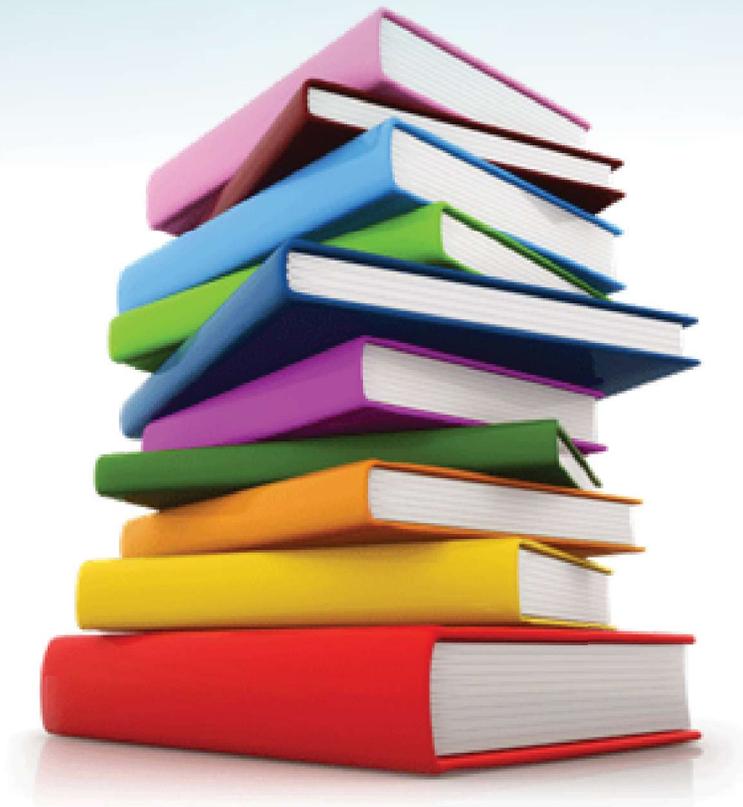




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Weekly CURRENT AFFAIRS



PLUTUS IAS WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS 1-08-2022 to 07-08-2022

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CURRENT AFFAIRS

AUGUST 2022

Electric Vehicle (EV)

Electric Vehicle (EV)

Introduction:-

- An electric vehicle (EV) is one that operates on an electric motor for propulsion.
- Electric Vehicles (EV's) include all types of vehicles like road, rail, surface and underwater vessels, aircraft etc,
- In the late 19th century EVs first came into existence, when electricity was among the preferred methods for motor vehicle propulsion. But it has drawn a considerable amount of interest in the past decade amid a problem of rising carbon footprint and other environmental impacts of fuel-based vehicles.
- The International Energy Agency said in 2021 that governments should do more to meet climate goals, including policies for heavy electric vehicles.
- Electric vehicle sales may increase from 2% of global share in 2016 to 30% by 2030.
- An electric vehicle may be powered by different methods like, through a collector system by electricity from off-vehicle sources, battery, solar panels, fuel cells etc.

Types of electric vehicles:

- **Battery Electric Vehicle (BEV):** These vehicles are fully powered by electricity. They don't have an internal combustion engine, fuel cell, or fuel tank. These are more efficient as compared to hybrid and plug-in hybrids.
- **Hybrid Electric Vehicle (HEV):** These vehicles use both the internal combustion (usually petrol) engine and the battery-powered motor. The petrol engine is used both to drive and charge when the battery is empty.
- **Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicle (PHEV):** These are hybrid electric vehicles whose battery can be recharged by plugging it into an external source of electric power. These vehicles use both an internal combustion engine and a battery. This means the vehicle's battery can be charged with electricity rather than the engine.
- **Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle (FCEV):** In these vehicles electric energy is produced from chemical energy. For example, a hydrogen FCEV.

Advantages of Electric Vehicles

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Lower running cost
- Environment friendly
- Reduce dependence on petroleum
- Low maintenance & servicing cost
- Better Energy Efficiency
- Lesser vibration

- Lesser noise

Government of India Schemes and Initiatives for Promotion of Electric Vehicles

1) Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles (FAME)

FAME – II scheme came into force from April 1, 2019. Government cleared a Rs 10,000-crore programme under this scheme. The main objective of this scheme is to promote & encourage faster adoption of electric and hybrid vehicles. The Phase-II of FAME India Scheme is being implemented through following three components:

- Demand Incentives
- Establishment of network of Charging Stations
- Administration of Scheme including Publicity, IEC (Information, Education & Communication) activities.

2) In 2013, India promoted 'National Electric Mobility Mission Plan (NEMMP) 2020' with the main objective to make a major shift to electric vehicles and to address the issues of national energy security, air pollution, and growth of domestic manufacturing capabilities. Under this scheme facilities like subsidies, create supporting infrastructure for promotion & development of electric vehicles.

3) India is among a handful of countries that support the global EV30@30 campaign, which aims for at least 30% new vehicle sales to be electric by 2030. The main aim is to help realise the multiple benefits offered by electric mobility for innovation, economic and industrial development, energy security, and reduction of local air pollution.

Anoop Singh

PMLA VERDICT

Supreme court in the recent judgement in the **Vijay Mandal Chaudhary vs UOI** has upheld the amendments to the Prevention of Money Laundering Act 2002, which has created a furor in the political circles. This is due to the apprehension of the political parties and other activists that it can be misused by the government of the day adversely.

WHAT ARE THE RECENT CHANGES?

First of all the term of money laundering has been redefined. Money laundering was earlier not an independent crime, but the amendment seeks to treat money laundering as a stand alone crime .Secondly under **Section 3** of the PMLA , the person shall be considered to be involved in the act of money laundering if he is involved in Concealment, possession, Use or projecting untainted property, claiming as untainted property, acquisition. Also under this amendment a person will be considered to be involved in the money laundering , till the time he is getting the fruits of activities related to the money laundering.

WHAT ARE THE INTENTIONS BEHIND IT?

1. **STRICT VIGIL:** On the the uncontrolled black money which is in circulation in the market and is used for the purpose of tax evasion , terrorism etc.
2. **FORMALISATION:** Of the economy, by deterring the people to fall for the money laundering.
3. **NEW ALTERNATIVES:** Like crypto currency, requires much tougher sanctions to deal with the emerging problems.

WHAT COULD BE THE PROBABLE ISSUES FOR WHICH THE PEOPLE ARE PROTESTING?

- 1. VAGUE DEFINITIONS:** Section 3 of the act says” Whosoever directly or indirectly attempts to indulge or knowingly assists or knowingly is a party or is actually involved in any process or activity connected with the **proceeds of the crime** including concealment, possession , acquisition or the use and projecting and claiming it as untainted property”. This definition makes a difficult reading on the use of the proceeds of the crime.
- 2. LEGALITY:** According to the lawyer Abhinav Shekhari’s analysis it was concluded that PMLA is not a penal statute , but a sui generis one. i.e. law can according to the court can overlook several constitutional safeguards.
- 3. ECIR ISSUES:** Enforcement case information report is considered to not to be shared with the individuals. While on the other hand the FIR can be shared with the individuals.
- 4. MISUSE OF THE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES:** ED which works under the central government can be misused by the government of the day and hence could act as a political leverage in their hands.
- 5. Section 63 of PMLA :**States that information must be given by the accused, false information or no information will constitute another offence however compelling the accused to be a witness against themselves is violative of the right against self-incrimination.

WHAT COULD BE THE WAY FORWARD?

Though PMLA amendment has been brought out with the good intention of keeping a vigil on the money laundering, terrorism control and tax evasion but it has caused some serious repercussion in the political scenario. What is the need of the hour is to create a

political good will and the acceptance in the social setup. Also since it has now become the law of the land, it needs to be respected by creating a general awareness among the masses. In this way we will be able to enhance the transparency and formalization in the Indian economy.

Samarth singh

BANGLADESH ECONOMIC CRISIS

WHY IN THE NEWS?

1. Bangladesh has recently approached to the IMF for a \$4.5 Billion bailout.
2. Inflation in Bangladesh is hovering above 7%
3. The forex reserve has seen a fall from \$45.5 billion from an year earlier of \$39.67 billion
4. Bangladesh has also experienced lengthy blackouts in recent weeks, sometimes for up to 13 hours a day, as the country struggle to source enough diesel and gas to meet demand.
5. Bangladeshi Taka has fallen from 85 some time back to currently 95 with respect to US dollar

WHY CAUSE OF CONCERN?

a) GEO-ECONOMIC CRISIS : Could get fueled ,as after Sri Lanka and Pakistan, Bangladesh will be the 3rd nation to face such economic crisis in the Indian subcontinent region.

d) Per capita Income: Of Bangladesh which was more recently great-

er than India could see the decline.

e) COMMUNALISM and RELIGIOUS FUNDAMENTALISM : Economic woes could pave the way for the islamist fundamentals to rise which till now have been effectively controlled by Sheikh Hasina government under its economic hammer.

WHAT LED TO THE CRISIS?

1. INFLATION IN USA :

1.1) Inflation in USA has led to decrease in the demand of clothes and wearing in the stores like Walmart

1.2) Store like them usually get their textiles import from the country like Bangladesh

1.3) Due to the decrease in the demand , the exports of Bangladesh have hence been severely affected

1.4) This has led to the loss of foreign exchange reserve and slight enhancement of Current Account Deficit .

2. COVID SCENARIO

2.1) Loss of Employment: Of the Bangladeshi nationals in the foreign countries has reduced the remittances coming to the country.

2.2) Loss of Forex: Earlier the money sent by Bangladeshis to their own country hence now could not be reached.

WHAT ARE THE REPURCUSSIONS FOR INDIA?

a) DEBT TRAP DIPLOMACY: Of China could come in place in order to strengthen its string of pearls around India, as done in the case of

Pakistan.

b) Burden for India: Under its **Neighborhood first policy**, India will be forced to give economic aid to Bangladesh, as it has done with Sri Lanka.

IS THE SITUATION REALLY BAD?

- Bangladeshi foreign minister A H M Mustafa Kamal said that there is no such crisis in the country.
- He reiterated that the approach to IMF is only **precautionary**, in order to deal with the probable future rise of the crude oil prices in the future.
- Foreign Aids: Bangladesh has been recently given the foreign amounting to \$10 billion from various parties such as Asian Development Bank, World Bank, Japan, China etc.

WHAT LIES AHEAD?

1. Focus on the infrastructure- For enhancing the capital investment in the economy.
2. Banking sector regulation: That it doesn't collapse in this emerging scenario.
3. Investment in climate change.: For sustainable farming in order to ensure food security in the coming future.
4. Diplomatic vigilance : That Bangladesh should not become the prey of "**China's Wolf Warrior Diplomacy**".

India also went for bailout in 1991, but came out of the economic woes very successfully. Bangladesh need to understand and learn from its neighbors like India, that how it can sail through the situation wisely. This way it could not only ensure the social security

of its population, but could also ensure **Geo-Economic** and **Geo-political** stability.

Samarth Singh

GIG ECONOMY

GIG WORKERS

According to the Code on Social Security, 2020 (India), “A gig worker is a person who performs work or participates in work arrangements and earns from such activities, outside of the traditional employer-employee relationship”. Gig workers include contract firm workers, independent contractors, online platform workers, and temporary workers.

Further gig workers can be divided into two :- platform and non-platform workers. Platform workers are those who work on digital platforms or online software apps such as Swigg, Zomato, Ola, Uber etc. On the other hand, non-platform gig workers are casual wage earners and can work either full-time or part-time.

GIG ECONOMY

- Gig Economy is a free market system in which temporary positions are common and workers are working in organizations contracted with short-term engagements.
- Gig economy is a system that is based on flexible, short-term, or freelance work.
- Individuals who are part of the gig economy are called gig workers, who are frequently employed on a contractual ba-

sis with the organization, but are not regarded as regular employees.

INDIA AND GIG ECONOMY

- NITI Aayog report titled 'India's Booming Gig and Platform Economy'. India's gig workforce is expected to expand to 2.35 crore by 2029-30. This report estimates that in 2020-21, approx 77 lakh workers were engaged in the gig economy. They constituted 2.6% of the non-agricultural workforce or 1.5% of the total workforce in India. The Report states that at the moment, medium-skilled occupations make up about 47% of gig work, high-skilled jobs make up about 22%, and low-skilled employment make up about 31%.
- According to the India Staffing Federation report (2019), India is the 5th-largest in Flexi-staffing in the world, after the US, China, Brazil and Japan.
- Boston Consulting Group's report, highlights that in India, over 15 million workers are employed as gig workers across the industries. The number will be enhanced by over 24 million in the near-medium term and to 90 million in the long term.
- According to an ASSOCHAM report, the gig sector has the potential to grow to the US \$455 billion at a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 17% by 2024. The Indian gig economy has the potential to add 1.25% to the Indian Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and provide over 90 million jobs in the non-farm sectors of India.
- Economic Survey 2020-21, "the changing nature of work with the change in technology, the evolution of new economic ac-

tivities, innovation in organisation structures and evolving business models have grown the potential of the gig economy.” The survey stated that digital platforms played a significant role in discovering job seekers and job providers in the absence of middlemen.

Advantages of gig economy

- It makes the work more adaptable to the requirements of the employee and the employer.
- Workers have the flexibility to work according to their convenience and availability.
- Cost Efficiencies for Companies.
- Jobs for low and semi-skilled workforce.
- Nature of payment against the work is more of a piece rate and also negotiable.
- Start-up culture has also been promoted.

Disadvantages of gig economy

- Lack of social security.
- Poor working conditions.
- Lack of benefits like allowances, housing and travel expenses, provident fund etc.
- Low wages.
- Promotion of informal or unorganised labor.
- There may be no scope for upward mobility within the organisation.

- There is unequal gender participation in such platforms.

NITI Aayog has proposed a five pronged RAISE approach to ensure realisation of full access to social security for all gig and platform workers.

- **RECOGNISE** the varied nature of platform work to design equitable schemes.
- **ALLOW** augmentation of social security through innovative financing mechanisms.
- **INCORPORATE**, while designing schemes, the specific interests of platforms, factoring the impact on job creation, platform business and workers.
- **SUPPORT** workers to subscribe to government schemes and welfare programmes through widespread awareness campaigns.
- **ENSURE** benefits are readily accessible to workers.

Anoop singh

Cryptocurrency

What is cryptocurrency?

- Cryptocurrency or crypto is a form of currency that exists virtually or digitally and uses cryptography to secure transactions.
- It is a digital payment system that doesn't rely on any central bank or banks to verify transactions. It's a peer-to-peer system

that can enable anyone anywhere to send and receive payments.

- Cryptocurrency payments systems exist purely on a digital database describing specific transactions. When any transactions take place then it is recorded in a public ledger.
- Cryptocurrency is stored in digital wallets.
- When a cryptocurrency is minted or created or issued by a single issuer, it is generally considered centralized. When implemented with the decentralized control system, it works through distributed ledger technology, typically a blockchain, that serves as a public financial transaction database.
- The first decentralized cryptocurrency was Bitcoin, which was founded in 2009 and remains the best known today. As of March 2022 there were more than 9,000 other cryptocurrencies in the marketplace.
- Recently, the Central African Republic (CAR) became the second country after El Salvador to adopt Bitcoin as legal tender.

How does cryptocurrency work?

- Cryptocurrencies run on a distributed public ledger called blockchain, a record of all transactions updated and held by currency holders.
- Each unit of cryptocurrency is created through a process called mining, (It means by using computer power to solve complicated mathematical problems that generate coins). Users can also buy the cryptocurrencies from brokers, then store and spend them using cryptographic wallets.
- If any person has cryptocurrency, then s\he don't own anything tangible. What s\he owns is a key that allows to move a record or a unit of measure from one person to another without a trusted third party.

- Bitcoin developed in 2009, afterwards cryptocurrencies and applications of blockchain technology are still emerging in the financial sector, and this technology will also be expected to develop in the future. Transactions including shares, bonds, stocks, and other financial assets could eventually be traded using the technology.

Cryptocurrency examples

As of March 2022 there were more than 9,000 other cryptocurrencies in the marketplace. Some of the best known include:

- Bitcoin:- Founded in 2009, it was the first cryptocurrency and is still the most commonly traded. It was developed by Satoshi Nakamoto – widely believed to be a pseudonym for an individual or group of people whose precise identity remains unknown.
- Ethereum:- Developed in 2015, it is a blockchain platform with its own cryptocurrency, called Ether (ETH) or Ethereum. It is the most popular cryptocurrency in the world after Bitcoin.
- Litecoin:- This currency is almost similar to bitcoin but has moved more quickly to develop new innovations, including faster payments and processes to allow more transactions.
- Ripple:- It was developed in 2012. It is a distributed ledger system and can be used to track different kinds of transactions, not just cryptocurrency. The company behind it has worked with various banks and financial institutions.

Advantages of cryptocurrency.

- Transactions with cryptocurrencies are cheaper and faster money transfers.
- It is a decentralized system that does not collapse at a single point of failure.

- Transaction between two parties is easy, as there is no involvement of third parties like credit/debit cards or banks.
- Payments are safe and secured as this system is based on blockchain technology.
- There is also the concept of “wallet” or account address which is accessible by a public key and private key. But the private key is only known to the owner of the wallet.
- Transactions of cryptocurrencies are completed with minimal processing fees.

Disadvantages of cryptocurrency.

- High energy consumption for mining activities of cryptocurrencies.
- Security Issues like criminal activities, money laundering, terrorism etc.
- Cryptocurrencies do not have any sovereign guarantee and hence are not legal tender.
- It is believed that cryptocurrency will disrupt markets, industries, including finance and law.
- The market price of cryptocurrencies is also volatile or not stable. Their prices fluctuate very high.
- All over the world, the central bank of any country cannot regulate the supply and price value of cryptocurrencies in the economy. As a result this enhances a risk of financial instability of the country if their use becomes widespread.

Cryptocurrencies in India:

- In 2018, Reserve Bank of India issued a circular preventing all banks from dealing in cryptocurrencies. But later in May 2020

the Supreme Court declared this circular as null and void.

- Recently, the government has announced to introduce a bill; Cryptocurrency and Regulation of Official Digital Currency Bill, 2021, to create its own sovereign digital currency and also simultaneously ban all private cryptocurrencies.
- The Union Budget 2022-2023 of India has proposed to introduce a digital currency in the coming financial year.
- It was also announced that any income from transfer of any virtual digital asset shall be taxed at the rate of 30%.

Anoop Singh

CHINA v/s TAIWAN CONFLICT- HISTORY

WHY IN THE NEWS:-

- Nancy Pelosi the US speaker's recent visit to Taiwan has recently fueled the geopolitical tension in the global scenario.
- This makes the history of **China Taiwan conflict** important for understanding the present day crisis.

HISTORY OF THE CHINA TAIWAN CONFLICT :-

- Taiwan seemed to have first appeared in Chinese records in 239AD, when Chinese emperor sent an expeditionary force to explore this particular area – This fact is often used by Beijing to back its territorial claim.
- After a relatively brief period of being a **Dutch colony** i.e. from 1624-1661, Taiwan was administered by **China's Qing dynasty** from 1683 to 1895.

- From the 17th Century, several migrants started arriving from China for fleeing turmoil and hardships. Most of them were **Hok-lo Chinese** from Fujian (Fukien) province or **Hakka Chinese**, largely from Guangdong. This group currently has highest demographic presence in the present day Taiwan.
- After **Japan won the First Sino-Japanese War** in 1895, the Qing government had to cede Taiwan to Japan. Subsequently, Japan surrendered the control of Taiwanese territory it had taken from China after the second world war, as it ended up on the losing side and the China was an ally of the US. Hence the Republic of China (ROC) began ruling Taiwan with the consent of its allies i.e. US and UK.
- After the civil war broke that out in China in Aug 1927, then-leader **Chiang Kai-shek's** troops were defeated by **Mao Zedong's** Communist army. Hence **Chiang Kai-shek's** supporters (Chiang) the remnants of his **Kuomintang (KMT)** government and their supporters fled to Taiwan in 1949.
- Chiang established a government in exile in Taiwan which he led for the next 25 years.
- Chiang Ching-kuo, who was the son of Chiang Kai-Shek allowed more democratization after coming to power. He faced resistance from local people resentful of authoritarian rule and was under pressure from a growing democracy movement.
- President Lee Teng-hui, who is also known as the Taiwan's Father of democracy, led constitutional changes, which eventually made way for the election of the island's first non-KMT president, Chen Shui-bian, in 2000.

Current Position of the world towards Taiwan:

1. Countries which recognizes Taiwan:

- Vatican city
- Honduras
- Guatemala
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- Tuvalu
- Haiti

2. India's stand: India recognises China's "**ONE CHINA POLICY**"

3. UNITED STATES:

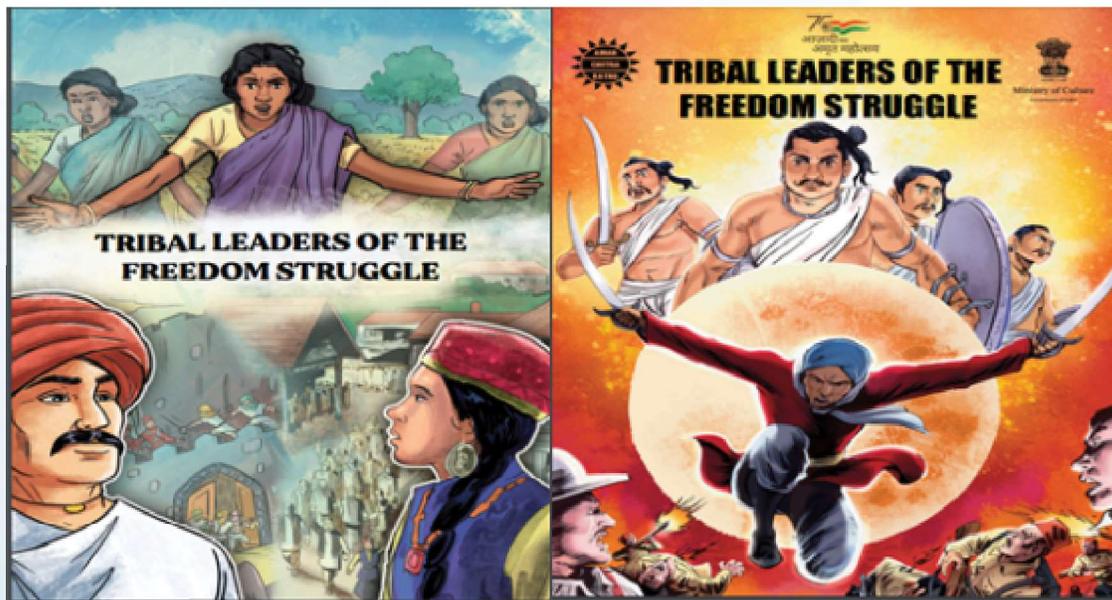
- Does not have official diplomatic relations.
- **Taiwan Relations Act:** States that "the United States will make available to Taiwan such defense articles and defense services in such quantity as may be necessary to enable Taiwan to maintain a sufficient self-defense capabilities", and "shall maintain the capacity of the United States to resist any resort to force or other forms of coercion that would jeopardize the security, or social or economic system, of the people of Taiwan".

Hence it can be concluded that , today we are living in a world where people of Taiwan can travel throughout the globe with Taiwanese passport but could enter the United Nations building, as it is not recognised by most of the countries. This needed to be mended in a proper way in order to make way for the sovereign rights of the small nations like them.

Samarth singh

Ministry of Culture releases the Comic book of Tribal Freedom Fighters

Topic In News: Ministry of Culture releases the third Comic book on stories of Tribal Freedom Fighters



Ministry: The Ministry of Culture has released the third Comic book on stories of 20 Tribal Freedom Fighters at the Tiranga Utsav celebration in New Delhi.

On the occasion, Union Minister for Home affairs and Cooperation Shri Amit Shah, Union and Minister of State for External Affairs, Smt Meenakshi Lekhi were present.

Collection of Stories: This collection of stories recalls the sacrifices of some of the bravest men and women who inspired their tribes and gave up their lives to fight British rule

Related Event: The Ministry of Culture as a part of Azadi Ka Am-

rit Mahotsav (AKM) has released pictorial books on 75 freedom fighters in collaboration with **Amar Chitra Katha (ACK)** to create awareness among the youth and children about the supreme sacrifice and patriotism of our lesser known heroes of freedom struggle.

The first ACK Comic book on India's 20 Women Unsung Heroes and Second Comic book on stories of 15 Women elected to the Constituent Assembly has been released earlier.

The tribal freedom fighters, who were unsung heroes of freedom struggle, and whose stories have been included are as follows:

1. Tilka Majhi rebelled against the atrocities of the British East India Company. He mobilized the Pahadia tribe to which he belonged and raided the Company treasury. He was hanged.
2. Thalakkal Chanthu of the Kurichiyar tribe was an invaluable part of Pazhassi Raja's war against the East India Company. He was hanged.
3. Budhu Bhagat of the Oraon tribe was shot down in one of his many encounters with the British, along with his brother, seven sons and 150 men from his tribe.
4. Tirot Singh, a Khasi chief, realized the duplicity of the British and waged war against them. He was captured, tortured and imprisoned. He died in prison.
5. Raghoji Bhangre belonged to the Mahadeo Koli tribe. He revolted against the British and continued his struggle even though his mother was imprisoned. He was captured and hanged.
6. Sidhu and Kanhu Murmu from the Santhal community, revolted against the British and their stooges. They led the Santhal in the Hul rebellion. Both were betrayed, caught and hanged.

7. Rendo Manjhi and Chakra Bisoi of the Khond tribe objected to the British interfering in their customs. Rendo was caught and hanged while Chakra Bisoi became a fugitive and died in hiding.
8. The Indian Uprising in Meerut had begun. Nilambar and Pitamber who belonged to the Bhogta clan of the Kharwar tribe were inspired to revolt and led their people to rise up against British oppression. They were both captured and hanged.
9. Ramji Gond of the Gond tribe rose against the feudal system by which wealthy landlords oppressed the poor with the support of the British. He was caught and hanged,
10. Telanga Kharia of the Kharia tribe, refused to accept the tax system of the British and their governance. He insisted that they follow their traditional method of self-governance and organized raids on the treasury. He was betrayed and shot dead.
11. Tantiya Bhil, known as the Robin Hood of the Central Provinces, robbed trains carrying British wealth and distributed it among his tribe, the Bhils. He was trapped and hanged.
12. Major Paona Brajabasi of Manipur, fought to defend the kingdom of Manipur. He was the hero of the Anglo-Manipur war. He fought like a lion but was overpowered and beheaded.
13. Birsa Munda, of the Munda tribe, became a legend in his opposition to the British. He led the Mundas in a series of confrontations with them. He was caught and imprisoned and according to British records, died of cholera. He was 25 years old when he died.
14. Matmur Jamoh of the Adi tribe of Arunachal Pradesh, rebelled against the arrogance of the British. He and his companions surrendered to the British as their villages were being burnt. They were sent to the Cellular Jail and died there.

15. Tana Bhagat of the Oraon tribe was inspired by a divine vision to preach to his people and make them aware of the exploitation of their British overlords. He was caught and tortured severely. He was released, a broken man, and died subsequently.
16. Malati Mem of the Tea-garden community was inspired to join Mahatma Gandhi's satyagraha movement. She fought against the British monopoly over opium and educated her people about the dangers of opium addiction. During an encounter with the police, she was shot dead.
17. Laxman Naik of the Bhuyan tribe, was also inspired by Gandhi and campaigned extensively to get tribes to join the freedom movement. The British framed him for the killing of a friend and he was hanged to death.
18. Helen Lepcha of the Lepcha tribe, was an ardent follower of Mahatma Gandhi. Her influence over her people made the British restless. She was shot at, imprisoned and hounded but she never lost courage. In 1941 she helped Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose escape from house arrest and travel to Germany. She was awarded the Tamra Patra for her invaluable contribution to the freedom struggle.
19. Pulimaya Devi Podar heard Gandhi when she was in school and wanted to join the freedom struggle immediately. Despite stiff opposition from her family she joined the movement after her studies and encouraged women to join her. She was imprisoned for her participation in protests. After independence she continued to serve her people and was awarded the title of 'Swatantra Sainani'.

Puneet Bhatia

Mission Vatsalya Scheme

1. **Related Ministry:** Ministry of Women and Child Development
2. **Historical Perspective:** Prior to 2009, the Ministry of women and child development Implemented **three schemes for children in need of protection**, The juvenile justice programme for children in need of care and protection as well as children in conflict with the law, The integrated programme for street children, The scheme for assistance to children's homes.
3. In 2010, these were merged into a single plan known as the **Integrated Child Protection Scheme**.
4. In 2017, it was renamed "**Child Protection Services Scheme**," and again in 2021-22 as **Mission Vatsalya**.
5. Mission Vatsalya Scheme is a roadmap to achieve development and child protection priorities aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
6. It lays emphasis on child rights, advocacy and awareness along with strengthening of the juvenile justice care and protection system with the motto to 'leave no child behind'.
7. **Related Act:** The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 provisions and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 form the basic framework for implementation of the Mission. Funds under the Mission Vatsalya Scheme are released according to the requirements and demands made by the States/UTs.
8. **Who Sponsor this Scheme:** The Scheme is implemented

as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme in partnership with State Governments and UT Administrations to support the States and UTs in universalizing access and improving quality of services across the country. The fund sharing pattern is in the ratio of 60:40 between Center and State & Union Territories with Legislature respectively.

9. **The fund sharing pattern** between Center and State is in the ratio of 90:10 for the North-Eastern States viz. Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura and two Himalayan States viz. Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, and UT of Jammu and Kashmir. For Union Territories without Legislature, it is 100% central share.
10. Mission Vatsalya scheme supports the children through Non-Institutional Care under Private Aided Sponsorship wherein interested sponsors (individuals/ institutions/ company/ banks/ industrial units/ trusts etc.) can provide assistance to children in difficult circumstances.
11. The District Magistrates take measures to encourage individuals or Public/ Private Sector Organizations to sponsor a child or a group of children or an Institution. Such arrangements are subject to stipulations as per the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, and Rules thereof.
12. **Conclusion:** These guidelines are in the right direction, as there are enormous children in our country who are suffering from physical and mental disabilities and all these initiatives would make their life easy.
13. The need to implement all these initiatives efficiently and at a better pace.

14. This information was given by the Union Minister of Women and Child Development, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, in a written reply in Lok Sabha today.

Puneet Bhatia

DRDO successfully test fires indigenously developed ATGMs

DRDO successfully test fires indigenously developed laser-guided ATGMs



Why in News: Indigenously developed Laser-Guided Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGM) were successfully test-fired from Main Battle Tank (MBT) Arjun by Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) and Indian Army at KK Ranges with support of Armored Corps Center & School (ACC&S) Ahmednagar in Maharashtra on August 04, 2022.

The missiles hit with precision and successfully destroyed the targets at two different ranges. Telemetry systems have recorded the satisfactory flight performance of the missiles.

The all-indigenous Laser Guided ATGM employs a tandem High Explosive Anti-Tank (HEAT) warhead to defeat Explosive Reactive Armor (ERA) protected armored vehicles. The ATGM has been developed with multi-platform launch capability and is currently undergoing technical evaluation trials from the 120 mm rifled gun of MBT Arjun.

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh has complimented DRDO and Indian Army for successful performance of the Laser Guided ATGMs. Secretary, Department of Defense R&D and Chairman DRDO Dr. G Satheesh Reddy congratulated the teams associated with the test firing of Laser Guided ATGMs.

About DRDO: The Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) is the premier agency under the Department of Defense Research and Development in the ministry of defense of the Government of India, charged with the military's research and development, headquartered in Delhi, India.

It was formed in 1958 by the merger of the Technical Development Establishment and the Directorate of Technical Development and Production of the Indian ordinance factories with the Defense Science Organization. Subsequently, the Defense Research & Development Service (DRDS) was constituted in 1979 as a service of Group 'A' Officers / Scientists directly under the administrative control of the Ministry of Defense.

Anti-Tank Guided Missiles:

ATGMs are primarily **designed to hit and destroy heavily armored military vehicles.**

The missiles can be transported by a **single soldier, to larger**

tripod-mounted weapons, which require a squad or team to transport and fire, to vehicle and aircraft mounted missile systems.

This type of guided missiles rely on an **electro-optical imager (IIR)** seeker, a laser or a **W-band radar seeker** in the nose of the missile.

These are '**fire-and-forget**' missiles where the **operator can retreat** right after firing as **there is no more guidance required**.

Laser-Guided ATGM:

The all-indigenous Laser Guided ATGM employs a tandem High Explosive Anti-Tank (HEAT) warhead to defeat Explosive Reactive Armor (ERA) protected armored vehicles.

The ATGM has been developed with multi-platform launch capability and is currently undergoing technical evaluation trials from the 120 mm rifled gun of MBT Arjun.

Some other Anti-tank Missiles:

Helina:

It has a maximum range of seven kilometers and has been designed and developed for integration on the weaponized version of the ALH (Advanced Light Helicopter).

The missile system has all-weather, day, and night capability and can defeat battle tanks with conventional armor as well as explosive reactive armor.

The Nag:

It is a **third-generation fire-and-forget** missile developed for

mechanized formations to engage **heavily fortified enemy tanks**.

SANT:

It is a **Smart Stand-off Anti-Tank Missile** being developed for launch from the **Mi-35 Helicopter** for the Air Force's anti-tank operations.

MPATGM:

It stands for **Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile** which has a range of 2.5 kilometers, with **fire-and-forget and top attack capabilities** for infantry use.

Puneet Bhatia

Democracy is waiting in Jammu and Kashmir

Democracy is waiting in Jammu and Kashmir

Why in news?

Three years have elapsed since the orders were passed separating the State of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories in accordance with Article 370 of the Indian Constitution.

Reasons behind the bifurcation of state:

- Both security and militancy would be eliminated.
- The inhabitants of the erstwhile State would benefit as it integrated with the Indian economy.
- Pandits from Kashmir who have lived as internal refugees for more than 30 years would be allowed to go home.

- It would usher in a new era of non-dynastic politics.

What harsh measures were implemented after the bifurcation?

- Arrests without a trial—Several hundreds of people were detained without being brought to trial in 2019.
- Media repression—Despite criticism from the Supreme Court in the Mohammed Zubair case, the media is nonetheless restrained, and journalists are frequently detained.
- Elections that were delayed despite the delimitation commission's exercise being finished have not yet been notified.
- Imposition of President's Rule: For the past four years, Jammu and Kashmir has been governed by both the President and the Lieutenant-Governor.
- Deaths of civilians: The Home Ministry reports that between 2019 and 2021, there were more civilian deaths than during Mr. Modi's first term (2014-19).
- Alienation and insurgency: The Valley is so hostile toward the Indian Union that public support for insurrection is at an all-time high.
- The South Asia Terrorism Portal reports that between 2019 and 2021, 437 Kashmiri youngsters joined the ranks of the insurgency.
- Economic decline: According to the NITI Aayog, Jammu and Kashmir dropped from being one of the best-performing States in the Indian Union to being among the worst last year.
- Attacks by militants: Just like in the 1990s, Kashmiri Pandits are once again the focus of terrorist violence.
- Report of the Delimitation Commission: Under general observations on methodology, the crucial point of why Jammu has gained

6 Assembly seats and the Valley only 1, has been glossed over.

What next ?

The first action that needs to be taken right away is holding assembly elections.

It would be in the spirit of “cooperative federalism” if they could be held under the earlier delimitation and the current report of the commission presented to the new Assembly for discussion.

The restoration of statehood has been regularly promised by Home Minister Shah, but three years is a long time to keep that pledge without carrying it out.

PLUTUS

Vivek Raj

IAS

Revidi Culture – A slang for underprivileged or a Genuine concern for development

Freebies like free power and a monthly stipend to women are among promises made by parties and this is common in elections in state after state. Earlier this month, the PM said it's time to stop this practice and called it the 'revdi' culture hurting the country, its development and well-being. **Election Commission of India (ECI)** cannot regulate policy decisions regarding the “offering/distribution of any freebies either before or after the election”.

Impact of such freebies on state budgets:

- Expenditure side.
- Revenue side.

- Negative impact on state-owned enterprises.
- Low tax collections: due to Free electricity, free water, free rides etc., there is no realization of tax on these.

Debate on Government Intervention in form of freebies/welfare measure:

Basically, all contemporary debate can be divided into two segments

- Those who advocate government
- Those who are against government intervention.

Against government intervention

Scholars associated with **Neo-Liberal School** like **Fredrich Hayek and Robert Nozick** argue against any kind of government intervention.

- Building on the work of **Classical Economist Adam Smith**, who had given the Idea of **“Invisible Hand”**, the Neo-liberal scholars argue that the **Market is like a nervous system capable of receiving unlimited stimulus.**
- Basically, they argue that **there is no need for any government intervention** in any sphere of socio-economic development of society. **The Market forces are capable of that.**
- That is why, father of **Neo-Liberalism Hayek** has termed **Planning as “Road to Serfdom”**.

In favor of Government Intervention

Countering the argument of Neo-liberal scholars there are **various scholars who argue in favor of state intervention.**

- Scholars like **Naom Chomsky**, have criticized the “policy of

no-intervention”, arguing that the state **not only works as a policy planner** but it **carries out various activities** that **build the capacity of individuals** to better enjoy the available resources. Thereby increasing the overall socio-economic status of the entire

- Similarly, **Indian-American economist Amartya Sen** has argued that the state **is an important tool to realize the “Equality of Capability”**, which is more significant than **“Equality of Opportunity”** and even **“Equality of Resources.”**
- For example, by providing **free and quality education and health to all citizens**, the state basically ensures that **everyone can have the ability to compete at equal footing.**
- Moreover, **Raghu Ram Rajan**, in his book **“the Third pillar – how market and state leave people behind”**, has argued that **there are places where market forces fail** and the state has to provide services to **ensure dignity of individual and equal chance to development.**

Recent Efforts:

- To determine if it is possible to restrict the distribution of freebies by political parties using public funds, **Supreme Court’s** direct union government should engage the finance commission.
- The Supreme Court has decided to set up an expert group with representation from Niti Aayog, Finance Commission, Election commission, RBI and political parties to study the impact of freebies on tax payers and economy, and recommend measures to regulate it.

Measures to mitigate the negative impacts:

- The **Finance Commission** (an independent authority) can consider the **state’s debt**, when allocating funds to other states and

use that information to determine if the state's economy would remain resilient over time in the face of subsidies.

- Increasing the effectiveness of the Election Commission of India (ECI) by adding **giveaways to the Moral Code of Conduct (MCC) and** controlling manifestos.
- Increasing transparency to make sure **it reaches the intended recipients**. A agricultural loan forgiveness, for instance, only applies to genuine farmers.
- Modifying the **FRBM Act by putting a cap** on the amount that can be spent on loan waivers, free power, and water.

Conclusion:

Thus, it is evident that the presence of freebies could be good economic stimulus provided that sad state of affairs of the Indian economy. However, excessive freebies that too when economy is running well could be counterproductive.

Vikas gupta