. In this regard the peace talk between Israel and Palestine has started by 22nd Dec 2021. Mr Abbas, the Palestine president for a long time, visited Israel after 2010. They discussed on the implementation of economic and civilian measures, and emphasized the importance of deepening security coordination and preventing terror and violence

These included a \$32 million (100 million shekel) advance payment to the PA (Palestine Authority) in taxes collected on its behalf by Israel, and the granting of 600 extra permits allowing Palestine businessmen to cross into Israel.

It is also announced the regularization of 6000 more Palestine's living in occupied West Bank which has been under Israeli control since the six day war of 1967

CONCLUSION: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Peace is not only required for stability but also required for humanism. Humanism must be given more priority in comparison to nationalism and patriotism. Definitely this effort of the establishment of the peace in middle east started by Palestine and the Israel is appreciable and world community should support such peace talks so that this human race could be progress.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

China has been claiming over Arunachal Pradesh GS – Paper II

Source : The Hindu

CONTEXT :

Chinese ministry of Civil Affairs said that it had issued “Standardized” names for 15 places in Arunachal Pradesh, to be used henceforth on official Chinese maps, part of broader recent moves by Beijing to step up its territorial claims

INTRODUCTION :

China has been claiming over Arunachal Pradesh for a long time even though it is an integral part of India. Once again China showed the name of 15 places of Arunachal Pradesh. China had also sought to assign such names in 2017.

Arunachal Pradesh is shown on Chinese maps as Zangnan or South Tibet and in 2017, Beijing issued six official names for places there, which was at the time seen as a retaliatory move after the Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama, visited the state

INDIA’S CONCERN: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The 15 new standardized names along with their exact coordinates and a map released on last days, ahead of new border law coming into force

India had already expressed its concern over the new laws which take effect on 1 Jan, 2022, saying that China’s unilateral decision to bring out a legislation which can have implications on our existing bilateral arrangements on border management.

ABOUT THE LAW: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The law was proposed in March. It calls for various Chinese civilian and military agencies to take steps to safeguard Chinese territory and has coincided with stepped up plans by China to bolster its control along disputed areas, including by constructing “frontier” villages and civilian settlements

This law lays down that PRC (People Republic of China) shall set up markers on the boundary of China clearly as per the agreement with the neighbor and The PLA (People Liberation Army) and Chinese people’s Armed police force will take the responsibility to protect and manage the Chinese border. This includes the construction of any permanent building in border regions. Even citizens and local organizations are mandated to protect and defend the border infrastructure, maintain security and stability of borders and cooperate with government agencies in maintaining border security. The law provides for the border to be sealed in the event of a war, armed conflict, incidents which threaten the security of border residents such as biological and chemical accidents, natural disasters, and public health incidents.

WHAT STEPS SHOULD BE TAKEN BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT : TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

- India’s main concern is that China is adopting an aggressive policy on the cost of border security. As per the global times along with the name of 15 places, four mountains, two rivers and open mountain pass were also shown in the map of China. Zhang Yongpan, an expert of border issue in Chinese Academy of Social Science stated (As per the report of Global Times) Since the Zangnan area has been illegally occupied by India, and the Indian government has also established some illegal names in this area

- India should immediately counter and strictly should give a message that any intervention in the sovereignty of India should never be tolerated.
- Indian government should be too much alert regarding the illegal activities of the Chinese people near border area
- Again in front of the world, we should say that we respect Buddha (Peace) as well as Yuddha (War).

CONCLUSION

- Although Indians have been following the policy of peace and non violence but the non violence of India should not be understood as the cowardness. We are the followers of Ashoka, Who was the scratch follower of Buddhism but still he never compromised with the integration of his state. Even though we are the supporters of peace, peace would not be earned on the cost of sovereignty and integration of the country.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Challenges in Regulating Water Pollution in India (GS-2,3, The Hindu)

India passed its first water pollution regulation law, known as the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, back in 1974 and supplemented it with the Environment (Protection) Act in 1986. Since then, the context has changed dramatically: not only has the population more than doubled (now approximately 138 crore), but the urban population has more than tripled (now approximately 35%), the gross domestic product (GDP) has quadrupled, and the industrial sector has grown more than proportionately. Even as the quantity of pollutants generated has increased dramatically, the nature of pollutants has also changed or diversified. In addition to domestic sewage and conventional industrial pollutants (such as salts), heavy metals, pesticides from agriculture and micro-pollutants from expanding household chemicals are a matter of concern.

STANDARD-SETTING: TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

(i) The discharge standards for indirect use appear to assume that the receiving water bodies (such as streams, rivers, ponds, and lakes) have inflows from pristine or rural watersheds, diluting the discharged pollutants' concentration. But this would not be true for seasonal rivers and may no longer be true even for perennial ones, as upstream catchments or stretches of the river get urbanised and industrialised.

(ii) The standards vary inexplicably

(iii) Certain sources are entirely unregulated. For example, limits for persistent organic pollutants (POPs) are specified only for industrial discharges, ignoring that farming is a significant source of POPs.

(iv) The standards are almost always concentration-based, not load-based, and therefore, the total amount of pollutants entering the receiving waterbody is not being regulated.

The most significant gap is that no standards have been set for the ambient water quality of a surface waterbody, whether in general or corresponding to different uses that it might be put to.

MONITORING: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Needless to say, adequately defined standards have to be matched by rigorous monitoring to identify situations where pollution levels are unacceptable, to trace them back to causes or sources on the one hand, and to estimate impacts on the other. Monitoring, therefore, needs to happen at multiple points (Figure 2): sources, in-stream/in aquifers, soil and food pathways, and the final recipient human populations and ecosystems.

The monitoring effort in India is no doubt deployed at these multiple points. The primary focus, however, is on industrial sources. Monitoring of these sources takes place under routine or surprise inspections by pollution inspectors of the regulated industries and can include “compliance evaluation” inspections (where pollution control facilities are checked) and “compliance sampling” inspections. But limited data are available, or research has been done on the intensities of compliance sampling, and the results of this sampling are certainly not in the public domain. Gupta et al’s study in Punjab showed that overall inspection levels are low, with 75% of the firms inspected less frequently than once in five years. PCB staff confess to

Second, monitoring effort has no doubt increased when it comes to monitoring pollutants in transit: under the Global Environmental Monitoring System (GEMS) and the Monitoring of Indian National Aquatic Resources System (MINARS) schemes.

A third and major deficiency in the monitoring strategy used for in-stream water quality is the sampling regime. Usually, the samples are collected in the form of “grab samples” (one-time samples) at a fixed (day) time once every three–four months. This often does not capture the true picture regarding the pollution levels.

Fourth, monitoring water quality at a location is not the end of the matter. Unacceptable levels of pollution are a pointer to the existence of a problem. In some cases, the sources may be obvious (the industry from which the sampled effluent is being discharged), while in others (when a stream is sampled), the sources have to be traced.

ENFORCEMENT: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Given a set of water quality standards and the detection of their violations and identification of polluters, the next stage in regulation is law enforcement. The powers given for enforcement include the ability to revoke or not renew consent, direct shutting down of operations, direct state utilities to shut off electricity and water supply to errant polluters, and finally, initiate criminal prosecution. The data on enforcement are hard to come by, and independent authentication of compliance is nearly impossible (since the researcher is never “authorised” to collect samples from industries and even conduct in-stream sampling requires permission). Where some data has become available, there is evidence that just the act of repeated inspection improves compliance. In the absence of powers to impose fines on its own, the PCBs will have to launch a criminal prosecution when there are repeated instances of violations. However, the record on criminal prosecution is abysmal.

While there are suggestions that the existing powers of the boards are not fully used, many analysts contend that giving the boards the power to fine and compound offences (by downgrading some of the offences to civil ones) would help. Others remain wary about whether, in the absence of structural reforms, this would become another avenue for corruption by the PCB officials. While the criminal prosecution option is indeed challenging given the delays in and vagaries of the lower courts, we believe that the lack of effort on enforcement and the widespread accusations of corruption need to be addressed before adding other means of enforcement.

ACCOUNTABILITY: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Why do the above lacunae in standard-setting, monitoring and enforcement continue even 35 years after the environmental protection agency was passed? This leads us to the question of how PCBs are governed. Several studies have debunked the supposed scarcity of funds and pointed instead to the shortage of human resources even when funding is available, poor or narrow training of staff and the lack of investment in monitoring equipment and technology upgradation. But this only begs the question of why such a state of affairs prevails.

The problem originates in the structure of the governing body (the “board”) of the PCBs. There is, however, no representation of the affected public. Nor is there any place for independent experts/scientists. Thus, the

boards are hardly accountable to the public they are supposed to serve, nor are they really “autonomous” or “independent” of the state government as envisaged in the Water Act.

The issue is not just about qualification but also about independence (which means chairpersons must be allowed to complete terms and renewed based on a proper performance review) and accountability. The latter requires that member secretaries be full-time professionals hired and fired by the governing body. Unfortunately, here, the tendency is to fill this position on deputation—almost always by IFS officers. Apart from their actual experience in pollution regulation, the fact that they are on deputation means they have no real commitment to or accountability towards the board they serve. Conversely, the rare competent and committed officer cannot be retained by the board beyond three years.

ADJUDICATION: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Before the NGT was established, cases relating to pollution were either filed before the high court or the Supreme Court as writ petitions, and a handful of cases were filed before civil courts seeking injunctive reliefs. The NGT was specifically established at the behest of the Supreme Court to be a specialised forum to hear only environmental cases, with a panel consisting of judges and technical members who had experience in environmental sciences or regulation. Thus, the NGT was expected to provide an impetus to science-driven environmental adjudication in India and promote better access to justice. The tribunal has developed several substantive and procedural innovations that enable fact-finding, go beyond merely adjudicating the disputes presented before it and actively inquire into the situation and draw on science and scientific expertise in its decision-making.

SUMMING UP: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

A rapidly urbanising and industrialising country with a dense population is bound to throw up significant water pollution challenges. While water pollution may be somewhat easier to deal with because it travels within known and observable channels (except for groundwater contamination), it is also less palpable than air pollution and easily overlooked or solved in a limited way through individual purification devices. Our review suggests that neither has the law in India regarding water pollution/quality standards kept up with the times, nor have the regulatory authorities, primarily the PCBs, come close to discharging their duties with the scientific and administrative rigour that would be required to address this problem. The structural weaknesses in the governance of the PCBs result in extremely poor accountability to the affected public, and the judiciary is not able to consistently and credibly strengthen this accountability. We have illustrated these problems mainly from a somewhat narrower canvas of examples of individual smaller rivers such as Vrishabawathi or individual cities such as Bengaluru. The problem is even more pressing yet intractable when it comes to the Ganga river—repeated grand clean-up missions have ended up making hardly any dent. The literature on water pollution has generally been divided on disciplinary lines between the plethora of studies by environmental scientists showing the existence of the problem and analyses of the legal dimensions by environmental lawyers. But the questions of monitoring practice, enforcement effort and mechanisms and the structure and functioning of the regulators and the adjudicators could bear with more interdisciplinary investigation.

There is, of course, the larger question of whether one can even expect genuine public accountability institutions and rigorous enforcement in an era of single-minded promotion of economic growth and “ease of doing business” by the state. On the other hand, citizen activism and engagement with water-pollution issues is increasing, as in the case of Bengaluru’s lakes. It remains to be seen whether these concerns gain enough traction in the political space to force some long-term shifts in the regulation of water pollution in the country.

Swarn Singh

The Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021 (GS Paper-II, Polity, Constitution and Governance) Source: The Hindu

WHY IN NEWS? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The Election Laws (Amendment) Bill 2021 has been passed in the Parliament which provides for the linking of electoral roll data with the Aadhaar ecosystem.

RATIONALE BEHIND THE REFORMS: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- A Parliamentary Standing Committee report on demands of grants of the Law Ministry released in March 2021 had advocated for linkage of a unique Aadhaar number with the voter Id-card.
- This proposal has been approved by the Parliamentary Committee on Law and Justice.
- However, it is not clear whether the specifications of the Bill have been discussed widely and the public opinion has been sought for it.
- With the Supreme Court judgement in March 2015, the Election Commission had started a National Electoral Roll Purification and Authentication Programme.
- In order to delete duplicate names, the Election Commission has called for linking Aadhaar to the voter IDs.
- In the same year, the Supreme Court clarified that the Aadhaar card Scheme is purely voluntary and it cannot be made mandatory till the matter is finally decided by the Court.
- The EC has issued necessary guidelines to the Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs) of the States/UTs where it has specified that providing Aadhaar number by electors is not mandatory and it is only optional.

BENEFIT OF REFORMS TO THE PEOPLE: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- In order to help migrant voters the amendment can also allow remote voting.
- The provision of four qualifying dates for revision of rolls will be helping in faster enrolment of the younger people who are turning 18.

CRITICISMS OF THE AMENDMENT: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- One of the major concerns is whether the Bill's implementation will be successful if the linkage of Aadhaar to the voter IDs is not mandatory. As according to the bill, providing Aadhaar data is voluntary.
- Though the Aadhaar requirement is said to be voluntary as of now but there is a concern that in practice it can be made mandatory.
- The choice not to submit is linked to a "sufficient cause" and the reasons on the basis of which a person can choose not to link my Aadhaar will be determined by the government.
- However the "sufficient cause" has not been mentioned in the Bill.
- Although the unique identity number has been allotted to more than 90% of the population. The Complaints of wrongful enrollment in UIDAI have been received.
- There is a conceptual confusion whether Aadhaar linkage will enable non-citizens to vote as Aadhaar card is not proof of citizenship. So foreigners will be excluded by this.
- This way the goal of preventing non-citizens from voting will not be resolved.
- Although Individual identification of voting choices is not possible with the linkage of Aadhaar but it may lead to profiling of Individuals.

- When a person goes to vote, verification of his identity is done which is separate from the capturing of the identity.
- With this the foundation for targeted political propaganda will be laid down which is against the model code of conduct.
- In the year of 2019 UIDAI accused IT Grids (India) Private Ltd for illegally procuring details of Aadhaar card holders in the state of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, and storing these in its databases.
- All this raises concerns over the safety and security vulnerabilities of the UIDAI servers.

Swarn Singh

Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Growth (GS-2,3 The Hindu)

India, over the centuries, has no way had a dearth of great thinkers, scientists, masterminds, croakers, originators, proponents, artists. Indian intellectual, engineering, and cultural capabilities are alternate to none with some of the topmost scientists, mathematicians and masterminds in the world like former President Abdul Kalam, S. Ramanujan, Sir C.V. Raman and Dr. Vikram Sarabhai coming from colorful regions are leading inventions in some of the largest and most innovative tech, medical, fiscal companies of the world including Google, Microsoft, IBM, Adobe.

Access to an innovative ecosystem in these developed countries has allowed numerous Indians to realise their bournes, convert their dreams into realities, and helped them blossom to their full creative eventuality.

With over 1.4 billion people, roughly of India. Our gospel, culture, forfeiture trades, tabernacles and puppets also bear evidence of the same. However, what has been lacking is a holistic invention and entrepreneurial ecosystem that stimulates, enables and supports Inspiration, Imagination and Innovation in our seminaries, universities, diligence across the length and breadth of the nation. Whenever Indians go abroad they exceed and reach the loftiest situations of eminence and achievements, be it in technology, business, academia, and indeed governments. Numerous Indians 10500 engineering and affiliated institutions, roughly 39000 sodalities, a demographic tip that's the covetousness of numerous a country and a fast growing frugality; the imperative in India is thus to insure that an estimated 150 million youth of India entering the pool over the coming many times can realise their true eventuality through access to a world class invention and entrepreneurial ecosystem, using fleetly advancing, accessible, affordable technologies transubstantiation the world we live in and enabling an inconceivable set of openings for invention and new job creation. Revolutionary technological advancements are indeed transubstantiating the world giving rise to new technology and business inventions at a dizzying pace. The Hindu Analysis.

Electronics miniaturisation has enabled a computer the size of a room to fit our pockets backed by the confluence of computing, storehouse and dispatches at incredibly lower costs. Robotics and Artificial intelligence are driving the coming generation's productivity and robotization. 3D printers are making real time conceptualisation, design, prototyping and manufacturing at an SME position a reality. IOT or the Internet of effects are connecting detector technologies to mobile and satellite Technologies in every Assiduity—from enabling perfection husbandry, healthcare, water sanctification and conservation, climate change controls, disaster vaticination and operation, driverless buses and space shuttles.

Big Data and analytics and Artificial Intelligence are enabling complex decision making through advanced easy to use tools. India is a country of a billion people with thousands of challenges, which are also thousands of openings for innovative entrepreneurial startups to succeed with possible global impact.

INDIAN ENTREPRENEURS AND STARTUPS AT VAN DURING COVID-19 EXTREMITY

The global COVID-19 extremity has descended with a speed and intensity that has stirred and shaken nations worldwide. It's contagious spread is languishing people in all walks of life in over 140 countries, accelerated by an intricately connected world we all live in, where people's mobility is crucial to nearly every country's frugality. The COVID-19 extremity has left countries heaving for immediate results indeed as the world's finest scientists, healthcare and biotech experimenters fervently race towards chancing a restorative result or vaccine to bring this extremity to an end. A extremity of this magnitude and speed of spread needs critical preventative, assistive, treatment- related results in colorful orders. These range from high quality and dependable masks, particular preventative outfit, ventilators, sanitisers, and contact- dogging, among others. The Hindu Analysis.

This demands not only great innovative capability, but also inconceivable dexterity and deftness by companies and government institutions to effectively arrest and end the COVID-19 imminence. With the grueling task of keeping over 1.3 billion people safe from the clutches of the coronavirus, the Government of India is exercising numerous enterprise in resemblant to insure that this global epidemic doesn't inflict annihilation in a country with as different a set of challenges as one could imagine having. Among them is to work its invention and incipency ecosystem with over 250 incubators and active startups.

The challenges in India are numerous. These include controlling the spread of COVID-19 in its metropolises with their share of veritably thick areas of population, its vast network of townlets with lack of acceptable hospitals, healthcare outfit or croakers, and a largely migratory pool who are diurnal- paycheck earners. The results demanded thus are myriad in nature that also need to be customised to the original requirements. Affordability combined with high quality and availability to the same are the major challenges and conditions in a country like India.

Challenging times and an extremity of this nature need great government support. It also demands great solidarity between academia, government and assiduity. While no one could have visualised a extremity of similar grand proportions to arise so suddenly, the government of India's unsparing backing of its Startup and Incubator ecosystem over the once several times is one of the brightest shining lights on the horizon to disband the darkness of despair that seems to be boxing in numerous corridor of the world.

Atal Innovation Mission Powering Atma Nirbhar Bharat through Innovation and Entrepreneurship. The Hindu Analysis.

An ongoing epidemic of unknown proportions, COVID-19 has impacted lives and livelihoods across the globe. Indeed as the stylish minds in the world race towards changing preventative and restorative results to combat and check the spread of the new coronavirus, the current extremity has been an eye- nature to several openings that have presented themselves during this time.

Swarn Singh

Communal Politics and Hate Speeches : Big threats for Unity of India GS paper I.Papaer III and Essay (Source : The Hindu, Indian Express)

CONTEXT :

Two back-to-back killings of political rivals — with communal overtones — in Alappuzha district have shattered the peace. Before today an atmosphere of communal conflict was being prepared because of the forthcoming elections in Uttar Pradesh, Goa, Uttarakhand and punjab

INTRODUCTION :

For the last few days it has been observed that an atmosphere of polarization of the public of a particular community is being done and this effort of polarization is done through hate speeches. During various events, most recently in Haridwar and Delhi in which a call for the genocide of the Muslims had been given. These hate speeches are not only targeting Muslim communities but also all the minority communities like Dalits, Sikhs and the Christians

WHAT IS THE COMMUNAL POLITICS: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The politics based on the welfare of a particular community is communal politics. In fact the concept of political parties came to existence with the evolution of the concept of democracy. All the people of same ideology and of common interest gathered in groups and fought for their own interest. In Monochromatic society or the countries this unity on the bases of community is beneficial and we see the emergence of the nation state on such ground in Europe.

But the condition of India is quite different. We are residing in a diversified culture and only the common interest of all the people should be addressed because that common interests are the elements of nationalism. In such culturally diversified countries, the interest of minorities must be protected and on any movement of the time, minorities should not feel any threat from majorities. Therefore communal harmony is essential for the stability of countries like India. But democracy politics compels to political parties for the polarization of the majority which could be done only through communal politics by showing the fear of one community against the another community

HATE SPEECHES : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Hate speeches are the speeches where the used language is an abusive type of language and its nature is a threatening nature against any other caste, creed and community, etc.

Generally the objective of these speeches are to attract the people of a particular community as well as to prove them against the rival community (based on religion, caste, creed, sex etc). Generally these speeches are the tool to be used during the time of an election so that many people could be attracted and the main issues would be subdued.

ROLE OF ELECTION COMMISSION IN HATE SPEECHES : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Although in the matter of Hate speeches election commission can take strong action against the person and the communities who delivered such hate speeches but, this power of election commission may be functionalized after the notification of the election.

Role of Government regarding Hate speeches : This is the responsibility of the government to maintain law and order and any such efforts which are destroying the communal harmony must be prevented and the offenders must be punished with strong punishment, But in democratic politics generally the governments seem biased to take action against such crimes. In this regard, the responsible people, eminent scholars and the civil society must pressurize government to take action against such hate speakers without any biases otherwise, our Judiciary and the media which are important pillars of democracy must pressurize government to take action irrespective of political biases

CONCLUSION :

For every citizen, the stability of the country is important. The country and our nation must be strong and prosper. For this, communal unity is essential which can be achieved only by providing assurance of security and the protection of the interests of the minorities. All the political parties must think about the well being

of the country and its citizens first. Communal politics would create a breach among people only. Paying their respect towards the country, this is the responsibility of the civil societies, eminent scholars and the constitutional institution to and they should keep their close eyes towards the political and must boycott those politicians those who are encouraging this communal politics

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

