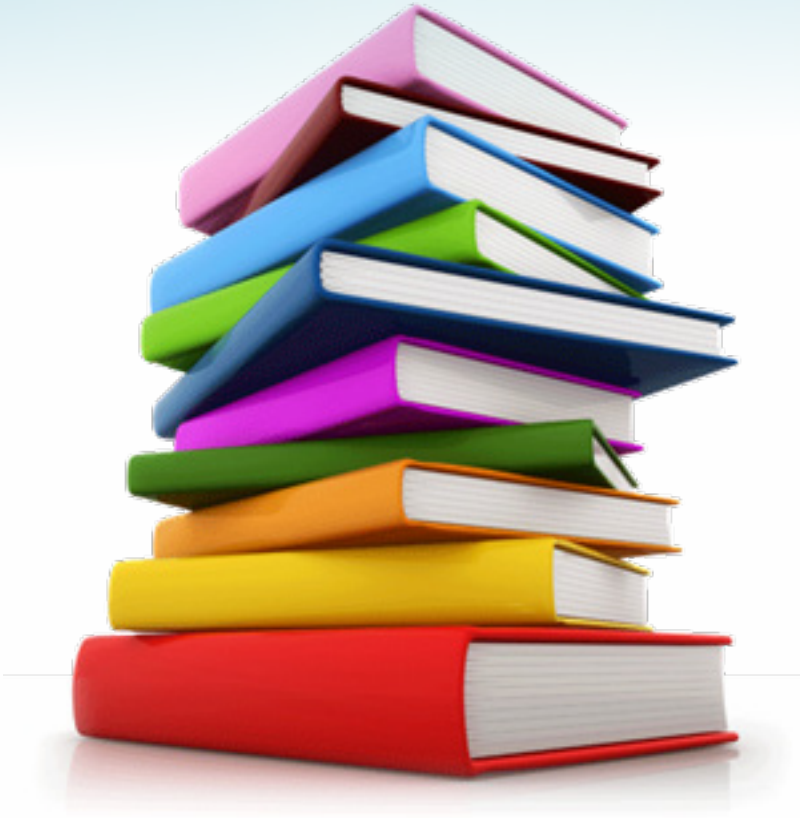
PLUTUS IAS

PLUTUS IAS Weekly

CURRENT AFFAIRS



PLUTUS IAS WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS 27-12-2021 to 02-01-2022

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

Context :

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

Introduction :

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

What is Apartheid:

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

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

Who is Tutu : Today Current Affairs

Desmond Tutu was a South African Anglicon Bishop and theologian. He was born in 1931, the era when In Africa informally ended British rule even though its full detachment from the British completely in 1961. He has been the secretary of the general council of the South African Church. He became the Bishop in 1886 in Johannesburg. Up to that time Aprateid was at its peak in South Africa and a political movement was going on against Aparteid under the leadership of Nelson Mandela who was in jail at that time. Mandela was released in 1990 and this movement rapiticady spreaded in not only Africa but also in the entire world. All the supporter of Human right,, globalization and liberalization, were advocating to abolish this Aparteid

from South Africa and finally in multiracial election of Africa held in 19994, Mandela became the first black president of South Africa. Tutu also played an important role in the removal of Apartheid. After the general election in South Africa in 1994, Tuto was elected as the chairman of Truth and reconciliation commission to investigate the past truth and the violation of human right. tutu alos campaigned for gay rights He also critised the Palestine Israily war and criticised many times South African government in this regard.

What is the role of Tutu in religious Movement : The Hindu Analysis

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

Conclusion :

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

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Olive Ridley Turtles GS- 3 Conservation

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

Key Points

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

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

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

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

Threats: Today Current Affairs

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

Anshum Verma

AGRICULTURAL LAND LEASING GS- 3 AGRICULTURAL MARKET

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

Present land holding status: The Hindu Analysis

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

Need for land leasing: The Hindu Analysis

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

Benefit of Land leasing: The Hindu Analysis

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

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

Concern: The Hindu Analysis

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

Way forward

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

Anshum Verma

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

Context:

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

Introduction:

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

What is CorbeAux:

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

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

What is CovoVax : The Hindu Analysis

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

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

Molnupiravir:

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

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

Conclusion: The Hindu Analysis

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

FOREST RIGHTS ACT (FRA) GS-3 CONSERVATION

The need to have FRA is to deal with the rights of the forest dwelling communities that have been denied to them over the years because of the continuation of forest laws from the colonial area in the country. The forest right act is also known as the scheduled tribe and other traditional forest dwellers act or Tribal right act or tribal land act. The passage of forest right act 2006 accorded legal recognition to the rights of traditional forest dwelling communities and partially addressed the injustice caused by Colonial forest laws.

Significance of FRA 2006: The Hindu Analysis

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

Challenges: The Hindu Analysis

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

Way forward: The Hindu Analysis

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

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

Anshum Verma

RELEASING DIGITAL INDIA (GS-3, Technology)

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

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

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

Digital Knowledge is extensively recognised as a crucial element necessary to successfully apply the eGovernance enterprise under the Digital India programme. With over one billion people in India, there is an immediate got to promote digital knowledge platforms and influence the beginning eventuality of India. The CSC and thus the CSC2.0 schemes are aimed towards creating an enormous tone- sustaining network of CSCs spread across India. The CSCs would be responsible for carrying out standardisation of services and capacity structure of stakeholders. The Digital India programme has been recognised to retain a transformational effect on India's Digital geography also because of the profitable script of the country. By bridging the digital peak in India, it's possible for the country to palliate major sections of the society and influence the beginning eventuality to realize a worldwide leadership status. With the appearance of the epidemic, profitable and technological dislocations have replaced the earth and India has been at the middle stage in terms of the COVID-19 response measures. Considering the big size of the country, digitally connecting the outermost townlets of the country – through broadband and high- speed internet – is one among the pivotal structure musts of the nation. T The Digital India Programme took one step ahead and aspired to give seamlessly integrated services across departments or authorities by espousing a single window frame. It also promotes the application of Open source and Open API, to make sure interoperability of alle-governance operations and force access to data and services for promoting participation of citizens. 6 Kurukshetra December 2020

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

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

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

Swarn Singh

India- France Relationship GS-2 International relation

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

Areas of Cooperation: The Hindu Analysis

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

- The two countries also signed the agreement regarding the provision of reciprocal logistic support.

3. **Energy**- India France alliance is the main pillar of international solar alliance. The Hindu Analysis.
4. **Political corporation**- It began with France's support for India and its security concerns in the backdrop of 1998 nuclear testing. France supports India's permanent membership in the United Nations security council. Transport had been vital in India's entry to MTCR in 2016.
5. **Space cooperation**- Francis providing training to Indian astronauts for gaganyaan mission 2022. They welcome the launch of a space climate observatory that enhances Indo French cooperation on combating climate change besides TRISHNA joint mission and accommodating argos in oceansat3.
6. **Bilateral trade**- France has emerged as a major source of FDI for India with more than a thousand French establishments already present in India with a total turnover of 20 billion dollars and employing around 3 lakh persons.

- France is the ninth largest foreign investor in India.
- The two countries jointly agreed that the high level in France India economic and financial dialogue should be reactivated as quickly as possible.

7. **Global agendas**- Climate change, biodiversity, renewable energy,terrorism, cybersecurity and digital technology etc.are the areas where convergence of interests lies.

Way forward: The Hindu Analysis

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

Anshum Verma

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

Context:

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

Introduction :

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

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

History of the Arab Israil conflict : The Hindu Analysis

The history of the hostility between Palestine and Israel starts with the emergence of Israel on 14 May 1948. Israel merged as a Jwesh state on the bases of Jwes races. Jews were the migrated people from Europe and during the time of the Second world war, most of the Jews had migrated from Germany because of the Hitler.

The concept of Modern Israel is related with religious and political sources both. In fact Jerusham was the religious place for Judaism (Judaism is an Abrahamic, monotheistic, and ethnic religion comprising the collective religious, cultural, and legal tradition and civilization of the Jewish people.). By 1800 more than 25000 Jews had settled in their home land Jerusalem. In the entire 19th century Jews were trying to consolidate themselves as the political power.During the first world war, the Zionists persuaded the British government to issue the Balfour Declaration, a document that committed Britain to facilitate the establishment of a "Jewish homeland" in Palestine. The British got recognition of the Zews state from the League of Nations also.

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

Israel Palestine Talks (effort to establish peace): The Hindu Analysis

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

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

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

Conclusion: The Hindu Analysis

Peace is ont only required for stability but also required for humanism. Humanism must be given more priority in comparison to nationalism and patriotism. definitely this effort of the establishment of the peace in middle east started by Palestine and the Israel is appreciable and world community should support such peace talks so that this human race could be progress.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

China has been claiming over Arunachal Pradesh GS – Paper II Source : The Hindu

Context :

Chinese ministry of Civil Affairs said that it had issued "Standardized" names for 15 places in Arunachal pradesh, to be use henceforth on official chinese map, part of broader recent moves by Beijing to step up its territorial claims

Introduction :

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

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

India's Concern: The Hindu Analysis

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

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

About the Law: The Hindu Analysis

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

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

What steps should be taken by Indian Government : Today Current Affairs

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

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

Conclusion

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

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

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

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

Standard-setting: Today Current Affairs

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

(ii) The standards vary inexplicably

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

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

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

Monitoring: The Hindu Analysis

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

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

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

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

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

Enforcement: The Hindu Analysis

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

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

Accountability: The Hindu Analysis

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

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

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

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

Adjudication: The Hindu Analysis

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

Summing Up: The Hindu Analysis

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

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

Swarn Singh

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

Why in news? The Hindu Analysis

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

Rationale behind the reforms: The Hindu Analysis

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

Benefit of reforms to the people: The Hindu Analysis

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

Criticisms of the Amendment: The Hindu Analysis

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

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

Swarn Singh

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

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

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

With over1.4 million seminaries, roughly of India. Our gospel, culture, forfeiture trades, tabernacles and puppets also bear evidence of the same. However, what has been lacking is a holistic invention and entrepreneurial ecosystem that stimulates, enables and supports Inspiration, Imagination and Innovation in our seminaries, universities, diligence across the length and breadth of the nation. Whenever Indians go abroad they exceed and reach the loftiest situations of eminence and achievements, be it in technology, business, academia, and indeed governments. Numerous Indians 10500 engineering and affiliated institutions, roughly 39000 sodalities, a demographic tip that's the covetousness of numerous a country and a fast growing frugality; the imperative in India is thus to insure that an estimated 150 million youth of India entering the pool over the coming many times can realise their true eventuality through access to a world class invention and entrepreneurial ecosystem, using fleetly advancing, accessible, affordable technologies transubstantiation the world we live in and enabling an inconceivable set of openings for invention and new job creation. Revolutionary technological advancements are indeed transubstantiating the world giving rise to new technology and business inventions at a dizzying pace. The Hindu Analysis.

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

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

Indian Entrepreneurs and Startups at van during COVID-19 extremity

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

This demands not only great innovative capability, but also inconceivable dexterity and deftness by companies and government institutions to effectively arrest and end the COVID-19 imminence. With the grueling task of keeping over1.3 billion people safe from the clutches of the coronavirus, the Government of India is exercising numerous enterprise in resemblant to insure that this global epidemic doesn't inflict annihilation in a country with as different a set of challenges as one could imagine having. Among them is to work its invention and incipiency ecosystem with over 250 incubators and active startups.

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

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

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

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

Swarn Singh

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

Context :

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

Introduction :

For the last few days it has been observed that an atmosphere of polarization of the public of a particular community is being done and this effort of polarization is done through hate speeches. During various events, most recently in Haridwar and Delhi in which a call for the genocite of the Muslims had been given.

These hate speaches are not only targeting Muslim communities but also all the minority communities like Dalits, Sikkha and the Christians

What is the communal Politics: The Hindu Analysis

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

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

Hate Speeches : The Hindu Analysis

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

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

Role of Election commission in Hate Speeches : The Hindu Analysis

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

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

Conclusion :

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

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

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

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