

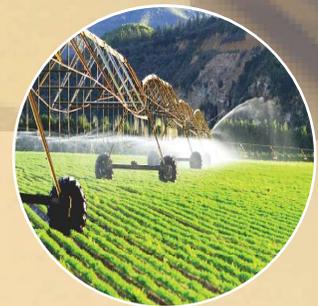


PLUTUS IAS

MONTHLY

CURRENT AFFAIRS

APRIL 2022



Basement C59 Noida, opposite to Priyagold Building gate, Sector 2, Pocket 1, Noida, CONTACT NO- 8448440231

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CURRENT AFFAIRS

APRIL 2022

Visit of Nepali Prime Minister to India : A new hope to India Nepal relation

VISIT OF NEPALI PRIME MINISTER TO INDIA – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Context :Nepal's Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba will be coming to Delhi by 1st April 2022.This visit of the Nepal's prime minister should be used as a chance to recast power and trade links



Today Current Affairs

Introduction : Nepal is not only a neighboring country of India but also the most significant country for India's security. It is a buffer state between India and China and It protects us from any aggression by China. Since Nepalese culture is similar to the India's' culture therefore , Nepal India relations have been sweet for a long time however there are some issues of the conflicts also.



After the election in Nepal, it is the first bilateral visit of Nepali prime minister to any country. Mr. Deuba elected as prime minister and assumed his office in July 2021. He has become the prime minister of Nepal for the fifth time. The situation in Nepal is not good these days. Nepali parliaments are not capable of properly functioning because of the huge conflicting atmosphere between communist and the rightist in Nepal since 2020. This corona pandemic has also brought miserable conditions for Nepal. In such a situation, China is eager to financially support Nepal.

INDIA NEPAL RELATION : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

It has been observed that after 2015, the India Nepal relation has become more bitter and presently bilateral relation is at its lowest level which has yet to be recovered. India's refusal to accept demonetized bills with the Nepal Rastra Bank worth just INR 7 crore and the unknown fate of the report submitted by the Eminent Persons Group (EPG) have not helped in securing it a better image in Nepal. There are many factors of the India's bitter relation with Nepal.

1. Territorial dispute is yet to be solved near Lipulekh region. This issue emerged in 2015 and by 2019, it came on resurface again. Today Current Affairs
2. After the incident of plane hijacking, Nepali passengers from Nepal to India have to face humiliation of strict security checking by the airlines staffs
3. Many Nepalis are working in the Indian army and sacrificing their lives to protect India's land. In this situation, if there would be any border dispute between India and Nepal, definitely Nepalese would be hearted. The Hindu Analysis

GEOPOLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF NEPAL : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

There are many geopolitical challenges in front of Nepal. For the Nepal, India would be more beneficial in comparison to China because India could provide trade facility to Nepal easily in comparison to China. When the Nepalese Parliament ratified a U.S. \$500 million grant assistance-Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) pact, Nepal had to face huge protests against the government. The main protesters were supporters of China. The communist party of Nepal wants to have good relationship with China

India Nepal relation has become a little bit problematic during the Ukraine Crisis. As India abstained in the issue while Nepal voted in the favor of Ukraine, which brought America close to Nepal.

With the recent visit of the Chinese foreign minister to Nepal it can be easily understood that the Nepal Chinese affection is deep which can be seen easily in the matter of anti-MCC campaign, US financial and investment activities in Nepal. India will never want to see other power/countries activities in Nepal

Present Nepal is a new Nepal and Nepal showed that however he is ready to work with India but It does not mean he will maintain its relation with China and America under the pressure of India . India should have maintain good relationship with Nepal because Nepal id the strategically most important country for the India.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

CONCLUSION

As per the above discussion, it is expected that the coming visit of the Nepalese prime minister will open the new chapter of India Nepal relationship and it is hoped that the bilateral relationship between Indian and Nepal would be stronger . For India , Nepal is not only strategically important but also India has its cultural affection with Nepal.

Source : The Hindu (Editorial)

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Significance and implications of the Resolution passed by Punjab Assembly regarding the transfer of Chandigarh : A Critical analysis in special reference to the constitutional provisions

SIGNIFICANCE AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE RESOLUTION PASSED BY PUNJAB ASSEMBLY REGARDING THE TRANSFER OF CHANDIGARH : TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Context : The Punjab State Assembly on 1st April 2022 unanimously passed a resolution to immediately transfer union territory of Chandigarh — the joint capital of Punjab and Haryana, to Punjab. The position of Chandigarh had been disputed for a long time. Before 1966, the Chandigarh had been administered by the Punjab government and was the integral part of the undivided Punjab

Today Current Affairs

INTRODUCTION

- Chandigarh is the only planned town in India of International fame. It is glorified for its urban planning and architecture on an international level. Now this beautiful town has been the subject of dispute and debate after the move of the central government to interfere in the service rule of the employees of Chandigarh .
- In fact, our honorable home minister Mr Amit Shah has inaugurated many city projects

and announced the changes regarding the implementation of the central civil service rules on the Chandigarh Administration employees despite the huge opposition of the Punjab government .

- After this notification, however, the employees of the Chandigarh (Approx. 16000) would be benefited with the service rules and conditions of the central government but it was seen as the interference of the central government in the rights of the Punjab government. Earlier the rule of the Punjab government were implemented on the employees of Chandigarh . And before 1966, Chandigarh had been a part of Punjab. The move of the central government paved the way for new conflict between Punjab and the central
- After the big defeat of the BJP (Central Ruling Party), this move of the central government is seen as the political revenge but anyhow, politics should not be done if it hampers the unity and integrity of India. Federalism is the soul of India and It must be resected and strengthened.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION REGARDING THE RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE STATE : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- India is the union of the state and continuously tending towards more federalism . Any country of diversified culture could be administered by maximum federalism . Federalism is the strength of India as a nation . There are three separate lists in the Indian constitution, state list, central list and the concurrent list. State is empowered to make laws on the subjects of the state list . But through, any resolution passed by the state assemble with 2/3rd majority , central is empowered to legislate with respect to a matter in the State List in the national interest (Article of Indian Constitution 249)
- In parliament , Rajya Sabha is the representative of the State. Ideally, Rajya Sabha should raise any issue related to the interest of the state or any issue passed through the resolution by the state assembly.
- If Punjab passes any resolution unanimously from the assembly, definitely it should not be ignored by the parliament . It should be raised for debate in both houses of the parliament. Ignorance of the voice of Punjab Assembly would be the ignorance of the voice of Punjabi people which would spread wrong message among the public , and further be caused a threat for the national unity and integrity.

STATUS OF CHANDIGARH FOR HARYANA AND PUNJAB : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Presently Chandigarh is ruled directly by the parliament of India but it is the capital of Haryana and Punjab both states . It has its own municipal corporation which acts as local governing authority of Chandigarh

Before 1966, Chandigarh was the capital of Punjab . After the division of Punjab, both the states, Haryana and Punjab claimed Chandigarh. Therefore central government made it UTs (Under Section 4 of the Punjab Reorganization Act, 1966, with effect from 1 November 1966)

Under the provisions of this Act, the laws in force in the erstwhile State of Punjab prior to 1 November 1966, continue to be applicable to the Union Territory of Chandigarh. But nowadays, it seems that the central government is continuously encroaching towards the rights of the Punjab Government. After the Punjab accord 1966, the Governor of the Punjab would be the commissioner of Chandigarh . Under the terms of the 1986 Punjab Accord, the entire union territory was to become part of Punjab, whereas the agriculturally productive, mostly Hindi-speaking areas of Fazilka and Abohar, both in Punjab, were to be transferred to Haryana; by the early 21st century, however, this plan had yet to come to fruition.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

CONCLUSION :

India is a very beautiful bouquet (Nation/ Country) of flowers of different colors (States) . Each and every flower has its own importance and significance . The strength of this bouquet is the multicolored flowers . The owner / protector/ gardener of the bouquet (central Government and the public) should very carefully strengthen and flourish all those multi-colored flowers separately . Unnecessarily , nothing should be done which hampers the integrity and unity of India only for political ambitions . Integrity and unity of India is far more important in comparison to any other big political achievement. Therefore, if any resolution is passed by any state government, the Rajya Sabha, being the representative of the states in parliament, must raise the issue for further discussion.

Source : The Hindu (Editorial)

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

One Rank, One Pension (OROP) Scheme

ONE RANK, ONE PENSION (OROP) SCHEME – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Why in News?

The central government's decision on One Rank, One Pension (OROP) for defence forces has been upheld by the Supreme Court.

Today Current Affairs

ABOUT OROP:

- A uniform pension has been provided to the defence forces personnel retiring in the same rank having the same length of service, irrespective of their retirement date.
- The decision to implement OROP was taken by the Government of India in 2015, and

the benefits for the same to be effective from 1st July, 2014.

- It has been done to bridge the gap between the rates of pension of the current and past pensioners at periodic intervals.
- The Pension of the past pensioners would be fixed on the basis of pension of retirees of calendar year 2013.
- For all pensioners the Pension will be re-fixed based on the average minimum and maximum pension of personnel retired in 2013 in the same rank and with the same length of service.
- The Pension of all those shall be protected who are drawing above the average.
- As far as the arrears are concerned, they are supposed to be paid in four equal half yearly installments.
- The persons of family pensioners including those who receive Special and Liberalized family pension and Gallantry award winners to be paid arrears in one installment.
- The pension to be re-fixed every 5 years.
- The Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare, Ministry of Defence will be acting as the Nodal Implementation Agency.
- The OROP is not paid as a separate element as it is an integrated part of pension.

ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH THE SCHEME : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- The Grant of full OROP will bloat the government's pension bill.
- There exists issues in passing all the benefits.
- It may lead to similar demands from other government employees, especially paramilitary forces.

ABOUT THE OROP CASE : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- According to the petitioners in the course of implementation, the OROP principle has been replaced by 'one rank multiple pensions' for persons with the same length of service.
- They also argued that the initial definition of the OROP was altered and instead of an automatic revision of the rates of pension, the revision now would take place at periodic intervals. Today Current Affairs
- Moving from automatic revision is arbitrary and unconstitutional under Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution.
- According to the government , both 'same rank' and 'same length of service' were necessary conditions for availing OROP benefits.
- Rejecting the argument, the Supreme Court held that "OROP definition is not arbitrary". The Hindu Analysis
- It said that the definition of the OROP is uniformly applicable to all pensioners irrespective of the date of retirement and the cut-off date is used only to determine the base salary for

the calculation of pension.

- Further it went into the “principles governing pensions and cut-off dates” and said there is not a legal mandate that pensioners who held the same rank must be given the same amount of pension.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Considering all the above provisions it can be concluded that the people below the average were brought up to the average mark whereas those withdrawing above average will be protected and further such a decision lies within the policy choices..

Vivek Raj

Issue of credibility with CBI

ISSUE OF CREDIBILITY WITH CBI – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Why in News?

The Chief justice of India has said that with passage of time like any other agency, the Central Bureau of Investigation had also come under deep public scrutiny.

Today Current Affairs

About CBI

- The CBI traces its origin to the Special Police Establishment (SPE), a Central Government Police force, which was set up in 1941 by the Government of India to investigate bribery and corruption cases with the War and the Supply Department of India.
- It is the apex investigating agency in India which operates under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and pensions.
- It is known to investigate economic crimes, special crimes, cases of corruption and among other cases.

CJI said that we have a vested interest in strengthening democracy, because we essentially believe in democratic way of living. We Indians love our freedom. When an attempt has been made to take away our freedom, we do not hesitate to seize the power back from autocrats. So it is important that all the institutions including the police and the investigation agencies uphold and strengthen the democratic values.

IT HAS BEEN SAID BY THE CJI IN THE CONTEXT OF EMERGING CHALLENGES WITH THE CBI LIKE: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

1. The CBI has been criticized by the Supreme Court as the caged parrot due to excessive political interference in its functioning, as it has been used by the governments of the day for their benefits and against the opponents.
2. Due to the excessive political interference CBI has lost Credibility over the years.
3. As CBI is exempted from the provisions of the Right to Information Act, it has lacked accountability.
4. Lack of personnel is another issue as the government has tremendously failed in managing and regularizing the CBI workforce.
5. The powers of CBI have been limited by the fact that in order to start the investigation process, it needs to take the consent of the concerned state government and prior approval of the central government is required to conduct inquiry on the employees of central government above the joint secretary level.

SO CONSIDERING ALL THESE CHALLENGES CJI HAS MADE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS AMONG OTHERS: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

1. The police and the probe agencies should not allow any authoritarian tendencies to interfere and they should function as per the democratic norms mentioned in the constitution.
2. There should be efforts to make CBI independent with well defined roles and responsibilities.
3. Further CBI should be headed by an independent and impartial authority, appointed by a committee similar to the one which appointed CBI Director.
4. It recommended the appointment of some deputies to assist the director.
5. It called for the umbrella organization to avoid the cases where single cases were investigated by the multiple agencies.
6. In this regard twenty fourth report of Department related parliamentary standing committee on personnel, public grievances, law and justice on working of CBI recommended the following:
 - Increasing strength of CBI by way of recruitment and making it independent
 - More investment in strengthening infrastructural facilities.
 - Improving financial resources and administrative accountability.
 - There should be separate enactment under the CBI and Investigation Act and replace DSPE Act.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Considering the issues associated with the investigating agency, the government of India should try to implement all the recommendations at the earliest so that we may be able to

have a better, strengthened and empowered investigation agency in our country

Vivek Raj

INDIAN TELECOM INDUSTRY

Context :

The number of telecom carriers have either reduced or consolidated because of two reasons – hypercompetition and changing nature of telecom services. Giants like Vodafone, even after mergers with Idea, are continuously signaling distress and going on the path of insolvency. In September 2021, the Government of India (GoI), stepped in by giving a four-year reprieve to these firms from paying adjusted gross revenue (AGR)-related dues. The moratorium period is expected to provide the firms time to transform and restructure to get into a revenue positive situation. A market duopoly would be less likely if the operators concentrated on restructuring and profitability.

Today Current Affairs

The government also crafted a few more policy initiatives to increase the profitability of telecom firms, which were (i) allowing 100% foreign direct investment (FDI) in the telecom sector through the automatic route, which was earlier 49%; (ii) spectrum auctions in the future will be for a period of 30 years instead of the current 20 years, and that the spectrum can be surrendered after completing a 10-year lock-in period from the date of purchase; sharing of the spectrum is being promoted by removing the spectrum usage charge (SUC) of 0.5% for spectrum sharing; and (iii) the government had also offered the operators the option to convert the interest amount pertaining to the moratorium period into equity. The Hindu Analysis In January 2022, a cash-strapped Vodafone Idea chose to exercise the third policy initiative option and converted `16,000 crore in deferred spectrum and AGR into government equity. As part of the rescue package, with this deal, the government will hold 35.8% of the shares of the company till its resurgence. With this arrangement, Vodafone's stake will fall from 44% to 28.5%, while Aditya Birla's will fall from 27.7% to 17.8%. Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) had also expressed its willingness to go ahead with conversion of the full amount of such interest related to the AGR dues into equity but has withdrawn from the offer after noting that the amount was much less than what it had initially calculated. To increase the telecom penetration in rural areas, the GoI in the budget for financial year 2022–23 increased the budget of the Ministry of Communications by 137% for financial year 2022–23, totalling to `84,587 crore with a major portion of `54,150.4 crore allocated towards capital expenditure—an increase of about nine times from the previous year. This would also help the Indian telecom service firms to increase their profitability. The Hindu Analysis To keep pace with global telecom technology, 5G spectrum auctions will be held in 2022 for service launch in financial year 2022–23. In the March 2021 auctions, a total of 63%

of the available spectrum remained unsold, which drew offers of nearly `77,800 crore. To build a strong ecosystem for 5G, a design-led manufacturing scheme is to be launched as a part of the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme. A provision of `528 crore has been made to promote telecom and networking products manufacturing in India. Approximately, 5% of the yearly Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) receipts have been allocated to encourage research and development, commercialisation, and technology proliferation in rural India. The 5% of the USOF layout may help indigenous, niche businesses developing technologies such as the Open Radio Access Network (O-RAN), private networks, and tiny cells. It is hoped that the supportive policies of the government will suit the telecom sector and help the Indian telecom come out of its constrained margins. The government needs to focus more on ecosystem development, which includes digitalising the health infrastructure, commissioning smart cities, giving hardware manufacturing PLIs advantage, and providing digital education and access. Ecosystem investment coupled with service and manufacturing industry adsorptive capacity, positive demography increasing consumption will boost the adaptability of 5G and make it a good feasible investment.

Ritu

The logo for PLUTUS IAS is displayed within a laptop-like frame. The word "PLUTUS" is written in large, bold, grey capital letters at the top. Below it, the words "India's nuclear doctrine" are written in a smaller, blue font. At the bottom of the frame, the letters "IAS" are written in a large, grey, semi-transparent font.

PLUTUS India's nuclear doctrine IAS

INDIA'S NUCLEAR DOCTRINE – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Recently, Russia raised the alert level for its nuclear forces in response to what it called the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) provocations. These events have relevance for India as, in the 21st century, Russia changed its nuclear doctrine periodically to cater for weaknesses in its conventional military forces. It is therefore essential for India to examine the robustness of its nuclear strategy, especially as our “no-first use” (NFU) doctrine was conceived as an idealistic measure to lower the possibility of a nuclear war with

Today Current Affairs

Deterrence Theory

Deterrence theory (Deterrence is a strategy that stops the adversary from doing something that you do not want him to do by making him believe that the cost of action would be far greater than any benefit he would make.), is criticised for its assumptions about opponent rationales: first, it is argued that deterrence may not deter suicidal or psychopathic opponents. Second, diplomatic misunderstandings and/or opposing political ideologies may lead to escalating mutual perceptions of threat and a subsequent arms race, which elevates the risk of actual war. An arms race is inefficient in its optimal output, as all the countries involved

expend excess resources. A military build-up increases a country's risks of budget deficits.

SURVIVABILITY OF NUCLEAR ASSETS : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

India's nuclear doctrine calls for a credible minimum deterrence. The doctrine suggests that India's strategic forces be based on a triad of aircraft, mobile land-based missiles and sea-based assets. These assets would need to be survivable and viable. It is a well-known fact that only the sea-based deterrent is relatively survivable, and this is a common thread running in all overtly nuclear countries. The United Kingdom's (UK) nuclear deterrent is only based on submarines. Consequently, India had no alternative but to focus on a credible sea-based deterrent

CONSTRAINTS OF THE SEA-BASED DETERRENT : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

However, more than two decades later, India is not only constrained by the limited availability of the Submersible Ship Ballistic Missile Nuclear (SSBN) but also a submarine-launched ballistic missile K-15 of insufficient range (restricted to 700 kilometres [km]). Therefore, the SSBN needs to be deployed relatively closer to an enemy coast to cater for any threats. Thus, they cannot be deployed in the "bastion" concept (protected by their own forces in a layered defence concept) near their operating base and need the protection of an SSN. Presently, only Indian navy ship (INS) Arihant is available, and INS Arighat (S3) is yet to be commissioned, possibly due to the COVID-19 pandemic (Bhattacharjee 2022; Bedi 2021b). It was reported by the Janes Defence Weekly that the third SSBN designated as S4 was launched quietly on 23 November 2021. This submarine is expected to carry eight K-4 (range 3,500 km) or 24 K-15 SLBMs. There are reports that the K-4 has been productionised after only about six launches , though it has taken years for such systems to be proven in other advanced navies.

The K-4 would permit launch to targets in China and Pakistan mainly from the northern part of the Bay of Bengal. It is also relevant to mention that if we consider China as a threat, the missile needs to reach about 6,000 km as Beijing and Shanghai are about 5,000 km and 5,200 km, respectively, from Karwar naval base on the west coast. The reason for this is that if the SSBN is located on the west coast, there is a greater chance of survivability as both Visakhapatnam and the upcoming submarine base on the east coast are likely to be targeted in the initial stages of a conflict. Irrespective of the nature of the threat, since China was the first nation to declare an unconditional NFU policy, the greater the range of the missile, the greater will be the flexibility in the SSBN's deployment. Here, it must also be mentioned that for one SSBN to be deployed, there needs to be at least two other SSBNs available (one under a short maintenance period and the other in a long maintenance overhaul), or a ratio of 1:3. The same rule applies to SSNs as well.

According to media reports, the indigenous SSN programme is yet to receive CCS approval.

If we take the example of INS Arihant, it took 19 years from the date of government approval in 1997 to commissioning the SSBN in 2016 . So, realistically, a figure of 20 years would be required for the first indigenous SSN to be commissioned from the time of CCS approval, notwithstanding the claims of 10 years as reported in the media . This is around the same estimate for the AUKUS programme, where the first SSN is likely to be available by 2040. Thus, India needs to progress on a fast track, both for the development of a credible long-range missile for its SSBNs as well as for the development of the indigenous SSNs..

RUSSIA'S NUCLEAR DOCTRINE : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Russia decided to give primacy to nuclear weapons in the 21st century to deter and manage escalation in conflicts that threaten its existence. This is due to the issue of conventional inferiority in a conflict with an enemy; for instance, the NATO. For Russia, the nuclear threat is a relevant escalation-management tool if it has utilized available conventional means, even in case of the possibility of a nuclear war (Arms Control Association 2020). The document released in 2020 reserves the right of Russia to use nuclear weapons in four scenarios.

The two additional scenarios contained in the 2020 document include:

The Russian nuclear doctrine distinctly expresses a willingness to risk further escalation, taking into account its threat perception and military forces. However, not all Western experts agree with this view, and others state that it is defensive and will be only in response to an existential threat. It may be argued that this policy has also deterred NATO's direct involvement in Ukraine, though the Western mainstream media has sought to characterize President Vladimir Putin's announcement of increasing the alert levels of Russian nuclear deterrence forces as irrational. Consequently, it may be relevant for India's policymakers to examine Russia's doctrine and use it as a guideline for modifications of India's own strategy.

US STRATEGIC POSTURE REVIEW : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The review of the long-term strategic posture of the US is done periodically by a commission appointed by the National Defence Authorization Act (NDAA). This encompasses a comprehensive assessment of threats, a reassessment of the nuclear weapon's policy and doctrine, recommendations regarding the most appropriate nuclear posture and an optimum nuclear weapon's policy and strategy. The last Nuclear Posture Review (NPR) report was submitted in 2018 and stated that the US nuclear forces contribute to the deterrence of both nuclear and non-nuclear attacks, assurance of allies, achievement of the US goals, if deterrence fails, and the capability to cater for an uncertain future. The report also laid out a plan for the modernisation of nuclear forces, including the reintroduction of submarine-launch cruise missiles with nuclear capabilities that had been phased out earlier.

KEY ELEMENTS OF NUCLEAR DETERRENT POLICY : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

India must, therefore, design a nuclear policy to cope with all existing threats and maintain a nuclear strategy that is in keeping with its long-term national security interests. Three key elements must be included in such a policy and strategy. First, India must have a pragmatic and prudent nuclear force structure that can deter adversaries with proven nuclear weapons capability (Kristensen and Korda 2021b, 2021c). An NPR should periodically review the force structure (Figure 1) by an independent body of experts with representatives who have had domain experience in the Department of Atomic Energy, Bhabha Atomic Research Center (BARC), Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO), Ministry of Defense, Service Headquarters and Strategic Forces Command.

This NPR Committee, appointed by the Prime Minister, would be mandated to periodically review (at least once in five years) the doctrine, strategic targeting policy, force structure, command and control structure, survivability and personnel management of the Indian nuclear deterrent in keeping with the dynamics of the geopolitical environment. This body would then submit its report to the National Security Advisor, who would convene a meeting of the executive council to examine the report. This executive council, along with the NPR Committee, would then brief the political council headed by the Prime Minister. The political council could finally issue a nuclear policy guideline framework, which the executive council would implement.

Second, India must ensure that it does not enter into arms control agreements that impinge on India's nuclear strategy or undermine its deterrence abilities. Third, India must ensure that its technological competencies and strategies are in keeping with those of the nuclear weapons states in its neighborhood. Finally, notwithstanding the odds and skeptics, there is a need to progress a nuclear NFU treaty and nuclear confidence-building measures (CBMs) with both Pakistan and China. In this regard, the New Security Policy issued by Pakistan and the reiteration of China's NFU policy are welcome steps that would aid this process. This would act as a hedge against the existing weakness of India's NFU policy.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

In Conclusion

It would be relevant to recall Henry Kissinger's (1957) words that "It is important to distinguish ... between the possession of nuclear weapons and their strategic effectiveness." The last official announcement regarding a modification to India's NFU policy was made in 2003, and since then, the geopolitical environment and nuclear doctrines of nuclear powers have also seen changes. The concept of recessed deterrence constrains the readiness of India's nuclear

forces. Therefore, India's nuclear doctrine needs to be modified after an NPR. India should reserve the right to resume testing and also for first use against a nuclear weapon power in case of a threat to its existence. Developing a truly long-range submarine-launched ballistic missile is essential to ensure credible minimum deterrence.

In the interim, India has no alternative but to protect its limited fleet of SSBNs by SSNs. For that, the force levels of SSNs need to be catered for as an indigenous programme, which is unlikely to materialize before 2040. Indian military planners need to be conscious of budgetary constraints while preparing wish lists. Conventional military forces may need to be downsized to cater to the increased expenditure in developing a credible and robust nuclear deterrent.

Ritu

VERDICT ON HIJAB

One of the primary contentions against wearing hijabs was the violation of the institution and the state's "livery" policy. Still, to check whether this practice of wearing a hijab contravenes with such a policy, it's important to note its explanation. It's presumably to remove the signs of class inequality or avoid fresh fiscal pressures. The object behind a livery might also be to produce a sense of belongingness and association with the academy, but association with academy as an organization and a group doesn't mean the handover of one's other associations. However, it's delicate to imagine why a religious group is any different, If the academy as a group has the right to choose how people associate with it should dress. And if both groups have this right, it's unclear why they can not attend. The academy policy can achieve its purpose by calling its livery, without banning the clothes one chooses to wear as a part of their right to association, as long as it doesn't disrupt uniformity in colors or isn't an expression of class inequality, etc. In India, this practice is formerly followed in the case of other religious apparel like Sikh turbans, which are frequently brought within the dimension of the academy livery by defining a color.

Another detriment contended by the state was that the wearing of hijab would "offend the tenets of mortal quality inasmuch as the practice robs down the individual choice of Muslim women." This argument easily arises out of the wide notion of detriment to women as a group, as the religious rule can be considered discriminatory coercive. It's frequently considered veritably satisfying that indeed if the woman considers wearing a hijab as a choice, the choice is mandated by patriarchal sundries. I believe this argument lies in the misconceived supposition of choice in other forms of apparel morals for women. The detriment then lies in the social generality of

the relationship between clothes and “modesty.” “Modesty” isn’t essential. We aren’t born feeling a need to cover up certain body corridors. The generality of modesty is always external through religious or societal morals. Further, in a patriarchal world, a woman’s “modesty” is inescapably defined else from a man’s.

Actually, this is a dangerous notion, but the detriment is the same whether the modesty is confined within the woman’s legs, her hair, or any other body part. I, as a woman raised by an orthodox family, may believe that it’s free to show my legs, or may simply not be used to it. It may make me uncomfortable to leave them uncovered. Some may argue that this is forced on me by my family/ society indeed if I believe it to be a choice. As a norm only assessed on women, it may be considered accumulative and patriarchal as well. Still, would this make it fair for my academy to force me to wear films in retribution to these patriarchal morals? If the norm of modesty and immodesty arises in an environment where immodesty threatens my sense of comfort, would removing the expedient I take to stay modest resolve the issue itself? Confining a woman’s means to deal with the societal issue, indeed if it arises out of her belief in religious/ societal “accumulative” morals, would in no way break the beginning problem that this verdict seeks to punctuate.

Also, the practice of wearing a hijab traditionally arises out of the generality of modesty associated with a woman’s hair/ upperbody. However, so should my practice of wearing full pants due to a norm that deems it unhappy for me to not do the same, if this is considered dangerous. While some may indeed believe that wearing shorter clothes may be a sign of liberalization, strongly denying entry or education to any woman for not wearing short clothes would sound absurd to nearly everyone, and it’s inconsistent for the same response to not be present in the case of the forceful junking of hijabs. Therefore, indeed if the choice/ compulsion argument assesses detriment rightly, it ignores its equal operation to nearly every form of “modest” apparel and comes up with a disproportional and fallacious result to the detriment, inaptly and unjustly penalizing the woman rather.

Ritu

Virtual Water Trade

“Third world war will be fought for water”

The concept of virtual water is more important now than ever since it helps realize the illusion of food security and water, despite sufficient evidence that there are inadequate water resources to sustain national economies.

Virtual water refers to the water contained in fiber, food (any agricultural product), and non-food commodities such as energy.

Let us understand what is virtual water with the help of a simple example:

Consider that to produce one tonne of wheat, close to 1,300 cubic meters of water is required. When a country imports this tonne of wheat grains, it can use the existing indigenous water it saves for other purposes instead. However, if the exporting country is water-scarce, the shipped virtual water will be no longer available for other purposes.

What is Virtual Water Trade?

The concept was introduced by Tony Allan in 1993. Virtual water trade exactly means what the name implies – the import and export of ‘hidden’ water present in various products, such as textiles, machinery, livestock, and crops. All these require water inevitably for their production.

Virtual water trade is now a globally relevant topic, especially when nations are struggling with the consequences of climate change. China, historically, has been a net importer of virtual water. On the other hand, India’s exports are highly water-intensive due to its large variety of agricultural exports. As a result, it puts water sustainability at significant risk.

Virtual Water Trade and India:

- International:
 - India is a net virtual water exporter, because of export of agricultural commodities.
 - India exported 26 billion liters of VW every year between 2006-2016
- Inter-state:
 - Punjab and Haryana are water stressed.
 - Still, water-intensive crops like rice are grown there.
 - These crops are sent to North-East India.
 - But, NE states have better agro-climatic conditions to grow rice.

Benefits of framing a virtual water trade policy?

- a) Awareness about water footprint will increase.
- b) India can save precious fresh water for drinking purposes.
- c) Reduce pressure on scarce water resources in water stressed areas.
- d) Reduce the need for river interlinking (expensive financially and environmentally)

Challenges:

- a) Estimating the quantity of virtual water is difficult.
- b) Estimating movement of water-intensive products.
- c) Convincing farmers to change cropping patterns permanently.

Way forward:

- Create awareness about water footprint.
 - Review the MSP and FRP regime which encourages water-intensive rice and sugarcane production.
 - Improve farming methods: micro-irrigation; mulching; direct seeding of rice.
- ✓ To grow 1 kg rice, India needs 3,000 liter water; USA only 1,200 liters.
- ✓ To grow 1 kg cotton, India needs 8,000 liters of water ; China only 1,500 liters.
- Discourage export of water-intensive crops:
- ✓ Israel discourages export of water intensive crops like oranges. Israel has net virtual water import.
- Encourage import of water-intensive crops:
- ✓ China is conserving water by importing water intensive crops like Soya.
- Overseas contract farming to import water intensive crops:
- ✓ 1,300 Chinese companies have overseas investment in Agriculture. Five-fold increase between 2010-2016.

Ritu

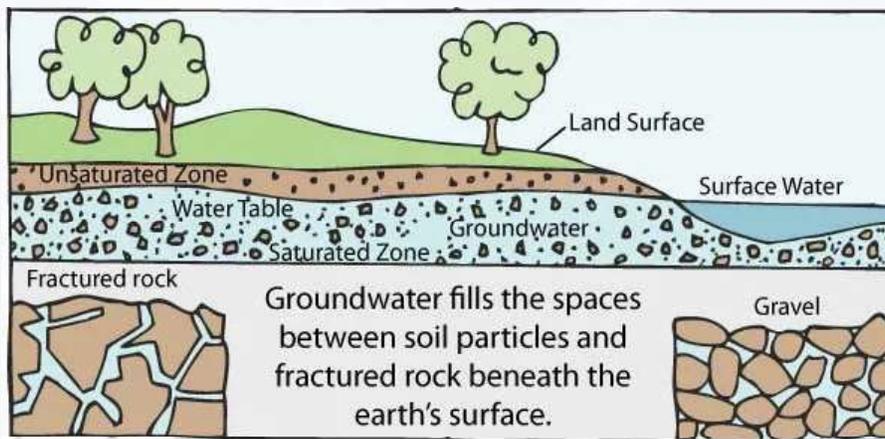
Groundwater : An essentiality of its conservation for our survival

GROUNDWATER – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Context : The world is celebrating World Water Day (March 22) . The theme of the world Water day is 'Groundwater: Making the Invisible Visible'. The significance of groundwater is not only in the form of the availability of drinking water and irrigation requirements but also it protects us from several natural disasters like drought

Today Current Affairs

Introduction



Groundwater is the water found underground in the cracks and spaces in soil, sand and rock. It is stored and can be used for drinking and irrigation purposes. Approximately 30 % of the world's freshwater is groundwater . For several years it has been observed that we are continuously exploiting this groundwater and the level of ground water is continuously decreasing . There must be some approach to recharge ground water from time to time so that we could protect us from the problems due to scarcity of the water in future . The primary focus is to draw attention to the role of groundwater in water and sanitation systems, agriculture, industry, ecosystems, and climate change adaptation. Ground water help us to catering the needs of arid and semiarid regions

Generally the importance of groundwater is still not understood very well by our policy makers . This is the only reason for the continuous decrease of the ground water level however our dependence on ground water is continuously increasing . There are serious issues of depletion of stored groundwater and deterioration of quality.

Because of global warming, there is a big threat to water security. However several conference

international levels were organized where the concern regarding the conservation of the ground water level were shown but in view of policy making and its implementation its is still approximately negligible . The international conference on 'Groundwater, Key to the Sustainable Development Goals' (May 2022) and the UN-Water Summit on Groundwater (December 2022) are part of global initiatives to highlight the significance of groundwater in sustainable development.

If we talk about India . Our country is the largest user of groundwater in the world. We generally use almost 89% of the ground water for only agricultural purposes and the rest 9 % for domestic use and 2 % for industrial use. Thus we see there are some regions in India where , with the use of power and technology, groundwater is continuously extracting without keeping in mind the concept of sustainable development

EXTRACTION VALUE : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

We can extract the groundwater below to 70 % of its availability annually. The use of the ground water annually is given the term extraction value . As per the Central Ground Water Board, the extraction value must be below 70% . If we see the available data provided by the government we observe that the use or extraction of the groundwater level was almost fine up to the year of 2017. It was 63 % . However it increased from 2004 (58 %). However some states of India , had crossed the limit of extraction rate (70 %) like Punjab, Rajasthan, Haryana, Delhi, Chandigarh, Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Puducherry . The date of 202 districts of 22 states /UTs are more dangerous with the extraction rate ranging from 71 % to 385 % . We must be very concerned in this regard . Our policy makers (NITI AYO) have set a goal to bring down this extraction rate up to 70 % up to 2030 in those regions where it is more.

Beside the extraction rate, equity of the extracted water should also be the issue of the concern. In some districts of India , in ground water we see the accessibility of . Fluoride, iron, salinity, nitrate, and arsenic which are dangerous for our health . As many as 335 districts reported nitrate pollution compared to 109 in 2006. Therefore we must change our approach to reduce the extraction rate as well as to ensure the quality of groundwater

NEW APPROACH : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Current approach is dealing with surface water and groundwater independently. This approach has several limitations as described by the Mihir Shah Committee (2016) that the Central Water Commission and the Central Ground Water Board so that a water policy at national level could be formed unanimously . At the national level many policies are needed regarding how to recharge our ground water from rain water . We must make several different policies

for soil water , surface water

Government must reestablish connections between surface and groundwater systems. The policy makers should use the local area approach that will involve revisiting the present groundwater estimations process, large-scale aquifer mapping, linking aquifers with river basin/watershed boundaries, hydrogeomorphology analysis, and factoring land uses and human-induced changes in the water system.

Policy makers must collect the data regarding cropping pattern crop intensity with groundwater availability, aquifer type, and the present state of groundwater extraction at the farm and accordingly make the plan to minimize the extraction rate

In present days , for the irrigation purpose there is subsidized electricity which generally encourages the farmers to maximum extraction of the groundwater which must be regularized and the parallel government should ensure the recharging of the ground water during the time of rainy seasons for those areas also .

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

CONCLUSION

As per the above discussion , we see the significance of groundwater . We are extracting groundwater without keeping it in our mind for the future. The extraction of water is necessary for irrigation but the arrangement of its recharging during the rainy season must be our duty . groundwater management is the socio-ecological challenge which could be addressed through the awareness of the community .

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

India's 400 Billion Dollar Exports Record

INDIA'S 400 BILLION DOLLAR EXPORTS RECORD – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

The value of India's exports in the financial year 2021-22 hit 400 billion dollars which would translate into a growth of about 41% from the pandemic-hit year of 2020-21

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

How significant is the attainment of India's 400 billion dollar exports target?

- According to data from the RBI, outbound merchandise trade had clocked 330.1 billion dollars in 2018-19 before slipping to 313.4 billion dollars in 2019-20.
- India's achievement of a 400 billion dollar export target refers to exports of only the goods, and does not include services.

REASONS FOR ACHIEVING THE 400 BILLION DOLLAR EXPORTS TARGET : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Diversification of procurement- The world is shifting its global procurement preferences to diversify their dependence on China- Australia, which is in a trade battle with China, has made way for India taking exports up 94% this year.
- Higher prices- The higher prices of commodities and oil helped drive up the value of exports, with petroleum products exports jumping over 141%.
- Domestic sector growth- Some of India's industrial sectors performed as well, for instance, engineering exports have jumped 46.5% to cross 100 billion dollars for the first time.

WHAT DOES THE \$400 BILLION NUMBER HIDE? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Low levels of exports as a percentage of GDP- In absolute terms, India's merchandise exports had reached the 305 billion dollar mark in 2011-12 which was 17% of India's GDP at that time. Since then the weakness of India's export performance over GDP growth can be seen.
- Low base effect- What made this surge in exports even more relevant was the fact that it is coming after two years of contraction (in 2020 and 2021). The same happened in the immediate aftermath of the Global Financial Crisis of 2009.
- An outlier in the recent trend- In the past 10 financial years, India's exports have contracted on five occasions but the recovery wasn't as sharp. This year's sharp recovery is thus an outlier and begs the question of whether it is an outlier in the recent trend.
- Not a broad-based recovery- Most of the commodity groups (chemicals and products, agriculture) grew at a rate lower than the overall average. The 400 billion dollar figure essentially refers to the value of exports and doesn't say anything about the contribution of volume increase.
- Worries over global growth, inflation and demand for India's exports- The government has asserted that this jump in exports is a result of a detailed strategy which targeted specific countries for specific exports

WHAT ARE THE RISK FACTORS FOR INDIAN EXPORTS IN THE COMING YEAR? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- It is expected that the rupee will weaken over 2022-23, which in turn could be a minor perk for exporters.
- The Ukraine-Russia conflict may create some more opportunities for Indian farm produce exports, especially for crops like wheat and maize.
- But this would be compensated by a sharp rise in India's energy import bill as well as increase in costs of importing edible oils whose production is dominated by the two nations at war.
- There is a possibility for 'term-of-trade' shock, with elevated trade and current account deficits and sustained pressure on the rupee.
- The high shipping rates, container shortages and re-alignment of trade routes around the Black Sea will pose a challenge.
- Need of the hour- A swift conclusion of Free Trade Agreement pacts with countries like the U.K., Australia and Canada, could create easier market access in these large markets

Ritu

Feasibility of the path of mediation between Ukraine and Russia: An Analysis in special context to appeal of Russian Foreign minister

FEASIBILITY OF THE PATH OF MEDIATION BETWEEN UKRAINE AND RUSSIA – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Context : During the visit of the Russian Foreign minister last week , Russian Foreign minister indicated that Russia is ready to stop war if India would bring any proposals through which Russia's security concern could be addressed . Russia will accept the mediation of India . Similar signs were given by Ukraine that India must interfere in This war . And Even India has also been many times stating that , war is not the solution of any problem, the solution must be searched for in the peace.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

INTRODUCTION:

Almost , more than 1 month has been passed of Russia Ukrainian war and despite huge

economic sanction neither Russia stopped invasions and nor Ukraine has surrendered despite thousand of the soldiers and Civilians of Ukraine have been Killed . In the meantime, officials of many big countries like America (deputy NSA), Russia, Israel have visited India or are planning to visit India very soon . India has shown its clear stands during the Ukraine Russian conflict .

After a long time , Russia had declared full fledged war against Ukraine after 1994, Despite peace talks held on March 29, in Istanbul (Turkey), direct negotiations between the conflicting parties have failed to make much progress. A complete cease fire is yet to be achieved .

In such a situation , Russia is facing huge economic sanctions on itself and facing the economical crisis . The inflation in Russia has risen up to more than 15 % .The Russian Central Bank's forex reserves remain frozen and it cannot access financing and loans from multilateral institutions.

In such a situation , is it reasonable to think whether the war could be ended without any clear result? Whether Russia would be ready to stop the war without making sure about his security concerns from the side of Ukraine and whether India could pressurize Russia to stop the war without addressing her security concerns.

WHY PAST NEGOTIATIONS HAVE FAILED : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Several past negotiations between Russia and Ukraine have been held either in Belarus or in Turkey. The reason behind the failure was that both the parties were not focusing on the real issue , they were focusing on the status of Donetsk and Luhansk, which would be independent or not. While the real concern was how to ensure the security for Russia from the side of Ukraine . The secret elements of the security concerns of Russia must be found and on the ground of these issues a peace talk between Ukraine and Russia may be conducted through the mediation of India .
- India is in a very good position to play his role as the Vishwa Guru . The mediation for establishment of the peace is legally validated by the UNO also. Since both the parties Russia and Ukraine are ready to accept mediation by India.

Therefore India should accept their proposal but still there are some precaution which must be followed by India

- India should not initiate any proposal of mediation . After appeal of the both the parties India should accept the mediation and without any fear or favor India should work for the establishment of peace
- India should declare that in bilateral relations, it has always been against mediation but after insisting by both the parties and for world peace and prosperity and humanism , India is mediating .
- India should one side ensuring the security concern of the Russia on other side India must

focusing on the unity, integrity and sovereignty of the Ukraine

- India should make clear that in her bilateral issue (Border issue with China and Kashmir issue with Pakistan) , she will not be accepting any proposed mediation.

WHY INDIA MAY BE MOST SUITABLE MEDIATOR FOR BOTH THE COUNTRIES : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- India has been the propagator of peace and harmony for a long time . India was the founder of NAM, an organization of the developing countries keeping equidistant from both the sides. Hence Both the parties Ukraine and Russia must have trust on India's mediation. For the success of the mediation , trust coefficient plays an important role. Western countries can never be mediated because the West will always be slightly inclined toward Ukraine for their own interest. This is the time for India to play a most significant role for the world peace
- Psychologically, during the war, both the countries made an issue of prestige . therefore they have forgotten their real concerns for what they are fighting. India has to find out their secret concern and both the countries, Ukraine and Russia should talk on that discovered secret concern . So that peace and harmony could be established in Europe for long time.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Conclusions

As per the above discussion , it is clear that there is an opportunity for India to play a role of the Vishwa Guru through mediating between Ukraine and Russia. India is the only country of the world who was proposed by both the parties for the mediation . But playing as the role of mediator, India should adopt some precautions.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Prevalence of Manual Scavenging in India

PREVALENCE OF MANUAL SCAVENGING IN INDIA – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Three labourers in Mumbai, allegedly hired for manual scavenging, died after inhaling toxic fumes in a septic tank

Today Current Affairs

- Manual scavenging is the practice of removing human excreta by hand from sewers or septic tanks.

- India banned the practice under the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 (PEMSR).
- The Act bans the use of any individual for manually cleaning, carrying, disposing of or otherwise handling in any manner, human excreta till its disposal.
- In 2013, the definition of manual scavengers was also broadened to include people employed to clean septic tanks, ditches, or railway tracks.
- The Act recognizes manual scavenging as a “dehumanizing practice,” and cites a need to correct the historical injustice and indignity suffered by the manual scavengers.

WHAT DOES THE STATISTIC SAY? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- According to a parliament response from December 2021, a total of 58,098 manual scavengers have been identified as per the criteria laid down in the 2013 act.
- More than 97% of those engaged in manual scavenging are from the SC community.
- The National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK)’s annual report (2019-20) noted that the practice which became prominent due to urbanisation and industrialization is still continuing in both rural and urban areas.
- The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in 2021, held that the claims made by many States that they have zero manual scavengers and zero insanitary latrines are far from the truth.

WHAT REASONS WERE CITED FOR ITS PREVALENCE? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Prevalence of caste-based discrimination and social inequality
- Lack of enforcement of the Act
- Exploitation of unskilled labourers who are cheaper to hire and illegally employed by contractors
- Poor rehabilitation schemes such as one-time cash assistance, skill development training, and subsidies
- Lack of data – NCRB stopped showing the number of cases registered under the Act in its report

WHAT EFFORTS WERE TAKEN TO ERADICATE MANUAL SCAVENGING? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- A Legislations- In 1955, the Protection of Civil Rights Act called for the abolition of scavenging or sweeping on grounds of untouchability which was revised in 1977 for a stricter implementation. Today Current Affairs
- In 1989, the Prevention of Atrocities Act became an important landmark to free manual scavengers from designated traditional occupations.

- The Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993 was enacted to take a stricter stance against employing manual scavengers.
- In 2013, the Parliament passed the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers Act, 2013, with a greater emphasis on mechanisation of sewer cleaning and rehabilitation.
- Financial aid- National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) was established to become an integrated platform to provide financial aid to manual scavengers. Today Current Affairs
- Commission- In 1994, the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK), a statutory body made by the same Act of Parliament, 1993, was established.
- Committees- Several committees such as Kaka Kalelkar Commission, Barve Commission, Pandya Committee (1968), etc. sought recommendations to regulate the service conditions of the manual scavengers.
- Schemes- The centrally sponsored scheme of low cost sanitation for Liberation of Scavengers (ILCS) began from 1980-81 for the conversion of dry toilets into pit toilets through integrated low-cost sanitation scheme. The Hindu Analysis
- Swachh Bharat Abhiyan's declaration of a city / settlement being open defecation-free and building of the toilets helps in complete integration of the sanitation system which includes the structural maintenance of these toilets.

Anshum Verma

Secularism : Necessity for the survival of India as a nation

SECULARISM : NECESSITY FOR THE SURVIVAL OF INDIA AS A NATION – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Context : India is a country of diversified cultures. Pluralism is the fundamental characteristic of India as a Nation . This pluralism is essential for the democratic nature of the Indian State . Only Secularism is an element through which this diversified country would be strengthened as a nation . Secularism for the culturally diversified state is the state has no religion and does not promote any religion

Today Current Affairs

Introduction:

- Recently, some activities of the fundamentalist in Karnataka, Maharashtra and Rajasthan etc are gradually destroying the socio-cultural unity of India . All those fundamental religious activities are sponsored by political parties (in Maharashtra MNS , In karnataka, ABVP). In fact the polarisation of the votes of the majorities in recent elections encouraged the political parties to use this formula for their political success. But this formula of political success would not only hamper the socio religious unity of India but also it would

destroy the democratic element which may be further responsible for communal conflicts in India and further disintegration of India as a nation.

- In this situation , it is the responsibility of our honorable court to check this type of situation constitutionally and thus the responsibility of the civil society and intellectuals and the real patriot and nationalist person not to promote such a type of element could hamper the unity and integrity of India .

POLITICAL DIMENSIONS OF SOME ISSUE/ROWS IN VARIOUS PART OF INDIA : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- The issue of the Hijab is the political and the constitutional issue but the timing of its emergence definitely reflects its political nature. Nowadays the issue of the loudspeaker of mosques in Maharashtra is being tried to evolve. In some parts of North India including Delhi the issue of shops of non vegetarian food during Navratri is also being provoked .
- Is surprising that Muslim have been residing in India with Hindus for long time and they are practicing their religion . What happened suddenly that these type of issue have been evolved
- In Fact these rows are not in fact religious rows, these are just political rows. In Maharashtra, supporters of a political party are insisting to recite Hanuman Chalisa from loudspeakers . In fact they do not know the meaning of Hanuman Chalisa .
- The first two lines of Chalisa insist on avoiding Kalesh (Conflict), Vikar (hate and evils). This is surprising things that these people are using religion as tool for political benefits without caring about the unity and integrity of India and most surprising thing is that they claim themselves as the nationalist and patriot without knowing the meaning of nation.

SECULARISM AND TOLERANCE HAS BEEN THE FUNDAMENTAL ELEMENTS OF INDIAN CULTURE : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- In fact, India does have such a past where people from other parts of the world were welcomed with open arms and allowed to live here in peace and amity for millennia.
- During the 6th century BC , more than 63 types of the religious belief system came to existence and almost all were criticising Brahmanism but we do not see any single evidence of the religious conflict . In Brahman text, the term Acharya is used for the founders of the anti Brahmanical belief system .
- Our ancient states had also followed the policy of religious tolerance. Dhamma was a secular element through which Asoka tried to integrate India. And even during the period of Gupta and Later Gupta kings , up to a certain extent all the religious people were free to practice their religion .
- However in Muslim period, this communal harmony remained unchanged (If we ignore some religious conversion and the demolishing of the temples because of the political benefits). Tulsidas , Surdas, Kabirdas, Mirabai,type Bhakti saints propagated their principle. During 15th century , Kabir openly criticised Muslims and Hindus together .

Tulsidas did not show his even small grief or sorrow in his writings regarding demolition of the Hindu temples .

- Communalism was the element invented by the British for the political benefits and present days our politicians are using these religious issues for political gains . Religions must be separated from politics.

CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR SEPARATION OF RELIGION FROM THE STATE : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- There are many provisions described in fundamental rights that State would not promote any religious activities (Article 27 and 28) . The essence of India's secularism is that the state has no religion.
- Article 27 says that no tax can be levied for promoting any particular religion. In other words, no public revenue is permitted to be spent in favour of any particular religion. Article 28 says that no religious instruction shall be given in any educational institutions wholly maintained out of state funds.
- The same Article says that no educational institution recognised or aided by the state shall compel any person to attend religious classes or worship therein. Article 25(2)(a) empowers the state to regulate secular activities associated with religious practice.
- Article 15 prohibits any kind of discrimination on the ground of religion. Above all, freedom of religion is made subject to other fundamental rights, apart from the reasonable restrictions on the grounds of public order, morality and health. Thus, the freedom of religion under the Constitution does not enjoy the same status as other secular rights such as equality before law, non-discrimination, right to life and liberty, etc.
- Therefore it is almost clear that , state itself tried to separate from any religious activity .

RELIGIOSITY IN PUBLIC LIFE WITHOUT KNOWING THE CRUX OF RELIGION : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- There is too much religiosity in public life in India.. Our religion has been the essence of 'sarva dharma sambhav' . But Gradually this state is tending towards majoritarianism because of the political benefits . In such a situation , the discontent can be evolved among minorities . In modern days we see the term Sambhav has been almost finished. The people who are not following any religious practice, nowadays have been declared as the protector of the religion. If the state would behave like a theocratic state it would ensure the disintegration of the country.
- The reasons are not far to seek. India is a multicultural country where Hindus are in majority . To promote Hinduism by the state would create a sense of insecurity among the minorities . The insecurity would be converted into accumulated discontent which would be dangerous for the integrity of India . To maintain unity and integrity of India the interest of minorities must be protected . At any point of the time they should not feel any sense of discrimination and insecurity by the state .

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

CONCLUSION

- Therefore it can be concluded that India is in a very dangerous situation where the political parties of India, for their political benefits are taking the help of the religion. And the inevitable fact is that India, as a nation can never survive without the secularism where state should not promote any religion and this is not only the duty of the court, being guardian of the constitution, this is the duty of the intellectuals, social workers, and other civil societies to maintain unity and integrity of India. No political party should be supported if it promoted any particular religion or It wants to make India as a theocratic state
- Our Constitution makers had understood the significance of secularism. This is the duty of every intellectuals that they should realise that if secularism is jettisoned, the hard-won national unity will be in peril. It is the patriotic duty of every citizen to strengthen secularism and thus save the republic.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Voting Rights for Overseas Citizens

VOTING RIGHTS FOR OVERSEAS CITIZENS – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Union Minister for Law and Justice in response to a question in the Lok Sabha stated that the government was exploring the possibility of allowing online voting for non-resident Indians (NRI).

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

BACKGROUND

- In 2017, the government proposed to remove the restriction imposed by Section 20A of the Representation of the People Act, which required them to be physically present to vote in their constituencies.
- The Bill provided for overseas voters to be able to appoint a proxy to cast their votes on their behalf, subject to conditions laid down in the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961.
- The Bill was later passed in 2018 but lapsed with the dissolution of the 16th Lok Sabha.
- The ECI then approached the government to permit NRIs to vote via postal ballots similar

to a system that is already used by service voters, (a member of the armed Forces of the Union; or a member of a force to which provisions of the Army Act, 1950 which is the Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System or ETPBS..

CURRENT STATUS OF VOTING FOR OVERSEAS CITIZENS : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- After the passing of the Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 2010: NRIs who had stayed abroad beyond six months have been able to vote, but only in person at the polling station where they have been enrolled as an overseas elector.
- However, only a very low proportion of overseas residents actually registered or turned up to vote.
- The provision of having to visit the polling booth in person has discouraged eligible voters from exercising their mandate.
- In the case of overseas voters: their address mentioned in the passport is taken as the place of ordinary residence and chosen as the constituency for the overseas voter to enrol in.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

HOW HAS THE EXISTING FACILITY WORKED SO FAR?

- From merely 11,846 overseas voters who registered in 2014, the number went up to close to a lakh in 2019.
- The Representation of the People Act: envisaged voters as only the “ordinary residents” in a constituency who will choose representatives to represent their local interests while meditating on larger issues in the legislature.
- Some democracies that already allow absentee voting stipulate that overseas electors are eligible to vote provided they are not abroad for a specified period of time and/or if they mention “intent to return”.
- Section 20-1A, Part III of the Representation of the People Act addresses this to some extent by qualifying “a person absenting himself temporarily from his place of ordinary residence shall not by reason thereof cease to be ordinarily resident therein”.

ARE POSTAL BALLOTS A VIABLE MEANS OF VOTING? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- The ETPBS method allowed for greater turnout among service voters in the 2019 Lok Sabha election.

- With increasing mobility of citizens across countries for reasons related to work, the postal ballot method has been recognised by the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (an intergovernmental organisation that works to support democratic processes and institutions) as a means to allow overseas voters to exercise their right, subject to certain conditions normally related to the time spent abroad or the work carried out abroad.
- A postal ballot mechanism that allows for proper authentication of the ballot at designated consular/embassy offices and an effective postal system should ease this process for NRIs, but rules must be clearly framed for eligibility on the basis of time spent away from the country.

Anshum Verma

Mutations and Recombinants of SARS-CoV-2 : An analysis in context of the XE recombinant.

MUTATIONS AND RECOMBINANTS OF SARS-CoV-2 – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Context : Recently , it has been observed that XE recombinant of coronavirus is far inflexible in comparison to omicron variant . Mutations and recombinants are two different processes through which the virus changes its nature , and the virus increases its genetic diversity . but both the process are different to each other.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

INTRODUCTION :

- For more than two years the entire world has been facing the problem of a corona pandemic. Various variants of the corona virus have come . A virus changes its nature and increases its diversity through various processes. One process is called mutation and the other process is called recombinants . Both the processes are different.
- Recombination occurs when two different lineages of the virus co-infect the same cell in the host and exchange fragments of their individual genomes which generates a descendent variant having mutations that occurred in both the original lineages of the virus.
- A mutation is a change in a DNA sequence. Mutations can result from DNA copying mistakes made during cell division, exposure to ionizing radiation, exposure to chemicals called mutagens, or infection by viruses. Germline mutations occur in the eggs and sperm and can be passed onto offspring, while somatic mutations occur in body cells and are not passed on.

- There is little evidence to suggest that recombinant lineages have a varied clinical outcome compared to the currently dominant Omicron variant.

HOW DO THESE VARIANTS CREATE ? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, is an RNA virus which evolves by accumulating genetic errors in its genome. At the time of infection, the virus makes its copy inside the host's cells. These errors (otherwise called mutations) are a by-product of replication of SARS-CoV-2 inside the cell and may be carried forward as the virus continues to infect people.

WHAT IS A RECOMBINANT VARIANT? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Besides mutation, there is another process through which the virus increases. This process is called recombination. This occurs in a rare and rarest situation at the time when two different lineages of the virus co-infect the same cell in the host and exchange fragments of their individual genomes which would further generate a descendent variant. This descendent variant has the metates that occurred in both the original lineages of the virus. This incident of the Recombination happens in a variety of other virus (In case of influenza and coronavirus)
- The place where two or more lineages of SARS-CoV-2 will be co-circulating in a certain region during the same time period, the incident of the recombination can occur
- However we can not count the recombination events. The recombinant lineages are annotated by PANGO with an 'X' followed by an alphabet which indicates the order of discovery. Some previously detected and designated lineages include XA, a recombinant of B.1.1.7 (Alpha) and B.1.177 detected in the U.K., lineage XB detected in the U.S., and lineage XC detected in Japan, which is a recombinant of B.1.1.7 (Alpha) and AY.29 sublineage of Delta.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

CONCLUSION

- It can be said, on the basis of above analysis, this coronavirus continuously changes its nature through mutation and recombination. We must alter to tackle the effect and nature of every new mutated virus and we should not be care less from the precautionary measures if the coronavirus.

Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) and India

MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX (MPI) AND INDIA – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

The concept of multidimensional poverty accommodate both monetary and non-monetary aspects of poverty and the measuring of multiple and overlapping deprivations at the same time. During the last one-decade (since 2010), the OPHI has been generating estimates of MPIs for over 109 developing countries and these estimates are being disseminated by the global Human Development Report (HDR).

Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) for India is given by NITI Aayog. The MPIs are estimated with a focus on the Sustainable Development Goal monitoring indicator (SDG 1.2), one of the 29 indices for monitoring reform and growth, identified by the Government of India.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

The MPIs are being estimated by accounting for three key aspects of human development: health, education and standard of living of the population represented through a set of 10 (ten) indicators largely from Demographic Health Survey (DHS) data sets and other nationally representative surveys conducted by countries.

A growing number of studies provided national-, regional-, and district-specific estimates of MPIs using data from the National Family Health Survey (NFHS), and the Indian Human Development Survey (IHDS). The estimates from these studies are consistent and showed large variations and reduction of multidimensional poverty across geographical regions. The OPHI estimates for India disseminated in the Global Multidimensional Poverty Report, 2021, showed a reduction of multidimensional poverty (H) from 55.1% in 2005–06 to 27.9% by 2015–16 and intensity of poverty (a) from 51.3% to 43.9% during the same period. The corresponding decline in the MPI was from 0.283 to 0.123 (UNDP 2021). Since 2016, the same estimates have been repeated in the annual HDR report. We present the following critical reflections on the NITI Aayog's MPIs. The NITI Aayog estimates are similar to that of global estimates with minor modifications

KEY POINTS : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

(i) Estimates of multidimensional poverty refer to 2015–16, the year NFHS-4 survey data set was publicly available and so the estimates are not for 2021.

(ii) Estimates are limited to variables available in the NFHS-4 survey data. It may be mentioned that the NFHS data sets are the Indian version of DHS, primarily aimed at providing data on demographic and maternal health situations in the country. Hence, many key indicators with regard to the dimension of health, education and standard of living are absent in this data set as well as in these estimates. For example, the nutrition-related indicator in the MPI frame does not take into account the nutrition level of children aged 6–14 years, as the NFHS does not compute the BMI for this group of children.

(iii) The cut-off point of 0.33 usually taken, in defining multidimensional poverty or deprivation, is arbitrary without a strong theoretical justification.

(iv) The estimates of multidimensional poverty do not include many key deprivations in the domain of health, education and standard of living, for example, “access to banking”

(v) Estimates are primarily derived from micro data that remains beyond the comprehension of most policymakers for any critical evaluation and interpretation.

Key deprivations in the dimensions of health, education and standard of living are missing in the estimates of multidimensional poverty.

The representation of dimensions and its corresponding indicators are vital in the estimation of MPIs. While the inclusion of three key dimensions of human development such as health, education and the standard of living qualifies for the human development paradigm, the chosen indicators are inadequate to capture the deprivations in these dimensions.

For instance, the nutritional deprivation of a household is defined as a union of failure in child undernourishment in the age group of 0–5 years or for adult, men and women in the age group of 15–49 and 15–54, respectively. Such deprivation overlooks the differential vulnerability to undernourishment between the early ages and adulthood, and further, owing to rapid fertility transition, a good number of households will escape this counting on child undernourishment in the complete absence of children below the age of five years. The conceptualisation of household undernourishment, therefore, based on the anthropometric

measure becomes more challenging as against the calorimetric measure of calorie intake. That too is not without its limitation of intra-household allocation of intake across all individuals of the household.

Regarding maternal health indicators, the case of four antenatal care and medical assistance at delivery serves at best as a preventive maternal care indicator that has an implication on healthy maternal outcome. Such an indicator, in present times, will be selective to certain households with recent childbirth experience that is less frequent owing to fertility transition. In case nutrition, survivorship and maternal health had to represent the health domain, the indicators at the household level should have been worked out with more caution rather than computing anything that is available in the survey. The Hindu Analysis

Deprivation in the education domain is represented by the failure in having even one member with minimum years of schooling on the one hand, and on the other, a school going child of a certain age being out of school. If the household does not have a single member who has completed six years of schooling, the household is said to be educationally deprived. Similarly, if any school going child (up to Class 8) is not attending school, the household is said to be deprived with respect to the education domain. This way of comprehending deprivation completely overlooks the household composition of generations. No single member with schooling of at least six years in a household depicts clustering of educational deprivation, that is, educational endowment generates education. Educational deprivation in one region should therefore be different from another conditioned by the access and spread of educational infrastructure.

The standard of living component considers a number of basic amenities and consumer durables of the household along with access to banking. While absence of them does represent deprivation, there remains a regional and residential facet to such deprivation. Four of them, like cooking fuel, electricity, water, and sanitation are largely conditioned by provisioning which ought to be different across regions and deprivation in them need differentiation across regions and rural/urban households. Deprivation in these four elements are largely concentrated in the rural areas and, therefore, the MPI framework seems to be biased. States/regions that have high rural residency would show high deprivations, both in terms of head counts as well as in terms of depth of deprivations.

On the comparability of multidimensional poverty—is it sensitive to the state of development and residential composition?

While multidimensional poverty is an ideal construct, it is systematically responsive to the state of development as poverty/deprivation becomes less and less with improvements in

the state of development. Such a systematic connect is evidenced with MPI indicating 4.2% population in China, 3.6% in Indonesia as against 24.1% in Bangladesh, and 27.9% in India being estimated to be poor in the multidimensional sense (global multidimensional poverty report (UNDP and OPHI 2021). The lower estimates for China and Indonesia clearly suggest the need for context-specific estimates. The Hindu Analysis

The lowest multidimensional poverty was estimated at 1% in Kerala, 4% each in Goa and Sikkim, and 52% in Uttar Pradesh. These numbers suggest a strict systematic response to the state of development. Such results call for a revisit of its indicators and the methodology of estimating multidimensional poverty. In fact, consumption poverty, too, does not compare well with multidimensional poverty in many states of India.

The more urbanised a district is, the less is the ability to accurately estimate the extent of multidimensional poverty in India.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

CONCLUSIONS

Should multidimensional poverty replace consumption poverty despite all its limitations? The answer is “No” because an alternative is not acceptable on the sole ground of being different, but differentially sensitive to the levels of development. The consumption poverty provides information on economic deprivation and its trends are commensurate with other deprivations to a large extent. Despite all limitations of consumption poverty with regard to identification, the indicators designed for identification of components in multidimensional poverty does not seem better and less ambiguous. Hence, an exercise of this kind may have a genuine intent but surely does not have the necessary rigour to qualify as a better measure than the existing ones. So, the MPI can at best supplement consumption poverty but cannot be an ideal alternative. Hence, the Consumption Expenditure Survey carried out by the NSSO (latest being 2011–12) has no replacement, as it not only offers estimates of consumption poverty, but also helps in reading development transition at large.

Ritu

A decreasing Credibility of Central Investing Agencies : An analysis in special reference to CBI and ED

A DECREASING CREDIBILITY OF CENTRAL INVESTING AGENCIES – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Context : The Chief Justice of India (CJI), Justice N.V. Ramana, must be lauded for his candid appraisal recently of the pathetic state of India's investigating agencies. Last week in Delhi, while delivering the annual (and the 19th edition) D.P. Kohli Memorial Talk organized by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), the CJI minced no words in condemning the utter subordination of agencies to the executive and its disastrous consequences for the cause of justice.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Introduction :

During last some years it has been observed that central Agencies like CBI , ED , Income tax raided only those people or politicians who are extreme opponents of the government and those criminals who are pro government, generally they are indirectly protected or supported or ignored by these central agencies . However these central agencies are the subordinate bodies of the Home ministry, Government of India but people of India had great trust on these investigating agencies and this is the responsibility of the Directors of these agencies that they should maintain their credibility. If they are not capable of maintaining credibility , they must resign from their post. There is a strong and independent Judiciary to support and cooperate with these investigating agencies . The directors , if willing and without any greed, want to work independently, those can work . They can easily convince our top leaders of the government in their favor . But because of greediness, (greed of posting , promotion) generally , they are continuously degrading the credibility of these central agencies.

RECENT INCIDENTS : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Recently , It has been observed that ED raided only on those politicians who are from opposition political party like action taken on Sanjay Raut, a politician of Shiv Sena , Actions taken on the ministers of Maharashtra , Action taken on relatives of Mamata Banerji, CM of Bengal . But no central agencies took any action Ashish Mishra with the pressure of honorable supreme court , a murder accused of farmers. And the surprising thing is that he got bail from high courts, however recently the supreme court scolded on high court. There are several other incidents which are sufficient to prove the degrading credibility of central agencies .

If it may be considered that these actions of central agencies are free from partiality, then there is nothing to justify the role of these agencies in the matter of Ashish Mishra and other criminals of the government supported political parties. Are there no financial anomalies done by any leader of the government in the entire India ? Is it not surprising ?

JUDICIARY'S GAZE IS CRUCIAL : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

To maintain the credibility of these central investigating agencies , the role of our Judiciary is important . The leaders of these agencies can take support from courts if they feel any political pressure . Recently CJI has shown his concern in this regard and warned that investigating agencies will pay a heavy price for their utter willingness to stoop to please politicians should be taken seriously by all outfits, especially the CBI, which has had a patchy record with regard to political interference in sensitive investigations.

In such a situation, our Judiciary must have played an important role to save the credibility of investigating agencies . The Suo moto , High court and the supreme court must have kept their eyes over the investigating agencies so that these agencies could work properly. In this way the people of opposition would also approach central agencies against the leaders of the government and with the support and close eyes of our honorable court, these central investigating agencies would regain their credibility gradually.

THE CHANGING NATURE OF CENTRAL AGENCIES MAINLY CBI : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

There is no denying the fact that the CBI has been grossly misused by successive governments. It has been observed in recent days , other central agencies are also being used for political benefits. In 1997, Justice J.S. Verma, a fearless judge, openly criticized the activity of the CBI when CBI was showing partiality in the case of hawala . The CBI was trying to delay this case. It has been observed that , there is below than .01% conviction rate in the cases booked by ED in this year. Today Current Affairs

The main problem of these investigating agencies is the selection procedure of the directors of these agencies and earlier there was no security of the tenure of directors of CBI. After the intervention of the honorable supreme court the tenure of the director of CBI was secured for 2 years but these type of problems still existed in other central agencies .

However this is also an avoidable fact that these central agencies can not be made apolitical completely but the political interference must be reduced for retaining its credibility. If we are not able to maintain the credibility of these central investigating agencies , we must dissolve them . because in that situation these agencies would be worthless. The Hindu Analysis

However it would be unfair to say that these agencies, in every matter , are inefficient for the investigation without any political intervention. There are only 10 % cases in which these agencies do not work properly , their works are influenced with political intervention and this figure may also be reduced with the support of honorable supreme court, honest directors and the honest media .

There are many brightest officers in these central investigating agencies . There is no doubt regarding their competency . There needs to be a strong and virtuous leader who will not only be honest but also stick his neck out to protect his deputies if and when confronted by an unscrupulous political heavyweight. If the CBI has to tread the path of virtue, it should have the strongest leader with a distinct belief in the law and ethics. Unfortunately, in recent years, at least two Directors brought ignominy to the CBI. This has proved that whatever the courts may do to enforce discipline and adherence to the law, there are the odd leaders who could subvert the system. Little can be done to move away from this unfortunate situation unless there are bold and enlightened persons heading investigation agencies, and who will be firm with the executive if it tries to intimidate junior officers.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

CONCLUSIONS

As per the above analysis, it may be concluded that there is the need for reforms in the structure of the central agencies and the proposal of an umbrella central investigating agency should not be endorsed before proper discussion and debate . These investigating agencies are the backbone of crime free India (law and order) . If these investigating agencies would be inefficient and of less credibility. Definitely it would impact on rule of Law. Therefore it may be recommended that after proper discussion and debate these central agencies must be reformed and the nature of these investigating agencies must be democratic. In the appointment of the directors of these agencies , there must be a role of opposition also. There must be committees for the appointment of the directors of these agencies . their appointment should not be done by a single authority . There must be some security on the tenure of the directors of these agencies . They should be accountable only to the judiciary , not to any executive.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Global Hunger Index and need to rectify the methodology

GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX AND NEED TO RECTIFY THE METHODOLOGY – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

The SDG(Sustainable Development Goals) 2, “zero hunger,” aims to end hunger from all countries by 2030. However, there are severe inequalities in the distribution of wealth, poverty, and hunger between the developed and the underdeveloped world. The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) 2020 by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) says 690 million people in the world, that is, 8.9% of the world’s population, are hungry, and the world is not going to achieve the SDG by 2030, in the ordinary course. Setbacks in food production, violence, conflict, and economic downturns may be cited as a few reasons for the same. In addition to the above, the COVID-19 pandemic can add up to 130 million people to the proportion of the undernourished.

Identifying the magnitude, distribution, and risk factors of hunger can help us adopt evidence-informed actions to combat the socio-economic evil. The Global Hunger Index (GHI) is a composite index that tries to measure hunger across the globe, jointly published annually by two European non-governmental organisations, namely Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe. Calculating the global hunger score requires four component indicators: undernourishment, child wasting, child stunting, and child mortality (Concern Worldwide 2021). The FAO, UNICEF, UNIGME, and World Bank are the raw data providers. They use a pre-specified differential weighting of the indicators after standardizing each using the highest recorded value since 1988. The final GHI score ranging between 0 and 100 is used to rank the participant nations on an ordinal scale. They also propose a categorical GHI severity scale for classifying countries based on the final score having five classes with unequal class width, namely low, moderate, serious, alarming, and extremely alarming hunger. The Hindu Analysis

The standardization uses historically highest values over two decades as the denominators for all variables included in the index, that is, 80%, 70%, 30%, and 35% for malnourishment, child stunting, child wasting, and child mortality, respectively. Hence, any nation with a near-peak historical incidence of hunger-related events in the subdomains will gain the maximum score if they improve in the same subdomain. However, using such historical peaks for standardizing a variable can bring in certain biases. For example, they used 70 to standardize the proportion of stunted children, which is almost 30% higher than the highest present-day value of child stunting (Burundi, 54%). However child mortality is almost 200% higher than the highest present-day child mortality. Hence, we believe the standardization procedure can favor a few nations unduly, which fails the purpose of an unbiased ranking. Although the GHI may capture a historical perspective, it lacks robustness in comparing the present-day world.

Consequently, we propose normalizing the variables using the maximum and the minimum value instead of standardizing them with a figure unrelated to the variable's distribution to improve their comparability. Today Current Affairs

Moreover, not all child mortality is due to food insecurity, which is the same for malnutrition, wasting, and stunting. The original index uses a differential weight of 33.3% each for undernourishment and child mortality and 16.6% for child stunting and child wasting. The predictive value of these four indicators can vary considerably between developed and underdeveloped nations. However, there is a lack of quality literature to assign what proportion of these variables occur due to hunger. Hence, we decided to adopt the same weightage used in the original index.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Methodology

We used the same data published by Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe in their peer-reviewed report: 2021 GHI. However, instead of standardizing the variables using their historic peak, we normalize them by subtracting the minimum from the corresponding score and dividing it by the range of the variable. The normalized global hunger score is calculated as a weighted average of the four normalized component indicators using the same weights as used in the calculation of the original index. The first 18 countries were not reclassified, as the report does not provide any exact data figures.

We also did a sensitivity analysis by comparing the distribution of the original hunger index and the normalized hunger index scores with the human development index (HDI) and gross national income (GNI) per capita. Since the unequal distribution of income across a nation can predict food scarcity and hunger of most of its population, we also compared the hunger indices with a distribution of Gini coefficients. We used Charles Spearman's correlation since all these distributions were non-normal. The human development report provided us with the HDI and GNI per capita data. We extracted Gini indices from the web portal of the United Nations Statistics Division.

OUTCOMES : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

As many as 12 countries did not change their ranks in the normalized Global Hunger Index (n-GHI). Of the remaining 89, ranks of 27 nations have moved up or down by five or more ranks (Table 1). All the 89 countries that changed their ranks are shown in Figure 1. Most of the nations who lost their ranks belong to Africa, though a few are from Asia and South America.

Among the four component indicators, we found that the proportion of malnutrition has the most significant coefficient of variation (96.2%) while under-five stunting has the least, in the 2021 data. The Hindu Analysis

We compared the hunger indices with the HDI scores and the per capita GNI. The normalized index correlates more to the HDI and GNI per capita than the original standardized GHI. We did not find a statistically significant correlation between the hunger scores and the Gini coefficients, though normalization improved Spearman's coefficient in magnitude.

DISCUSSIONS : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The first global hunger ranking was published in 2006. Since then, 16 rankings have been published altogether, and it has gained the reputation as a tool that compares scarcity of food across the world. As discussed earlier, the GHI uses four component indicators that form a cascade of hunger ranging from malnutrition to death, though not everyone dies of hunger. The most straightforward surrogate measure of hunger is malnutrition. Here, the index adds three other parameters that are highly collinear with malnutrition.

Nevertheless, the GHI ranking, being on a non-interval, non-ratio scale, will not be affected considerably due to the collinearity of the component indicators. Furthermore, we did not change the differential weighting used in the original GHI due to a lack of quality evidence.

The original GHI used constants to standardize, which has no relation to the present-day distribution of the variable. Here, higher child mortality would be viewed less seriously than the proportion of stunted children as the former used a larger denominator to standardize. However, normalization removes all such biases, and hence, in the n-GHI, the final score depends solely on the distribution of the variables as it uses the range of the variable to standardize. That means only if a nation performs well compared to others in the distribution, it will get a better rank. Thus, normalisation provides more justice to the present-day data.

Many African nations had higher malnourishment and under-five mortality than Asia, Europe, and the Americas. However, the higher denominators diluted their scores post standardisation, resulting in comparatively better ranks. Here, in the n-GHI, normalisation took off the undue advantage of such a methodological bias, which resulted in most of them losing their ranks. The most proximal adverse effect of food scarcity is malnourishment than the other component indicators like stunting or wasting. Hence, nations with a higher malnourished population must be penalised more in the ranking. Though the original GHI captures a historical perspective, it is of little use in a cross-sectional view to compare the present-day world. Hence, normalization improves the robustness of the index for being used

as a tool for comparison.

Poor income is not the effect of hunger; instead, it is one of the many causes predisposing to food unavailability. Since we are measuring a phenomenon that is hard to measure due to data quality issues, it would be prudent to compare an individual's purchasing power, an elementarily available and rigorously reviewed data, with an effect of poor income, that is, hunger. The GNI per capita expressed as purchasing power parity of the dollar equalizes the purchasing power of different national currencies by eliminating the price difference among them. Our proposed modification in the calculation of the GHI resulted in an index that is better correlated to national income and the achievements in human development.

Logical thinking leads us to believe that inequality in income distribution results in a higher proportion of the poor and hungry population. However, we got a statistically insignificant correlation of the hunger index with Gini coefficients, even after normalization, which means either the world has achieved more equity in food distribution than in income distribution or the GHI is not prudent enough to capture hunger from the data available. However, our optimism makes us accept the former postulate.

As a concluding remark, there is gross uncertainty at the global level in predicting how much variability in the component indicators is explained by food scarcity. Though generating such a piece of evidence is cumbersome as the proportion can vary from region to region, such an exercise will improve the criterion validity of the ranking.

Ritu

Implications of the resolve of Assam Meghalaya dispute .

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RESOLVE OF ASSAM MEGHALAYA DISPUTE – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Context : During the last days (on March 29, 2022) Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma signed an agreement to resolve the boundary dispute between their States, in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, at North Block in New Delhi. This border dispute between Assam and Meghalaya has been lasted for long time (Approximately 50 years)

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Introduction

- The Assam and Meghalaya border dispute was a burning issue for the North East states . But Now there is a hope that this dispute will end very soon . Chief ministers of both the states have signed on a pact through which both agreed to resolve the dispute of 6 i of the 12 disputed sectors along the 884.9-km border between the two States. The Hindu Analysis
- There was only a border dispute between Assam and Meghalaya or are there some other disputes that exist between both the states ? Clashes between the pro-Assam and pro-Meghalaya groups have been frequent in those village of the borders . How to resolve these issues . By negotiation between two chief ministers this issue can not be resolved .
- The interest of both the tribes Garo and non garo must be protected and a feeling among the people of pro and anti Assam should be substituted with the feeling of nationalism. Malchapara ia village did not have a reason since July 2021 to hold the melkhol nok, a kangaroo court that settles local disputes. There are many social issues apart from the border issues which had to be solved first which would be solved only through social engineering.

THE ISSUES BETWEEN MEGHALAYA AND ASSAM IS TO BE RESOLVED : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Assam shares a 2743 km boundary with Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and West Bengal. It is locked in border disputes with Nagaland, Mizoram, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh. By 2021 , a violent conflict between Assam police and the Mizoram police had erupted and many people were killed in the conflict. In fact , the major issue of the dispute is not only the issue of the border but also huge social diversity is another issue . There are many tribes of unique and distinguished culture residing in these states . There are some areas of Assam where different tribes are residing but their states are contradictory to the interests of Assam . So there is not only the problem of border dispute , social engineering is also needed to resolve the problem of north east state. The Hindu Analysis
- Garos, Khasis and Pnars or Jaintia Are the main tribes of Meghalaya . They are from different races . They belonged to the Tibeto-Burman race . Bodo, Kachari, Karbi, Miri, Mishimi, Rabha are the tribes of the Assam but they have their own culture, quite different to Assamese culture This social diversity in northern sate is the subject of dispute
- Border disputes can be resolved through negotiation but how can the interest and culture of the people residing in the village of the border be protected ? this is the big issue.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

CONCLUSION :

For the stability of any country , it is required to glue the emotions of the public with the interest of the region/state . If the identity, culture, rituals of any community would be well addressed, respected and sufficient representation in the governance , no dispute would be erupted. Border dispute is nothing in front of these social disputes . In diversified cultures , maximum autonomy should be given to those cultures but they must be glued to one national identity. One one national identity, maximum autonomy would strengthen the state.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Sri Lanka Crises

SRI LANKA CRISES – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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

Source: Indian Express

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

What is the issue?

The critical shortage of foreign currency has pushed the Sri Lankan government unable to pay for essential imports, including fuel and it has led to huge power cuts lasting up to many hours. Ordinary people of Sri Lanka are also dealing with the issue of inflation.

REASONS FOR THE ISSUE : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The worst crisis in several decades has its roots in economic mismanagement by various governments in succession that have created and sustained a twin deficit – a shortfall in budget along with the current account deficit.

The present crisis is the result of deep tax cuts promised by Rajapaksa during a 2019 election

campaign that were enacted months before the COVID-19 pandemic, which wiped out parts of Sri Lanka's economy.

Further the country's lucrative tourism industry and foreign workers' remittances were hit hard by the pandemic and as a result of which credit ratings agencies downgraded Sri Lanka and locked it out of the international capital markets.

As a result of which Sri Lanka's debt management programme, which depended on accessing those markets, derailed and foreign exchange reserves fell by approx 70 per cent in two years.

The government's decision to ban all the chemical fertilisers in 2021, which was reversed later, also hit the country's farming sector and led to a drop in the critical rice crop.

CRISES AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The economic distress in Sri Lanka has led to a political crisis as well. The Mahinda Rajapaksa ministry has resigned in group to allow the prime minister to reconstitute the cabinet. The governor of the central bank has also resigned after taking the responsibility for economic mismanagement.

The situation has worsened after protestors encircled the presidential palace and demanded for the Gotabaya Rajapaksa to resign. They raised the slogan "Gota Go Home", following which the administration has invoked emergency laws and declared curfew in the city.

EXTERNAL HELP & FUTURE COURSE OF ACTION : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The Rajapaksa's administration and the Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL) have ignored the advice of the experts and opposition leaders to seek help from the IMF even when the risks were high. But with the rise in oil prices and Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the government has prepared a plan to reach the IMF.

The IMF is going to discuss the possible loan program with the Sri Lankan authorities in the coming days, as mentioned by an IMF spokesman.

Before moving to the IMF, the Sri Lankan Government devalued its currency steeply, which resulted in rise in inflation and adding to the pain of the public, many of whom are enduring hardship and long queues.

The Rajapaksa has also looked for the help from India and China, especially assistance on

fuel from India. The diesel shipment under a \$500 million credit line signed with India is expected to reach Sri Lanka soon. Also Sri Lanka and India have signed a \$1 billion credit line for importing essentials, including food and medicine, and the Rajapaksa government has sought at least another \$ 1 billion from India.

China has provided the Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL) \$ 1.5 billion swap and a \$ 1.3 billion syndicated loan to the government, further China is considering to offer another \$ 1.5 billion credit facility and a separate loan upto \$ 1 billion.

Vivek Raj

Electric Vehicles Fire Issues

ELECTRIC VEHICLES FIRE ISSUES – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

(GS Paper-III, Science & Technology, Economic Development, Bio-diversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Management)

Source: Indian Express

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Why in News?

Recently several electric vehicles caught fire in India, one incident was reported from Maharashtra and three from Tamil Nadu. The Electric Vehicles (EVs) emitted smoke and eventually went up in flames, thus raising alarm over the safety of these Vehicles.

WHAT ARE ELECTRIC VEHICLES? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

These Vehicles are the ones which are partially or fully powered on electric power.

Some EVs use lead acid or nickel metal hydride batteries but now standard for modern battery electric vehicles is the lithium ion batteries.

ABOUT LITHIUM ION BATTERIES : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The Lithium ion battery consists of an anode, cathode, separator, electrolyte, and two current collectors.

The lithium is stored in the anode and cathode, the electrolyte carries positively charged lithium ions from the anode to the cathode and vice versa through the separator.

The free electrons in the anode are created through the movement of the lithium ions, which creates a charge at the positive current collector.

THE FEATURES LITHIUM ION BATTERIES : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Greater driving range
- More efficiency
- Ability to recharge
- Light weight
- High energy density
- Ability to recharge
- A battery management system (BMS) due its high energy density is applied to a Li-ion battery to make sure they operate safely.
- The BMS constantly measures the voltage, current flowing, charging and discharging rate, battery life cycle, and efficiency.

THE BENEFITS AND PROBLEMS OF ELECTRIC VEHICLES : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Benefits:

- They are environmentally friendly as they use minimum or no fossil fuels.
- They have low running costs as they have less moving parts for maintenance.
- Electric motors provide quiet, smooth operation and stronger acceleration and require less maintenance than internal combustion engines.
- They convert more than 77% of the electrical energy from the grid to power at the wheels.
- They are helping in reducing energy dependency

Problems:

- The recharging time is high as fully recharging the battery can take 4 to 12 hours.
- Electric Vehicles have a shorter driving range as compared to conventional vehicles.
- The few battery malfunctions can cause a short circuit, it can kickstart a chain reaction resulting in a fire, provided a battery pack is tightly packed with a number of Li-ion cells.

REASONS FOR FIRE IN ELECTRIC VEHICLES : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Although the exact reason is not known, the short circuiting due to negligence in charging the vehicle can be one of the reasons.
- Other reasons for fire may be External damage, Manufacturing defects, faults in development, overcharging, extremely high temperature etc

FUTURE COURSE OF ACTIONS : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Government need to come up with stringent rules and regulations
- The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has ordered a probe into the vehicles catching fire abruptly, similar efforts are required in a transparent manner.
- The government has allowed ETWs with speeds of less than 25 km/hour to be sold without any serious certification which is not a welcome move, there is need to have adequate security checks in place.
- The Centre for Fire Explosive and Environment Safety (CFEES) should carry out investigations appropriately.
- There are various debates regarding whether battery swapping would be a better solution for electric scooters in India.
- As of now when a user's vehicle battery is discharged completely or about to be discharged, The third-party provider swaps it out with a fully-charged battery at a battery-swapping station.
- The advantage of swapping is that there is always an extra battery giving sufficient time to charge the batteries.

So, in this regard the government needs to take appropriate measures considering the interests of all the stakeholders and obviously the safety factor should be the top priority of the government.

Vivek Raj

Medical Education Dawdle

MEDICAL EDUCATION DAWDLE – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Healthcare has always been a neglected aspect of the Indian economy. The relatively small size of the health sector, the meager government spending on providing healthcare services, and the huge shortage of the health personnel all point to major governmental failure. The availability of adequate health personnel is especially crucial as a quality workforce can not only ensure greater economic stability and security but also boost both inclusive growth and the overall employment creation.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

However, successive governments have generally ignored these problems. Even the pandemic failed to trigger any major government interventions in the health sector. Supply-side issues like the non-availability of a skilled workforce, especially doctors, continue to be neglected. Vested interests have successfully sabotaged all state interventions necessary for the expansion of medical education. This is a major reason why tens of thousands of students are forced to take up admission in medical colleges abroad every year. However, the outbreak of the pandemic in China and the war in Ukraine have now forced thousands of medical students in these countries to flee back home, thus jeopardizing their education. The Hindu Analysis

What is surprising is that despite the growing demand for medical education, the supply remains stymied. Most private medical colleges lack basic infrastructure and qualified teachers. Moreover, they charge exorbitant fees that most students cannot afford. The result is a growing gap between demand and supply of medical personnel. Estimates show that the total availability of skilled health personnel is only 1.77 million as against the total requirement of 3.42 million, which means a shortage of an astounding 1.65 million personnel. The density of health personnel in India is only 22 per 10,000 persons as against the World Health Organization (WHO) norm of 44.5. The WHO estimates indicate that India needs around 1.8 million doctors, nurses, and midwives to meet the stipulated norm by 2030.

A recent estimate in the National Health Workforce Accounts shows that the total number of doctors, dentists, and nurses/midwives per 10,000 persons in the country is 8.8, 2.1, and 17.7, respectively. However, the Periodic Labour Force Survey numbers estimate the active number of doctors, dentists, and nurses/midwives per 10,000 persons to be much lower at 6.1, 1.4, and 10.6. They further note that if one uses an adequate qualification criterion, the number of doctors, dentists, and nurses/midwives per 10,000 persons further falls to 5, 1.3, and 6, respectively. Today Current Affairs

Despite such a huge shortage, the annual intake of medical students for the MBBS course in 558 medical colleges is only 83,275. Another 3.39 lakh nursing students are also enrolled annually in 8,859 institutions. In the last seven years, the number of medical colleges has increased by 44% and that of MBBS seats has gone up by around 60%. However, the number of medical colleges per crore population has barely crept up from 3.1 to 4.1 during the period, while the number of medical seats per crore population has increased from 418 to 618, which is still too low to fill up the shortfalls.

Another reason for concern is the skewed distribution of the health personnel across the states. The highest density of allopathic doctors in the country (per 10,000 persons) was in Kerala (25.4), followed by Jammu and Kashmir (14.2), West Bengal (9.5), Madhya Pradesh (8.4), Telangana (8.5), and Tamil Nadu (7.2). In contrast, the number of allopathic doctors per 10,000 persons was less than three in Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, and Odisha. Similarly, in the case of nurses, the states with the highest numbers per 10,000 population were Delhi (31), Uttarakhand (24.4), Kerala (23.4), Tamil Nadu (20.4), and Andhra Pradesh (17.4). However, the density of nurses was lower than five in Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha, and Jharkhand.

Despite these huge disparities in the availability of medical personnel, initiatives to boost their availability in the laggard states have not made much headway. Most of the medical education facilities continue to be disproportionately concentrated in a few states, which will only further accentuate the problem in the coming years. Today, the top six states of Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, and Telangana account for around half the medical colleges and the MBBS seats available in the country. And the share of the top 11 states is more than 75% of the seats. While the leading three states account for around one-third of the graduate medical admissions, the share of Punjab, Delhi, Chhattisgarh, Assam, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, and Jharkhand is less than 2% each.

The Hindu Analysis

Apart from the skewed distribution, there are also other issues. Recent studies report that the shortage of teaching faculty in medical education is as high as 40%. So, it is often not possible to ensure the 1:10 teacher–student ratio recommended by the Medical Council of India. In many teaching departments, the share of the non-medical teachers has gone up to even 50%. Outdated curriculum and teaching methods and flawed assessment patterns further complicate these issues. It is seen that inadequate facilities have led to the derecognition of as many as 21 private medical colleges in the last decade.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Ironically, it is a lose-lose situation. Despite the huge personnel deficit, the medical education infrastructure remains limited, forcing more and more students to study abroad, and often ends up saddled with poor-quality education and a different skill set than what is needed here. So, it is time the government stepped in to substantially overhaul medical education and significantly boost the annual intake of medical students to ensure adequate health personnel to meet the global norms.

Ritu

Sri Lanka's Bankruptcy journey

SRI LANKA'S BANKRUPTCY JOURNEY – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

In the last few months, Sri Lanka has been tottering on the verge of insolvency, with its scheduled external debt repayment obligations far exceeding its limited foreign exchange reserves. All efforts to restructure the country's external debt had come to naught after the international credit rating agencies reduced its sovereign rating to junk status. Unfortunately, firmly ensconced in its own echo chamber, the majoritarian government had largely ignored the early warning signs and stumbled straight into the impending doom.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

The first sign of the emerging crisis was evident more than a year back when the country's foreign exchange reserves shrunk to a 11-year low in February 2021. Though a currency swap with the People's Bank of China helped tide over the immediate crunch, the problems have only aggravated since then. Sri Lanka's foreign exchange reserves, which peaked at \$7.6 billion in 2019, have more than halved to \$3.1 billion in 2021 and are now set to further fall to \$2.2 billion in 2022. Consequently, the share of imports covered by the forex reserves has steadily fallen from five months to 1.5 months and further to one month during the period, and any sudden improvement is very unlikely.

The imbalance in the external sector was primarily fuelled by a growing current account deficit and a surge in government debt. Sri Lanka's current account deficit, which shrunk

from 2.2% of the gross domestic product (GDP) in 2019 to 1.3% in 2020, has suddenly bloated to 3.8% in 2021, and this is now expected to only improve to 2.6% of the GDP in the next few years. Similarly, the ratio of public and publicly guaranteed debt to GDP went up from 94.3% to 114% of the GDP between 2019 and 2021. This is ominous given that around half of the government borrowing is denominated in foreign currencies. And with one-third of the foreign debt falling due between 2021 and 2023, the country is now hurling towards a disaster. In fact, the external public debt service requirements alone will exceed \$4.1 billion each year during the period. The Hindu Analysis

Unfortunately for Sri Lanka, all these developments followed soon after its reclassification as an upper-middle-income country by the World Bank in July 2019, making it the second South Asian nation on the list after the Maldives. However, the unexpected pandemic has now completely derailed the economy. This was because the economic disruption severely dented Sri Lanka's earnings from tourism, remittances, and foreign direct investment (FDI)—the three mainstays of its external sector. While the receipts from tourism fell from around \$4.5 billion in 2018 to less than half a billion dollars now, remittances have dipped from a high of \$6.1 billion in 2020 and is now expected to bounce back only in 2026. Similarly, the FDI inflows have fallen from the peak levels of 1.8% of the GDP in 2018 to 0.5% in 2020 and will only slowly pick up to 1.2% of the GDP in the next few years. Today Current Affairs

Surprisingly, despite its sharp descent into an increasingly dire scenario, the Sri Lankan government, which had earlier availed of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) assistance on many occasions, initially hesitated to seek any help from multilateral agencies, fearing that the harsh conditionalities they impose would only further erode the already shrinking popular support to the government. Instead, Sri Lanka first sought Chinese help in restructuring its foreign debt. It also requested an economic package from India. However, the reduction of Sri Lanka's credit rating to CCC or junk status by the international rating agencies, citing the rising possibility of a sovereign default in a few months, was a catastrophe. This firmly closed Sri Lanka's access to the international capital markets and jinxed all efforts to roll over the maturing international obligations.

Strangely, the government's response to these debilitating developments has been perverse and tardy. It first passed a constitutional amendment in October 2020, which further centralised powers in the office of the President. Then, it cut down on all non-essential imports, which badly hit the economy. Similarly, the fixing of the official exchange rate of the Sri Lankan rupee between 200 and 203 per dollar and the rules for surrendering foreign exchange led to widespread hoarding and caused dollar shortages. A fallout was the scarcity of medicines and fuel, which raised the electricity outage to more than 10 hours each day. And consumer inflation crossed the 18% mark with food prices soaring by 30%. The Hindu Analysis

But it would be unfair to blame Sri Lanka's current predicament to the pandemic and external sector constraints. The civil war and poorly advised policies had forced the country to seek IMF's assistance at least four times since the turn of the millennium. And the current regime aggravated the problems by both radically cutting tax rates to bolster business sentiments and by offering largesse worth a billion dollars, including salary hikes to bureaucracy amidst the crisis. These measures ensured that while the tax-to-GDP ratio has dipped from the peak levels of 11.6% in 2019 to around 7.2%, now the expenditures remained sticky at around 19% of the GDP. The Hindu Analysis

The response of the government to the growing economic stability and the threats to its legitimacy has been to clamp down on public gatherings and to restrict access to social media. It appointed a new central bank governor even as the new finance minister relinquished office just a day after taking charge. The President has now asked all national parties represented in Parliament to join a new interim government to tackle the national crisis. But surely, there are no shortcuts to ensure an immediate recovery.



Ritu



CURRENT AFFAIRS

APRIL 2022

Accountability of Social Media Platforms

ACCOUNTABILITY OF SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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

CENTRE'S STAND

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

EXCEPTION FOR SUSPENSION : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

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

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

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

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

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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

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

Anshum Verma

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

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

Context : Western nations want to throw Russia out of the G-20. China has opposed them. Western World thinks that without more and more economical and political sanction, Russia can not be pressured and punished for the office of the Russian Ukrainian war. India would be Chairman of the G@0 from Dec 2022, therefore , India’s role now has been increased and in this crucial situation India must play a role of global leader.

Today Current Affairs

INTRODUCTION :

G-20 is the intergovernmental organization of 19 nations and European Nations. By Dec 2022, India is going to Chair the summit of G20. Russia is also a member of G 2). Now the European Union and the western countries are pressuring India to expel Russia from the G20 and support western countries for more effective sanctions . G20 is a group for economical and financial cooperation among the member countries . Therefore , G20 can play a crucial role over the realization of the economic sanctions on Russia by western countries. The Hindu Analysis

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

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

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

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

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

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

ROLE OF G20 : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Conclusion

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

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

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

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

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

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

Today Current Affairs

INTRODUCTION :

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

COMMUNAL CONFLICT / SECTORAL CONFLICT : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

CIVIL WAR : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

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

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

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

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Conclusion

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

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Significance and Implication of recent India US talk

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

Context :

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

Today Current affairs

INTRODUCTION :

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

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

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

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

IMPLICATION AND SIGNIFICATION : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Conclusion

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

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

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

INDIA-NEPAL RELATIONS

INDIA-NEPAL RELATIONS – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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

Today Current Affairs

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

HOW TO MANAGE THE GROWING DIFFERENCES? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

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

Anshum Verma

The End of the Marital Rape Exception

THE END OF THE MARITAL RAPE EXCEPTION – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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

Today Current Affairs

WHAT IS MARITAL RAPE

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHAT WERE THE EARLIER JUDGMENTS? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

Anshum Verma

Opportunity in crisis: Backward class political reservation

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

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

Today Current Affairs

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

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

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

THE SC'S INTERVENTION : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

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

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

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

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

MVA VERSUS THE BJP : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

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

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

POST-MANDAL OBC POLITICS : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ritu

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

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

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

Today Current Affairs

INTRODUCTION:

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

EARLY LIFE : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

ROLE IN INDIAN POLITICS : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

IDEOLOGY OF VARNA SYSTEM / CASTE SYSTEM : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

Thus Ambedkar wanted to eradicate it

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

IDEOLOGY REGARDING HEREDITARY PROFESSIONS : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

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

THOUGHT ABOUT WOMEN EDUCATION : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

COMPARISON WITH GANDHIJI : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

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

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

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

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Conclusion

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

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

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

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

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

Today Current Affairs

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

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

HISTORY OF THE SOLOMON ISLAND : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

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

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

SIGNIFICANCE OF SOLOMON ISLAND FOR CHINA : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

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

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

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

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

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Conclusion

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

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

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

BANKRUPTCY AND REDEMPTION OF SRI LANKA – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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

Today Current Affairs

Introduction :

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

SRI LANKAN ECONOMICAL CRISIS : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

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

HOW THIS CRISIS ERUPTED IN SRI LANKA : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

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

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

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Conclusion

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

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Mental Healthcare System in India

MENTAL HEALTHCARE SYSTEM IN INDIA – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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

Source: Indian Express

Today Current Affairs

WHY IN NEWS?

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

DETAILS ABOUT THE ISSUES : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

WHAT HAS BEEN FOUND AT THE GROUND? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

PROVISIONS OF MENTAL HEALTHCARE ACT, 2017 : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

Current Affairs

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

Health Authority in each State.

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

THE INITIATIVE TAKEN SO FAR : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- The initiative of the Ministry of Education, the MANODARPAN to provide psychosocial support to students for their mental health and well-being.
- The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has launched the 24x7 Toll-Free Mental Health Rehabilitation Helpline “KIRAN” to provide relief and support to persons with Mental Illness.
- The government of India launched the National Mental Health Programme (NMHP) in 1982 to focus on increasing the reach of minimum mental health services for the poor. The Hindu Analysis
- Also the Government of India has proposed to launch a National Tele Mental Health Program.
- The NGO ‘Sangath’ provides affordable mental healthcare by strengthening state and private sector services by training the community.

FUTURE COURSE OF ACTION : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

Vivek Raj

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

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

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

Source: PIB

Today Current Affairs

WHY IN NEWS?

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

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

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

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

ROLE OF THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

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

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

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

THEMES OF CONFERENCE : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

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

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

HOW THE CONFERENCE IS IMPORTANT : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

Vivek Raj



CURRENT AFFAIRS

APRIL 2022

Assam-Meghalaya Border Dispute Agreement

ASSAM-MEGHALAYA BORDER DISPUTE AGREEMENT – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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

Today Current Affairs

HOW DID THE BOUNDARY DISPUTE START?

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

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

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

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

WHAT ABOUT THE CURRENT AGREEMENT? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

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

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

Anshum Verma

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

SIGNIFICANCE OF UPCOMING BRICS MEET – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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

Today Current Affairs

INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

BRICS : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

SIGNIFICANCE OF 14TH BRICS SUMMIT : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

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

Today Current affairs

CONCLUSION

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

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Adapting Indian Agriculture to Climate Change



ADAPTING INDIAN AGRICULTURE TO CLIMATE CHANGE – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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

Today Current Affairs

WHAT ARE THE IPCC REPORTS?

- The objective of the IPCC is to provide governments at all levels with scientific information that they can use to develop climate policies.
- It was created in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- The Assessment Reports, the first of which had come out in 1990, are the most comprehensive evaluations of the state of the earth's climate.
- The first part of the report centred on the scientific basis of climate change.
- The second tranche of reports for the first time, made regional and sectoral level assessment of climate change impacts on ecosystems, biodiversity, and human communities.
- What is the WG III report about? The Hindu Analysis

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

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

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

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

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

WHAT ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE PRIORITISED? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

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

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

Technocratic solution Of Sri Lankan Crisis

TECHNOCRATIC SOLUTION OF SRI LANKAN CRISIS – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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

Today Current Affairs

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

TECHNOCRATIC SOLUTIONS : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

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

THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

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

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

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

THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

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

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Conclusion

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

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

BIMSTEC Summit

BIMSTEC SUMMIT – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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

Today Current Affairs

WHAT IS BIMSTEC?

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

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



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

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

WHY IS THIS SUMMIT SIGNIFICANT? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

WHAT ARE THE CONCERNS? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

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

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

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

Anshum Verma

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

NATIONAL CIVIL SERVICES – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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

Today Current Affairs

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



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

OBJECTIVES OF CIVIL SERVICES : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

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

services. Today Current Affairs

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

CIVIL SERVICES IN INDIAN HISTORY : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SIGNIFICANCE OF CIVIL SERVICES : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

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

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

CHANGING PARADIGM : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

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

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

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Conclusion

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

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

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

4th Industrial Revolution



4TH INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Definition:

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

Today Current Affairs

Evolution:

1st industrial revolution : The Hindu Analysis

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

2nd industrial revolution : The Hindu Analysis

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

3rd industrial revolution : The Hindu Analysis

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

How different will be the 4th industrial revolution?

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

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

CHALLENGES POSED BY THIS REVOLUTION : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

IMPLICATIONS FOR INDIA : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

INITIATIVES THAT THE GOVERNMENT MUST THINK OVER : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

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

Conclusion:

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

Vikas Gupa

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

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

Context :

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

Today Current Affairs

Introduction :

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

RIGHT TO ADEQUATE HOUSING : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

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

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

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Conclusion

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

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

The Criminal Procedure (Identification) Bill, 2022

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

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

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

Today Current Affairs

KEY FEATURES OF THE BILL

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE BILL AND THE RIGHT TO PRIVACY : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

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

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

whether sufficient safeguards are handed by the bill.

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

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

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

The Way Forward : The Hindu Analysis

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ritu

Lynchistan – a myth or a reality

LYNCHISTAN – A MYTH OR A REALITY – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

What is meant by Lynching?

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

RECENT INCIDENTS OF MOB LYNCHING IN INDIA : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

Today Current Affairs

Laws in India:

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

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

SUPREME COURT'S VIEW : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

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

What the governments think about supreme court's view?

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

THE POLITICAL DEBATE : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Conclusion:

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

Vikas Gupta

India's Federal ethos : An analysis

INDIA'S FEDERAL ETHOS – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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

Today Current Affairs

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

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

ROLE OF GOVERNOR IN FEDERAL POLITICS : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

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

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

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Conclusion

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

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Urban bodies and reservation for backward class



URBAN BODIES AND RESERVATION FOR BACKWARD CLASS – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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

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

Today Current Affairs

Reservations in Local Bodies

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

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

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

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

JUDICIAL INTERPRETATION : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Conclusions

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ritu

Childbirth and its seasonal variation

CHILDBIRTH AND IT'S SEASONAL VARIATION – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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

Today Current Affairs

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

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

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

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

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

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

RESPONSIBLE FACTORS : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DISCUSSIONS AND CONCLUSIONS : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

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

FUTURE SCOPE : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

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

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

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Conclusions

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

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

Ritu

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

SIGNIFICANCE OF ART MUSEUM PRADHAN MANTRI SANGRAHALAYA – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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

Today Current Affairs

Introduction

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

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

ART AND ARCHITECTURE OF THIS MUSEUM : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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

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

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

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

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

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Conclusion

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

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

Dr. Anshul Bajpai





CURRENT AFFAIRS

APRIL 2022

Rule of Law : A fundamental of democratic politics : An Analysis in special context to Bulldozer drive

RULE OF LAW : A FUNDAMENTAL OF DEMOCRATIC POLITICS – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Context : Recently , It has been observed that , state generally used bulldozers for demolishing the property (House and shops) of accused before any proper judicial trial. However this policy of the government is being praised by some section of the society and these people compare bulldozer drive with quick justice but the question remain that without any faire judicial trial whether these types of activities are not the violation of law , whether these activities are not the symbol of dictatorship of the state and not the the harmful of any civilization. Whether these activities do not damage the democratic prestige of India in the world. Whether these are not the violation of the constitution and the violation of international law. These types of the issues must be brought for the discussion and if required, some amendments must be done in IPC /CrPC and Indian constitution .

Today Current Affairs

Introduction :

The rule of law is the political philosophy that all citizens and institutions within a country, state, or community are accountable to the same laws. It means state would not discriminate among the people on the bases of the caste , creed, race, sex while imposing any law . The Indian constitution also consists of the rule of Law . Article 14 of the Indian constitution clearly explains the rule of law. For the democratic politics , rule of law is a mandatory element .

HISTORY OF RULE OF LAW : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Generally , it is considered that Aristotle described rule of law during the 4th century BC and he clearly distinguished between rule of law and the rule of individuals. In Arthashastra however , the rule of law is clearly given but it should not be ignored that in ancient India discriminations had been based on the varna system. But the provisions for all the varnas were clearly described in the religion text (Dharma Shastra). The Hindu Analysis
- By the 18th century Montesquieu describe the rule of law and it is called the legitimate authority of the monarch. In general, the rule of law implies that the creation of laws, their enforcement, and the relationships among legal rules are themselves legally regulated, so that no one—including the most highly placed official—is above the law. However some privileges should also be given to selective important persons .

- Bulldozer drive and Violation of rule of law are nowadays the subject of debate . Many people say that bulldozer drive is the means of quick justice Government also justify bulldozer drive either on the ground of illegal encroachment or pressurizing the accused . The statement of the NDMC that the demolition was a part of a drive against “illegal encroachments” seems to be a legal smokescreen for its more insidious action.
- If we observe the legalities of the colonies of Delhi, only 24 % of the settlement in Delhi is legal, should the remaining 76 % of the settlement be demolished? Definitely not , it should be regularized . The Hindu Analysis
- he Draft Master Plan of Delhi, 2041 also acknowledges the informality that characterizes Delhi when it states that such unplanned areas have “emerged as high density, mix-use hubs, providing affordable options for housing, micro, small and medium enterprises”. Within the web of such urban informality, people make claims over property through various legal, political, and documentary means. Since the 1970s, there have been many waves of regularization of “unauthorized colonies” initiated by the state. Central government has passed PM-UDAY (Unauthorized Colonies in Delhi Awas Adhikar Yojana) scheme and through this yojna, the property rights of unauthorized colonies were also recognized by the state .
- Besides , no public authority can demolish buildings without giving any prior notice and the right to hear that party. It is a complete violation of natural justice also (Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957 and the Delhi Development Act, 1957). Section 343 of the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957, however allows the authority to demolish the building but it shall be made” unless a notice is served to give the affected person “a reasonable opportunity of showing cause why such order shall not be made”.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

CONCLUSION :

As per the above discussion, it is almost clear that , in a civilized society and a democratic country such type of bulldozing can not be justified . Government should be more rational in this regard. This is the era of communication . These incidents definitely would fade the democratic character of India in front of other democratic countries of the world . India is one of the most democratic countries as well as the country of oldest civilization in the world . The rule of law had been followed in India even in the Ancient period . therefore we must follow the instruction of constitution, judgment of the honorable supreme court and high courts (Udama Singh vs Government of Delhi , 2010 Delhi high court gave a verdict which mandated that the state should comply with fair procedure before undertaking any eviction which got further crystalized in the Delhi Slum & JJ Rehabilitation and Relocation Policy, 2015. In Ajay Makan vs Union of India (2019), a case concerning the legality of the demolition of Shakur Basti, the Delhi High Court held that no authority shall carry out eviction without conducting a survey, consulting the population that it seeks to evict and providing adequate rehabilitation for those eligible.)

Source : The Hindu (Editorial)

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Goal of Energy Resources in South Asia : An analysis in special reference to India

GOAL OF ENERGY RESOURCES IN SOUTH ASIA – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Context :

The chief goal of the South Asian Countries is to provide electricity to every household. However some countries are far behind this goal. The objective is not only to provide electricity to each house but it should be provided on reliable cost and efficient electricity protecting the interest of the customer

Today Current Affairs

INTRODUCTION

- South Asia is the southern region of Asia . It can be defined as both geographical and ethno-cultural terms. It consists almost 4th of the world population , however it has 5-5% of land mass of the world's land mass. The region consists of the countries of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. In recent year it has been observed that the production of electricity has risen exponentially from 340 terawatt hours (TWh) in 1990 to 1,500 TWh in 2015. Small countries like Bangladesh has also achieved the target of 100% electrification recently while Bhutan, the Maldives, and Sri Lanka accomplished this in 2019.
- India and Afghanistan are closing to achieve the target of 100 electrification . Both have achieved almost 95 % of the target of electrification. Pakistan is far behind this target . Pakistan could achieve 73.91% of targeted electrification. The cost of electricity is the cheapest in Bhutan while In India the electricity cost is the highest in all south Asian countries. The Bangladesh government has significantly revamped power production resulting in power demands from 4,942 kWh in 2009 to 25,514 MW as of 2022. The objective of India is to transmit renewable energy to provide for 40% of total consumption. Among all the south Asian countries the condition of the Pakistan is the worst condition. The Hindu Analysis
- The main issues which should be addressed by these countries include generation, transmission, distribution, rural electrification, research and development, environmental issues, energy conservation and human resource training.
- Because of the geographical diversity, every country depends on different energy sources . For example India relies heavily on coal, accounting for nearly 55% of its electricity production, 99.9% of Nepal's energy comes from hydropower, 75% of Bangladesh's power production relies on natural gas, and Sri Lanka leans on oil, spending as much as 6% of its GDP on importing oil.

SIGNIFICANCE OF ELECTRIFICATION : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Electrification of the countries does not only fulfill the requirement of energy but also it helps in increment of the GDP as well as the objective of Global sustainable development . For middle income countries, generation of electricity plays an important role in the development of the country . More electricity encourages more investment which would further lead to more production and more employment . In such a way electricity provides the overall increment in any economy. Today Current Affairs
- The production of electricity played a greater role in some south Asian countries . For example, 50.3% of Bangladesh's GDP comes from industrial and agricultural sectors which cannot function efficiently without electricity. Nepal's GDP growth of an average of 7.3% since the earthquake in 2015 is due to

rapid urbanization aided by increased consumption of electricity. Because of the less electrification in Pakistan, it has to face the rapid reduction in Industrial growth

- Bangladesh is moving faster towards the goal of SDGs (Global sustainable development .) She is focusing on the electricity production from solar energy . In This way she can achieve the 7 goals of SDGs (Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all” for 2030) . The solar energy is being distributed to households also so that the maximum household could be benefited in Bangladesh . In this way She is achieving the 5th Gold of SDGs gradually (achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”)
- India’s pledge to move 40% of total energy produced to renewable energy is also a big step. India is also improving the accessibility of the electricity for all and in this way she is also achieved the 9th goal of SDGs gradually (“build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation) Today Current Affairs
- India’s focus is to reduce carbon, therefore India is increasing the clean energy sources. Recently in Palli village , our prime minister inaugurated the solar plan for the electrification of the village . South Asia has vast renewable energy resources — hydropower, solar, wind, geothermal and biomass which must be exploited for fulfilling the electricity requirements . The region is moving towards green growth and energy as India hosts the International Solar Alliance.

REGIONAL COOPERATION FOR ENERGY : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) prepared the regional energy cooperation framework in 2014 but its implementation is still in vain .However there are multiple bilateral , multilateral treaties among South Asian countries but still energy cooperation could not be made feasible so that the energy requirement of them all could be fulfilled. ‘South Asia’s regional geopolitics is determined by the conflation of identity, politics, and international borders. This is the main obstacle in front of the treaties . India exports 1,200MW of electricity to Bangladesh, sufficient for almost 25% of the daily energy demand, with a significant amount from the Kokrajhar power plant in Assam worth U.S.\$470 million. Bhutan exports 70% of its own hydro powered electricity to India worth almost U.S.\$100 million.

NEED TO IMPROVEMENT IN SUCH A WAY : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

South Asian countries are rapidly improving their energy resources and fulfilling the requirement of energy but in this field, more cooperation among the countries is needed despite the local geopolitical issues . these countries should develop infrastructure for the distribution of the electricity among the countries

Today Current Affairs

Conclusion

As per the above discussion , it can be said that energy is the key factor for the development of any country . so all the south Asian countries should develop energy resources and through mutual cooperation they should distribute the electricity so that it could fulfill the requirements of each country . In this way the entire region would be benefited and we will achieve the goals of the SDGs. Since South Asian countries represent the 4th largest population of the world in 5 % of land therefore for these countries development of energy is a must .

Source : The Hindu (Editorial)

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Criminal Procedure (Identification) Bill, 2022

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

The government has introduced the Criminal Procedure (Identification) Bill, 2022 in Lok Sabha amid strong protests from the Opposition.

Today Current Affairs

WHAT IS THE PROPOSED LAW?

- Earlier law– The Bill seeks to repeal the Identification of Prisoners Act 1920 that provided for the collection of only fingerprints and footprints.
- Measurements– It authorises law enforcement agencies to collect, store and analyse physical and biological samples including retina and iris and behavioural attributes including signatures and handwriting for identification and investigation in criminal matters. Today Current Affairs
- Repository of samples– The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) will be the repository of physical and biological samples, signature and handwriting data.
- Coverage- It proposes that the law apply to three categories of individuals.
 1. Convicted persons
 2. Suspected criminals or habitual offenders
 3. Persons held under any preventive detention law
- Storage of samples– The record of these measurements will be retained in digital or electronic form for a period of 75 years from the date of collection.
- Exemptions– A person accused of any offence other than offences committed against a woman or a child, or for any offence punishable with imprisonment for a period that is not less than 7 years can refuse to allow taking of his biological samples. Today Current Affairs
- Destruction of records– The records are to be destroyed in the case of any person who is released without trial or discharged or acquitted by the court, after exhausting all legal remedies.
- Resisting the measurements– Refusal to allow the taking of measurements under this Act shall be deemed to be an offence under section 186 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

WHAT IS THE NEED FOR SUCH A BILL? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- To suit the changed nature and trend of crimes
- For reliable results
- To aid the investigation agencies in identification and investigation of criminal matters
- To increase prosecution
- To increase the conviction rates in courts
- To promote modern techniques to capture and record appropriate body measurements in place of existing limited measurements.

WHAT ARE THE ISSUES BEING RAISED ABOUT THE BILL? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Lack of clarity– The statement of objects says it provides for collection of measurements for “convicts and other persons” but the expression “other persons” is not defined.

- The provisions cast a wide net on the range of individuals — even those who are not booked for any offence but are simply “suspected” of committing one or “likely” to commit one.
- Conflict with fundamental rights– The Bill is beyond the legislative competence of Parliament as it violated fundamental rights of citizens including the right to privacy. Today Current Affairs
- The proposed law will be debated against Article 20(3) of the Constitution, which is a fundamental right that guarantees the right against self-incrimination.
- Human right violations– The Bill is said to violate the human rights provisions as laid in the United Nations charter.
- Right to be forgotten– The Bill also brings to focus rights of prisoners and the right to be forgotten since biometric data can be stored for 75 years.
- Disrupts federalism- Given that policing is a state subject, it remains to be seen if any states refuse to share this information.

WHAT WAS THE SUPREME COURT’S RULING REGARDING PRIVACY? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- The Supreme Court’s landmark ruling in Puttaswamy v Union of India recognised the right to privacy as a fundamental right
- It made it clear that any state action infringing on the right needs to be backed by legislation.
- It also laid down a three-fold test to allow such laws.
 1. The activity must be backed by a law
 2. The state must have a legitimate interest in the subject to bring such a law that collides with fundamental rights
 3. The state’s infringement must be proportional to its aim
- In the Puttaswamy II case in 2018, the Supreme Court upheld the Aadhaar scheme and allowed the state to collect fingerprints and iris scans for welfare schemes.

Anshum Verma

Higher Inflation in Rural India

HIGHER INFLATION IN RURAL INDIA – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

The retail inflation rate surged to 6.95% while the rural inflation surged to 7.66% this March. Inflation is the rate at which the value of a currency is falling and, consequently, the general level of prices for goods and services is rising.

Today Current Affairs

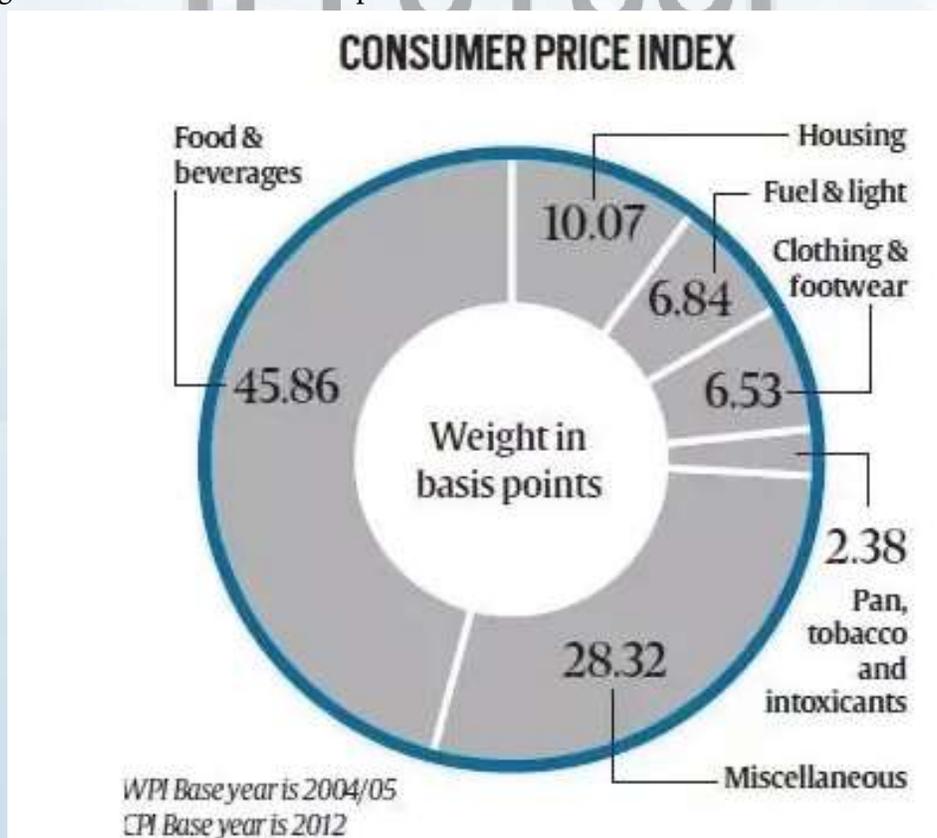
How Have Urban And Rural Inflation Trends Differed Over The Past Year?

- Urban inflation has usually tended to be higher than rural inflation by an average of about 0.8 percentage points through 2021 except August and May 2021.
- The rural inflation surpassed the urban inflation by 0.2 percentage points in January 2022 and reached 6.38% in February even as urban inflation declined to 5.75%.

- In March 2022, the gap between the two had surpassed 1.5% with urban inflation at 6.12% and rural inflation hitting 7.66%.

WHAT ARE THE KEY DRIVERS OF HIGHER INFLATION IN THE HINTERLAND? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Food inflation- Food has a higher weight in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and food inflation was the key driver for the headline inflation rate jump in March.
- The food inflation in rural India reached 8.04% whereas food inflation in urban India was a full percentage point lower.
- The vegetable price trends have been most worrisome that reached 10.6% in March 2022.
- Fuel inflation- The inflation in fuel and light and clothing, were the key factors driving up rural prices. Today Current Affairs
- The fuel prices are higher in rural areas due to connectivity issues and prices of traditional fuel like firewood have also risen simultaneously.
- Education- A persistently higher inflation in education costs of about 1 to 1.5 percentage points was witnessed.
- Labour shift- This trend could also be explained by the shift of labour between urban and rural areas in the last two years, which has also injected volatility into demand dynamics.
- Others- The inflation rates for items such as oils and fats, clothing, footwear, fuel and light and personal care were higher than the urban counterparts.



WHICH SECTIONS ARE AFFECTED THE MOST? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Sections affected– While high inflation affects the poor the most in general, the fact that price rise in food is driving the current surge.
- Also, the food inflation is expected to rise along with both fuel and core inflation (excluding food and energy prices).
- The bottom 20% of the population in urban as well as rural India is facing the worst effects. Today Current Affairs
- The rural bottom 20% faced the highest inflation at 7.7% in March, while the upper 20% of the income segment in the rural area experienced 7.6% inflation.
- Reasons– While food price risks have risen due to the Russia-Ukraine conflict, higher prices for farm sector inputs could further drive the food inflation.
- Future prospects– The cost of production is likely to increase by around 8-10% and the MSP should at least be higher by around 12%-15%.
- With a normal monsoon anticipated this year, this would determine whether rural consumer demand will rebound or remain constricted in upcoming months.

Anshum Verma

Evaluation of Mission Antyodaya : How far it is successful in terms of Social Justice

EVALUATION OF MISSION ANTYODAYA – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Context :

Mission Antyodaya is the programme through which the government wants to reduce economical diversity in India . This mission is helpful to provide benefits to the marginalized people also . But recently statistical data released by the governments expose some flaws of this mission. These flaws must be addressed and resolved because this mission is the hope of marginalized people and it should not fall fall by the wayside

Today Current Affairs

INTRODUCTION :

- Mission Antyoday was adopted in the Union Budget 2017-18. is a convergence and accountability framework aiming to bring optimum use and management of resources allocated by 27 Ministries/ Department of the Government of India under various programmes for the development of rural areas. It is envisaged as a state-led initiative with Gram Panchayats as focal points of convergence efforts.
- As per the Indian constitution , social justice is the fundamental structure of the Indian constitution . In article Articles 243G and 243W of the Indian constitution, local governments are empowered to prepare and implement plans for 'economic development and social justice'. Several complementary institutions and measures such as the gram sabha to facilitate people's participation. District Planning Committees (DPC) make the plans for the bottom level while the state finance commission provides the financial assistance to such programmes . But , if we observed as ground level, the objective of the

Indian constitution for the decentralization has not been seems too much successful in rural areas because of the lack of awareness of the people

WHY MISSION ANTYODAY WAS INTRODUCED : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

In fact, some data were brought into the public domain by the Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC) 2011, which showed the vulnerable conditions of the marginalized people and these people were demanding some remedies for them. According to these data , approx. 90 % of the rural household have no job (No salary) 53.7 million households are landless, 6.89 million female-headed households have no adult member to support, 49% suffer from multiple deprivations, 51.4% derive sustenance from manual casual labor, 23.73 million are with no room or only one room to live, and so on.

The above data can not be ignored by any democratic government at that time. Therefore the Antyodaya mission was brought. It was the compulsion for the center government who had come into power on the ground of poverty reduction

THE KEYS GOALS OF THE MISSION ANTYODAYA : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- The fundamental objective of this mission is to ensure optimum use of resources through the convergence of various schemes that address multiple deprivations of poverty
- To make gram panchayat the hub of a development plan
- The collection of the data regarding health and nutrition, social security, good governance, water management, so that government could make plan accordingly. The Hindu Analysis
- To identify the gaps in basic needs at the local level, and integrating resources of various schemes, self-help groups, voluntary organizations and so on to finance them needs coordination and capacity-building of a high order.

EVALUATION : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- The concept of Social justice is still distant. The reason behind this is the gap among the gram panchayats. Some Gram Panchayats are well developed and have many resources but some are not . First, this gap among all the gram panchayats should be reduced . First time the data was collected in a survey of The 'Mission Antyodaya' in 2019-20 which threw light on the infrastructural gap among the Gram panchayats. The data was collected through the survey which was conducted in 2.67 lakh gram panchayats, comprising 6.48 lakh villages with 1.03 billion population. For an insight into the gap report, we may use the State-wise break-up of the score-values. The Hindu Analysis
- The maximum score values assigned will add up to 100 and are presented in class intervals of 10. On this ground , no state of India could get a score of 90 . 1,484 gram panchayats are in the lowest bracket. Only 10 states come in the bracket of 80 to 90 . If we consider a score range of 70-80 as a respectable attainment level, Kerala tops but accounts for only 34.69% of gram panchayats of the State, the corresponding all-India average is as low as 1.09%. Even for Gujarat which comes next to Kerala, gram panchayats in this bracket are only 11.28%.All the gram panchayats in Kerala are above this and stand out in contrast to the rest of the States. While in the country as a whole only 7.37% have a composite index in the 70-100 bracket, Gujarat (which tops the list) has 20.5% in the range, followed by Kerala (19.77%) and Karnataka (17.68%).

THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The above data , definitely compels us to think about the success and flaws of the Mission Antyodaya .With

such a gap, how we can provide social justice in India. This is the big question. There are definitely several laps which must be rectified .

- Government should focus on universal primary health care, literacy, drinking water supply
- Government should implements some central governments plans like Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, the National Rural Livelihood Mission, National Social Assistance Programme, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, etc.) effectively. The Hindu Analysis
- Government should reduce expenditure on the governance
- Another big lapse is the failure to deploy the data to India's fiscal federalism. Government should rectify these flaws so that the goal of social justice could be achieved

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Conclusion

On the basis of the above discussion, it can be said that social justice is not only the constitutional compulsion but also the mandatory element of the development of India. If inequality is there in India , it will create discontent among people which would hamper the law and order of the country. Therefore government should ensure the minimization of the gap between upper and lower class which could be done only through providing financial assistance to marginalized people.

Dr Anshul Bajpai

India's Green Hydrogen Policy : An step toward energy independence

INDIA'S GREEN HYDROGEN POLICY – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Context : India's Green Hydrogen Policy released on February 17, 2022. Despite being several challenges , this is the first step towards getting energy independence . It can help lay the foundation of a new India which aims to be a global climate leader. Hydrogen is the source of clean energy . hence , hydrogen energy would reduce the dependency of Indian on the petroleum products

Today Current Affairs

Introduction :

Recently, Indian has declared its Green hydrogen policy where hydrogen was suggested as the alternative of the traditional fuels like petroleum products . At the 26th Conference of Parties (COP26) in November 2021, India committed tp reduce its carbon emission up to 0 % by 2070. India, along with 32 other countries plus the EU, signed a five-point “Glasgow B . In this pact India has shown that its commitment would be fulfilled through the substitution of the petroleum products as the source of energy with the clean hydrogen gas

India's Green Hydrogen Policy which was released at 17 Feb 2002 would be facilitating green hydrogen production through easing the process of hydrogen energy as well as the financial and other support from the government . there would be time bound clearance , power banking of surplus unconsumed renewable power for 30 days, providing access to power markets and interstate grids and long-term (25 years) interstate power transmission charge waivers, and easing port storage set-ups for hydrogen or

ammonia export and use by the shipping sector.

SEVERAL CHALLENGES : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

There are several challenges for promoting the production of clean energy Hydrogen . These Challenges are

- open access
- waiver of inter-state transmission charge
- Financial assistance
- time-bound clearances

However government has promised to facilitate to overcome from these challenges

NEED OF ALTERNATIVE OF TRADITIONAL ENERGY SOURCE : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

India is the second most populated country in the world and it is a developing country. The consumption of the fuel in India is about one-third of the global average and this consumption is continuously increasing . We have seen the price hike of the petroleum during Ukraine crisis and because of such price hikes , the inflation in India increases . therefore we must find out some alternative of the petroleum product in culture

The new age fuel, hydrogen, is touted as India's gateway to energy independence. Hydrogen can play an important role for fulfilling the energy requirement of India . It can be stored and can be used for long-haul transport, or for decarbonization of the industrial sector. Definitely , the culture of energy would not be the petroleum product , it would be depending on electricity and hydrogen. Electricity and hydrogen are the energy resources of the future .

Hydrogen would be a game changer for India. However , In India electric vehicles are used in which a lion battery is inbuilt. But these are not of long range and these take more time for refueling /charging. In the industrial segment, hydrogen can decarbonize 'hard-to-abate' sectors such as iron and steel, aluminum, copper etc. It is a huge prospect to produce fuels such as methanol, synthetic kerosene and green ammonia.

AN STRATEGY : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

There must be the requirement of the following strategy

- Government should create the demand first , for which the government could encourage the customer by providing some financial assistance as well as the financial support to the industries also. Without incentives these Industries would not be ready to take any risk
- Blending hydrogen with natural gas can act as a big booster shot which can be facilitated by framing blending mandates, regulations and promoting H-CNG stations.
- Government would encourage the fuel stations everywhere in India mainly on road side/ Highways . without the availability of the refueling , the demand of the hydrogen could not be created . The Hindu Analysis
- Similar to European countries , the concept of carbon tariffs needs to be introduced
- Government should invest more money in Research and development
- Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) scheme with a target to produce 15 MMT of compressed biogas could be leveraged by exploring biogas conversion into hydrogen. Today

Current Affairs

- To commercialize and scale-up nascent technologies, a Viability Gap Funding (VGF) scheme may be introduced for hydrogen-based projects.
- The most important thing is the cost effectiveness. This fuel must be cost effective so that the cost could easily bear it
- For the transportation purpose, government can promote the use of ammonia,
- Government can use the hydrogen for domestic purpose and for the transportation through the already built infrastructure for the natural gas (PNG)

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Conclusion

Hence, it can be concluded that, for India, the searching of the alternative of traditional energy is a must. We should invest in the production of hydrogen as the source of renewable energy. We should reduce our dependence on traditional energy sources like petroleum. Definitely India's Green Hydrogen Policy will be a milestone for India in the path of energy independence.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Significance of new Global Security Initiative of Chinese president in International politics

SIGNIFICANCE OF NEW GLOBAL SECURITY INITIATIVE OF CHINESE PRESIDENT IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Context :

Recently on the behalf of the Chinese media, it is found that Chinese President Xi Jinping wants to put forward A new Global Security Initiative that will look to counter the U.S. Indo-Pacific strategy and the Quad — the India, U.S., Australia, Japan grouping

Today Current Affairs

Introduction :

Recently, it has been observed that China is very much conscious of QUAD. In fact, during the Ukraine crisis and the indirect support of Russia by India, China thought about the dilution of the QUAD. But contrary to this, the QUAD has become a more committed organization regarding mutual cooperation. In fact China wants to increase her influence in south pacific sea, hence he wants to dilute QUAD

PROPOSAL OF THE CHINESE PRESIDENT : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

China wants to show the world that she is very much concerned towards world peace and security. Therefore he proposed an initiative called Global Security Initiative which would reduce “hegemonism, power politics and bloc confrontation”. This initiative would be committed to the vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security.” In this way this initiative would be helpful to reduce aggression, unilateralism, group politics and bloc confrontation.” therefore the objective of this initiative was declared

to establish international peace. The Hindu Analysis

In fact some countries whose interests could be protected in small groupings or small circles . but these small groups may be confronted . Therefore the size of the group should be big in which the economical , political and social interest of many countries could be addressed .

As per the Chinese president. This new initiative would counter those groups which are destroying the world order under the banner of so-called ‘rules’ and the dragging of the world under the cloud of the ‘new cold war’. In fact, the Chinese president wants to clearly instruct those powerful countries of the western world that they are destroying the world order in the name of democracy and in this way they are gradually demolishing peace . So China want to ensure the security of Asian country based on mutual respect, openness and integration”

In fact, the objective of China is to stop any grouping of the countries of the south pacific region backed by America . During the last QUAD meeting , it was signaled by America to farm an organization like ASIAN NATO however the member of QUAD has rejected any grouping based on military cooperation . More military groups in the world would be more dangerous for the world order. Alliance should be made based on **broad cooperation, including on vaccines and technology.**

CONCLUSION AND SIGNIFICANCE : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

However , China is showing to the world that she is very much conscious towards international peace and order but the reality is every country of the world first protects own interest and then thinks about international politics. For interest of the India, QUAD type organization should be formed so that it could maintain balance in the south pacific sea . However military alliances should be avoided at international level because it will create the atmosphere of conflict . The initiative of China is definitely a good initiative and it should be appreciated but this initiative to establish peace in the world is doubtful because of the historical characteristic of China .

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

A need of a National Language : An Analysis in special reference to imposing Hindi in entire India

A NEED OF A NATIONAL LANGUAGE – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Context :

Recently , It has been observed that unnecessarily dispute is being tried to evolve regarding the imposing of Hindi as a National language . Southern Indian states started their open criticism in this regard . In this way an atmosphere of linguistic conflict is created which would not be good for the integrity of the country . The issue of language is the most sensitive issue . Several examples of disintegration of the country on the bases of languages are there in history . therefore these type of issues must be avoided

Today Current Affairs

Introduction :

language is the means of communication and we all are very much glued with the language . We learn language as we take birth and from the atmosphere gradually. Therefore we are very much psychologically associated with the language . We can not accept any other language easily .

Language is a more sensitive factor in comparison to other factors which bring us together (However religion is a secondary factor and it is less effective than language) . Those languages or dialects which originated from a one linguistic family can be easily substituted with one language gradually but if there are fundamental differences among various languages , could not be brought together. For example north Indian languages and the dialects are the originated from one linguistic family (Indo European family) while the languages of the southern India is indigenous languages and originated from Dravidian family. Therefore it is very difficult to intermingle both the languages and the imposing Hindi , which is quite different from the Dravidian linguistic group .

WHETHER NATIONAL LANGUAGE IS REQUIRED FOR STRENGTHENING INDIA AS A NATION : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

We must understand that diversity is the fundamental characteristic of Indian nationalism (Unity). Indian nationalism is quite differ from European nationalism where race , culture , language plays an important role for nationalism. In India, despite being a diversified culture, language, race, religion , our glorified long history and culture provides us unity . Therefore, we should clearly find out those elements through which Indian nationalism could be strengthened . Those are promoting maximum autonomy up to the lowest unit of the administration, maximum freedom of cultural practice etc. However , Hindi should be promoted but it should not be imposed everywhere in India .

HINDI CAN BE PROMOTED THROUGH SEVERAL MEANS : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- All the research works should be translated in Hindi (from every language)
- Some anomalies in Hindi grammar should be removed .
- Some common terms which are there is Dravidian languages must be used in Hindi
- The Hindi words and the Words of Dravidian languages should be exchanged
- The brotherhood between north Indian people and South Indian people must be strengthen
- Center government should provide maximum services (Like opening central schools, universities , colleges where Hindi should be taught from primary level)
- Through culture exchange between north Indian culture with south Indian culture , Hindi can be promoted
- In central governance most of the Southern Indian people should be appointed to senior posts . For their survival in north Indian politics, they would willingly promote and learn Hindi
- In the process of the encouraging Hindi, other languages must be equally respected
- Through attracting southern Indian people in Northern India and northern Indian people to southern India . As the free flow of the population would e increasing the Hindi languages would be automatically promoted
- Hindu should not be related with a particular religion . “Hindi , Hindu Hindustan” , types of slogans are

completely worthless in modern days . these type of aggressive slogan would hamper the promotion of Hindi

WHY SOME PEOPLE ARE OPPOSING HINDI : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

We as a human being want maximum happiness only which can be obtained through freedom up to maximum extent . We always oppose those things which are forcefully imposed on us . Similarly , Hindi should not be aggressively imposed . First we should promote Hindi as a secular language. It is the language of all . It should not be related to Hindus only . Language is related to society , not religion . India has a harmonious symphony of linguistic pluralism. Sir George Grierson's Linguistic Survey of India (1903-1923) had identified 179 languages and 544 dialects in India. The 1961 Census reports mentioned a total of 1,652 'mother tongues', out of which 184 'mother tongues' had more than 10,000 speakers, and of which 400 'mother tongues' had not been mentioned in Grierson's survey, while 527 were listed as 'unclassified'. This is a complete myth that Hindi has been the language of Pan India for a long time . In fact Hindi has developed as a language during the first decade of the 20th century .

SOME EXAMPLES OF THE CRISES BECAUSE OF THE NATIONAL LANGUAGE IN INDIAN SUBCONTINENT : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The Indian subcontinent has been the witness of human settlement for a long time . various types of the languages emerged . After the independence of Pakistan, Pakistan adopted Urdu as the national language which the people of east Pakistan were opposing and They fought for the recognition of Bengali as well and we see the result of such clashes in the form of the disintegration of Pakistan . However the Urdu language is similar to Punjabi , therefore in present day Pakistan it is acceptable. In a monochromatic country one language can be accepted as the national language but in a diversified country one language should not be accepted as the national language . The reason for the collapse of Sri Lanka is the civil war which has been continuing for a long time based on the languages – Tamil and Sinhali languages . Everywhere in the world the conflict occurred because of the languages . Therefore in a plural country like India one language should not be imposed in Pan country . In South Africa, the national anthem of this Rainbow Nation, since 1997, is a five-language lyrical composition, making it the most unique anthem in the world in this regard. The languages are Xhosa, Zulu, Sesotho, Afrikaans and English. India should emulate the multi-linguistic accommodative policy of Singapore and South Africa; not the disastrous linguistic chauvinism of Pakistan or Sri Lanka.

India should emulate the multi-linguistic accommodate India should emulate the multi-linguistic accommodative policy of Singapore and South Africa; not the disastrous linguistic chauvinism of Pakistan or Sri Lanka

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Conclusion

As per the above discussion, It can be concluded that imposing Hindi on Pan Indian would not only be the encouraging factor of the conflict but also It would be hampering the integrity and the unity of India . India is the country of huge diversity (Linguistic). We should accommodate all the languages and the dialects . instead of the one language as the national languages we can promote the group of the languages . Since Indian nationalism originated in the diversity of India hence it can be strengthened through strengthening the diversity only . Cultural diversity is the strength of India , it is not the weakness of India . Hindi, Hindu,

Hindustan , types of slogans must be avoided. If we want a strong and prosperous India we should respect the plurality of India.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

The Issues of Freebies

THE ISSUES OF FREEBIES – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Today Current Affairs

Why in news?

The 15th Finance Commission chairperson Mr. N.K. Singh has warned about how the race to provide freebies to voters could prove expensive for the economy, life quality and social cohesion, leading towards fiscal disaster in the long run.

HOW DO FREEBIES HAMPER ECONOMIC GROWTH? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The Freebies disturbs the basic framework of macroeconomic stability. In case of Punjab, some have predicted that the promise of freebies is going to have an additional impact of 3% of GSDP.

The freebies politics distort expenditure priorities. For example, Rajasthan Government's decision to go back to the old pension scheme is regressive because 6% of the population, which is made up of civil servants, stands to benefit from 56% of the state's revenues. The Hindu Analysis

The case of intergenerational equity leads to greater social inequalities because of expenditure priorities being distorted away from growth-enhancing items.

The Provision of free power, water, etc. distracts outlays from environment and sustainable growth, renewable energy and the efficient public transport systems.

The depletion of groundwater is an important issue to consider when speaking of freebies pertaining to free consumption goods and resources. Today Current Affairs

The Freebies lower the quality and competitiveness of the manufacturing sector by detracting from efficient and competitive infrastructure.

It raises the question of whether the time has come to consider recourse mechanisms like subnational bankruptcy.

THE POSITIVE ROLE PLAYED BY FREEBIES : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

According to the Article 282 of the Constitution, the Union or a State may make any grants for any public purpose.

At various occasions, the freebies build a healthier and a stronger workforce, which is a necessary part of any growth strategy.

For instance , the spending in MGNREGA and subsidies in the form of food ration schemes. The Hindu Analysis

The subsidies going into education, such as for Smartphones and laptops have now become necessities for increasing productivity, knowledge and skills.

FUTURE COURSE OF ACTION : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The politics built around the freebies is coupled with danger,there is great ambiguity regarding what “freebies” mean. So,It is required to distinguish between the concept of merit goods and the public goods in which the expenditure outlays have overall benefits.

The empowering of the public distribution system, employment guarantee schemes, support to education and enhanced outlays for health are considered to be desirable expenditures. Today Current Affairs

Further, It's not about how cheap the freebies are but how expensive they are for the economy, life quality and social cohesion in the long run.

Various centrally sponsored schemes are dealing with classic subjects in the domain of the states, such as employment, food, education.

So there is a need to revisit the Seventh Schedule which classifies the subjects into three lists. The Hindu Analysis

The quest for the bottom means government deregulation of markets and businesses. Which means that over a period of time states compete to underscore each other in lowering down taxes, expenditure and regulation. There is a need for a race to efficiency through the democratic norms and concept of federalism where states use their authority to inculcate innovative ideas and solutions to common problems which other states can follow.

Vivek Raj

Indian banks- productivity and sustainability

INDIAN BANKS- PRODUCTIVITY AND SUSTAINABILITY – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

In 2017–18, the scheduled commercial banks incurred losses of ` 324 billion with gross non-performing assets (GNPAs) rising to 11.6% of gross advances. The losses and GNPs for public sector banks (PSBs) were

higher, amounting to ₹854 billion and 15.6% of gross advances, respectively. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cautioned that growing GNPA's and losses of banks may endanger the stability of the banking sector. Moreover, the gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate of India has declined from 8.17% in 2016 to 6.98% in 2018, causing serious concern for all the stakeholders.

The measurement and analysis of the productivity of banks is important as it affects the financial stability. It will provide insights for taking corrective actions and stimulating economic development. Economic growth is augmented by several factors, such as efficiency of financial intermediaries, increased credit, and reduction in the interest margins. Thus, financial sector development leads to economic growth. It is possible that there exists a two-way relationship between economic growth and financial development. But whatever be the direction of relationship, the efficiency of the banking sector is important.

The Government of India has been addressing deteriorating condition of banks for a long time. In 2015, it had announced capital infusion of ₹700 billion in PSBs over a period of four years. In 2016, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) was introduced providing for time-bound resolution of non-performing assets (NPAs). In 2018, the government had announced massive recapitalisation of PSBs by infusion of capital amounting to ₹2,110 billion (Press Information Bureau of India 2018). Of this, an amount of ₹1,350 billion was to be financed through recapitalisation bonds and the balance through budgetary provisions.

These measures will not be successful unless the individual banks take appropriate steps to improve their performance. This paper attempts to measure the productivity of 31 major Indian banks (constituting 93.61% of loan portfolio of the banking industry in 2018), for the period from 2005 to 2018. It benchmarks individual banks and suggests corrective measures for improvement in productivity. The Hindu Analysis

The purpose of this paper is to identify the factors affecting the productivity of banks and to suggest measures to improve it. The paper also compares the productivity of PSBs with that of the private sector banks and further examines the movement of their mean productivities over the period under study. The productivity-wise benchmarking of banks is done, which will be useful in strategic decision-making. The paper significantly contributes to the literature and has several policy implications.

Period of study: There is a strong relationship between bank credit and GDP growth. The author further observes that during the period of high credit growth, banks often compromise on quality standards in credit management.

We have considered 2005 as a base year for the calculation of MPCI, and the period of study is 2005 to 2018. In 2005, the GDP growth rate was high at 9.28%, and the credit growth rate was very high at 30.88%. During subsequent years, the GDP growth rate dipped to 3.89% (in 2008), and there was a corresponding dip in the credit growth rate too, though it continued to be as high as 22.30%. From 2011, the gap between GDP and credit growth rate started narrowing and came closest to each other in 2014.

PRODUCTIVITY OF BANKS (2006–18) : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The paper looked at the changes in the productivity of public and private sector banks during the period under study. The movement of groupwise annual means of the productivity of both the groups and that of the sample (all banks) is shown in Figure. The Hindu Analysis

The productivity of PSBs was higher during 2006–08. During 2009–15, the private sector outperformed the public sector. In 2016 and 2017, the productivity of both the groups was negative, but the private sector suffered more as compared to the public sector. Thereafter, the productivity of the private sector improved but that of the public sector declined significantly.

ANALYZING PRODUCTIVITY CHANGE : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

We have calculated MPCII by considering capital, borrowings, and expenditure as the inputs and credit portfolio and profit as the outputs. The researchers have observed that there are several factors such as cash holdings, size of the organization, investments, NPAs, etc, which influence cost or income of the banks.

Cash holdings: The banks are required to keep cash balances with the RBI in proportion to their net demand and time liabilities (NDTL). Cash held is a non-interest earning asset. In addition to the opportunity cost, there are other costs associated with cash holdings such as transport cost, handling cost, and insurance. Therefore, the efficiency of banks is affected by the level of cash holdings. Today Current Affairs

Asset size: It is found that the profitability of banks increases with its size, that is, the total assets. However, it argues that productivity is negatively related to the growth of assets. This is because when the size grows beyond the optimum level, the productivity declines, leading to diseconomies of scale. As a result, the profitability also declines.

Investments: The banks in India are required to invest 18.25% of the NDTL in the form of government-approved securities as a statutory requirement. These are highly liquid. The Hindu Analysis

investments and carry lower rates of return as compared to the average return on loans. However, banks are investing 8.4% of the NDTL in excess of the statutory requirement, and the proportion of investments in other market securities is declining because of the associated risks. The earning on investments constitutes a substantial portion of the banks income and has significant impact on profitability.

Non-performing assets: The NPAs negatively impact profitability due to the loss of interest income and additional provisioning (Koutsomanoli et al 2009). These may be due to

endogenous factors like poor management, resulting in the failure to control risks and costs of recovery. However, the net non-performing assets (NNPAs) level of 9.46% is a cause for concern. Today Current Affairs

Cost of funds: The average cost of funds for the sample increased to 5.32% in 2018 from 4.90% in 2006, with fluctuations during the period. The average cost gradually increased from 4.90% (2006) to 6.76% (2009) and declined to 5.49% (2011). From 2011, it increased to 7% in 2013 and progressively declined to 5.32% in 2018.

Net interest margin: The NIM is reduced by increasing costs, which in turn reduces profitability. The NIM for the sample has declined from 3.04% in 2006 to 2.50% in 2018. However, the decline was not progressively downwards. The NIM gradually declined from 3.04% in 2006 to 2.53% in 2008. In 2009, it increased to 2.63%; in 2010, it decreased to 2.59%; and in 2011, it again increased to 2.94%. In the subsequent period from 2011 to 2018, the NIM gradually declined from 2.94% to 2.50%.

CONCLUSIONS AND LIMITATIONS : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

We have measured the change in the total factor productivity of 31 Indian banks from 2005 to 2018 using MPI, taking 2005 as a base year. Inputs taken are net worth, total debt, and expenses, whereas outputs are outstanding loan portfolio and income. The sample comprises 21 PSBs and 10 private sector banks constituting 86.34% and 93.61% of the loan portfolio of scheduled commercial banks in 2005 and 2018, respectively.

Amongst the PSBs, Vijaya Bank and Bank of Baroda are ranked first and second, respectively, in respect of all the three efficiency changes. This indicates that the merger initiatives between Vijaya Bank, Dena Bank and the Bank of Baroda were an attempt to strengthen the three PSBs by merging one strong bank with three weak ones. It seems that the attempt was to strengthen two moderately weak banks with one strong bank amongst the public sector by merging them.

In the private sector, Kotak Mahindra Bank is at the bottom of the list, followed by ICICI Bank in respect of total factor productivity change. The latter is the largest bank in the private sector in India. As such, the paper has benchmarked banks in India with reference to productivity. The results can be used as one of the inputs in deciding merger schemes of the banks. The Hindu Analysis

It is found that efficiency, technical efficiency, and TFP for private sector banks (mean values) are higher than those of PSBs, respectively. However, public and private sector banks have performed differently during the periods under study. The productivity of PSBs was higher during 2006–09 (as compared to private sector), whereas the productivity of

private sector banks was higher than that of PSBs during 2009–13. In 2016, the productivity of both the groups was negative, but the private sector's performance was worse than that of the public sector. In the subsequent years, the productivity of private sector improved but that of public sector declined significantly.

Banks in India are paying a higher rate of interest to senior citizens on deposits and are charging lower rates of interest on priority sector advances as compared to the market rates. As these are social welfare security measures, the interest differential should be reimbursed by the government to the banks. This will reduce the cost of funds, improve NIM, and enhance the productivity of banks. There is a case for a reduction in the rate of interest on deposits by the banks. This might lead to lower mobilization of funds but will also reduce the cost of funds.

It is found that the improvement in technology after 2005 has facilitated the growth of bank deposits. The deposits constitute a major portion of the banks' funds and as the average cost of deposits is rising since 2006, the average cost of funds for banks is also rising. This is negatively impacting the productivity of banks. This is because the banks are investing in low-return, low-risk government securities and are not lending enough on account of perceived high risks. This has led to mobilizing higher deposits at increased costs, nullifying the benefits of technology. It is found that the "growth rate of assets" is negatively impacting the technology change component of productivity. This implies that banks are acquiring non-remunerative assets. Today
Current Affairs

In order to facilitate the reduction in cash holdings of the banks and cash reserve ratio, it is suggested to take measures to improve the digitisation of economy. Moreover, lowering of the statutory liquidity ratio will increase lendable resources of the bank and will improve profitability with the reduction of investments in low-yielding government securities. The reduction in NPAs of banks through legal reforms, faster execution of law suits for recovery, realistic assessment of credit proposals, and strict monitoring of loan accounts is suggested.

Ritu

SDGs and India's achievements so far

SDGs AND INDIA'S ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

The SDGs were adopted by India along with all countries in the world at a United Nations (UN) summit on sustainable development in 2015 in order to address the core development issues facing the planet, and to embrace priorities in social, economic, and environmental areas. These core global development priorities were identified through widespread consultations leading to a global consensus.

The lack of discussion on India's progress towards the SDGs keeps domestic stakeholders ignorant of where their country is heading in these vital development areas. The SDGs should not suffer the same fate as befell the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that ended in 2015, remaining largely unknown and ignored in domestic development discourses. The lack of sufficient discussion and feedback may have contributed to their mixed outcomes for India. Assessments conducted on India's performance on the MDGs show that its performance on the MDGs left much to be desired.

With only eight years remaining for the SDGs to end, more attention to achieving them is therefore called for. In addition, in the last two years, the COVID-19 pandemic has not only decelerated India's progress on the SDGs, but in some cases, it likely has even reversed them, such as extreme poverty. Both the World Bank (2020) and Asian Development Bank (2021) simulations indicate that COVID-19 has harmed progress towards the SDGs significantly.³ Therefore, bringing the country back on track to achieve them by 2030 must be an overriding task post the COVID-19 development priority. The Hindu Analysis

However, a reading of the chapter on the SDGs in the Economic Survey 2021–22 leaves one somewhat disappointed on several counts. The chapter discusses mainly comparative progress on the SDGs between Indian states and union territories with hardly any discussion on India's overall progress as a country. The inclusion of specific themes and topics in the Economic Survey, which is released just before the union budget, leads usually to an expectation that it would provide rationale for adjustment in budgetary allocations or major changes in policies, etc, concerning the topic. However, the focus almost entirely on the states and union territories in the chapter on SDG belies this. While obviously achieving the SDGs are the collective responsibility of both the centre and the states, each have major roles to play. More attention to India's overall status on the SDGs and the centre's role in achieving them was, therefore, necessary.

A similar neglect of India's overall performance on the SDGs can be observed in the SDG reports that have been brought out by the NITI Aayog.⁴ While an assessment of the progress being made by the states and union territories—measured through an SDG index and dashboard developed by the NITI Aayog—is very

useful, the SDG reports should also deal prominently with the country's progress as a whole, which has been largely missing.

PROGRESS ON THE SDGs : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

As indicated earlier, the chapter on SDG in the Economic Survey 2021–22 provides only minimal reference to India's progress as a whole, merely stating that India's overall score on the NITI Aayog SDG India Index and Dashboard improved to 66 in 2020–21 from 60 in 2019–20 and 57 in 2018–19, showing progress in India's journey towards achieving the SDGs.

Such a statement may lead to the erroneous conclusion that India is making rapid progress towards achieving the SDGs since the overall index improved by 10% in 2020–21 over the previous year and reaching a score of 100 in another 10 years would therefore appear to be easily in India's grasp. In fact, the actual picture is quite different. Using the NITI Aayog's own data gleaned from the three years that the SDG reports have appeared, India's individual composite indices for 15 SDGs with data are presented in Table 1. Simple forecasts using linear regression of these indices for 2030 using the previous data points provides some idea of the likelihood of the targets (that is, maximum value of 100) being achieved. The results show that as many as eight of the 15 SDGs with data are unlikely to be achieved, including the important goals of poverty; hunger; education; employment; inequality; climate action; life on land; and peace, justice, and institutions. Today Current Affairs

But these overall Goal indices are too aggregative and therefore deceptive, as discussed earlier, as they do not reveal the true situation as far as critical constituent indices are concerned. Also, the composite indicators are not comparable as the composition of sub-indices has varied over the years. Hence, it will be useful to take a more disaggregated look, focusing more attention on individual SDG indicators, which the rest of this article will do.

To better appreciate the status of some critical SDG indicators, two questions will be sought to be answered: (i) How does India stand vis-à-vis the world and East Asia and the Pacific? and (ii) What is the likelihood of India achieving the SDGs with respect to these individual indicators?

GEOGRAPHICAL COMPARISONS : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

One way to assess India's standing on the SDGs is to compare the current levels of attainment with other countries. To facilitate this, two important comparisons are being made: the world average (which includes apart from developed countries, 155 developing countries with over 84% of the world's population);⁵ and the average of countries of East Asia and the Pacific (EAP), excluding high-income countries,⁶ to which India is compared with, comprising China, South East Asian countries, and developing Pacific Island countries/nations. With India's aspirations towards a \$5 trillion economy, we should be doing better than the world average, which consists overwhelmingly of developing countries and soon catching up or exceeding the EAP countries' average.

Forty-one indicators, mainly from the World Bank's SDG database,⁷ were chosen, primarily on the basis of data availability, to conduct this comparison. These represent the most relevant indicators for the concerned Goals among those with data availability. These are shown against the corresponding Goals and the concerned target numbers. The Hindu Analysis

Of the 41 indicators, 19 (46.3%) show that India's present SDG indicator has a lower value than both the world and EAP averages. In the case of another 13 indicators (31.7%), India's attainment is either worse than the world or worse than the EAP average. Together, these two sets of indicators represent 78% of all the indicators and indicate a relatively poor state of attainment of India's SDG indicators, when matched with other countries' performance.

FORECASTING INDIA'S SDG STATUS : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Apart from the current status of the SDGs, compared to other countries, it is necessary to make some assessment of whether India's progress on the SDGs is sufficient for achieving them by 2030 or not. If progress is weak, efforts must be stepped up in the lagging areas to ensure that India does not fail to attain the targets. This type of exercise needs to be carried out regularly by the central government and the results be made available to the public.

GOALS THAT ARE OF CONCERN : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Considering both international comparisons and the likelihood of missing SDG targets, the following goals and highlighted areas within them are of concern and more efforts should be focused on attaining them.

Goal 2: Hunger—especially incidence in children; and low agricultural productivity given by low cereal yields.

Goal 3: Health—particularly non-communicable diseases and insufficient health personnel. Reducing high deaths from road accidents is also a priority.

Goal 4: Education—concerns are regarding ensuring education for all at pre-primary, primary, and secondary.

Goal 5: Gender equality—several indicators show that considerable gender inequality persists.

Goal 7: Clean energy—concerns are about inadequate access to clean fuels for cooking; and insufficient renewable energy mix in the total electricity production.

Goal 8: Decent work—the main concern is the rising unemployment in general and particularly among youth.

Goal 9: Industry and innovation—concerns are related to inadequate manufacturing share in the GDP and insufficient spending on research and development (R&D).

Goal 10: Reducing inequalities—rising inequality is a major concern.

Goal 11: Liveable cities—air pollution is a major problem.

Goals 14 and 15: Protection of natural resources—insufficient protection is being provided for both marine and terrestrial natural resources.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Conclusions

This article attempts to present a quick assessment of India's status on the SDGs. It is clear from even a preliminary perusal of the data that India's current status compared to other developing countries is unsatisfactory; and its progress towards achieving the SDGs by 2030 is slow for more than half of the critical indicators that could be studied. India is falling behind in several critical economic, human, and environmental areas of development. The Covid-19 pandemic has further hampered the development efforts, and unless India rebounds quickly from the pandemic, the effort to attain the SDGs will falter even further.

To rectify the situation, the first action needed is to make a full and thorough assessment of India's overall SDG performance, in addition to that for the states. A regular national-level stocktaking is essential so that appropriate policies can be designed to rectify what is obviously an unsatisfactory situation and bring the SDGs well within India's reach.

Ritu

The appointment of VCs of state universities by the Governor

THE APPOINTMENT OF VCs OF STATE UNIVERSITIES BY THE GOVERNOR – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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

Source: The Hindu

Today Current Affairs

Why in News?

Tamil Nadu has enacted two bills that take away the Governor's power to appoint vice chancellors of state universities.

THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BILL : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The bills also aim to give the state government the last decision on whether or not VCs should be removed.

PROCEDURE : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The dismissal will be carried out based on the conclusions of an investigation undertaken by a retired High Court judge or a bureaucrat who has served as Chief Secretary.

THE REASONS FOR PASSAGE OF LAWS : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

According to Chief Minister MK Stalin, The Bills were required because the Governor had rejected the state government's position on the appointment of VCs.

On a range of topics, including education, elected administrations have frequently accused the Governors of acting on orders from the Centre.

Which other states have enacted similar legislation?

West Bengal and Maharashtra are two states in India which have enacted similar legislations and Kerala and Odisha have attempted to increase the number of appointments to state institutions under their authority in a similar manner.

THE ROLE OF UNIVERSITY GRANT COMMISSION : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Despite the fact that education is covered under the Concurrent List, the Union List's items no. 66 gives the Centre extensive authority over higher education.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has a standard-setting function even in the case of appointments at universities and colleges.

According to the 2018 UGC Regulations, the "Visitor/Chancellor" – in most states, the Governor — should appoint the VC from a panel of candidates proposed by search-cum-selection committees. The Hindu Analysis

It is expected to be followed by higher education institutions, especially those which receive UGC funding.

The following are some of the observations made by the Supreme Court:

In March 2022, the Supreme Court reversed Shirish Kulkarni's appointment as Vice-Chancellor of Gujarat's Sardar Patel University.

Any appointment as a Vice Chancellor made in violation of the UGC Regulations can be considered to be in violation of the legislative provisions, necessitating the issuance of a writ of quo warranto." Today Current Affairs

The UGC Act of 1956 is the cornerstone for all of the UGC's subordinate statutes. As a result, the UGC Regulations are included in the Act as a subordinate statute.

Because the subject of 'education' is so broad, in the event of a dispute between state and central legislation, the central legislation will win by applying the rule/principle of repugnancy enunciated in Article 254 of the Constitution.

Vivek Raj

Homemaker's labor entitled to pay as a part of social engineering

HOMEMAKER'S LABOR ENTITLED TO PAY AS A PART OF SOCIAL ENGINEERING – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Social engineering is a concept introduced by Roscoe Pound, formulated on the idea that rules and regulations should be made to shape society and regulate people's behavior. It is an attempt to control human conduct through the help of law, one such effort from time to time is being initiated by all international and national organizations with respect to women and work. Women's role is always a matter of debate in the family and workplace in contemporary society.

Despite the achievement of modern education women are still facing lot of discrimination at workplace, one such example disparity of payment, multiple reports suggest that equal pay for same work or having higher position in almost every industries is a journey for many women which full of obstacles. Equal pay for equal work is just a dormant right given to women, it stimulates good feeling factors to so-called leaders and social engineers who raise flag for women empowerment. Gender pay gaps represent one of today's greatest social injustices and it is being covered by portraying image of women as if they are less ambitious or work only for buying their cosmetics, however, those females who contributes more than male at workplace seen as courageous or superwoman as a matter of fact they are simply discharging their duties with efficiency, unfortunately but will not achieve same pay as their male counterparts. Recent research has shown that although women now enter professional schools in numbers nearly equal to men, they are still substantially less likely to reach the highest position of their professions. In a societies where women has to go through multiple discrimination in such society if we hear that homemakers must get pay for their domestic work may be seen as another pointless argument raise by categorised radical feminist. Today Current Affairs

Most women lacked significant education—and women with little education were mostly engaged as piece workers in factories or as domestic workers, jobs that were dirty and often unsafe. Educated women were scarce. Further, due to patriarchal cultural beliefs, availability of limited choice of market jobs makes it difficult for women to do work particularly after marriage and children. In the name of godly representation of women as mothers make it more ethically difficult for women to work with children. But what is the definition of work and who is entitled for pay? The philosophical basis for the right to pay is that if something arises as a product of an individual's labor, that individual is entitled to the benefit and use of such a product because its existence was the result of that individual's labor. It derives from the concept of being. It doesn't matter if these are services or not, the product of the housewife's work takes care of the children and takes care of all the domestic affairs. Housewives are good for society because they not only support their families, but also have time to help others through volunteering and caring for their children after school.

Today Current Affairs

Dependence is one of the most important factors in suppressing women's rights, especially in developing countries. Women often stay home because of violence, lack of opportunity, or social stigma in favor of her husband. Her housewife pays herself if she doesn't get her salary, especially if she has a child to take care of. Economic empowerment gives more freedom to women in countries where women are confined to their homes. By making women an economic agent, women will be able to engage in diverse social structures, have a stake in the center of their economic power, and maintain their status. This is the most powerful tool we can offer to women in most countries around the world.

Also, for elevating women roles housewives must get paid as it would put greater emphasis and importance on the role of the women that tend to this job. It would add prestige to the inferior and neglected position of women in the household by make them economically empowered, consequently, it inculcates new dimensions to the societal views of homemakers by valuing their significant contributions to the household and society in both tangible and intangible ways that consequently would help males to be raised with accurate values and thought process and world can become better place to live dominated by peace as women comprises all the capabilities to rule both domestic as well as macro world affairs such as politics. The Hindu Analysis

Thus, by paying the labor force to homemakers, we provide women around the world with one of the most powerful forms of social and political empowerment.

Dr. huma hassan

Raisina Dialogue: The India's Foreign Policy

RAISINA DIALOGUE: THE INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Raisina Dialogue is India's flagship conference to discuss geo-economic and geo-political strategies held annually since 2016. The seventh dialogue held in April 2022 involved more than 200 speakers from more than 90 countries and multilateral organisation to discuss the most challenging issues the global world is facing today. In the last conference, representatives from around the globe like US, Canada, Europe, Japan, Singapore, Czech Republic, Germany, Russia, Maldives, Norway, Armenia, Nepal, World Health Organisation, the United Nations, World Bank, defence experts, International relations and business professionals. The theme of debate was 'Teranova: Impassioned, Impatient and Imperilled' which included six indispensable keynote ,namely, Rethinking Democracy: Trade, Tech, and Ideology; End of Multilateralism: A Networked Global Order?; Water Caucuses: Turbulent Tides of Indo-Pacific; Communities Inc: First Responders to Health, Development and Planet; Achieving Green Transitions: Common Imperatives and Diverging Realities; and Samson vs Goliath: The Persistent and Relentless Tech Wars. The entire dialogue contemplates changing international political order which is intertwined with economic, security, culture, strategic and people to people ties.

The first concept 'Rethinking Democracy: Trade, Tech and Ideology' is urgently required to contemplate in the wake of democratic decay, Russia-Ukraine Crisis and rise of electoral autocracy in the world. The Covid-19 Pandemic has brought economic stress culminating in the problem of anarchy, political populism and reactionary nationalism. The Russia-Ukraine war has accentuated the decline of democracy and rise of economic distress around the globe including Europe, Asia, Latin America and Africa. International order is under transformation and India needs to project herself as an independent actor in global politics. India is a world largest democracy and always respected sovereignty of all and advocated for peaceful resolution as per the United Nations Charter. India's position is a "open, free and rule based international order" and free market liberalism for trade and commerce. It recently engaged in a free trade agreement with UAE, Australia and is likely to do the same free trade agreement with the UK, Republic of South Korea and European Union. India is looking for international globalism where cooperation and coordination among nation-states is a priority to bring prosperity and happiness to its own people and to the globe. It would foster maximum globalization and minimum discontent. Today Current Affairs

The next ideas, namely, 'End of Multilateralism: A Networked Global Order?' reflects India's commitment to rule based, just and fairer multilateral international trading systems regulated through institutions like the World Trade Organisation. The Pandemic and the Russian-Ukraine war has influenced the international trading system. The entire trade norms are under disarray which needs to be re-corrected. The geo-economics and ego-politics between countries which favour the liberal political order like the US, Canada, Japan, the UK and the EU and the countries which stand in opposition to the liberal political order like Russia and China has brought new challenges to India's foreign policy. India needs an independent foreign policy which serves national interest. Our national interest is our first priority.

Today the Indo-Pacific region is the most contested region in international politics. India's Indo-Pacific Ocean Initiative (IPOI) announced in 2018 at Shangri La Dialogue "calls for a free, open and inclusive order in the Indo-Pacific, based upon respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations, peaceful resolution of disputes through dialogue and adherence to international rules and laws. India's concept of the Indo-Pacific is inclusive in nature, and supports an approach that respects the right to freedom of navigation and overflight for all in the international seas. India's IndoPacific vision is premised upon the principle of 'ASEAN-Centrality.'" The rising China is a major challenge to a peaceful, free and open Indo-Pacific" from which fifty percent of the world trade passes. China has coerced its neighbour, claimed its undue sovereignty in South China sea, created artificial islands, manipulated its currency, and through One Belt One Road (OBOR) influenced the small countries brought them under 'debt trap' diplomacy. In addition, it has pushed the US influence beyond the Philippines and did 'no limits' partnership with Russia. It has tried several times, however, unsuccessfully to change the Line of Actual Control (LoC). India's engagement with the QUAD, QUAD+ and SAGARMALA project along with revival of regional organizations like BIMSTEC and IORA shows India's commitment to face any kind of challenges posed by authoritarian China. The Raisina dialogue has debated these issues at greater length and tried to find opportunities to engage European (especially France and Germany) countries on this issue. This is really a strategic move of India's foreign policy. The Hindu Analysis

To achieve the sustainable development goals and tackle climate change at the global level is also a major challenge to India. The third world is facing a severe food crisis and struggling for basic amenities, like water and major victims of climate related disasters. In the post-liberalisation era, India did excellently well in expanding the economy and reducing inequality and poverty yet needed to work on human security and development. India needs to collaborate with the rest of the world and need to avail all opportunities to bring prosperity to the people. In this case, interacting with world leaders for new business, issues of improvement in sectors like health and education, at New Delhi, would certainly work as new drivers of India's foreign policy.

Dr Bijendra jha