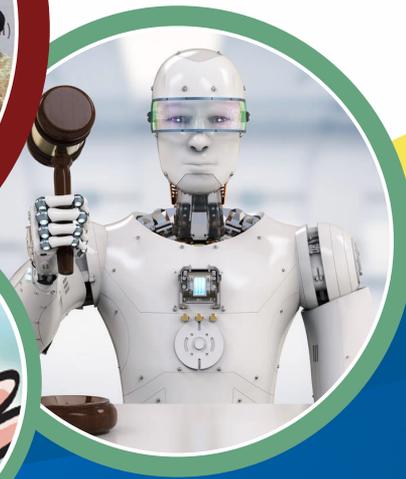




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GEO-SPATIAL TECHNOLOGIES FOR THE WATER SECTOR IN INDIA

India has a robust ecosystem in geospatial, with the survey of india ISRO, remote sensing applications centres and the national informatics centre in particular, and all ministries and department in general, using geospatial technology. As the severity of water crisis in India increases every year, central and state government agencies are using a variety of resources to tackle the water crisis. One among them is the adoption of geospatial technologies.

OVERVIEW OF WATER SECTOR IN INDIA : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- **Demand-supply Mismatch** - India has about 17% of the world population but only about 4% of the world's freshwaters reserves and is currently facing a severe water challenge. Further, the total capacity of India's reservoir stands at 250 BCM while its total water bearing capacity over the surface is around 320 BCM.
- **Low rate of collection**- India receives 3000 Bcm water out of which only 8% is collected.
- **Over extraction and over reliance on groundwater**- India fills groundwater aquifers at the rate of 458 bcm per year, while it extracts around 650 BCM of water from the earth.
- **Water stress** – As per NITI AYOg report, currently nearly 820 million people in 12 major river basins in India face extreme water stress.
- **Qualitative issues** – groundwater in 1/3rd of India's 600 districts is contaminated mainly through arsenic and fluoride.

ABOUT GEOSPATIAL TECHNOLOGIES : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Geospatial technology is a term used to describe the range of modern tools contributing to the geographic mapping and analysis of the earth and human societies.
- It is a collection of technology that helps to collect, analyse, store, manage and distribute, integrate and present Geographic info.
- It consists of Remote sensing, GIS, GNSS, survey, 3D modelling.
- It enables better measurement, management and maintenance of assets, monitoring of resources and even provides predictive and descriptive analysis forecasting and Planned intervention.

GEOSPATIAL TECHNOLOGY FOR WATER SECTOR : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Geospatial and digital technologies like Satellite Based Remote Sensing, GPS based treatment and sensors, AI, Big Data Analytics, 90T, 5G, Robotics and digital twin, Can be effectively used to combat the water crisis.

MAJOR ONGOING WATER PROJECT IN INDIA : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Recognising the water crisis in India, Government of India formed a single ministry i.e Ministry of Jal Shakti previously it was dealt by almost nine Ministries.
- Jal Jeevan Mission, DRIP, Namami Gange, The national river linking project (NRLP), AMRUT, National hydrology program, PMKSY, National aquifer mapping program, River Basin Management, Atal Bhujal Yojana, National Water Mission.

WAY FORWARD

Long-term Geospatial Vision: In order to derive maximum benefit from geospatial technology implementation in various programmes, user dept need to build a long-term vision of the outcomes of geospatial implementation.

Integrated Geospatial Platform: An integrated collaborative platform to connect the data and Technology used by various organisations need to be developed for seamless access to info both locally and nationally and enable decision making.

Data & System Integration: Various data sets including demography, social-cultural, economic and other parameters need to be integrated with spatial and non spatial data related to water like soil, moisture, annual rainfall, rivers, aquifer, groundwater levels, water quality etc.

Anshum Verma

Significance and Need of Unfettered intellectual ambience : An analysis in changing political scenario on the occasion of National Science Day

CONTEXT :

- The Government is organizing a Science Week, 'Vigyan Sarvatra Pujyate', as a prelude to National Science Day on February 28.
- In the Indian political scenario the free, intellectual ambience is not only the need of the country academically but also it is only tool which gives birth to free and logical thinking (scientific outlook) through which a nation can progress comprehensively

INTRODUCTION :

- 28th Feb is celebrated as the national Science day. On this occasion C. V Ram had invented the impact on the rays of light beam deflected from the molecules. The programme appears to have been designed to make youth be proud about India's scientific achievements.
- But we should know the real spirit of science which is to develop logical and critical thinking in a free atmosphere.
- In the present modern days, in the changing atmosphere of the political system, this is the big challenge to create and promote the atmosphere of free thinking. Because of greediness, fear and favor, our intellectuals generally deviate towards the will and ideology of the government or the respective authorities and compromise with logic and critical analysis.
- Using this opportunity as nationalistic mission is rather unfortunate. On the contrary, this event should be used to celebrate the true spirit of science that defies all types of intellectual curtailments, thus

promoting critical thinking in our academic centers.

WHAT IS THE SCIENCE AND SCIENTIFIC OUTLOOK? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Dissent is the soul of science.
- The scientific outlook seems like the rebellion outlook. Freeman Dyson in his book, *The Scientist as Rebel*, makes it very much clear that science is the mixture of two different opposite ideologies.
- Science is a mosaic of partial and conflicting visions. The common element after the analysis of two contradictory things is the science.
- This is not a western term. It is more Indian and Arab or Japanese or Chinese. Khayyam, a renowned Arab mathematician and astronomer wrote that science was a rebellion against the intellectual constraints of Islam.
- He further described science as a rebellion which he expressed more directly in his incomparable verses....”

SIGNIFICANCE : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Free spirit of thinking is necessary for the comprehensive development of society. Dyson writes that “Science is an alliance of free spirits in all cultures rebelling against the local tyranny that each culture imposes on its children.”
- Galileo Einstein Nicolaus Copernicus is the person who dared to think freely and called the rebellion of the state, however they are now recognized by the world. And their free thinking brought the reforms in Europe which not only changed the picture of Europe but also the picture of the entire World. The one of the main reason of the prosperity of the Europe is only the Scientific outlook / atmosphere of the free thinking
- Development of the scientific outlook is maintained in our Fundamental Duties. R.A. Mashelkar, the Ex Director-General of the CSIR wrote in a journal issued by the CSIR in 2010 why India is unable to break the mediocrity barrier. He concludes that tradition-bound countries such as India need to free themselves from the cultural chains of the past to foster original thinking.
- We should develop the spirit of free thinking among our children also so that they would be helpful in the evolution of some ideas of the betterment of the society

CONCLUSION

- Indian intellectuals are sufficiently capable to develop scientific outlook among themselves as well as among the children of India. But some time, because of the fear and favor they slightly tilted towards the demand of the authority/ government and of the political party if they are associated with them.
- They Should overcome this type of the biasness. There is a huge need of the atmosphere in which the spirit of free thinking could be evolved so that the comprehensive development could be speeded up in a country.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

MONEY LAUNDERING: A GLOBAL CONCERN

The government informed the Supreme Court that 18,000 crore was confiscated under the Prevention of

Money Laundering Act (PMLA) from fugitive businessman Vijay Mallya, Nirav Modi and Mehul Choksi, and returned to banks.

WHAT IS MONEY LAUNDERING?

- It is the process of making large amounts of money generated by criminal activity, such as drug trafficking or terrorist funding, appear to have come from a legitimate source.
- Criminal activities like illegal arms sales, smuggling, drug trafficking and prostitution rings, insider trading, bribery and computer fraud schemes produce large profits.
- Thereby it creates the incentive for money launderers to “legitimize” the ill-gotten gains through money laundering.
- The money generated is called ‘dirty money’ and money laundering is the process of conversion of ‘dirty money’, to make it appear as ‘legitimate’ money.

CHALLENGES

- Very small numbers of cases are being taken up for investigation under the PMLA as compared to annual registration of the cases under the Money Laundering Act in the UK (7,900), the U.S. (1,532), China (4,691), Austria (1,036), Hong Kong (1,823), Belgium (1,862) and Russia (2,764).
- Corruption in high offices is a major facilitator of money laundering.
- A United Nations report said that the proceeds of crime being laundered amount to \$2.1 trillion, which accounts for 3.67% of the global GDP.
- Three “supra-national or transnational” crimes which have brought together the global community are narcotics, money laundering and terrorism.
- People accused of money laundering run to small nations with no extradition treaty with India where they can buy citizenship.
- The national economy was the ultimate victim of money laundering, which affects all citizens alike.

CONSEQUENCES : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- The possible consequences of money laundering, terrorist financing (TF), proliferation financing (the provision of funds or financial services for the acquisition of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons), and related crimes which undermine the integrity and stability of the financial sector and the broader economy.
- These crimes, as well as those underlying crimes that generate money laundering activity, can threaten the stability of a country’s financial sector and a country’s external stability more generally.
- This, in turn, can affect law and order, good governance, regulatory effectiveness, foreign investments and international capital flows.
- The social costs of money laundering include allowing drug traffickers, smugglers, and other criminals to expand operations and the transfer of economic power from the market, government, and citizens to criminals.
- In extreme cases, money laundering can lead to a complete takeover of a legitimate government.

EFFORTS FOR PREVENTION OF MONEY LAUNDERING: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- The Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering (FATF), a 39-member inter-governmental body established by the 1989 G7 Summit in Paris, has primary responsibility for developing the worldwide standards for Anti-Money Laundering/Combating the Financing of Terrorism.

- The European Union, Council of Europe, Organisation of American States established anti-money laundering standards for their member countries.
- The Caribbean, Asia, Europe and southern Africa have created regional anti-money laundering task force-like organisations, and similar groupings are planned for western Africa and Latin America in the coming years.

INITIATIVES OF INDIA: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- The Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 was enacted in January 2003.
- It prescribes the obligation of banking companies, financial institutions and intermediaries for verification and maintenance of records of the identity of all its clients and also of all transactions and for furnishing information of such transactions in a prescribed form to the Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND).
- It envisages the setting up of an Adjudicating Authority to exercise jurisdiction, power and authority conferred by it essentially to confirm attachment or order confiscation of attached properties.
- It also envisages the setting up of an Appellate Tribunal to hear appeals against the order of the Adjudicating Authority and the authorities like Director FIU-IND.
- It envisages designation of one or more courts of sessions as Special Court or Special Courts to try the offences punishable under PMLA and offences with which the accused may, under the Code of Criminal Procedure 1973, be charged at the same trial.
- It allows the Central Government to enter into an agreement with the Government of any country outside India for enforcing the provisions of the PMLA, exchange of information for the prevention of any offence under PMLA or under the corresponding law in force in that country or investigation of cases relating to any offence under PMLA.

Anshum Verma

Russia Ukraine Crisis and India's national interest : An analysis in context to the steps by the government

CONTEXT:

Russia has declared a full fledged invasion over Ukraine and the Russian Ukraine war has been continuing for six days. India indirectly favored the steps of Russia against Ukraine and showed its traditional friendship with Russia but how far it is justified with the traditional value system of India's foreign policy of Non aggression. The foreign policy of any country is determined and influenced with the national interest of that country

INTRODUCTION:

There is no eternal friend and enemy in the international arena. The international relation continuously changes as per the interest of the nation. The identification of the national interest is the most essential requirement. The overall development of the Indian citizens is an eternal element of the National interest. Besides the following points are the elements and objectives of the national interest

- To conserve traditional value system
- Freedom and the sovereignty
- Unity and integrity

- Territorial security

The nature of the national interest is dynamic also. Presently, some new elements are also associated with the concept of National interest

- India's economic interest in abroad
- Many Indians are working in countries including America and Europe. Their security is also national interest
- Many Indians are studying in various countries of the world. Their interest and security is also a part of National interest
- The protection of the interest of the diaspora

WHY INDIA SUPPORT RUSSIA : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

There are several factors for which India had to support Russia

- India is the traditional friend of Russia from the time of USSR
- Russia justified this invasion as she is finishing the neo Nazism which has evolved in Ukraine with the support of West
- India addressed several security interest of the Russia

HOW FAR THIS DECISION OF INDIA IS CORRECT : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- However, overall it seems the right decision of India for abstaining in the security council and supporting Russia indirectly. But up to a certain extent, it influences the interest of India. The Russian invasion is a violation of the BRICS resolution of New Delhi which was passed in the presence of Putin, Xi and Narendra Modi. Russia is the founding member of the BRICS, it means Russia is diluting the terms of the BRICS according to which no country can opt the path of aggression. The diluted terms of the BRICS would be dangerous for Indians because, in future the hostility of China would be increased.
- The decision of India may deteriorate the India US relation in future. Since Australia and Japan had also condemned the Russian aggression, therefore, India may face difficulties in QUAD.
- Because of the increasing hostility with China, India was looking towards Japan for the import of technology but after this steps of India, the bilateral relation of India and Japan may be deteriorated

HOW FAR IT IMPACTS THE INTEREST OF THE INDIA (NATIONAL INTEREST) : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- India, at any cost can not support any type of aggression because, India itself is the victim of Chinese infiltration in Ladakh. After the stand of India during the Ukraine Russian war, India had diluted the issue of Chinese infiltration.
- Secondly, many of the Indian Children /student are stuck in Ukraine, after some time, the European countries can deny to support India for the evacuation of Indians from Ukraine

WHAT SHOULD INDIA DO?

India is potentially capable of meeting this Chinese threat — a threat that is evident by China grabbing 50,000 square kilometers of Indian territory.

The potential strength of India can become actual capability with a little help from the United States. India should not be completely tilted towards Russia. Now the time has come that India should start gradually criticism of Chinese aggression simultaneously as well as the issue of POK

CONCLUSION

For India, the time is very crucial and India has to take any steps careful and balance. As per the predictions on the basis of the pattern of war, Russia could not get a satisfactory victory over Ukraine. Once Ukraine will recover its hold after the war with the support of the west but India would not be able to reinstall its relation with Ukraine and west like earlier one. Therefore India should not support in every affairs of the Russia blindly, In United Nation, India should raise the voice in the favor of the cease fire strongly and but simultaneously continuing its support to Russia regarding her security concern.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

KISAN DRONE

The Prime Minister of India flagged off 100 Kisan drones as a part of the “Drone Kisan Yatra” with the aim to promote chemical-free farming in India. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman first announced the initiative in her Budget speech earlier this month. Sitharaman added that inclusive drone development is one of the four priorities of the government moving forward.

WHAT IS A KISAN DRONE?

- It will have an unmanned tank filled with insecticides and nutrients.
- The drones are expected to have a high capacity of 5 to 10kg.
- The drone will spray the same amount of pesticide on about one acre of land in just 15 minutes.
- The drones have been manufactured by Chennai-based Garuda Aerospace, a home-grown start-up.

EXPECTED IMPLICATIONS OF THE MOVE : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- This will save time, will require less effort and spraying will be done uniformly.
- They will also be used to carry vegetables, fruits, fish, etc to the markets from the farms.
- These items will be supplied directly to the market with minimal damage, consuming lesser time, resulting in more profits to farmers and fishermen.
- The development of these drones on a large scale is expected to bring new employment opportunities for the youth.
- Kisan drones will be used for crop assessment, digitization of land records, and spraying of insecticides and nutrients.
- Kisan Drones will be used to boost the agricultural sector in the country, the use of Kisan Drones will be promoted for crop assessment, digitization of land records and spraying of insecticides and nutrients.
- This step was taken as the government aims to promote chemical-free national farming.
- Kisan Drone will usher in a new edge revolution as high capacity drones will be used to carry vegetables, fruits, fishes to the market directly from the farms. “These items will be supplied directly to the market with minimal damage, consuming lesser time, resulting in more profits to farmers and fishermen,”
- The development of the drone market in India will generate fresh employment and new opportunities for the youth.

ISSUES /CHALLENGES : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Initial Cost: Mostly, agricultural drones used for surveying have fixed wings and may cost very high

based on features and sensors necessary for executing their intended use.

- **Connectivity:** Online coverage is mostly unavailable in arable farms. Under such a situation, any farmer intending to use drones has to invest in connectivity or buy a drone with local data storing capability in a format that can be transferred and processed later.
- **Weather Dependent:** Under windy or rainy conditions, flying drones is not easy, unlike traditional aircraft. Drones are weather dependent.
- **Knowledge and Skill:** An average farmer cannot analyze drone images as it requires specialised skills and knowledge to translate them into any useful information.
- **Misuse:** There is a chance of misuse to infringe the privacy of people and illegal transfer of information.

GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- The Union Budget 2022-23 announced a special push for Kisan (farmer) drones.
- The Union Agriculture Ministry has amended the guidelines of the Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanisation to provide subsidies to rural entrepreneurs and farmer producer organisations for purchasing drones.
- **Drone Rules 2021:** Ministry of Civil Aviation has published 'Drone Rules 2021' to regulate the use and operation of Drones in India. Today Current Affairs.
- The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, (Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare) in consultation with all the stakeholders of this sector, has brought out Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for use of drones in pesticide and nutrient application that provides concise instructions for effective and safe operations of drones.
- India banned the import of foreign drones except those used for research and development, defence and security.

CONCLUSION

- The digital revolution is touching every sphere of life and hence it is high time to bring agriculture in its ambit.
- The emphasis on digital infrastructure for infusion of agriculture technologies in a PPP mode will be the need of the hour in the next 25 years to combat the serious threat of climate change, Kisan drones' are the beginning of a new revolution.
- Farmers can use high-capacity drones in the coming times to transport their produce like fruits, vegetables and flowers to markets in a minimal time, boosting their income.
- The drones would go a long way in addressing the acute labour shortage faced by farmers, especially paddy growers.
- The government needs to frame policies, install infrastructure to keep a tab on the drones and put in place policies for opening up the sector.

Anshum Verma

Russia-Ukraine Conflict and India's abstention on UNSC vote

WHY IN NEWS?

The US has moved a resolution in UNSC against Russia's aggression over Ukraine but India has abstained from voting mentioning that dialogue is the only answer to settle disputes.

ABOUT RESOLUTION:

- US and Albania along with several other countries presented a resolution in UNSC to deplore Russia's aggression against Ukraine which highlighted that Russia should immediately stop using its force against Ukraine and also it should refrain from using force against any UN member state.
- The resolution further expressed its commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders.
- Russia chaired the meeting and China along with the UAE abstained from voting.
- Although all the remaining members voted in favour of the resolution but it could not pass as Russia vetoed it.

INDIAN ABSTENTION AND REASONS BEHIND: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- If India would have condemned Russian aggression then it would have placed India against Russia.
- If India would have supported Russian aggression then it would have placed India against the U.S. and its allies.
- If India would have maintained silence on Russian aggression then it would have been considered as pro-Russia move
- Fourth option was to express displeasure and call for diplomacy which is least harmful, so India followed it.
- India followed this path as it wants to maintain a balance between the Western bloc and Russia.
- India appealed for cessation of violence and expressed that it is disturbed by the reversal of developments in Ukraine.
- It expressed concern for Indian nationals in Ukraine and advocated for negotiations.
- Russia is also India's most trusted P-5 ally in blocking intrusive resolutions on Kashmir.
- Further India needs Russia's assistance in defence supplies, help in returning to central Asia, searching avenues and collaborating in Afghanistan.

WHETHER INDIA WAS UNDER DIPLOMATIC PRESSURE? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Just before the United Nations Security Council's draft resolution against the Russian invasion, India was caught in a diplomatic tussle between the Western powers and Russia.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had telephonic conversations with his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, insisting that dialogue and diplomacy are the best way forward to defuse the Ukraine crisis.

The Ambassadors of European countries in India got together in New Delhi and expressed solidarity with their Ukrainian counterpart and strongly condemned Russia's "unprovoked and unjustified" military attack on Ukraine. A day before, British and EU Foreign ministers had also called up Jaishankar, while ambassadors of G-7 countries had expressed support for the Ukrainian ambassador.

SIGNIFICANCE OF INDIAN ACTION: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The current situation has necessitates that India balances the Western bloc and Russia

The India position has shown that when it comes to geopolitics, It will choose interests over principles.

India has been in touch with all sides, urging the parties concerned to return to the negotiating table. By abstaining, India retained the option of reaching out to relevant sides in an effort to bridge the gap and find a middle ground with an aim to foster dialogue and diplomacy.

But now India has to consider how its aspirations to become a leading power can be realized without taking a clear stand in a conflict that threatens global security.

Vivek Raj

Evaluation of operation Ganga : Need of clear evacuation policy of India at the time of emergency

CONTEXT:

During the Russian Ukrainian War, thousands of Indians are stuck in Ukraine. However, the Government had started the operation Ganga to evacuate the Indians from Ukraine. But This operation is also not free from criticism. Opposition political party leaders are continuously raising the questions regarding its delay. There are not any clear instructions and strategy regarding evacuations of Indians. India is not facing the problem of evacuation for the first time. In the past we successfully operated such an evacuation operation during the Gulf war.

INTRODUCTION

During the Russia Ukraine war, now we feel the need for a clear evacuation policy. Presently, however the government is doing its best effort to evacuate Indians from the war zone of the Ukraine but still the government has to face many problems in this operation Ganga which has been started by the government for the evacuation of Indians.

WHAT IS OPERATION GANGA : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Operation Ganga is an ongoing operation started by the government of India by 28th Feb 2022 for evacuating India from the nearby countries of the Ukraine (western border) during the Russia Ukraine war. It will last up to 8th march 2022. The total cost is predicted for this operation is 1.1 crore Indian missions in the neighboring countries like Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Hungary announced to make arrangements to receive Indian nationals from Ukraine and fly them out of their respective countries under Operation Ganga flights. The cost will be borne by the Center. The cost is expected to increase as the condition of the war is going to worst

WHAT IS THE EVACUATION : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Definition

The basic meaning of the evacuation is a facility of exiting and safely as possible from the point of the emergency

Evacuation is appropriate when conditions inside a structure pose a threat to the health and safety of building

occupants and leaving the facility is safer than remaining inside of it. Evacuation should occur through the closest exit way

STRATEGIES FOR AN EFFECTIVE EVACUATION : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

India has to operate many operation in past related to evacuation where the following strategies were adopted

- Exit the premises through the nearest exit.
- Exit immediately, do not return for personal items.
- If possible, inform others of the evacuation.
- If possible, help others evacuate.
- Evacuate regardless of whether others agree to follow.
- Use the safest evacuation route possible.
- Avoid coming in contact with the hazard (fire, suspicious package, violent intruder, etc.).
- Prevent individuals from entering an area where the hazard may be.

ASSEMBLY LOCATIONS

After evacuating, you should report to a pre-designated assembly area and wait for further instruction. Assembly areas are designated locations where a headcount can be taken or emergency officials can debrief regarding the incident.

WHAT IS THE EVACUATION POLICY OF INDIA : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

There is no fixed evacuation policy in India. But many times in the past India had to operate these evacuation operations. one of the largest evacuation operation was run during the time of gulf war in which more than 175000 Indians were evacuated

EVACUATION IN PAST : TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

India has been evacuated from Yemen in view of civil disturbances in 2009-10. The Embassy of India, Sana'a (Yemen) arranged the exit visas for those who are staying without proper documentation in Yemen.

Due to the turmoil in Egypt during January-February, 2011. Before that, in 1990, India evacuated approx. 190000 Indians during the gulf war.

In the past Air India arranged three special flights, on a 'no profit' basis. Around 670 Indians availed of these special Air India flights to return to India. As the situation deteriorated in Libya, more than 16,200 Indian nationals desirous of returning to India were evacuated from Libya by all means, i.e. by air, sea, and land.

FUND ALLOCATED FOR THE EVACUATION OF INDIANS : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

There is a fund called The Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) for such types of operations. The Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) was set up in 2009. The objective of this fund is to provide assistance to those Indians who are residing in abroad in times of distress and emergency in the 'most deserving cases' on a 'means tested basis'

ICWF has also been a critical support in emergency evacuation of Indian nationals from conflict zones, countries affected by natural disasters and other challenging situations. In view of its immense utility, ICWF stands extended to all Indian Missions and Posts abroad.

The Missions will have the following source of funding: Funds raised by the Indian Missions by levying a

service charge on Consular Services as under: (i) For Passport, Visa, OCI and PIO Cards – RS. 100/-per document rounded off in local currency.

SUGGESTION AND THE NEED OF CLEAR EVACUATION POLICY : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

In the lack of clear evacuation policy of the government this time students studying in Ukraine are facing the problem. Government could not decide about evacuation before 12th Feb 2022 however many countries had issued advisory before 12th Feb when the situation in Ukraine had started to deteriorate. In the lack of a fixed and clear evacuation policy, this time, the operation Ganga has had several difficulties. This situation is not the last situation. Government has to form a fix evacuation policy for which there must be clear instructions and the procedure of the evacuation and in any country government should execute evacuation policy before the time starts to deteriorate

CONCLUSION

As per the above discussion, Operation Ganga, an evacuation operation, is going on in Ukraine to evacuate our citizens from Ukraine in such a dangerous situation. In fact there is a failure of the government that the government could not launch this operation earlier because of the lack of clear evacuation policy. But after the Russian invasion, the Government started this operation Ganga. Definitely the Government should start this operation in the first week of the February 2022 when the situation is tending towards the worst. The government should not wait for the worst situation. Anyway, we all pray for the success of this operation Ganga so that our students could bring India safely; however we have lost the life of one student.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Need of the development of the modern Science : An essential element for the overall development of the country

CONTEXT:

In election-obsessed India, there is hardly any time to discuss the advances of modern science and the repercussions

INTRODUCTION :

- In India, we see there are various elections conducted almost every month (elections of the provincial government, elections of the panchayat and other civil elections) and our leaders who spend their maximum time in those elections. Despite spending our maximum time on elections in India, we should spend more time discussing the advances of modern science and their repercussions for public life. There have been such fascinating developments in science and in technology, such as in artificial intelligence, but these have merely been reported and then have quietly faded from public view.
- We know this fact very well, science is not only essential to our daily life but also it is important for our power. The development of science in an ethical framework is required for the overall development of the country. therefore it should be discussed countrywide but this is our misfortune that we prefer the elections more in comparison to the other constructive activities. The Hindu Analysis.
- The Need of the development on medical science is also required In modern days, science is essential for the development of society. However, the debate of the development of medicine and the medical science is required

In foreign countries, the development in the health sector, mainly in Africa is appreciable. In America the research of the kidney transplant from animal to human is very appreciable and the society is not only supporting the medical research but also they came forward strongly for such development

There are various reports published on January 14, 2022, from the University of Maryland where a team of doctors used the heart of an animal, which had genetically modified features, as a replacement heart on a patient who had run out of available options. By all accounts the operation seems to have been successful.

MORAL AND SOCIAL ISSUE: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Actually, there are various ethical issues regarding the development of medical science that should be discussed properly. In foreign countries the animals are being used for the research and experiment but in India it is very difficult to use animals for the research and development in the medical field because of the several rights of the animals also.

Our constitution also encourages the development of the scientific temper. (Article 51 A). But since animal right movements abstract such development we should come forward to discuss freely in this regard so that we could also learn about stems from a philosophy of anthropocentrism which places human beings at the center of nature and regards all other living creatures as having only value if they can be of use to humans.

Animal rights are also related with our value system but we should be more human centric

CONCLUSION:

The development of science is not only essential for the well-being of humans only but also for the well being of the entire nation. The government should think in this regard carefully. Despite being more involved in the elections, our senior leaders should show at least little concern regarding the development of science and technology. Here it should not be argued that elections should be curtailed or only one time election should be conducted. Democracy is also essential for the development of free scientific thinking. Hence, our central level or leaders of high level should not be concerned only on the election, even the election of the local level. Democracy, scientific development, social value system and the ethical value system, all are essential to flourish in a free atmosphere.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

ASHA workers and their neglected state

Over 10 lakh rural and urban “ASHA” (accredited social health activists) workers whose role in the pandemic has been acknowledged from all quarters, locally and internationally, continue to be sidelined. Their demand for the recognition of their work in their role as community health workers is deliberately pushed aside by a state system that appears to be thriving on the free labour of women workers, be it in the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS), the Midday Meal Scheme or the National Health Mission. It is therefore not surprising that ASHA workers are now on a warpath, continuously organizing several protest programmes in different states even as the pandemic rages around them, because they continue to face an indifferent administration and a callous government that does not care to remunerate them properly for their labour.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

The pandemic is far from over, and nobody can hazard a guess about when it will eventually phase out. The Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 and the Disaster Management Act, 2005 continue to be in operation and are being invoked to justify all kinds of government decisions as well as restrict public behavior. Yet, in

September 2021, the government in all its wisdom chose to withdraw the meager COVID-19 risk allowance of `1,000 that was announced as a compensation for ASHA workers.¹ It was restored, albeit for another six months (up to March 2022) only when they protested about it on Human Rights Day on 10 December 2021.²

CASE OF NEGLECT : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

It was stated in Parliament that till January 2021, 44 ASHA workers died due to the virus (Rajya Sabha 2021); however, the numbers could be higher. In September 2020, of the 155 settled COVID-19 claims for the `50 lakh compensation on account of death announced by the government, only 14 were of ASHA workers (Rajya Sabha 2020). But even those who simply needed medical attention got none, like the case in Bihar, where many ASHA workers who tested COVID-19 positive got no treatment from the state government's public health services (Madhav and Gurmat 2021). Worse, many have reported that they did not even get the mandatory protective equipment of masks and sanitisers for doing their duty or even if they did that it was a one-off gesture—this while the same authorities imposed stringent fines for lapses in respect to COVID-19 safety protocols.

In many places the trade unions of ASHA workers have had to step in to demand priority vaccinations for them, even though they are a critical link in the entire pandemic control strategy of the governments at both the central and state levels. At best, since 2018 they are reimbursed for any premium that is deducted from their bank accounts for the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (death benefit of `2 lakh) and the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (accidental death/disability benefit of up to `2 lakh).

FULL-TIME DISGUISED AS 'VOLUNTARY' : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The answer obviously lies in the gendered nature of the work done by ASHA workers coupled with the tendency of the neo-liberal state to reduce its expenditure, especially social sector spending, as we have witnessed in our country for the last several years. The ASHA workers are essentially a part of the care work sector, providing a crucial link between the community and the public health system in both rural and urban areas.

The guidelines issued when the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) was first set up in 2005 describe the role and responsibility of an ASHA worker—the ASHA will be a health activist in the community who will create awareness on health and its social determinants and mobilize the community towards local health planning and increased utilization and accountability of the existing health services; creating awareness, counseling women and escorting them to the nearest health facility for treatment; providing primary medical care and first aid and acting as a depot for a basic drug kit; mobilizing the community and facilitating their access to local health and related services; providing information on births, deaths and unusual diseases; and, helping to develop a village-based comprehensive health plan are the primary responsibilities laid out for them in the document.

There are some fundamentally contentious issues in these arrangements that are now emerging with greater severity with the expansion of the scope and outreach of the NHM across the country. Counseling, creating awareness and even facilitating access to local health facilities may be tasks that could be done by any citizen helping their fellow citizens and could be counted as “voluntary.” But the actual task list and the coordination expected with other health staff is quite specific and requires the ASHA worker to not just devote a considerable amount of time, but also adhere to a particular timetable that goes far beyond the framework of voluntary services.

CONTINUED PRECARIETY : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Class, caste (a majority are from underprivileged caste backgrounds) and patriarchy combine to produce a unique hierarchy where ASHA workers are at the bottom of the heap. It is not just that they are not paid or

poorly paid for their 24×7 services. They are not even extended common courtesy such as a place to sit in the PHC or local hospital; they are often asked to do menial tasks, face physical and mental abuse and are at times forced to part with their meager earnings with corrupt health staff members. The lack of status and indignities they face are a direct product of the “nature” of their work and the fact that they are “poor women” workers with few options.

WORKING STRUGGLE : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

It is therefore to the credit of the ASHA workers, that despite these systemic odds, they have launched a determined struggle for recognition of their work as productive labour worthy of proper wages and status as workers. The last few years have seen struggles of ASHA workers to draw attention to the sheer neglect and discrimination faced by them, despite their stellar role in improving the delivery of health services to some of the poorest and deprived sections of our society. However, the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance-I government reneged on its promise made in 2009 to pay a fixed honorarium (Nirula 2015). Several ground level protest actions combined with the initiative of the central trade unions resulted in the tripartite 45th Indian Labour Conference convened in May 2013 to recommend that workers in different central and state government schemes, including ASHA workers, The Hindu Analysis.

This positive direction is sought to be turned around by the labour codes being pushed by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government that do not even mention them as a category of employees; something that requires consideration for the application of protective labour legislation such as minimum wages and social security.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

They are organizing into trade unions and pushing demands for minimum wages, social security, and dignity. The inherent insecurity of their job and its precarious nature poses challenges to organizing, as also their lack of resources due to their poor and marginalized socio-economic background. Efforts to mobilise and organise are met with threats of privatisation or dismissal. But the “worker consciousness” that is being built through the process of organising has led to an understanding that it is only the recognition of their work as productive care “work” and the status of workers that will lead to an improvement in their conditions.

The ASHA workers’ unions are today one of the most militant organisations of women and form a substantial part of the trade union movement in the country. They have supported the farmers’ struggle and have supported the demand for the withdrawal of the intolerable labour codes brought by the BJP government. Some of their major actions have been two national strikes, in August 2020 and September 2021 (along with other scheme workers⁵), and consistent participation from all states in the general strike calls of the central trade unions. In another national strike scheduled for 28–29 March 2022, they have called for a permanency of their mission and a universal legislation guaranteeing the right to healthcare, a minimum wage of `21,000, pension of `10,000 per month, an additional COVID-19 risk allowance of `10,000 per month, and continued insurance coverage (All India Coordination Committee of ASHA Workers [CITU] 2021). Even in this third wave of COVID-19 they are determined to bring their struggle to the streets. Nobody can stop their march forward.

Ritu

Biological Diversity Act, 2002 – impact and challenges

The biodiversity management committees (BMCs) have been constituted in local bodies across the length and breadth of the country under the provisions of the national Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and relevant

state rules enacted under it. The act gives effect to India's commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) of 1992 to which it is a party, and the act's objectives mirror the three goals of the CBD, namely the conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the use of biological resources and associated knowledge.

While primarily responsible for the preparation of peoples' biodiversity registers (PBRs) containing comprehensive knowledge on the availability and knowledge of local biological resources, their medicinal, or any other use or associated traditional knowledge, the BMCs also have important functions in determining access and benefit-sharing (ABS), including the power to levy collection fees on the access of biological resources within its jurisdiction. BMCs are, thus, key to the realisation of the objectives of the Nagoya Protocol (2010), negotiated within the CBD, enjoining parties to take measures to ensure that benefits from the utilisation of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge accrue to indigenous and local communities on mutually agreed terms.

With many BMCs remaining merely on paper, challenges in ensuring effective functioning of the BMCs have been reported in almost all states, attributed primarily to the lack of funding and capabilities and the inability to generate own funds (Kohli and Bhutani 2014; Tandon 2017). While the NBA tried to provide a set of minimum guiding principles for the operationalisation of the BMCs in 2014, states adopted different strategies to circumvent the challenges. For instance, Kerala—which had become the first state in the country to constitute BMCs in all its local bodies—ensured that the respective BMCs were chaired by the chairperson of the local body, with the secretary of the latter being the BMC's ex officio member secretary, to ensure local ownership of the BMCs

MP's PIONEERING INITIATIVES : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Madhya Pradesh (MP) has been a leader in biodiversity governance since the late 1990s, much before it became a part of the statutory obligations mandated by the 2002 act. Some of the foundational initiatives taken up far ahead of the times by MP—a precursor to the PBRs—were (i) the constitution of the “Madhya Pradesh Biodiversity Board” in 1999, (ii) the creation of a separate department of biodiversity and biotechnology in 2001, (iii) the preparation of the biodiversity strategy and action plan through a participatory process in 2002, and (iv) a first-of-its-kind effort in Seoni to incorporate biodiversity concerns in district developmental planning as well as preparation of jal-jangal-jameen registers at the gram panchayat level. It has also been commended for its efforts to make the documentation exercise participatory, involving marches or jathas to sensitise local people organised by the local NGOs with support from the state forest department (Gadgil 2006). The state also took the lead by promptly notifying the Madhya Pradesh State Biodiversity Rules in 2004, almost co-terminus with the notification of the national Biological Diversity Rules, 2004 to give effect to the 2002 act, and the constitution of the Madhya Pradesh State Biodiversity Board (MPSBB) under the aforesaid state rules in 2005.

CHALLENGES IN THE BMCs : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Despite the success stories, MP continues to face challenges in keeping the BMCs active and operational. This comes out strongly in the findings of the study conducted by the author based on field-level insights from 23 BMCs across five eco-regions and seven districts of MP, both old, well-established BMCs as well as relatively new BMCs, and JFMC-cum-BMCs.

The state has a few BMCs that are more than a decade old, such as the Pithorabad BMC in Satna district, the Langadiya Dhansura Bamsoli, Piprai, and Jabrol BMCs in Morena, which have prepared their PBRs long back with the help of local NGOs and master trainers of the MPSBB. Interactions with BMC members indicated considerable awareness about their roles and responsibilities and deep pride in the rewards and recognition received for their work on biodiversity conservation.

Despite their achievements, these BMCs face many challenges such as the lack of sustained funds for their work, the inability to generate funds of their own by collecting access fees, and the lack of requisite infrastructure such as dedicated office space.

A MULTIPRONGED APPROACH FOR THE FUTURE : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

MP has achieved full compliance with the NGT directive with the constitution of BMCs and preparation of PBRs in all its local bodies along with the constitution of JFMC-cum-BMCs. However, as the long experience of biodiversity governance in the state indicates, several challenges exist in sustaining the BMCs over time. This is compounded by the sheer geographical size and a huge number of local bodies in the state, which imposes unprecedented challenges in constitution, reconstitution, and building capacities faced nowhere else in the country.

It is indeed laudable that MP (and particularly the MPSBB) has shown unflinching commitment towards empowering the BMCs in the state and has been proactive in identifying the challenges and taking steps to address the same. Demonstrating policy responsiveness, the state has gone about amending the Madhya Pradesh State Biodiversity Rules in 2019 to reconstitute the JFMCs as JFMC-cum-BMCs, a step much in line with the operationalisation guidelines of the NBA with the expectation that the JFMCs—which have relatively robust functioning in the state under the mentorship of the forest department and performing related functions at the ground level—could be harnessed to serve as the BMCs. Considering the centrality of the funds for sustaining the work of the BMCs over time, the MPSBB has tried to build up a robust ABS regime through additional regulatory measures adopted in the exercise of powers conferred by the rules.

Bio-finance has also assumed centre stage in the Madhya Pradesh State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (MPSBS and AP) for 2018–30 brought out in 2020. The priority strategies to be adopted for strengthening bio-finance in the state include strengthening the ABS mechanism, putting in place separate biodiversity budget heads in all relevant sectors, ensuring convergence with relevant government schemes, and other innovative financing mechanisms. The MPSBB has tried to channel funds from the Green India Mission and the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority for the preparation of PBRs and capacity building of the BMCs (as per the information provided by MPSBB).

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

The BMCs also need to be supported with funds and technical assistance for taking up biodiversity-based livelihood interventions. In line with the rich biological wealth of the state, the cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants conservation of local varieties of wheat, rice, maize, pulses, minor millets, fruits, vegetables, etc, conservation of native breeds of livestock and poultry, organic farming along with value addition could be the key strategies for ensuring ecological security and dealing with the effects of climate change as well as achieving livelihood security of its people, particularly, its large population of Scheduled Tribes with a high dependence on bio-resources.

A multipronged strategy and an enabling policy and legal environment would thus be critical in creating empowered, self-sustaining, and self-reliant Atmanirbhar BMCs in the state, which would also be central to the realisation of the goals of the CBD, climate justice, and many of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Ritu

The IPCC Report

WHY IN NEWS?

The IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) has analyzed and reviewed the present and future man-made impacts of climate change and has a message that is terrible in nature.

ABOUT THE IPCC REPORTS: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- The aim of the IPCC is to provide governments at all levels with the scientific information that they can use to develop climate policies and programs.
- The IPCC's Assessment Reports are the most comprehensive evaluations of the state of the earth's climate.
- The latest report talks about the impacts of climate change impacts, risks and vulnerabilities and adaptation options.
- For the first time, the IPCC report has highlighted the health impacts of climate change.
- It was identified that the rise in weather and climate extremes has led to some irreversible impacts as natural and human systems are pushed beyond their ability to adapt.
- Further it was noted that most of the targets that countries have set for themselves are too far in the future to have an impact in the short term.

INDIAN CASE: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- India's assurance at the COP26 summit that it will achieve net zero emissions latest by 2070.
- And by 2030, India will ensure that 50% of its energy will be from renewable energy sources.

SPECIFICATIONS OF THE REPORTS: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- The major point of emphasis of the report, particularly for South Asia, is the trend in the wet bulb temperature.
- Patna and Lucknow were among the cities predicted to reach wet-bulb temperatures of 35°C while Bhubaneswar, Chennai, Mumbai, Indore, and Ahmedabad are at risk of reaching wet-bulb temperatures of 32°C-34°C with continued emissions.
- This will be having consequences such as a rise in heat-wave linked deaths or reduced productivity.
- The Global sea levels are likely to rise 44 to 76 cm in this century if governments match their current emission-cutting pledges.
- With the higher emissions, and if ice sheets collapse more quickly than expected, sea levels could rise as much as 2 metres in this century and 5 metres by 2150.
- By the mid of the century, approx 35 million people could face annual coastal flooding, with 45 million-50 million at risk by the end of the century if emissions are high.
- The Extreme weather led to cereal production loss of 9-10 % (1964-2007).
- The rice production in India may decrease by 30% and maize production will decrease 70%, if global warming over pre-industrial levels rises to 4°C from 1°C, the IPCC analysis found.
- The Evidence of floods on food production was limited, according to the report.
- The impact of drought on food security has been highlighted by the report but also cautioned that overall irrigation water demand would increase by 2080.

- The Fisheries, aquaculture and crop production, particularly in south and southeast Asia, may decline as a result of climate change.
- The Current global crop and livestock areas will increasingly become climatically unsuitable under a high emission scenario in major food-producing regions.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE REPORT: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- The IPCC reports form the scientific basis on which countries across the world build their policy responses to climate change.
- These reports do not suggest to the countries or governments what to do and are only meant to present factual situations with scientific evidence.
- With respect to regional and sectoral impacts, Report presents actionable intelligence, particularly for countries that lack the resources or the capacity to make their own impact assessments.
- These findings are the product of the combined understanding of the largest group of experts on climate science that lends it credibility greater than any individual study.
- This report also forms the basis for international climate change negotiations that decide on the responses at the global level such as the Paris Agreement and Kyoto Protocol.

Vivek Raj

Russia Ukraine War : An effort to reinstall the old regime of the great Russian Empire

CONTEXT:

Entire world is being influenced by the Russian Ukrainian War. Thousands of the foreigners are stuck in the war zone of the Ukraine and their countries are trying to evacuate them from the war zone. Russia also has to face a huge economical crisis in future. Definitely there was a big and significance concern of Russia regarding her own security so it had to fight this war

INTRODUCTION:

The Ukraine-Russian war should not be seen in a single frame of reference which has been set up by the western media. There are several causes behind the Russian invasion over Ukraine which have existed in the history of Russia. However modern causes are also significant causes but these modern concerns are highly influenced and inspired from the glory of the great Russian empire of Slav race. During the 17-18th centuries, Russia was one of the largest empires of the world and the glory of Russia had reached its zenith during the regime of Catherine. however she was influenced by the Renaissance thinkers and because of their influence she brought drastic reform in their country.

ABOUT THE PERIOD OF CATHERINE

Russian Princess Catherine was from a poor German family and married to Peter of Russia. She grew up in Russia and Germany under the atmosphere of conspiracies and the conflict for power. She, however, brought drastic reforms in administration for the public welfare but still she strengthened her dictatorship and established the rule of law strictly.

She believed in the imperialism approach. She expanded her state beyond the Ural mountain along with the

Caspian sea and up to the northern shore of black Sea by conquering the Crimea Peninsula (1783). Under her regime, Russia not only benefited with the expansion of trade and commerce but also with annexation of many disintegrated states of the ottoman empire. She promoted large-scale foreign colonization and peasant resettlement in the south. Under her regime, she not only settled new towns like Odessa, Kherson, Nikolayev Taganrog and Mariupol (All are in modern Ukraine) but also developed through the establishment of educational institutions. Gradually these towns became the center of Russian culture, contributing to the reorientation of Russia's pattern of trade with the development of agricultural exports from Russia (Modern Ukraine). Local society was transformed on the Russian pattern. Landlords on a large scale were involved in Russian elites.

Integration of the new region brought the problem of minorities who were from the different cultures (Non Russian). She tried to culturize Non Russian culture and up to maximum extent she had succeeded but in the region of Siberia, certain evidence of the cultural conflict exists.

Up to the Crimean war (1853), Russia had strengthened her states which could not be tolerated by the western countries and from then, these countries are continuously trying to disintegrate Russia with the support of Turkey.

Up to the time of the formation of the USSR in 1917 (With Bolshevik Revolution of October) the territory of Russia had extended more than 6,800 miles (10,900 kilometers) from east to west, covering 11 of the world's 24 time zones. The most westerly point was on the Baltic sea and the easternmost was Cape Dezhnev on the Berlin Strait nearly halfway around the world.

It extended from Cape Chelyuskin to Kushaka (From North to south) Nearly half of the territory of the U.S.S.R. was north of 60° N, at the same latitude as Alaska, Baffin island and Greenland. Approx. 78 % of the population of the USSR was from the Slav tribe (As per the census of the USSR in 1990s). Almost all Ukrainian are from Slavs ethnics group.

Therefore, emotional attachment of the Ukrainian should be closer to Russian, not to western countries







THE AMBITIOUSNESS OF PUTIN

Putin again thinks to reinstall the old Russian regime and all the Slavs under a single political authority. gradually he has shown his objective. However he has declared the reason for his invasion is to ensure his territorial security from the west (NATO). But the similarities of the race and the old great Russian history definitely would have been one of the reason of the Russian invasion on Ukraine

CONCLUSION

The interest of Ukraine should exist in Russia rather than western countries. These Countries are capitalist in nature and have been involved in economical exploitation of the Asian and African countries in the name of democracy and the expansion of civilization. Ukraine and the Ukrainian must understand this fact that the culture and ethnics similarities are the most important tool for emotional attachment. Therefore the interest of Ukraine lies in the interest of Russia. Since Russia is a big country and will never tolerate that her disintegrated country would go in the camp of her permanent rival who had always tried to defeat and subjugate Russia.

Here, these days, the west is provoking Ukraine continuously but who is being influenced with the evil effect of the war- Only one culture is Slavs / Russian (either from Ukraine or from Russia) as well as Indian type countries who have been victims of colonialism for a long time and who are being benefited – only Western countries, by selling their arms to Ukraine and giving loans.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Contract labour system – loopholes and achievements

In India, contract labourers are protected by the Contract Labour Regulation and Abolition Act, 1970. A contract labourer is defined in the Act as one who is hired in connection with the work of an establishment

by a principal employer through a contractor. Contract labour forms a large chunk of employment in industries in India. Their presence is not only there in the informal sector but also in the formal sector. As per the Annual Survey of Industries, from 2008–09 to 2017–18, the number of persons employed through contractors increased from 2.7 million to 4.4 million. In formal establishments, this workforce is supposed to be deployed in peripheral and seasonal jobs; however, this is often violated with establishments deploying them in core and perennial activities and thereby violating the principle of “equal pay for equal work.” This segment of workers has also gained traction because it provides flexibility to organisations, making it easier to focus on its core activities. The integrity of this argument is, however, under contention. In a neo-liberal, competitive market, the contract labour system is seen as a cost-cutting strategy by organisations whereby the contract labourers are employed without the traditional rights and support systems available to their regular employed counterparts.

CONTRACT LABOUR IN MINES

In the iron ore mines, data shows that as of 1 August 2021, there were 618 contract labourers employed apart from the 566 regular employees in the mines. The total labour force includes both executives and non-executives employed directly in the mines. These contract labourers were employed through a total of 32 contractors registered with the mines. The CLRA mentions that the contract of employment for contract labour should be for a specific period. This fixed duration ensures non-continuity of services, which has bearing for regularisation of the workers and attracts payment of gratuity. We observed, the contractors maintain long standing relations with the establishment owing to the renewable nature of contracts. Most contract labourers, if not all, remain engaged with the company for years in this system.

Further, due to the region's geographical nature, weak connectivity with other places, distance to the nearest labour office, and absence of other employment opportunities, workers remain bound with the company. There also exists the problem of awareness of their rights among the contract labourers. It is also important to note that there are no trade unions for the contract labourers to raise their issues; however, specific issues like timely payment of wages, safety aspects of labourers, etc, are taken up by some of the trade unions as mentioned in their respective by-laws. The contractors, however, have an association to raise their issues with the principal employer.

CONTRACTOR AND CONTRACT LABOUR

Here, we discuss the specific issues that have emerged in the interactions between the contractors and the human resource managers of the iron ore mine. These interactions were noted during formal meetings in the mine and through field notes that were collected in informal settings. These issues relate to the functioning of the contract labour system in the mines. Importantly, these issues have been flagged a few times in consecutive meetings, however, they remain structural and need a much deeper deliberation.

PROFIT MARGINS:

In the case of the iron ore mine of Jharkhand, when a tender is floated for any work or activity, the contractors usually quote a profit margin of 2%–4% while knowing fully well that the establishment can allow for a profit margin of up to 10%. This profit margin, which is over and beyond the work order, allows for the sustenance of the contractors themselves to stay in business. It is also seen that some contractors go to as low as negative profit margins in their quotation. Going by the diktats of open competition and a cost-cutting strategy, the establishment must choose contractors for work orders who quote the lowest amount. As mentioned earlier, these contractors have a deep understanding of the prevailing trend in the unit so as not to know what and how exactly to bag the work order. After the contract is given to any contractor, some “bad faith” contractors

maintain their usual profit margin (and sometimes beyond that as well) by squeezing pay from the contract labourers.

DEATH AND INJURY AT WORKPLACE:

The contract labourers are also governed by the Employees' Compensation Act (ECA), 1923, which puts the onus of responsibility of either death or injury directly or indirectly on the contractor. While Section 12(1) of the ECA maintains the liability of the principal employer in the event of any compensation to be provided in certain events, Section 12(2) entitles the principal employer to be indemnified by the contractor for such a liability. In cases where the contract does not explicitly mention the clause of compensation, the labour commissioner would decide on the matter. As it turns out, such legislation also put the contractors in a position whereby they will want a buffer stock of resources to cater to such needs if they arise.

It is to be noted that the law looks at contractors as “petty” employers who would be able to tide over such difficulties at workplace. Often, either the contractor has limited resources available at their disposal as compared to the principal employer, or it may directly be owing to the non-willingness of the contractors that puts the burden solely on the contract labourers themselves. This is not to mention that based on the type of accident/disablement or death, the resources provided to the contract labour or their family sometimes remain inadequate.

THE DAMAGES CLAUSE

In mid-2021, the trade unions across the company's production and mining activities called for a strike to push for their wage revision demand. As part of the worker solidarity and show of strength, the contract labourers were also coerced into joining the strike. The contract labourers also joined the strike without being permanent employees of the establishment or members of the trade union. Therefore, on account of work not being done for that day, contractors faced penalisation owing to the liquidated damages (LD) clause set up in the contract for not providing labour for that day. The contractors maintain that although the contract labourers were ready to work that day, they were not allowed to do so owing to the strike; hence, the LD clause should not be applied in such cases. This again presents a scenario wherein the contractors find such clauses not in their best interests. Rectification of such clauses for the future also goes beyond the scope of the management.

Additionally, such strikes that although take the form of a pan-worker solidarity across different locations and grades of the establishment, nevertheless have had little to contribute to the cause of the contract laborers themselves.

CONCLUSIONS

It is clear from these excerpts that the onus of the employment of contract labourer falls to a large extent on the contractor. The contractors face the brunt of not having enough resources as the principal employer or not having the inclination to better the condition of contract labour. Hence, such rent-seeking behaviour from the contractor is witnessed. Therefore, while social-security provisions for contract labourers are desirable, the employment and employer–employee relationship also play a crucial role in providing contract labourers the necessary rights at the workplace. Given the avenue of employment picking up fast in the economy, it is time to address these loopholes.

Ritu

The Endemic and Pandemic

WHY IN NEWS? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The United Kingdom has relaxed limitations and California has taken new steps to treat Covid-19 as an endemic disease.

WHAT DOES IT IMPLY TO BE IN THE ENDEMIC STAGE? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Endemic means that the virus will continue to circulate throughout the population, with periodic ups and downs when the virus's conditions are favourable and human conditions are not.

If the frequencies of an infection remain constant in a certain geographic place, it is said to be endemic. It depicts that the disease-causing pathogen is likely to continue in circulation without generating large-scale outbreaks.

The amount of suspected people in the population, vaccination rates, and the introduction of novel variations that can avoid the immune response antibodies developed against SARS-CoV-2 also play a role. So, We can presume that a disease is endemic if a representative sero-survey shows over 90% positive. But a neutralisation investigation is needed to evaluate if these antibodies can effectively guard against the present variations.

WHAT ARE THE DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN THE VARIOUS STAGES? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Pandemics, epidemics, and endemics are defined by the rate at which a disease spreads, according to the WHO.
- Difference between an epidemic and a pandemic is not in the intensity of the disease, but in its spread.
- The epidemic occurs when a disease spreads quickly and unpredictably in a specific place.
- The Pandemic is a disease spread internationally or over a large area, it is called a pandemic. Example – H1N1 (2009) and Spanish flu (1918)
- An endemic illness is one that is constantly present in a certain community at a lower and more steady level, even if cases increase under certain circumstances.
- Pandemics are not officially declared by the WHO. A global health emergency is the highest degree of alert, and Covid-19 has warranted that distinction since January 2020.

ENDEMIC MAKES US SAFER? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The Endemic does not suggest that a pathogen has been tamed by evolution and that life has returned to normal.

The endemic disease is one that is both widespread and fatal.

For example, Malaria killed over 600,000 people in 2020, while 10 million people had tuberculosis and 1.5 million died.

According to the US measles epidemic in 2019 demonstrated, endemic infection does not ensure stability; there can still be disruptive waves from endemic illnesses.

The Delta variant, high prevalence in emergence of Omicron, inequitable vaccine distribution to low-income nations, and lax control measures in certain wealthier countries provide fertile ground for SARS-CoV-2 to evolve.

HOW WILL CONTROL MEASURES CHANGE IF THE DISEASE BECOMES ENDEMIC?

- The easing of restrictions has been pushed but there is a need to maintain high levels of testing and good genomic surveillance.
- The new variants can be found by:
 - ▶ conducting a general survey
 - ▶ sequencing cases immediately wherever there are more cases
 - ▶ keeping a very close eye on hospitalised cases
- When a virus replicates more, the greater chances that problematic variants will arise, most probably where spread is highest.
- Herd immunity occurs when a large proportion of a community becomes immune to a disease through infection or vaccines, halting the disease from spreading.
- Threshold percentage has gradually been increasing from about 60-70% during the original strain to 85% with Delta and upwards of 90% with Omicron.
- The better way to prevent dangerous or more-transmissible variants from emerging is to stop unconstrained spread which requires integrated public-health interventions, including vaccine equity.

Vivek Raj





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India's Abstention on UNSC Vote over Russia's Invasion of Ukraine

INDIA'S ABSTENTION ON UNSC VOTE OVER RUSSIA'S INVASION OF UKRAINE- TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

India has abstained on a US-sponsored UN Security Council resolution that deplores Russia's aggression against Ukraine, with New Delhi saying dialogue is the only answer to settling differences and disputes.

WHAT IS THE RESOLUTION ABOUT? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- The UN Security Council voted on the draft resolution 8979 presented by the US and Albania, and co-sponsored by several other nations.
- The resolution deplores Russia's aggression against Ukraine and decides that Russia shall immediately cease its use of force against Ukraine and shall refrain from any further unlawful threat or use of force against any UN member state.
- The resolution added that Russia shall immediately withdraw all of its military forces from the territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders.
- It also asked Moscow to immediately reverse the decision related to the status of certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine.
- The Council's resolution reaffirmed its commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders.
- India abstained from the vote on draft resolution.
- Russia which chaired the meeting of the UNSC vetoed the resolution and China abstained along with the United Arab Emirates.
- Despite the remaining 11 members of UNSC, including US, UK, France, voting in favour of the resolution, it did not pass since Russia vetoed it.

WHAT ARE THE OPTIONS THAT INDIA COULD CHOOSE FROM? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- There are four potential options India can/could choose from:
- Condemn Russian aggression
- Support Russian aggression
- Stay silent on Russian aggression
- Express displeasure and call for diplomacy.

- The first option will pit India against Russia, the second will pit it against the U.S. and its allies.
- The third option will be read as pro-Russia, and the fourth option which it has taken is the least harmful.
- But the one that abstains from voting on a UNSC resolution calling for condemning Russian aggression and withdrawal of Russian forces from Ukraine is indeed a pro-Russia position.

WHY DID INDIA ABSTAIN? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- India wants to maintain a balance between the Western bloc led by the US, and Russia, since it has strategic partners on both sides.
- India's past record has been maintaining balance between the West and Russia.
- Recently, India abstained on a procedural vote on whether to discuss the issue of Ukraine.
- India said that it is deeply disturbed by the recent turn of developments in Ukraine.
- It reiterated its appeal for cessation of violence.
- It flagged its core concern about Indian nationals in Ukraine who are stuck, most of whom are students.
- India touched upon "territorial integrity and sovereignty" which was the contemporary global order built on the UN Charter, international law, and respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states.
- It also advocated diplomacy, urging the parties concerned to return to the negotiating table.
- Apart from the India-Russia defence and strategic partnership, Russia is India's most trusted P-5 ally when it comes to blocking intrusive resolutions on Kashmir.
- Moscow may or may not be able to moderate Chinese antagonism towards New Delhi, but an India-Russia strategic partnership may be able to temper New Delhi's growing isolation in a rather friendless region.
- New Delhi needs Moscow's assistance to manage its continental difficulties through defence supplies, helping it return to central Asia, working together at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) or exploring opportunities for collaboration in Afghanistan.

WHAT DOES INDIA'S ACTION SIGNIFY? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- The contemporary Indian strategic landscape necessitates that India balances the two sides, but doing so without a subtle Russia tilt may not be feasible at this point of time.
- India's position shows the unmistakable indication that when it comes to geopolitics, New Delhi will choose interests over principles.
- By abstaining, India retained the option of reaching out to relevant sides in an effort to bridge the gap and find a middle ground with an aim to foster dialogue and diplomacy.
- While India's hesitation to take a stand against Russia is understood, New Delhi must now consider whether its aspirations to be a leading power can be achieved without having a clear position on a conflict that threatens global security.

Anshum Verma

QUAD and INDO-RUSSIA Relations : change in EQUATIONS

QUAD AND INDO-RUSSIA RELATIONS : CHANGE IN EQUATIONS – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

CONTEXT:

Quad (the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue) recently had a snap virtual meeting.

DEVELOPMENTS–

India, the U.S., Australia and Japan, leaders discussed Russia-Ukraine crisis including territorial and maritime security across the Indo-Pacific.

- In the joint statement, issued after the summit, the four nations reaffirmed –
- The commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific with sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states respected
- That the countries are free from military, economic, and political coercion

THE LATEST QUAD MEETING WAS IN PART LIKELY MOTIVATED BY THE CONCERN OF THE U.S., AUSTRALIA, AND JAPAN THAT :-

India, is **NOT** condemning Russia in launching a ground offensive across the Russia-Ukraine border and to bomb Ukrainian infrastructure, so it can't be on the same page as the other Quad members vis-à-vis this conflict.

U.S.A., JAPAN, AUSTRALIA –

- Condemned Russia's aggression
- Slapped Kremlin elites and Organisations linked to them with crippling sanctions.

INDIA'S STANCE : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

India → **abstained** from three UN resolutions condemning Russia.

There is also a considerable difference on the Russia-Ukraine issue in terms of the individual readouts of the Quad members.

The U.S., Australia and Japan-

- Called out Russia's attempt to unilaterally force changes to the status quo in Ukraine
- Vowed not to let such action occur anywhere in the Indo-Pacific

India → **only referenced** Ukraine in passing, in the context of establishing a new humanitarian assistance and disaster relief mechanism for this cause.

INDIA → Need to remain close to Moscow, who is its major defence supplier.

DERIVATIONS : TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

1. **South Block** is playing hardball with the mandarins at the U.S. State Department over getting a CAATSA waiver for India's purchase of \$5.43 billion worth of the Russian Triumf missile defence system.
2. To balance the rise of China as a potential Asian hegemon, the Quad, cannot afford to alienate India, who is a critical partner in the global-strategic plan.

3. In case, Russian occupying forces begin committing **war crimes** and **human rights violations** in contravention of the Geneva Convention, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other applicable global treaties → INDIA-RUSSIA relations will be tested.

Rajeev Yadav

The QUAD and AUKUS

WHY IN NEWS? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The Quad grouping (India, U.S., Australia, Japan) has been equated with that of AUKUS (Australia, U.K., U.S.) by China and called both of them as part of the Biden administration's ill-intentioned Indo-Pacific strategy.

THE QUAD – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

- It was initiated by Japan, US, India and Australia in 2007 but it re-emerged in 2017.
- The gap of 10 years strengthened the coordination among the four members through various political, diplomatic and military agreements.
- In this time period these countries also experienced increasing wider Chinese expansionism and offensive posture in the Indo Pacific making them all restless.
- Because of this these countries through Quad aimed at promoting free, open rule based order in the region.
- The Quad declared that:
- The Indo Pacific region is an inclusive, healthy anchored by democratic value and and constrained by coercion
- To Promote a free, open rule based order rooted in international law to advance security and prosperity, counter threats to both in the Indo Pacific and beyond
- Extend the acquired cooperation in areas of health, climate change, critical technologies, counterterrorism, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief including maritime domain
- The Japanese Prime Minister has called Quad a democratic security diamond.
- In the light of the dispute in East and South China Sea, Japan envisaged a strategy whereby the quad countries form a diamond to safeguard the maritime common stretching from the region of Indian Ocean to the western Pacific.
- India's ministerial level 2+2 dialogue with the US, Japan and Australia have added stability in the multilateral network among the Quad nations.
- In 2020 India has signed the basic exchange and cooperation agreement for geospatial cooperation with the US, included Australia in Malabar military exercise and signed a mutual logistics support arrangement with Japan.
- Further India has reiterated in the ministerial meeting in 2020 that India is committed to upholding the rule based international order underpinned by the rule of law, transparency, freedom to navigate in the international seas, respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty and peaceful resolution of disputes.
- The High Commissioner of Australia to India has said that India is clearly the natural leader in the region in terms of the vision the Quad signs up to in the Indo-Pacific region.
- MILAN, multi-nation defence exercise, held in Visakhapatnam demonstrates the cooperation across countries in the Indo-Pacific to secure a free, open and prosperous Indo-Pacific.

THE AUKUS – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

- The trilateral defence partnership, AUKUS between Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States has reaffirmed the importance of the Indo Pacific region in contemporary great power politics.
- The transferring of closely-guarded technologies for artificial intelligence and the manufacture of nuclear-powered submarines under Aukus by the US to Australia is significant for the region.
- The PRC makes use of diplomatic, military, and technological prowess to establish or nurture its own sphere of influence and emerge as the world's most influential power.
- It is important to use all instruments of power to deter aggression and to counter coercion by advancing integrated deterrence, deepening cooperation and enhancing interoperability.

ISSUES OF CHINA: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- In the beginning China has dismissed the Quad as “sea foam” that would fade away with time.
- But due to growing closeness and widening scope that has seen the four countries begin to work together on a range of initiatives from vaccines to critical technology, Beijing has stepped up its criticism.
- China is of the view that the so-called Quad group cobbled together by the U.S, Japan, India and Australia is essentially a tool for containing and besieging China to maintain U.S. hegemony.
- Some experts have said that the quad is the Asian NATO formed against China's aggression in the region and China also held it as 'Axis of democracies' against Beijing's interests

FUTURE COURSE OF ACTION: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- In order to take benefit from the changing geopolitical scenario, there is a need for India to overcome its maritime challenges.
- The external affairs minister has talked about an attempt to frame India's strategic interest and a blow to the Indo Pacific in Kautilyan terms.
- The efforts are being made to understand how people's security and well-being hinges on developments in the Indo Pacific and outlines the dynamics of India's continental and maritime mandalas.
- Further it highlights the ways for India to maintain security and achieve economic prosperity through strategies that are essentially Kautilyan: bring about cooperation, inculcate partnerships, and enhance domestic capability.

Vivek Raj

Russia Ukraine War and Nord Stream2 : An analysis in special context to The Strategy of America

CONTEXT:

America is one of the largest producers of the gas because of the shale gas revolution after the 1960s. America is one of the largest exporters of LNG (Liquid Natural Gas). This war between Russia and Ukraine would be lasting long. America would be benefited and She could capture the market of energy supplies (gas and Petroleum) Russia in Europe. This long term war would be beneficial for America.



INTRODUCTION:

After the Russian invasion over Ukraine, America as well as many European countries have imposed economic sanctions on Russia so that it could damage the Russia-Europe energy relationship. The speed with which the U.S. declared the Nord Stream 2 pipeline to be “dead at the bottom of the sea” indicates that this massive gas pipeline is one of the key issues at the bottom of the conflict..

Definitely, the intention of America is not good regarding the Russia Ukrainian War. America is a real capitalist country and accounting to natural initiation of capitalist America, everywhere see the economical profits. This war is the result of America’s provocation of America to Ukraine. Through This war the Gas pipeline Nord 2 would be in vain and finally European countries would be depended over America for the Gas and in This way America, one side would be economically beneficial and on other side it could weaken Russia economically

Europe is the world’s second largest market for natural gas, and hence the battleground between the superpowers of hydrocarbon energy, the U.S. and Russia. Germany, despite a decade of “energiewende” (an ‘energy turnaround’ or the ‘ongoing transition to a low carbon, environmentally sound, reliable, and affordable energy supply’), is still one of the world’s largest importers of oil and gas. It is again at the epicenter, as it has been in earlier energy pipeline disputes.

For Germany, the import of Gas through Nord 2 would be cheaper. But after the second world war, and mainly after the reunification of Germany, Germany looks like a puppet of America. The Hindu Analysis.

During the 1960s when the USSR offered East and West Europe for oil at a lower price and large orders for specialized pipes and transmission equipment, America ordered the European countries not to sell pipes to the USSR. The Soviets built the pipeline with a two year lag; however, they only won a large share of the West European oil market after the West Asia/Middle East oil supply crisis of the 1970s and fall in U.S. domestic production made it an importer.

By 1970, it again encouraged the sale of pipes of large diameter because Russia had to make a transition of the Gas in entire west and East Europe. The US never wanted to increase the economy of the USSR based on Gas and Petroleum export.

CONCLUSION

Definitely, the Russian Ukraine Crisis is the result of the provocation of America to Ukraine. Russia had to invade Ukraine to ensure her security concerns from the side of Ukraine, while Ukraine accepted the challenge of war because of the provocation of America. On the ground of extreme nationalism Ukraine is sacrificing her people, however Ukraine knows very well about the result of this war. The Ukrainian president, sitting in a safe place, is continuously sacrificing innocent people just because of the benefits of America.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

DUGONG CONSERVATION RESERVE

Marine biologists have welcomed the Tamil Nadu government's recent decision to go ahead with the establishment of a conservation reserve for the elusive dugong. Dugong conservation reserve would be established in the Gulf of Mannar, Palk Bay between India and Sri Lanka.

DUGONG

- The dugong is a marine mammal. It is one of four living species of the order Sirenia, which also includes three species of manatees. It is the only living representative of the once-diverse family Dugongidae; its closest modern relative, Steller's sea cow, was hunted to extinction in the 18th century.
- In an interesting incident, Christopher Columbus mistook them as sea mermaids.
- It is a herbivorous mammal.
- They live in groups, grazing on seagrass and coming to the surface to breathe.
- LifeSpan: 70 Years or more
- They are found in over 30 countries. (Not endemic to India)
- In India, they are seen in the Gulf of Mannar, Gulf of Kutch, Palk Bay, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- Australia has the highest Dugong population due to coral reefs.

CONSERVATION STATUS: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- IUCN Red List of Threatened Species: Vulnerable
- CITES Appendix I
- Wildlife Protection Act: Schedule 1
- Dugong and Seagrass Grass Conservation Project: By Global Economic Facility & UNEP for eight nations in the Indo-Pacific excluding India.
- MoUs by UNEP & Conservation of Migratory Species.

THREATS: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- The loss of seagrass habitats
- Water pollution
- Degradation of the coastal ecosystem due to developmental activities.
- Accidental entanglement in fishing nets and collision with boats, trawlers.
- Poached for meat

ISSUES ASSOCIATED : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Verge of extinction: It is definitely a late step because dugongs are on the verge of extinction.
- In the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, their population is less than 100. There are very few left in the Gulf of Mannar and In the Gulf of Kutch, there are very few sporadic records.
- In the case of marine reserves, the sea is a type of commons. And coastal communities are highly dependent on it. By designating a protected marine area, we are literally denying the resources to such people
- The main cause of mortality for dugongs is accidental entanglement. They are marine mammals and have to surface every four minutes to breathe. Fishermen use gill nets and dugongs get trapped and killed in them unintentionally.
- Very few people have been arrested, imprisoned or prosecuted for poaching dugongs. The enforcement of the law needs to be strengthened if you want to conserve the species.

SIGNIFICANCE

- The proposed conservation area has the highest concentration of dugongs in the country.
- We have already declared dugongs as a Schedule I animal under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Legally, it is given the highest protection.
- Declaring an area as 'protected' means there will be no human interference there. There may be some tribal communities dependent on non-timber forest produce.

WAY FORWARD

- Massive awareness is needed about the dugong as very few people know about them even in the Andamans where they are the state animal.
- This could be done through incentive programmes: For instance, if a dugong gets captured and is released by fishermen, they get Rs 5,000 if they provide photo documentation of the act.
- Fishing communities should also decide to shift to other sources of food rather than hunt dugongs for meat if they want their future generations to see dugongs.
- The next step in dugong conservation is the preservation of the threatened seagrass ecosystem. Ultimately, if there is no seagrass, dugongs will perish.

Anshum Verma

Indian students going abroad for Medical Studies

WHY IN NEWS?

Thousands of Indian students cried for help in Ukraine when the Russia-Ukraine war started, most of these students went for Medical Studies.

STATUS OF STUDENTS STUDYING ABROAD

- Approximately 18500 students were in Ukraine, as per an estimate from Ukraine.
- Almost all of the students have been evacuated by now but now the uncertain future is bothering them.
- Russia, China, Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Philippines have been the Preferred destination for

Indian students to pursue medical education.

- There are various reasons for these destination like:
- English is the medium of instruction in these Countries which is a comfortable language for Indian students.
- The fee is very affordable in comparison to the fee for MBBS seats in Indian private medical colleges.
- Certainly foreign degrees are used to provide greater exposure to the students and this way they become capable enough to deal with any type of situation and the cases.
- Lack of opportunities to pursue MBBS in India due to limited number of seats.

LESS NUMBER OF MBBS SEATS IN INDIA: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

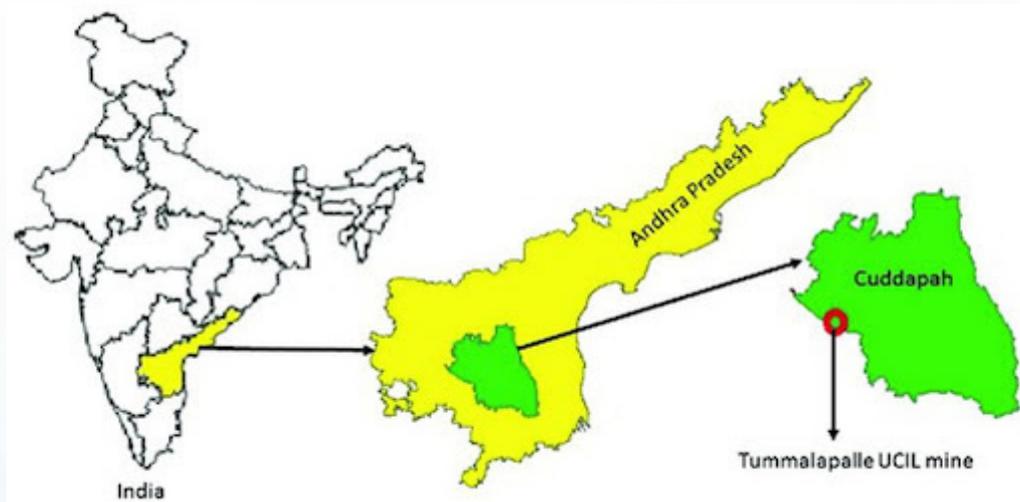
- As per a National Testing Agency press release, 16.1 lakh students registered for the exam, 15.4 lakh students appeared for the test, and 8.7 lakh students qualified.
- The National Medical Commission (NMC), in 2021-22, provided that there were 596 medical colleges in the country with a total of 88,120 MBBS seats.
- Further colleges are not distributed evenly across the country but concentrated in some particular region and at other places there exists scarcity of colleges.
- There are approximately 65000 seats which can be afforded by the common people.
- The fees for private medical colleges are approximately 1 crore for a five year course.
- For a management seat, capitation fees can inflate the cost by several lakhs again.
- In the case of Ukraine, on an average close to Rs. 30 – 40 lakh, including lodging and boarding is needed.
- Most of the students had written the NEET exam at least twice, and only decided to move after they could not get an MBBS seat.
- When they are coming back there is a requirement to clear the Foreign Medical Graduates Examination, a licensure examination held for students who have studied medicine abroad.
- The differences in the income of doctors, and others, like nurses and allied health professionals, are also a key factor in making an MBBS degree attractive.

WAY FORWARD

- Creation of more medical colleges in the country and ensuring accessibility and availability.
- When the aim will be to make medical education more accessible then the path ahead is not in the private sector but in the public sector, with the central and state governments' involvement.
- The State and Central governments can start more medical colleges, as recommended by NITI Aayog, by utilising district headquarters hospitals, and expanding the infrastructure to benefit students from the lower and middle socio-economic rung.
- To strengthen facilities for quality medical education in the country, the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana was launched, so it needs to be implemented well.
- The Creation of more medical colleges will be beneficial for the country, if access and availability can be ensured.

Vivek Raj

Setting up of two Nuclear Projects in Andhra Pradesh and the related concerns



CONTEXT:

The Recent statement of Jitender Singh (Union Minister of State) in Parliament informed about the clearance of a proposal by the Centre; to set up a **nuclear power plant at Kovvada in Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh**, abutting the proposed executive capital city of Visakhapatnam, has sparked another round of protests.

At the same time, there are also **protests at Tummalapalle, Kadapa district**, over-

- Uranium mining
- Its associated risks to health and environment
- Issues of rehabilitation and resettlement.

PEOPLE CONVINCED→

- Despite initial protests after the projects were proposed, **people** from these two regions were **more or less convinced about the developmental aspects** of the nuclear power plant and uranium mining
- **Land acquisition** was a **smooth** affair.

EXPECTATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT – THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- That the government would meet the requirements
- Stick to the stipulated norms
- Allay fears over safety, health and rehabilitation

The Kovvada nuclear power plant :-

- First proposed in 2015
- The government has acquired over 2,079 acres of land for the plant, taken up in association with the U.S. multinational nuclear power reactors supplier, Westinghouse Electric Company.

THE FORUM FOR DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH ANDHRA : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The Forum **urged** to pass a resolution to reject it in the State, raising the concerns like:-

- The location of the plant (it is to be set up close to National Highway 16)
- The rehabilitation of fishermen
- The presence of several industries in the region

As per the guidelines of the **Atomic Energy Regulatory Board:-**

- Human habitation is not allowed within a 1.6-km radius of the plant
- People living within 30 km from the plant should be kept ready for evacuation in the event of a disaster
- The Forum warned, if there'll be a disaster, the nuclear impact may be felt in places as far as Chhatrapur in Odisha and Kakinada in East Godavari district.
- Kovvada is located in a dangerous seismic zone

The Uranium Corporation of India Limited's (UCIL) mining in Tummalapalle in Kadapa district has also become **controversial** for similar reasons.

With an estimated 85,000 tonnes of potential **uranium deposit**, the **Tummalapalle mine** is touted to be among the world's biggest.

After over a decade of mining at the site, there are **concerns** now over –

- **Air pollution**
- **Ground water contamination**
- **unmet promises**
- Locals say **bore wells have become contaminated**
- The most common complaints are of **skin and respiratory ailments**
- More serious health issues have been reported among women

Despite providing assurances, the UCIL has reportedly not provided medical support.

The government responded to these concerns by the Conduction of field-level surveys but no Follow Ups.

ON THE REHABILITATION FRONT : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The villagers are **unhappy** as a majority of the youth **NOT** given the promised employment.

The company is also accused of **failing to provide PENSIONS** to those who have crossed 60 years of age.

DERIVATIONS –

- The people in both these regions have given their lands to the government and are waiting for the latter to fulfil its promises.
- Meanwhile, Opposition parties and NGOs are beginning to take note of the issues and inaction.
- The projects, associated with nuclear energy, have been taken up in National Interest.

Rajeev Yadav

The Wallop over Fundamental Rights of the Speech and Expression by Executive: A symbol of democratic Decay: An analysis

CONTEXT:

As the *MediaOne* case shows, a judiciary that is a mute spectator to any executive action highlights democratic decay. A Division Bench of the Kerala High Court has dismissed the appeal filed by *MediaOne*, a television channel in Kerala, whose license the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has refused to renew. The Ministry had said that the license could not be renewed for reasons related to national security.

INTRODUCTION :

The executive and the government always tries to crush the rising voice against them but the constitution gives us the right to protect our voice from the hammer of the suppression of the government. But, Generally government uses the tool of national security and secrecy of the decision. Through these tools, the fundamental rights could be easily crushed but this is the duty of our Judiciary, which is the protector and conservator of the constitution to prevent the constitution and the democracy from any type of decay. But some time, at the High court level it is observed that on the issue of National security, High Courts have become silent. This silence of the Judiciary would be harmful for the democratic value system and gradually the democratic elements from the country will be decaying.

WHAT IS THE RECENT CASE : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Media One news channel had requested for the renewal of its license but the central government refused to renew its License. MediaOne TV was an Indian Malayalam-language television channel operated by *Madhyamam* Broadcasting Limited under the Kerala chapter of Jamaat-e-Islami Hind.. This channel is owned by Islamic Organization

The issue is that the double bench of the high court of Kerala also dismissed the appeal by the Media one news channel regarding the renewal of its license on the name of national security. The stand of the Government was endorsed by both the Single and Division Benches of the High Court. In this context, the judgments set a dangerous precedent for free speech rights and procedural justice.

WHAT IS THE PROVISION OF THE CONSTITUTION REGARDING THE RIGHT TO SPEECH AND EXPRESSION : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The article 19 (1) provides the right to freedom of speech and expression of the television channel. These

rights may be restricted on the grounds of public order, and 'security of the State'. But In the case of Media one, the state is not ready to disclose the nature of the security threat. The decision of the executive is sealed. The jurisprudence of 'sealed cover' is an appalling trend.

The Judiciary has rights to review whether the fundamental rights are being violated or not. On the ground of national security, the fundamental rights of the speech and expressions must not be violated

The high court of the Kerala, on the basis of the the decision of the Supreme court in the case of Digi Cable Network vs Union of India (2019) when supreme court stated that ““In a situation of national security, a party cannot insist for the strict observance of the principles of natural justice”.

THERE ARE TWO OBJECTION IN THIS CASE : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

1. There is no any clear examination of the case of the issue of national security
2. In the the Pegasus case (Manohar Lal Sharma vs Union of India, 2021), three judges benches clearly stated that Every time free pass should not be given on the name of national security and stated that “national security cannot be the bugbear that the judiciary shies away from, by virtue of its mere mentioning”.

CONCLUSION

As per the above discussion, we see a state that has succeeded in suppressing the voice of the dissenter, illegally and clandestinely. This is the responsibility of the state to protect the fundamental; rights of the people. Court should not be silent on the issue of the right of peace and expression. The voice of the opponents should not be crushed for healthy democracy. This must be protected by our Judiciary. However, the issue of national security should never be compromised but the issues of national interest must be evaluated and reviewed by the Judiciary also.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

WHY IN NEWS?

The current situation in Ukraine basically originated from the Ukraine's desire to be part of NATO, as Russia didn't like it and considered it as an existential threat to itself.

ABOUT NATO

- It was established by the US, Canada and several western countries in the year of 1949 to ensure their collective security against the Soviet Union.
- Now it has become an intergovernmental political and military alliance of 30 countries, consisting of 28 Europeans and two North American countries.
- NATO has its headquarters in Brussels, Belgium.
- It became the first peacetime military alliance by the US outside western hemisphere.
- The democratic values are promoted by NATO and enable members to consult and cooperate on defence and security related issues.
- Further it is committed to peaceful resolution of disputes and use of military power to undertake crisis management operations if diplomatic efforts fail.
- The Members of NATO are committed to mutual defence in response to an attack by any external party.

- The defence of all lies at the heart of NATO, a unique and enduring principle that binds its members together, committing them to protect each other and setting a spirit of solidarity within the Alliance.

INCEPTION OF NATO : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- The European nations which battered started rebuilding their economies after World War II.
- At this point of time the US believed that an economically strong, re-armed and integrated Europe was critical for preventing the westward expansion of Communist USSR.
- The Marshall plan i.e the European Recovery Programme promoted the idea of shared interests and cooperation between the US and Europe.
- The USSR declined participation in the Marshall plan and discouraged Eastern European states in its fear of influence from receiving economic assistance from America. Today Current Affairs.
- A group in erstwhile Czechoslovakia in 1948 was sponsored by the government of Stalin, which led to installation of a Communist regime in a country sharing a border with both Soviet controlled East Germany and the pro-West West Germany.
- All this led to a conclusion that an American-European alliance was necessary against the USSR. The Hindu Analysis.
- A treaty was signed by the UK, France, Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg in 1948 according to which if any of the signatories faced attack, they would be defended by all the others.
- The landmark resolution was passed by the US Congress after the Brussels treaty advising the US President to seek US and free world security through support of mutual defence agreements.
- The treaty was signed in Washington DC in 1949, it initially had 12 signatories: The US, UK, Canada, France, Denmark, Belgium, Norway, Portugal, the Netherlands, Italy, Iceland and Luxembourg.

ISSUES WITH RUSSIA : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- We know the reason for the establishment of NATO i.e. the hostility to the USSR.
- In order to have collective defence of its own, The Soviet Union signed a pact known as the Warsaw Pact with seven Eastern European countries: Hungary, East Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Albania, Bulgaria and Romania.
- The Warsaw pact ended with the end of the Cold War and was formally declared disbanded in the year of 1991.
- The USSR, Czechoslovakia and East Germany were disintegrated and the remaining five signatories of the Warsaw pact became part of NATO.
- Later on Russia became suspicious and insecure about the West.
- For Russia it became critical for its security to have a buffer between NATO and Russia along its western and southern border.
- On these lines Russia annexed Crimea in 2014 because the hostile Ukraine protected by NATO could have missile launch pads near Moscow and could cut off access of Russia to the warm water ports of Black Sea.

Vivek Raj

Necessity of the Curbing of Tobacco products through various restrictions and increments of the taxes

CONTEXT:

For almost two years we have been facing the problems of the corona pandemic and thousands of lives have been lost during this pandemic. But there are many silent killers in the forms of various products available in the market. Government should not only curb these dangerous products for the health but also gradually these products should be banned also.

INTRODUCTION

In modern days the tradition of tobacco products has been popular for several years. Due to the use of tobacco products, thousands of people have been affected with several health diseases every year. If we calculate scientifically, approximately 1 % of India \’s GDP has to be spent to tackle such types of diseases due to tobacco products. Therefore Governments should strong make an effort to curtail its production and use in the society. The Hindu Analysis.

However, this is not a communicable disease like SARS-CoV-2, the tobacco epidemic — as the World Health Organization characterizes it. But sometimes, some deaths also occurred due to tobacco products. If we increase the prices of tobacco products, it will definitely reduce the use of tobacco products. There is overwhelming consensus within the research community that taxation is one of the most cost-effective measures to reduce demand for tobacco products.

During the Union Budget 2020-21, there is no proposal of high increments in the GST for tobacco products. However the price of cigarettes has increased by roughly 5 %. In short, we can say there has not been any proper tax increase on any tobacco products so that its uses in the society could be curtailed. The reason behind the inefficiency of the government may be due to political pressure. Government could increase the GST on tobacco products in the The Union Budget 2022-23 but the government lost this opportunity. All the institutions related to health sectors expected that in the Union Budget the taxes over tobacco products would be increased but everybody lost their hope.

In the speech of the Finance Minister during the Budget session it was said that ITC stock was stable in contrast to most other stock indices, which were generally moving up and there were no tax hike proposals whatsoever on any tobacco product in this budget. We all know that at an affordable price, these tobacco products can attract new consumers, mainly youth, which would be dangerous for the nation.

Through the GST council, the tax rate for the tobacco product should be increased so that it could discourage the use of tobacco products. However several other measures are also required to discourage the use of the tobacco product by explaining its bad effects on the health. GST Council meetings must strive to keep public health ahead of the interests of the tobacco industry and significantly increase either the GST rates or the GST compensation cess rates applied on all tobacco products. The aim should be to arrest the increasing affordability of tobacco products in India and also rationalize tobacco taxation under the GST.

CONCLUSION

As per the above discussion, the Government should think for the nation not for the tobacco industries. Health and education are the two important pillars of the economy of any country and these two pillars are mutually interrelated. Government should focus on these two sectors. Since the consumption of the tobacco products are related with the health issues. Hence government should focus how to curtail the use of

tobacco. However government can stop the production of tobacco products but government should ensure the rehabilitation of the employees of these industries.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

IPCC 6th Assessment Report

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) analysing and reviewing the evidence on the present and future man-made impacts of climate change has a message that is predictably terrible.

WHAT ARE THE IPCC REPORTS?

- The objective of the IPCC is to provide governments at all levels with scientific information that they can use to develop climate policies.
- It was created in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- The Assessment Reports, the first of which had come out in 1990, are the most comprehensive evaluations of the state of the earth's climate.
- The latest warnings have come in the second part of IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report which talks about climate change impacts, risks and vulnerabilities, and adaptation options.
- The first part of the report was released in August last year and centred on the scientific basis of climate change.
- The third and final part of the report, which will look into the possibilities of reducing emissions, is expected to come out in April.

WHAT DOES THE IPCC REPORT SAY? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- The latest report has for the first time, made an assessment of regional and sectoral impacts of climate change.
- It has included risks and vulnerabilities of, mega-cities around the world.
- Also for the first time, the IPCC report has looked at the health impacts of climate change.
- The world faces unavoidable multiple climate hazards over the next two decades with global warming of 1.5°C.
- Even temporarily exceeding this warming level would mean additional severe impacts, some of which will be irreversible.
- The report points out that the rise in weather and climate extremes has led to some irreversible impacts as natural and human systems are pushed beyond their ability to adapt.
- The report notes that most of the targets that countries have set for themselves are too far in the future to have an impact in the short term.

WHAT IS THE CASE OF INDIA? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- India's commitments- At the COP26 summit, India declared that it will achieve net zero emissions latest by 2070.
- By 2030, India would also ensure 50% of its energy will be from renewable energy sources.
- However, none of this can help the 1.5°C mark from being breached.

REPORT SPECIFICATION

1. **Wet bulb temperature** – A major point of emphasis of the report, particularly for South Asia, is the trend in the wet bulb temperature.
 - Lucknow and Patna were among the cities predicted to reach wet-bulb temperatures of 35°C while Bhubaneswar, Chennai, Mumbai, Indore, and Ahmedabad are at risk of reaching wet-bulb temperatures of 32°C-34°C with continued emissions.
 - This will have consequences such as a rise in heat-wave linked deaths or reduced productivity.
2. **Sea level rise**– Global sea levels will likely rise 44cm-76cm this century if governments meet their current emission-cutting pledges.
 - But with higher emissions, and if ice sheets collapse more quickly than expected, sea levels could rise as much as 2 metres this century and 5 metres by 2150.
 - By the middle of the century, around 35 million of its people could face annual coastal flooding, with 45 million-50 million at risk by the end of the century if emissions are high.
- (c) **Flood and drought**– Evidence of floods on food production was limited, according to the report.
 - The report highlighted the impact of drought on food security but also cautioned that overall irrigation water demand would increase by 2080
- (d) **Agri and allied sectors**- Fisheries, aquaculture and crop production, particularly in south and southeast Asia, may decline as a result of climate change.
 - Current global crop and livestock areas will increasingly become climatically unsuitable under a high emission scenario in major food-producing regions.

WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS REPORT? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- **Scientific basis**– IPCC reports form the scientific basis on which countries across the world build their policy responses to climate change.
- These reports do not tell countries or governments what to do and are only meant to present factual situations with scientific evidence.
- **Impact assessment**- The detailed nature of this latest report, with respect to regional and sectoral impacts, presents actionable intelligence, particularly for countries that lack the resources or the capacity to make their own impact assessments.
- **Credible**– The fact that these findings are the product of the combined understanding of the largest group of experts on climate science lends it credibility greater than any individual study.
- **Basis of climate change negotiations**– These reports also form the basis for international climate change negotiations that decide on the responses at the global level such as the Paris Agreement and Kyoto Protocol.
- The Sixth Assessment Report has presented that pursuing a 2°C target could be disastrous and more ambitious actions need to be taken to keep the temperature rise within 1.5°C.
- India must shore up its adaptation measures and urgently move to secure the futures of its many vulnerable who have the most to lose.

Anshum Verma

Hydro Social approach : An approach for the water management

CONTEXT:

Water management needs a hydro-social approach. Freshwater resources are under stress, the principal driver being human activities in their various forms

INTRODUCTION:

For the last decade, an interdisciplinary approach has been proposed by various researchers for water management. Water management is not only related to scientific approach but by using the approach of human behavior, human practices and psychology, water management can be made better.

The Global Water System Project, which was launched in 2003 as a joint initiative of the Earth System Science Partnership (ESSP) and Global Environmental Change (GEC) programme, epitomizes global concern about the human-induced transformation of fresh water and its impact on the earth system and society.

In fact we are facing the crisis of freshwater. The availability of freshwater impacts human behavior. The water is not essential for the life only but in our social and religious institution, water plays an significant role. The fresh water management is only possible with the support of people and the transformation nature of the social religious aspects can bring better management for the freshwater. The Hindu Analysis.

The Global Water System Project, which was launched in 2003 as a joint initiative of the Earth System Science Partnership (ESSP) and Global Environmental Change (GEC) programme, epitomizes global concern about the human-induced transformation of fresh water and its impact on the earth system and society. The fact is that freshwater resources are under stress, the principal driver being human activities in their various forms.

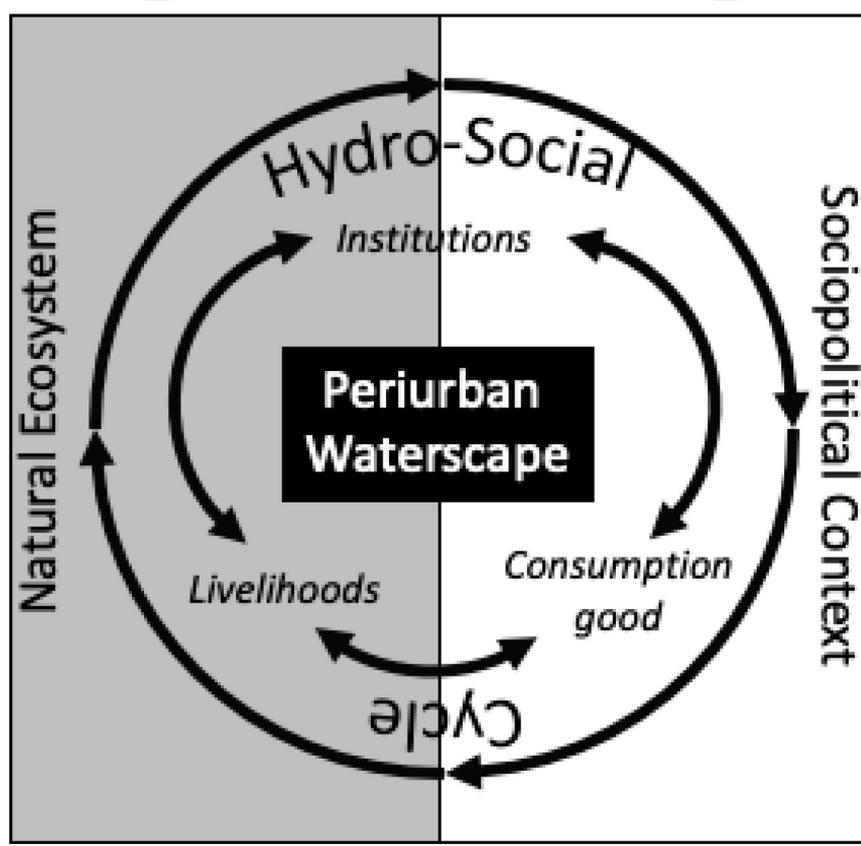
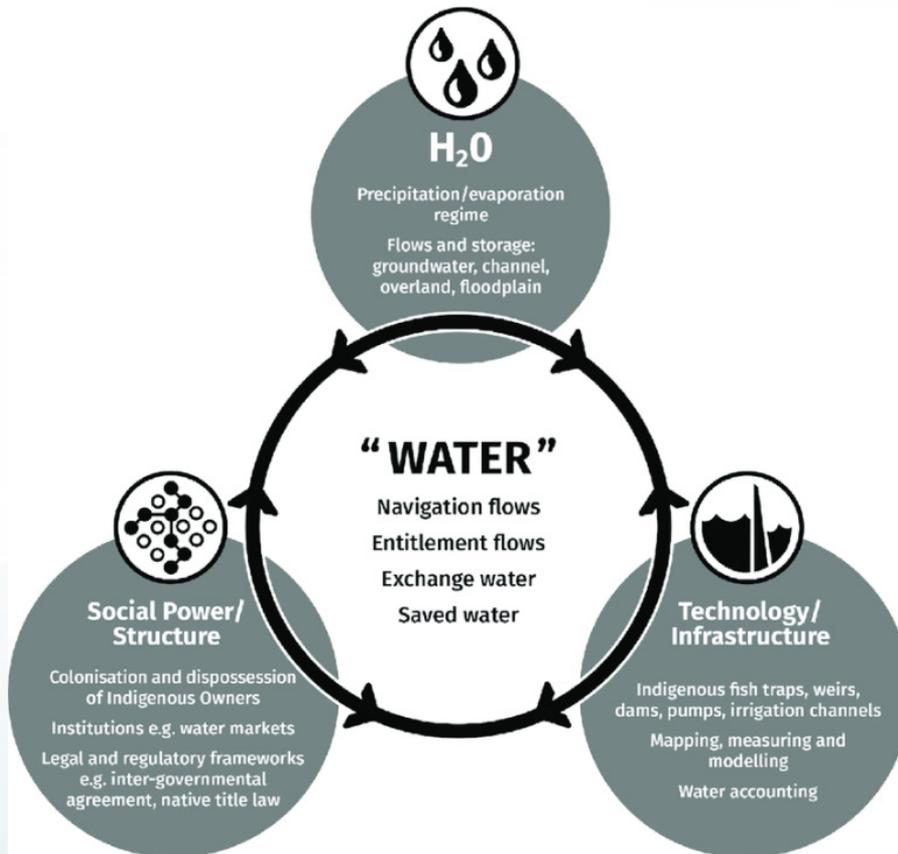
WHAT IS THE HYDRO SOCIAL APPROACH : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Recently it has been researched by scholars that there is a close relationship between water and society. A new concept of water governance came into existence in recent years. The recognition of the utility of the water in social context is called the Hydro social approach. The Hindu Analysis.
- Hydro social approach is based on the hydrologic cycle
- Which has the effect of separating water from its social context. The hydro social cycle deliberately attends to water's social and political nature.
- In fact, the socio natural process through which society and the water remake each other is called The hydro social cycle

CONCLUSION

As per the above discussion it can be easily seen that through inter-basin transfer of water the problem of flood and drought can be tackled easily. In this context Ken Betwa river link project and National River Linking project can be seen. Budget has been also allocated for the water management

This type of water management could be done through social awareness also. Water management is required for the development of agriculture also. Social awareness and the changing nature of the social faith on the river or water would be the key factor for water management in the future. Hence government should ensure the maximum participation of the public in water management system.



Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Economic Sanctions of Russia on America : Impact on America as well as on India

CONTEXT:

Kremlin hits back at Western sanctions with export bans recently Russia has also implied some economic sanctions over America as well as European countries. These sanctions will influence the economy of America as well as the economy of entire Europe and India.

INTRODUCTION :

- By 10 march 2022, the Russian president declared several bans over the export of American goods. There are many goods from America for which Russia is a big market. The Kremlin has banned exports of telecom, medical, auto, agricultural, electrical and tech equipment, as well as some forestry products, until the end of 2022, in retaliation for Western sanctions on Moscow. After these sanctions, the inflation in America would be away from her control. One side, because of the hike in petrol prices and on another side with the sanctions on the export from America will increase inflation in America which resulted as the huge economical loss in America
- Russia banned more than 200 items for export of America which also covered railway cars, containers and turbines. It will suspend exports of wheat, muslin, rye, barley and corn to the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) until August 31.
- Russia had yesterday said that it had ensured the availability of enough food under his stock. Definitely Russia is the largest exporter of the grains of Europe. European countries have to purchase the grain at high prices either from India or from other countries.
- Because of the Russia Ukraine crisis the price of Crude oil is continuously increasing which would inversely impact on the economy of India. However, Indians can purchase crude oil from Russia at a lower price because these days Russian currency has devalued.
- Russia is one of the largest gas producers of Europe. The European market fulfills at least 40 % of its gas requirement from Russia. However, Russia will continue the export of oil and Gas from Ukraine because of the terms of the contracts which Ukraine and Russia had done in the past. In this way, Europe has to face the crises of gas and oil in future. Definitely sanctions imposed against Russia would rebound against the West.

IMPACT ON INDIA : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

India could protect itself from such crises of the price hike of crude oil. First India has sufficient oil reserve which could be used in near future. If this crisis continues, India could import crude oil and gas from Russia at less prices. India could export its grain to European countries, provide India could neutralize itself from the pressure of America and European countries

CONCLUSION

The reaction of the economic sanctions was an obvious result of the American sanctions over Russia. Since Russia is the largest country of the world and the largest producer of the grains and the oil and gas. So only Russia would not be suffering, Entire world including India will have to face the problem of an economic crisis. India and the developing countries have not been overcome from the evil effects of the corona pandemic and once India has to face another crises erupted because of the Ukraine Russia crisis

National Strategy for Additive Manufacturing Policy

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology aims to increase India's share in global additive manufacturing to 5 per cent within the next three years. Global spending on AM in 2019 was nearly \$13.8 billion with a growth of 23.5% per annum and expected to reach \$34.8 billion by 2024.

- As per the National Strategy for Additive Manufacturing, by 2025, India will aim to achieve certain targets such as 50 India specific technologies for material, machine and software, 100 new start-ups for additive manufacturing, 500 new products.

WHAT IS 3D PRINTING OR ADDITIVE MANUFACTURING?

- It uses computer-aided designing to make prototypes or working models of objects by laying down successive layers of materials such as plastic, resin, thermoplastic, metal, fiber or ceramic.
- With the help of software, the model to be printed is first developed by the computer, which then gives instructions to the 3D printer.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS NEW POLICY : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Addition to the GDP: It hopes that it could likely add \$ 1 billion to the gross domestic product by that time.
- Employment opportunities: These new start-ups and opportunities will give jobs to at least 1 lakh new skilled workers over the next three years.
- Overcome technical and economic barriers: IT ministry is readying a national policy on promoting 3D printing on an industrial scale and helping domestic companies overcome technical and economic barriers so that they can build supportive and ancillary facilities for world leaders in the technology, such as the US and China.
- The government would address key sector specific technical challenges for making 3D printing economically viable for MSMEs.

ADVANTAGES OF 3D PRINTING : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- **It Is Affordable**- 3D printing is a single-step manufacturing process, so it not only saves you the costs linked to using different manufacturing processes and machines but also valuable time. 3D printers do not need constant supervision as they can perform specific tasks once they are set; thus, you do not need to be around at all times.
- **Rapid Prototyping**- You can cheaply and quickly create a new prototype with every design modification, unlike the expensive and lengthy prototype machining process.
- **Sturdy and Lightweight Parts**- 3D printing allows complex, organic shapes to be made that are much lighter than traditionally machined parts. In the aerospace and automotive industry, this is a vital factor as the use of lightweight materials helps improve fuel efficiency.
- **Environmentally Friendly**- The use of 3D printing technology reduces the quantity of waste materials created during the production process.
- **Improved Healthcare Facilities**- 3D printing has revolutionised the medical sector as it is now possible to print human body organs such as hearts, kidneys, and livers.

DISADVANTAGES OF 3D PRINTING : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- **Restricted Build Size**-The chamber size integrated into 3D printers is usually relatively small, thereby

restricting the part sizes that you can print. Therefore, any larger item needs to be printed separately and later assembled after its production.

- **Job Losses in The Manufacturing Sector**-The use of 3D printing allows you to create prototypes and product designs within a few hours with one simple step. Most of the steps followed in subtractive manufacturing are eradicated, and this helps save on the cost of labour as fewer people need to be hired to complete the manufacturing process.
- **Not Very User-Friendly**-It is a new technology; there is often an element of trial and error required when creating parts on a 3D printer.
- **Limited Materials**-The materials needed during the manufacturing process are limited, with some still being developed.
- **3D Printing Machines are Expensive**-The materials and equipment used in 3D printing are costly because the initial capital required to embark on using 3D printing technology is prohibitively expensive.
- **Production of Dangerous Items**-Creating explosives, guns, knives as well as other harmful weaponry is theoretically more accessible because of 3D printing technology. This is because it gives people access to a method of manufacturing items in their own homes that were previously impossible.

WAY FORWARD

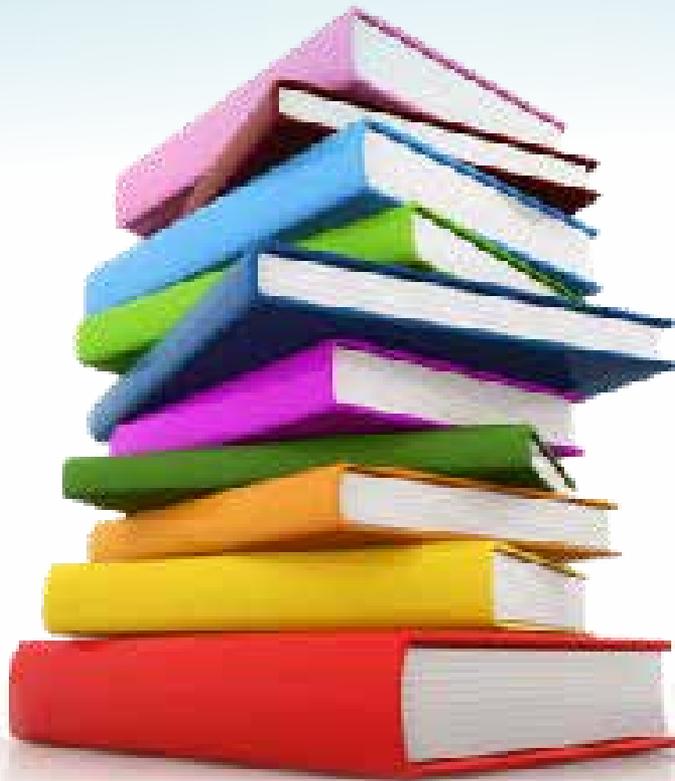
- **Inclusion in all the sectors:** To get ahead in the additive manufacturing or 3D printing space, India must adopt it in all sectors, including in defence and public sectors.
- An apex body which has subject matter experts and leaders from local and global industries could be established to lead the mission.
- The national strategy should address the need for skilled manpower in various job profiles including operators, engineers, R&D personnel, technology broking and management.
- The government's financial support and private funding would be needed to promote the domestic AM ecosystem and supply chains.

Anshum Verma



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MARCH 2022

Nuclear Energy Vs Solar Energy : An Analysis in special reference to suitability for India

NUCLEAR ENERGY VS SOLAR ENERGY – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Context : Solar and nuclear energy have been good sources of energy for any country. The Indian government is focusing more on nuclear energy . However government should substitute its dependency over nuclear energy with the solar energy

INTRODUCTION :

- Energy policies of any country should be not only based on its requirement but also should be based on its economical efficiency as well as climate friendly . However nuclear energy is far better in comparison to solar energy because it produces high energy for a long time in comparison to solar energy but the risk factors are more in nuclear energy in comparison to solar energy.
- For India's necessity of solar energy must be promoted and the government should decrease its dependence on nuclear energy . However some physicists of India and the world who are working with the Coalition for Nuclear Disarmament and Peace also recommend for the Shutdown this misguided energy policy based on nuclear energy because of its hazardousness. According to these physicists The vulnerabilities of reactors and their high costs are strong reasons why India must cancel its nuclear expansion plans

NUCLEAR ENERGY : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Nuclear energy is the energy in the nucleus of an atom. The fission of the atoms generates the energy . If nuclear fission is regulated we can use the energy for our domestic purposes . Nuclear energy can be achieved through nuclear reactors.
- Nuclear plant is composed of a nuclear reactor, consisting of the phenomenon of nuclear fission through which heat generated which would be controlled by a cooling system, which removes the heat from inside the reactor. Through a steam turbine generated heat will produce mechanical energy which would be transformed into electric energy

SOLAR ENERGY : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Solar energy is the energy generated with the radiation from the sun. The radian from the sun can emit electron from the metal through which electricity can be generated

BENEFITS AND DRAWBACKS OF NUCLEAR ENERGY : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- However Nuclear energy is carbon free energy which is environment friendly but simultaneously Uranium which is technically required which is non renewable source and India is dependent for technology and the uranium on foreign countries mainly western countries and Russia
- However for the establishment of the Nuclear plan a small area of the land is required but simultaneously for the establishment of the grid system much area of the land is required . As per the data given by the Department of Energy, a typical nuclear facility producing 1,000 megawatts (MW) of electricity takes up about one square mile of space. But the upfront cost is too much high
- However through Nuclear reactor high levels of energy can be produce but simultaneously it could be dangerous at the time of the war , if it is destructed and the nuclear waste would also be dangerous for the environment

BENEFITS AND DRAWBACKS OF SOLAR ENERGY : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- However it is a low cost energy source but it is weather dependent and it requires more space of land .
- However it is environmentally friendly . Hence it can be used. However we import solar places from abroad, mainly from China . We should decrease our dependence over China regarding solar panel

Today Current Affairs

Conclusion

As per the above discussion , it is also clear that we should rethink our energy policy. There are various sources of energy. Among them solar and nuclear energy are important carbon free energy sources but the research and investment on nuclear energy should be decreased worldwide . Increasing nuclear reactors in the world would be dangerous for the world in future. Therefore , those countries who are using nuclear reactors for the energy sources, should also curtail nuclear reactors . They should shift their energy policy from nuclear energy to other sources of energy. Nuclear reactors would be dangerous in the future for world's peace .

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Wearing hijab : A Part of Culture , not an essential part of religion : An Analysis in special context of the decision of High court in the issue of Wearing hijab

Context : In a recent decision of the Karnataka High Court , it is stated that Wearing Hijab is not an essential practice of the Islam therefore the ban on the wearing of hijab (head scarf) by students in schools and colleges in the State would be continued . However the students appealed against this decision in supreme court and still this matter is the subject of sub judice .

INTRODUCTION

The strife of wearing hijab has been continuing in Karnataka for several months . School authority of the Karnataka banned wearing hijab and the

Muslim girls wearing hijab would not be permitted in the classroom .

Karnataka High Court gave a judgment in this regard that this ban does not deprive the right of following of essential religious practices described in

Article 25 to 28 in constitution of India . The court said it was a reasonable restriction that was constitutionally permissible. A three-judge bench

comprising Chief Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi, Justice Krishna S. Dixit and Justice J.M. Khazi, gave this decision and rejected all the petitions filed by nine

Muslim girl students

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION

- Article 25 to 28 provides us the right to practice our religion . Article 25 describes Freedom of conscience and free profession, practice, and propagation of religion. Article 26 describes the Freedom to manage religious affairs and Article 27 describes the Freedom as to payment of taxes for promotion of any particular religion while article 28 describes the prohibition of the religious instruction given by the educational institutions run by the state.

As per the decision of the Karnataka High Court wearing Hijab is not the essential practice of the Islam on the following ground

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- However the attire for the women is described in Quran and hadis but there is no provision of the punishment after violation of the prescribed attire The attire described in Islamic texts is only to attain maximum mercy of the god
- The attire described in Islamic Texts is only for the homogeneity among all Islamic women .
- The attire described in Islamic Texts for women is to reduce sensuality so that the possibility of Jannat could be maximized

According to the High Court of Karnataka Wearing hijab is not an essential religious practice but it is a part of culture. Therefore , Wearing Hijab can be prohibited in educational institutions by the educational authorities . However , the Honorable High court of Karnataka accepted that hijab wearing is part of Islamic culture. Culture is the recognition of any community, any person or any country . Losing recognition is similar to losing identity . Hence the cultural value system must also be protected by the government, provided it would be progressive in its nature and it would not create conflict in the society . The issue of wearing Hijab evolved because of political mileage . The timing of this row was the timing of the elections in five states . But here the question is whether it should be allowed in educational institutions. The Hijab (Covering of complete face) should be prohibited because it would be harmful for the law and order but the Hijab (Covering only the breast/ Just like dupatta /scarf) should not be objectionable because it is not backward in its nature .

In fundamental duties , it has also been described that everybody should preserve their culture. Because culture is the identity . The Indian government is spending thousands of rupees to preserve our cultural heritage . Therefore , on the ground of cultural heritage , Hijab (Covering the breast) should be allowing of same color as prescribed by school authority in dress

CONCLUSION

In the Indian cultural value system , there are many traditions and attire which are an integral part of our culture although these things are not described in any authentic religious text . The attire for the female has not been described in any Hindu text or law books but still , because of the tradition , Hindu women wear a particular type of dress and ornament . Their attire should also neither be prohibited nor made compulsory . In progressive societies , firstly these subjects should be the subjects of debate . There should not be any angle of religion behind the culture value system of society. Parameter of progressive/backwardness should be the parameter of debate .

If in future, the honorable supreme court changes the decision of the High court which Plutus IAS

is mostly expected to come, it would neither be a good sign for Indian democracy nor of Indian Judiciary , nor of the Indian constitution . We must focus over the issues through which our status could be uplifted, communal harmony could be established , the gap between upper cals and lower class could be minimized rather than wasting our time and energy on the issues like wearing Hijabs / attire . .

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Clean energy : A necessity for Indian economy

Context : An efficient waste management ecosystem is crucial to manage the huge waste generated in India's new energy push

Today Current Affairs

INTRODUCTION :

- Recently, during the budget session of the parliament the Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman focused on the advancement of technologies . Her main focus has been to remain on the development of clean energy like solar energy. For the Indian economy, solar energy /clean energy is a necessity because we import petroleum at high rates . We have to decrease our dependence on petroleum products . We have to shift our energy requirement from petroleum energy to clean energy
- If we focus on the waste management ecosystem , we can generate renewable energy projects in the coming year . We should make efficient waste management ecosystem
- There is the good future of the clean energy as described by International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) — an intergovernmental organization estimated the energy need of India and in its study it is found that India would need over 5,630 GW of solar and 1,792 GW of wind energy to achieve its net-zero target in the year 2070.
- India could achieve its target only through renewables waste management and recycling ecosystem and a clear framework is needed for this

A FRAME WORK : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- However there is already a waste management's policy in India but several rules of the existing electronic waste management must be reviewed so that the Renewable energy Industry could be benefited . Currently there are several complex rules for the industries related to renewable energy comprising various manufacturers, assemblers, importers and distributors. Separate stakeholders must be regulated by separate rules and annual targets for the collecting and the recycling of waste by different stakeholders

must be justified.

- Government should bring strong rules against the dumping and burning of different components. These components should be banned completely. Currently burning and dumping is the easiest way and through the landfilling practice the renewable energy waste is being managed which is not environmentally sustainable
- Therefore , We should do hard work in this regard. High level of research and development is needed to tackle these issue related to waste management
- The industry related to renewable energy must invest in research and development so that we could get the best way for recycling the waste . An innovative means is required for waste management. Central government should incorporate these industries .
- With public private partnership, new innovative industries related to the recycling of the waste must be established to assure a minimum waste quantum to run these facilities and issuing performance-based green certificates to recyclers that could be traded to raise money for waste management would also help ease the financial burden. A market for recycled materials could also be created through mandatory procurement by the renewable energy and other relevant
- In informal sector the waste management is very poor but for getting the target of the sustainable development we can not ignore the informal sectors ..

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Need of Vaccination for all age Group after due process : An Analysis

Context: We have been facing the problem of covid for almost two years. During these days we had to go for lockdown three times. During Lockdowns, our economy had to suffer a lot. Many businesses have collapsed and thousands of people have been fired from their services. In such a horrific condition of the economy , the Government of India must try and vaccinate all age groups, but these vaccinations should not proceed in a hurry . The vaccination process for all age group must be started after due process

INTRODUCTION

From 16th March the government had announced COVID-19 immunization programme for children between 12 and 14 years with Corbevax, a protein subunit vaccine. This step of the government however is appreciable but this step of the government has been taken without the approval of the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (NTAGI). Never before has the expert body been completely sidestepped to clear a vaccine for the immunization.

Generally it is considered that protein vaccines are safe for all age groups but just on the basis of this consideration , the beginning of the vaccination should not be started for the age group of 12 to 14 years . Suppose , if any time , adverse effects are found during the vaccination drive .

However this concern has been raised many times but during the third wave , the government decided to launch the vaccine drive for school going children without any proper data.

There are several concerns which should be addressed before the beginning of immunization drive for 12 to

18 years children

1. Proper data and study of the vaccine must be necessary. The concerns related to the proximity of the data has been raised during the use of Covaxin which has been used for immunizing adults and adolescents between 15 and 18 years and whose safety profile is now known, has been excluded for children in the 12-14 age group.
2. Because of the lack of data available for the Covaxine, we have seen the adverse result during the second wave of the corona. And the vaccination drive has been started by mid Jan0 Feb. 2021 . We should learn lesson from our mistakes . However when data on safety, immunogenicity and efficacy have not been made available even as preprint (it is not peer reviewed), is inexplicable in the current situation, which can no longer be described as an emergency
3. However national seroprevalence surveys are also important before the beginning of any immunization . But This survey was also done just after the deadly second corona wave was at its peak . Therefore approximately 67.6 % of the population above 10 years had antibodies against the virus. . the infected children during the third wave of 12- 14 year group by omicron variant may be of high percentage. Government should analyze according before beginning of any immunization

CONCLUSION

As per the above discussion, the starting of the vaccination drive for the children of the group from 12 to 18 years is the good steps of the government But It should be started after proper recommendation and proper testing. We should not be relaxed for further waves of the coronavirus . For the next wave, we can not now shut down the markets and economic activities of the country otherwise it would not only be an economic disaster but also be the symbol of folly for us..

Dr. Anshul Bajpai



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MARCH 2022

One Nation One Election

ONE NATION ONE ELECTION – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Recently, the Chief Election Commissioner backed the idea of 'One Nation One Election' and added that he is fully prepared and capable of conducting simultaneous elections.

Today Current Affairs

WHAT IS THE 'ONE NATION ONE ELECTION' SYSTEM?

- The current electoral system of the country holds separate polls for the Lok Sabha and state Assemblies in a gap of five years, i.e. when the tenure of the Lower House or the state government concludes, or either of them is dissolved prematurely.
- The term of state assemblies may not necessarily be in sync with one another or that of the Lok Sabha. As a result, the mammoth task of conducting elections goes all round the year.
- One Nation One Election proposes that simultaneous elections be held in all states and the Lok Sabha in a gap of five years.
- This will involve the restructuring of the Indian election cycle in a manner that elections to the states and the centre synchronise.
- This would mean that the voters will cast their vote for electing members of the LS and the state assemblies on a single day, at the same time (or in a phased manner as the case may be).

Today Current Affairs

IMPLEMENTATION

- For simultaneous polls, there has to be a political consensus pertaining to the changes in the electoral system. Furthermore, amendments to the Constitution need to be formulated. The Hindu Analysis.
- Article 172 and Article 83 deal with the duration of the Houses of Parliament, and guarantee a five-year term to both the elected Lok Sabha and state assemblies, unless they are dissolved sooner.
- Article 85 of the Indian Constitution deals with the powers of the President to summon Parliamentary sessions, not exceeding a gap of more than six months. The President also carries the power to adjourn either House of the Parliament and the dissolution of the Lok Sabha. Today Current Affairs.
- Article 356 of the Indian Constitution, comes into action in case of governance and constitutional failure in a state and deals with the President' Rule.
- Amendments in the People's Representation Act, 1951(RPA Act 1951) and the Anti Defection Law must

be made for organised conduct and stability in both Lok Sabha and state assemblies.

ARGUMENTS IN FAVOUR OF SIMULTANEOUS ELECTIONS/ ONOE : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- **Reduction in cost:** Multiple elections at different times leads to a huge cost to the exchequer in the form of lost time, labour and financial costs. There are significant costs involved in the conducting of elections including the movement of security personnel, diversion of state machinery towards presiding over the elections and other similar costs.
- Simultaneous polls will boost voter turnout.
- **Engagement of security forces:** Deployment of security forces is normally throughout the elections and frequent elections take away a portion of such armed police force which could otherwise be better deployed for other internal security purposes.
- **Impact on social fabric:** Frequent elections perpetuate caste, religion, and communal issues across the country as elections are polarising events that have accentuated casteism, communalism, and corruption.
- **Focus on populist measures:** Frequent elections will impact the focus of governance and policymaking as it forces the political class to typically think in terms of immediate electoral gains rather than focus on long-term programs and policies.
- Regular elections hamper the delivery of essential services due to the engagement of public servants, including a large number of teachers, in the election process.
- **Hampering values of democracy:** Smaller parties with less capital and money for election expenditure could not compete equally with larger parties with deep pockets.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- The primary cause of concern amongst parties that have opposed simultaneous polling is that of Constitutional glitches and anti-federal consequences. Some believe that this shall impact the voting judgement of the people and this new process shall require manpower and machinery (EVMs and VVPATs) on a humongous scale. Today Current Affairs.
- The Opposition parties had argued that such deliberations will adversely affect the federal nature of the Indian political system. National issues and State issues are different in nature and implementation.
- The national election is dominated by issues about national interests, while state elections deal with local issues. The Hindu Analysis.
- **Accountability:** Again, regular elections mean that the government is under an obligation to listen to the will of the people lest it loses the elections in one state or the other.
- **Difficult to Maintain Synchronisation:** It is difficult to maintain simultaneous elections in a democracy. Even if we can achieve simultaneous elections at the Centre and in all states by prolonging and shortening the tenures of the Lok Sabha and the respective State Assemblies, it would be difficult to maintain such a situation for long. As soon as any government loses confidence in its assembly, again the system will fall into disarray.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Conclusion

- Simultaneous election is an idea whose time has come. However, since the issue is concerned with the federal structure of the Constitution, it needs to be discussed and debated properly across the political spectrum to assuage the concerns of regional parties. This will make it easier to implement the idea in the country.

- Ideally, the 'one nation, one election' system should reduce the amount of time, energy and resources invested in the conduct of polls. If simultaneous polls do reduce the duration of conducting polls, political parties will have ample time to address national issues and enhance governance.
- The law commission's recommendations suggest that there is a feasibility to restore one nation one election concept as it existed during the first two decades of India's independence.

Anshum Vermai

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND JUDICIARY

Artificial intelligence

- It is a field of computer science which makes a computer system that can mimic human intelligence.
- It is composed of two words "Artificial" and "intelligence", which means "a human-made thinking power."
- The Artificial intelligence system does not require being pre-programmed, instead, they use such algorithms which can work with their own intelligence.
- It involves machine learning algorithms such as Reinforcement learning algorithms and deep learning neural networks.

Recently, an unstarred question in the Lok Sabha during the first part of the Budget session of Parliament was asked with reference to artificial intelligence and its use in judicial processes to reduce the pendency of cases. Law Ministry data: The High Court's (57.39 lakh cases) and the subordinate courts (1, 08, 36,087 cases) together have conducted 1.65 crore virtual hearings till 2021.

BENEFITS OF INTEGRATING AI & ML IN JUSTICE DELIVERY : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- While implementing phase two of the eCourts projects, under operation since 2015, a need was felt to adopt new, cutting edge technologies of Machine Learning (ML) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) to increase the efficiency of the justice delivery system.
- The Supreme Court of India has constituted an Artificial Intelligence Committee which has mainly identified application of AI technology in Translation of judicial documents; Legal research assistance and Process automation.
- ML-based applications in Judiciary: AI powered tools like SUPACE will not only help organise cases, it will also bring references into the judgement at a speed not seen so far. The Hindu Analysis.
- AI will present a more streamlined, cost effective and time bound means to the fundamental right of access to justice.
- Tools derived from AI could help expedite the case-flow management which in turn helps in lowering delays and pendency in courts.
- The use of software to analyse thousands of previous cases and create a 'judge analytics'.
- Over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, the use of technology for e-filing, and virtual hearings has seen a dramatic rise which can be solved via this technology.

ISSUES AND CHALLENGES ASSOCIATED WITH AI IN JUDICIARY : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- The use of ML in India's legal sphere has so far been restricted to automating back-end work, and is still a very long way from being used as a decision-making tool for the judiciary.

- Many of the judgments, particularly in the lower courts, are yet to be fully digitised. The Hindu Analysis.
- Going by global trends, greater adoption of these tools in the Indian legal system is inevitable.
- AI and ML should assist but do not replace human decision making.
- The ethical and responsible use of AI and ML for the advancement of efficiency enhancement can be increasingly embedded in legal and judicial processes.

Today Current Affairs

Way Forward

- Automated systems, controversially, were being used to decide bail applications in some parts of the United States, and other countries such as Estonia have incorporated AI and ML in a major way.
- But the Indian judicial system is generally “more conservative”, and a lot more work remained in making India’s legal data amenable to ML formats.
- AI and ML can be tried in tribunals where there is no need for oral evidence and cross examination. .

Anshum Verma

Indian Legislative Services : Necessity for the betterment of the Legislative Bodies in India



Context : Just like other All India services like IAS, IPS, an Indian Legislative service is also needed for India. Presently , there are many legislative institutions in India starting from Panchayat Level to Union level. Presently the works related to legislative are assigned to non specific persons (For Union level Generally IAS is assigned with the services of secretary , Asst secretary of Lok Sabha and Raj Sabha, etc). For the strengthening the many legislative bodies in India, from the panchayat level to Parliament, This Indian

legislative Services is required

Today Current Affairs

INTRODUCTION

Recently the issue of the necessity of the Indian legislative service was raised at the time of the appointment of many secretaries in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha secretariat with Lateral entries . Generally the secretaries of the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha are appointed from the IAS cadre who have been working as administrator, However they never worked in the legislative secretariat (Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha) . Therefore , these parachuted officers could not fulfill the requirements of the legislative administration .

The main function of the parliament is to control the executive effectively and ensure the accountability of the executive. The officers from the executive having no knowledge of the legislative works can not be expected to work freely and effectively . In the United Kingdom, the Clerk of the House of Commons has always been appointed from the legislative staff pool created to serve Parliament. . We should follow this practice of England for the betterment of the democratic institutions

WHY IS AN ALL INDIA SERVICE REQUIRED ? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

There are thousands of the legislative bodies in India, ranging from the panchayat, block panchayat, zila parishad, municipal corporations to State legislatures and Union Parliament at the national level. These are the law making bodies at every level but the officers who run these bodies are not expert in legislative works . Generally they are appointed from the General administration

Definitely there will be a lack of competency and efficiency . Therefore a training institute must be there at the central level where the training related to legislative works could be given . Therefore Creating a common all-India service cadre — an Indian Legislative Service — is a must. A common service can build a combined and experienced legislative staff cadre, enabling them to serve from across local bodies to Union Parliament.

WHAT ARE THE PROVISIONS IN THE CONSTITUTION IN THIS REGARD : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Rajya Sabha is empowered to pass a resolution to this effect, in national interest, to create an all-India service common to both the Union and the States, and enables Parliament to create such a service by law (Article 312 of Indian constitution)

However, the bureaucracy persistently does not allow Parliament to be a competent and robust legislative institution. Because they knew that if the executive would be controlled and regulated by the Legislative, their power and influence would be reduced. The Hindu Analysis.

For the betterment of the democratic institution , all three bodies, the executive, legislative and the Judiciary must be separated up to its maximum extent . But Generally , In Indian context, executive and the legislative can not be separated because executive is derived from the legislative . But up to the bureaucracy level it must be separated. Recently , it has been also observed (However during the period of 1970s) the government tried

to control the Judiciary by providing the opportunity of the Rajya Sabha membership, governorship after the retirement of the Judges of the supreme court. But these efforts are dangerous for the democratic institutions of the country .

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Conclusion

As per the above discussion , it has been clearly analyzed that there must be an all India service for the legislature's works and there must be a training institute for the legislative works. Legislative any executive must be separated for its maximum extent to strengthen the democratic institution . We have borrowed the constitution from England (Most of the part) because we have been colonized by the British for a long time. But England is continuously reforming in democratic institutions, like the speaker of the house of commons in England is independent from any political party (He has to resign from political party) . We must follow England in this regard. We should work to strengthen our democratic institution by all means . therefore All India Legislative services are must for the country ..

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

The prospects of India's growth under the Global uncertainty

Context : For several months Global uncertainty is at its peak . This ongoing geopolitical uncertainty erupted with Russia's invasion over Ukraine . Under such global uncertainty India has to opt for some fiscal measures for the development . On February 28, 2022, the National Statistical Office (NSO) released India's GDP data for Q3 of 2021-22 along with Second Advance Estimates (SAE) for 2021-22. Post COVID-19, the normalization of the Indian economy has now been disturbed by the ongoing geopolitical uncertainties. This would only be tackled through strong and appropriate fiscal measures

Today Current Affairs

INTRODUCTION

- The Indian economy had to face several obstacles in front of its growth. One big obstacle was COVID-19 , As we overcame from the corona pandemic another geopolitical problem had erupted with the Russian Ukraine conflict. Because of this crisis the price of crude oil increased and the balance of payment also suffered during this crisis . Indian rupee is continuously tending toward degrading .
- In the COVID-19 year of 2020-21, both real GDP and GVA contracted by minus 6.6% and minus 4.8%, respectively. The NSO's SAE shows that real GDP and GVA growth are estimated to recover to 8.9% and 8.3%, respectively, in 2021-22. Despite this improvement, the magnitude of real GDP at ₹147.7 lakh crore in 2021-22 is only marginally higher than the corresponding level of ₹145.2 lakh crore in 2019-20.
- If we see this GDP data of 2021-22, we find nominal growth of GDP is significantly higher than the real GDP growth due to an inordinately high implicit price deflator (IPD)-based inflation rate of 9.6%. This must be considered by the economist and policy makers of India
- If we observe the magnitude of demand , it is slightly reviving but the production in the manufacturing sector could not revive after the corona pandemic because of the geopolitical crises (mainly automobile sector , because of hike in fuel price). Therefore it seems that the annual growth in 2022-23 would not be more than 7 % which is far less.

THE IMPACT OF PRICE HIKE IN PETROLEUM PRODUCTS IN GROWTH : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- However it is very difficult to estimate the impact of a hike in petroleum price on the GDP but through several data related to growth and inflation, we can assume the impact of the Crude upsurge.
- The estimated impact is a reduction in real GDP growth by 27 basis points and an increase in CPI inflation by 40 basis points. This is based on using the baseline global crude price level of U.S.\$75/bbl.
- Beside the price hike of the petroleum products , there are several other challenges which must be tackled effectively by the policy makers . These challenges are. The Hindu Analysis.
- Because of the price hike of crude oil, the government has to give some subsidies to petroleum products (Fertilizers and fuel). The Government should attempt to keep the fiscal deficit at the budgeted level.
- Because of the global uncertainty the Indian rupees would be continually degrading which would result in higher import bills. Government must reduce some import up to its maximum extend. The Hindu Analysis.
- Government, if it reduces the internal taxes on petroleum products which would bring inversely impacts on the income of the government. Ifnot, it will result in the rapid price hike of the fuel through which inflation would also be increasing rapidly and overall economic crises would erupt. Government must make a balance in this regard
- Developed countries are increasing interest rates. But India , if increase interest rate, it would bring more inflation, therefore our policy makers should not make any policy under the pressure of the inflow of dollar.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Conclusion

This is the crucial time of the Indian economy. One side geopolitical uncertainty is there ,on another side we are slowly coming out from the bad impact of the corona pandemic. Our Government should adopt very appropriate and balance fiscal policies so that our economy could tackle these challenges . Government Should not make policy only for the political benefits in coming elections but also for quick and steady revival of the Indian economy.

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi : A humble tribute on the occasion of his martyr

Context : Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi, a renowned freedom fighter and journalist of modern India had sacrificed his life on 25 th March of 1931, after the two days of the martyrness of Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdeva in the effort of protecting the sacred soil of this country from communal riots sponsored by the contemporary government (British Government). Let us pay our humble tribute to the great freedom fighter of India who fought against communal riots and sacrificed his life.

Today Current Affairs

Introduction : Ganesh Shankar Vidyari was a great freedom fighter and journalist who had been associated with Indian National Congress and served as the president of the provincial unit congress of United Province

He was editor of a Hindi newspaper “Pratap” . He used this newspaper to spread nationalism among Indians However he was a Gandhian supporter and believed in non violence but still he had been associated with HRA (Hindustan republican Association) of Ram prasad Bismil and later on , he supported the activities of revolutionaries . He had been associated with Bhagat Singh and Chandra Shekhar Aazad .

HIS CONTRIBUTION TO HINDI LITERATURE : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

He did a lot of work on Hindi literature. He had not only been associated with the Pratap newspaper which he issued himself but also he had been associated with Saraswati , karmYogi, Swaraj , Hitwarta etc. He translated many books of English into Hindi . He translated Law miserables and Ninety three (Two Nobel of the Victor Huego) in Hindi and he participated in 19th session of Hindi Literature congress held in Gorakhpur

HIS IDEOLOGY : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

However , he had been associated with congress and believed in Gandhian ideology of non violence but simultaneously he had supported the revolutionary activities held by HRA/HSRA because they were fighting to eliminate the exploitative and oppressive government. However he was a religious person but believed in secularism . During 1931, Instead of participating in Karachi Congress session (presided by Ballabh Bhai patel from 26th March to 31st March 1931), he decided to prevent communal riots which had erupted in Kanpur (State sponsored) and finally he was murdered by the mob during the communal riots .

CONTRIBUTION IN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

He had been elected as the member of legislative assembly in 1925 (From Swaraj party) under the dyarchy system of the government . Being a part of governance , he supported the revolutionaries as much as he could and he did a lot of work for communal unity. After the death of Vidyarthi, Gandhi wrote in Young India – “ The death of Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi was one to be envied by us all. His blood is the cement that will ultimately bind the two communities.”. Paying his humble tribute to Vidyarthi, Gandhi ji stated that his sacrifice was for a noble cause , i would be fortunate if i die for communal unity .

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Conclusion

Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi type freedom fighters are the lessons for those fake nationalists who promote communalism . These types of forgotten heroes of our national movement must be remembered on the occasion of 75th anniversary of India’s freedom so that our young generation must know for what our ancestors sacrificed. Better to be a frenzied nationalist , we must be true patriots and nationalist which lies in the concept of pluralism and secularism

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Significance of the visit of Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi

Context : India tells China that India China would be better only through the establishment of peace on the border areas . There can be no normality in India-China ties unless the troops amassed at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) are withdrawn, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar told Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Delhi on Friday during talks that ended without any joint statement or agreement on the way forward.

Today Current Affairs

INTRODUCTION

India Chinese bitter relation has been continuing which has been started after the Galwan incident where Indian army has been confronted with Chinese army and many Indian soldiers had been sacrificed . After that , during the Winter olympics the Chinese administration appointed the torch bearer for the winter olympics who had been the culprit of the Galwan incident. India had to boycott winter olympic politically however some of the Indian players participated. The Hindu Analysis.

By 24th March Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi visited India and met with Indian National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and Mr. Jaishankar before leaving for Kathmandu.

SIGNIFICANCE : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- India and China both are members of BRICS and both had adopted the same stand at the time of Ukraine Russian conflict. India and China , both are one of the most populated countries of the world and both countries play an important role in the peace in the Asia pacific region .
- However , during this meeting , India has shown his national sentiment regarding border issue and expressed China that the normal ties between India and China would be brought only after the establishment of the peace in border areas
- For China , India has been a good consumer also but after the Galwan incident India has shifted towards Japan , an obvious enemy of China. Therefore , China also wants to have good relations with India. Today Current Affairs.
- To have good relations with the neighbors has been the fundamental feature of India's foreign policy , therefore Indias also seek peaceful and better relations with China, but not on the cost of national sovereignty and integrity . The visit of the China would be helpful to improve India China relations but up to a certain extend only. The Hindu Analysis.
- Recently China also raised the issue of Kashmir which was strictly condemned by India . In fact, nowadays, Pakistan is coming close to China. India foreign policy intends to keep Pakistan isolated in world politics, specifically India wants to reduce any possibility of the Pakistan-Chinese Alliance against India . therefore , India also wants to have good relations with China
- We are very much dependent on the export of automobile and mobile parts from China. We can not fully substitute these exports because of the price war . Therefore , good relation with china would be beneficial for India also

Today Current Affairs

Conclusion

The visit of the Chinese foreign minister will definitely bring hope for peace in the border region however as per the past history China has never been credible in this regard . During 1960, China invaded after the traveling of its Prime minister to India. Therefore, we can just hope for a better relationship .

Dr. Anshul Bajpai



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CURRENT AFFAIRS

MARCH 2022

National Land Monetization Corporation

NATIONAL LAND MONETIZATION CORPORATION – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Recently, the Union Cabinet approved the setting up of the National Land Monetization Corporation (NLMC) to monetise surplus land and building assets of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and other agencies linked to the Government. The proposal is in pursuance of the Budget Announcement for 2021-22.

Today Current Affairs

NATIONAL LAND MONETIZATION CORPORATION(NLMC)

- It is a wholly owned Government of India company with an initial authorised share capital of Rs 5000 crore and paid-up share capital of Rs 150 crore. NLMC is expected to own, hold, manage and monetize surplus land and building assets of CPSEs under closure and the surplus non-core land assets of Government owned CPSEs under strategic disinvestment.
- This will speed up the closure process of CPSEs and smoothen the strategic disinvestment process of Government owned CPSEs.

COMPOSITION: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- The Board of Directors of NLMC will comprise senior Central Government officers and eminent experts to enable professional operations and management of the company.
- The Chairman, non-Government Directors of the NLMC will be appointed through a merit-based selection process.
- NLMC will be a lean organisation with minimal full time staff, hired directly from the market on contract basis. Flexibility will be provided to the Board of NLMC to hire, pay and retain experienced professionals from the private sector.

FUNCTIONS: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- NLMC will also advise and support other Government entities (including CPSEs) in identifying their surplus non-core assets and monetizing them in a professional and efficient manner to generate maximum value realisation.
- In these cases (e.g., on-going CPSEs and listed CPSEs under strategic disinvestment), NLMC will undertake surplus land asset monetization as an agency function.
- NLMC will act as a repository of best practices in land monetization, assist and provide technical advice to the Government in implementation of asset monetization programmes.

- NLMC will have necessary technical expertise to professionally manage and monetize land assets on behalf of CPSEs and other Government agencies.

BENEFITS : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- With monetization of non-core assets, the Government would be able to generate substantial revenues by monetizing unused and under-used assets. At present, CPSEs hold considerable surplus, unused and under-used non-core assets in the nature of land and buildings. For CPSEs undergoing strategic disinvestment or closure, monetization of these surplus land and non-core assets is important to unlock their value.
- NLMC will support and undertake monetization of these assets. This will also enable productive utilisation of these under-utilised assets to trigger private sector investments, new economic activities, boost local economy and generate financial resources for economic and social infrastructure.
- Apart from the strategic sale and privatisation of state-owned companies, monetisation of idle land is part of the Centre's strategy to reduce its business presence to a bare minimum and generate resources for future asset creation.

CHALLENGES : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Among the key challenges that NLMC might face include lack of identifiable revenue streams in particular land assets, dispute resolution mechanism, various litigations and lack of clear titles, and low interest among investors in remote land parcels.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

WAY FORWARD

- While privatisation of PSBs and PSUs has faced challenges, monetisation of idle government land requires specialised skills and expertise. This will be the job of the new agency.
- The monetisation of land can be through direct sale or concession, or by similar means. Under the process, the Government is essentially transferring revenue rights to private parties for a specified transaction period in return for upfront money, a revenue share, and commitment of investments in the assets..

Anshum Vermai

Significance of the visit of Russian foreign Minister to India

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE VISIT OF RUSSIAN FOREIGN MINISTER TO INDIA – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Context : Russian foreign minister Sergei Lavrov is going to visit India after some days of the visit of the Chinese foreign minister . This visit of the Russian Foreign minister is the first visit of any Russian minister after the Russian invasion of Ukraine . India has been standing with Russia since the beginning during the Russian Ukraine conflict. India has abstained in UNSC during any proposal against Russia .

Today Current Affairs

INTRODUCTION

During the Russian Ukraine conflict , many economic sanctions on Russia has been imposed by western countries . Russia has been one of the latest exporters of natural gasses and petroleum products. Because of the Ukraine crisis the price of the crude oil in the international market has been hiked. India has to fulfill the requirement of the crude oil from the import of oil from Arabian Countries . But after the economic sanctions over Russia , India had become a good market for Russian oil and gas but India does not want to go just against the objectives of the economic sanctions of the western countries. Therefore India is limited up to to certain extent to shifting her import of oil and gas from Russia. Another reason behind this limited shift is that if India imports oil from Russia, Russia would guarantee to give oil to India for a long time . To discuss regarding these issue , The visit of Russian Foreign minister should be observed and analyzed

THE ISSUES ON WHICH THE TALK BETWEEN RUSSIA AND INDIA WOULD FOCUS : THE HINDU AFFAIRS

- Strategic issues resulting the Russian Ukrainian War
- specific discussions on purchasing Russian oil
- payment mechanisms
- given the sanctions against Russian banks and exclusion from the SWIFT
- possible disruptions in the supply of military hardware
- There would be technical talks between the Russian Central Bank or Bank of Russia and the Reserve Bank of India this week, and a team would travel to India ahead of Mr. Lavrov's visit, to further discuss setting up payment structures.
- India would also be looking for clarity and assurances from Russia on timely delivery of spares and components for systems in use and of the deals under way, including S-400 missile systems and AK-203 assault rifles
- Discussion on streamlining the rupee-rouble payment system for any future purchases.

INDIA'S STAND AGAINST AMERICAN SANCTION ON RUSSIA : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

For a long time western countries have been continuously imposing sanctions on Russia . America has threatened Russia to expel them from the G20 whose summit is going to be organized in Indonesia this year . India will be hosting the summit of G20 in 2023. Definitely India would strongly oppose the American proposal of the Russian expulsion

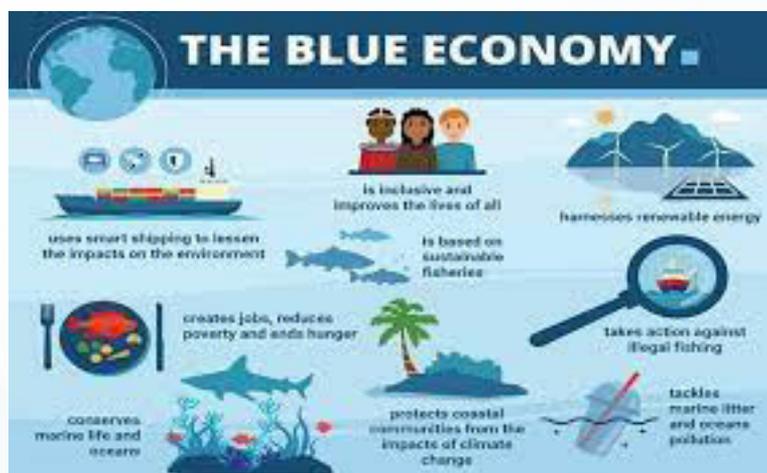
Today Current Affairs

CONCLUSION

Definitely, India and Russia have been strategic partners for a long time . America can impose sanctions on the S-400 purchase during the visit of S. Jaishankar, Indian foreign minister to America (S400 is a missile system). India should turn down the sanctions of America regarding its strategic requirement . India is a sovereign and powerful country and therefore should not be compelled to accept any sanctions from America. However, India has never been in the support of violence but simultaneously violence can be used to defend its sovereignty or curtail any threat over sovereignty . . .

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

BLUE ECONOMY AND INDIA



To understand the blue economy's sustainability, let us first understand what a blue economy is?. It can be defined as- **'sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods, and jobs while preserving the health of ocean ecosystems'**. It encompasses many activities such as fisheries, renewable energy, tourism, maritime transport, waste management, and climate change mitigation. Sustaining the marine resources remains at the heart of the blue economy.

Fisheries form a key source of protein and livelihood for millions of people living in the coastal areas. However, aggressive commercial fishing and the use of heavy industrial fishing boats around the globe have led to over-exploitation or depletion of fish stocks.

Considering the rapid unsustainable use of marine resources, the United Nations agreed, in 2015, on a new Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) or commonly known as Goal 14, aimed at conserving and making sustainable use of oceans, sea and marine resources (SDG 2015).

BLUE ECONOMY: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- It is a subset (part) of the national economy.
- It consists of ocean resources and economic infra in marine domain
- fisheries, aquaculture, marine tourism, renewable ocean energy, seabed mining, off-shore oil and gas, etc.

SIGNIFICANCE FOR INDIA'S ECONOMY: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Developmental needs Contribution by Oceans-

- Food- Fishes, shrimps, prawn are rich in protein; Edible seaweed are rich in protein and fiber
- Jobs- People involved in fisheries and marine tourism
- Fuel – Off-shore oil and gas, methane hydrates (world's largest natural gas reserves)
- Renewable energy- Wave energy; tidal energy; off-shore wind energy; floating solar, power plants
- Metals; Rare Earth metals- Seabed mining; Polymetallic nodules
- Trade- 90 percent of world trade is carried by sea

Ministry of Earth Sciences has released Draft Blue Economy Policy for India (February 2021) – Today Current Affairs

INDIA AS BLUE ECONOMY: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- India's unique maritime position:
- 7,517 km long coastline,
- more than 200 sea ports,
- 23 lakh km² of EEZ with bounty of living and non-living resources.
- Ocean Policy Statement 1982 focused on developing technologies for sustainable harnessing of ocean resources.
- In 1987 India was given 1.5 lakh km² in central Indian Ocean basin for nodule exploration.
- Sagarmala project for port lead development.
- O-SMART program of Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- Ocean Services, Modeling, Applications, Resources and Technology:
 - Regular updates on living resources, monitor seawater pollution, early weather forecast, explore Polymetallic Nodules and gas hydrates.
 - e-SANTA online platform to connect aqua farmers and buyers
 - Seaweed park in Tamil Nadu to be set up (Budget announcement)
- In 2015, India stated Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR) vision for maritime cooperation in Indian Ocean region.
- In 2020, India joined Indian Ocean Commission as Observer.

WAY FORWARD: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

1. a) Arresting marine pollution at source; use of sewage treatment plants.
2. b) Increasing fishermen's capabilities for sustainable fishing techniques.
3. c) More international cooperation for seabed mining.
4. d) Use of Blue Bondsto finance ocean-based projects e.g. Seychelles in 2018

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- a) SDG goal 14 aims for sustainable use of marine resources.
- b) UN has declared 2021-2030 as the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.
- c) Oceans are not an unlimited source of fishes and dumping ground of waste.
- d) Indian ocean is a vast natural resource, its sustainable use can significantly contribute to double digit GDP growth..

Ritu

Exemption of entertainment Taxes : The parameters must be documented

Context : recently the row on the disputed movie Kashmir Files is continuously on its zenith . Some states waived off entertainment tax to promote it and many states (Non BJP ruled states) did not waive off entertainment tax. Now this move has become the tool of dirty politics in India . BJP/ Rightists are continuously raising the demand for waiving off entertainment taxes in those states where BJP is not ruling . There must be some documented rules to give some relaxations or exemptions of entertainment taxes by the states .

Today Current Affairs

INTRODUCTION :

- Entertainment tax is the type of taxes among different taxes levied on movie/ film ticket , ticket any shows/ exhibitions, any commercial shows etc. It is under the jurisdiction of the provincial government(State government). Before the implementation of the GST period , entertainment taxes played an important role for the income of the state . But after the implementation of GST, entertainment tax lost its importance and it is now nominal (approximately 9 to 15 %). Earlier it was approximately 40 to 60 % imposed by the state. Besides the entertainment taxes GST of 28 %. GST is under the jurisdiction of the center. If any movie is declared tax free. It does not mean that all types of taxes are waived off from that movie. Only entertainment tax is waived off from that movie .
- In comparison to GST , entertainment tax is nominal and it does not bring big effect on the price of movie tickets of a tax free movie . The price of a tax free movie in any multiplex is not below 200 rs . Therefore , the politics of no entertainment tax which has its nominal impact on the price of movie tickets is worthless .

IS THERE ANY PARAMETER FOR THE RELAXATION OF THE ENTERTAINMENT TAX : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Generally this is the discretionary power of the state government to give any relaxation on entertainment taxes. Generally the government provide relation/ exemption from taxes to those exhibitions, movies and any commercial shows which promote our cultural heritage , our cultural value system and those moves which are based on patriotism, nationalism and for the national interest . Movies which are based on our history , prosperous cultural heritage , and prosperous arts must be promoted. But generally it has been observed , because of the political benefits, those movies are being tax free (Exemption of entertainment tax only) which can create the conflicts in society or which can provoke communal riots in society or which can re expose the wounds of the past instead of healing the wound
- There must be some documented rules on behalf of which a movie and any commercial exhibitions, cultural exhibition , religious fair could be exempted from the tax. There must be a committee set up by the ministry of culture on state and central levels which would promote cultural exhibitions and the shows based on Indian culture . This committee should have the right to recommend the exemption of entertainment taxes on movies.

CONCLUSION

As per the above analysis. Entertainment tax is nothing in comparison to the GST . If any commercial shows or any movies or any cultural exhibitions are really influenceable and inspirable for patriotism and Indian society , they must be exempted from all types of taxes (including GST) but the politics should not be done on these issues. If the rules regarding the exemption of the taxes would be documented and the decision regarding the exemption of taxes would be given by a prescribed committee, it would be more reliable , and authentic and it would prevent us from dirty politics..

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

Bioterrorism and India's preparation

BIOTERRORISM AND INDIA'S PREPARATION – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Bioterrorism covers a very broad spectrum of concerns, from catastrophic terrorism with mass casualties, to microevents using low technology but producing civil unrest, disruption, disease, disabilities and death. The threat of bioterrorism, long ignored and denied, has heightened over the past few years. The international terrorist attacks are changing over the past years towards the use of more deadly weapons for massive civil disruption. Most terrorists use explosive and guns but some groups now show interest in using chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear (CBRN) materials in order to cause mass casualties.

Or

- “Intentional” release of virus, bacteria, etc. to harm humans, plants, animals.

SOME EXAMPLES: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- 2001 anthrax attacks in USA (letters with Anthrax sent to legislators, media, etc.)
- Iraq's bioweapons program in 1980s. Loaded some missiles with anthrax and aflatoxin.
- Covid-19 pandemic has exposed the vulnerability of world powers to potential use of biological weapons. (Don't say that corona is a Chinese conspiracy, until proven).

Biological weapons are complex systems that disseminate disease causing organisms or toxins to harm or kill humans, animals or plants.

They generally consist of two parts – a weaponized agent and a delivery mechanism.

CHALLENGES WITH BIO-TERRORISM: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Relatively easy to create without getting detected. (like a vaccine production facility).
- Wide geographic reach and self-sustaining spread.
- Difficult to control due to possible mutations.
- Difficult to find the real attackers.
- It may be delivered through air, water supply, agri inputs, humans, etc.
- India specific challenges:
- Tropical climate generally more suitable for rapid spread of disease.
- High population density, crowded public transport.

➤ Neighbors who use proxy war as state policy. (Pak terror, China tech)

NEED FOR BIO TERRORISM LAW IN INDIA: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- India's high vulnerability: High population density, Inadequate medical facilities, subtropical climatic conditions, poor hygiene and inadequate sanitation facilities make India extremely susceptible for such attacks.
- Control its impact on society: Bioterrorism causes damage, fear, and anxiety among people and affects the society and government of a country. These biological weapons can cause large-scale mortality and morbidity in large populations and create civil disruption in the shortest possible time.
- Increase in attacks due to advancement in technology: In this era of biotechnology and nanotechnology has created an easy accessibility to more sophisticated biologic agents apart from the conventional bacteria, viruses and toxins.

IS INDIA PREPARED: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Epidemic Disease Act 1897 gives governments special powers to deal with dangerous epidemic disease.
- NDMA is equipped to deal with effects of weapons of mass destruction (chemical, biological, nuclear)
- Integrated Disease Surveillance Program of MoHFW to detect outbreaks in early phase.
- Research infra e.g. ICMR labs like NIV Pune, academic labs, etc.

Today Current Affairs

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

- International cooperation on intelligence sharing.
- Infra for rapid detection, continuous monitoring of critical infra.
- Strengthening disaster management forces.
- Installing biodefense mechanisms on lines of USSR during cold war.
- Public awareness about dos and don'ts in cases of suspected bioterrorism.

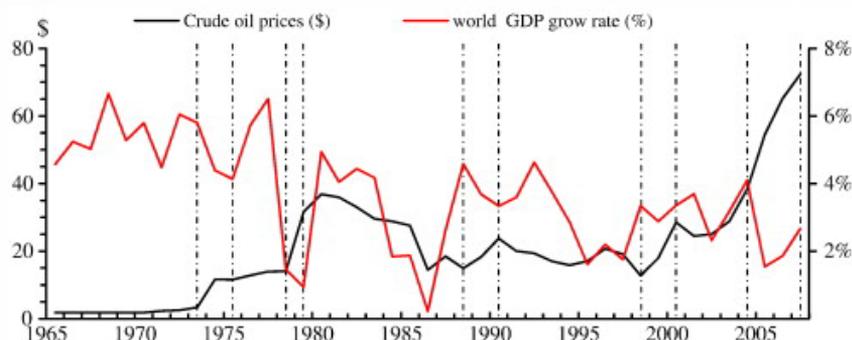
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Biological and Toxic Weapons Convention 1972.

- It was the 1st multilateral disarmament treaty to ban Biological Weapons.
- It prohibits countries from producing, stockpiling, acquiring, or retaining biological agents that can be used as weapons.
- India ratified this treaty in 2015.

Ritu

Oil Shocks and Economic Impacts



Recently, the U.S. announced a complete ban on Russian oil, liquefied natural gas and coal imports.

Today Current Affairs

OIL SHOCK

- Russia is the third biggest producer of oil in the world, behind the US and Saudi Arabia.
- Russian gas accounts for about 40% of the EU's natural gas imports.
- Sanction- The ban blocked any new purchases of Russian crude oil and certain petroleum products, liquefied natural gas and coal.
- It also banned new U.S. investment in Russia's energy sector and prohibited Americans from participating in foreign investments that flow into Russia's energy sector.
- If Russian gas stopped flowing into Western Europe, already heated prices would increase even more.
- An oil crisis can endanger economic and political stability throughout the global economy which is struggling to come out of a pandemic.
- The current geo-political crisis resulted in Brent hitting 140 dollars/barrel (14-year high) before settling down to 110 dollar/barrel level.
- Though there may not be supply constraints in the long-term with incremental productions coming from other producing countries like Iran, Venezuela, OPEC members and the US, energy prices will remain volatile in the near term.

WHAT WERE THE EARLIER OIL SHOCKS LIKE? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- In the post-World War II era, there have been two major oil crises.
- Yom Kippur war- In 1973, Arab members of Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) imposed an embargo on supply to the US, Japan and Western Europe, for supporting Israel in the Yom Kippur war.
- These nations consumed more than half the world's energy.
- Oil prices quadrupled to almost 12 dollar a barrel.
- Iran-Iraq war- The Iranian revolution triggered the second oil shock in 1979 and peaked with the outbreak of the Iran-Iraq war (1980-88).
- In 1981, the price of oil stabilised at 32 dollar per barrel.

HOW HAS IT AFFECTED INDIA? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Price volatility– The Indian government has been taking up bilaterally with crude oil producing countries, OPEC and heads of other international fora to convey India's serious concerns over crude oil price volatility.
- Since India's import dependence from Russia for oil and gas has been very minor, no major supply-side impact is expected.
- Price implications– What has adversely affected India is the price implications arising due to the ongoing conflict.
- The price impact is two-fold for India — on its import bill and on the retail prices of auto and cooking fuel.
- Logistics issue– What becomes an issue is logistics — transporting oil and gas (including financing it in an event of sanctions).

HOW SHOULD INDIA PREPARE TO SHIELD ITSELF FROM FUTURE OIL SHOCKS? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- The Indian government has been taking significant policy decisions for energy transition towards a net zero future.
- Recently, responding to America's call, India had also committed to supporting initiatives for releases from the Strategic Petroleum Reserves for mitigating market volatility and calming the rise in crude oil prices.
- With the government taking measures to ensure that alternate resources of energy, India may be better off in the long term in handling any geo-political strains..

Anshum Verma

Saffronising education : overhauling of Macaulay system of education: A Critical Analysis

SAFFRONISING EDUCATION – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Context : At the occasion of inauguration of the South Asian Institute of Peace and Reconciliation, on the Dev Sanskrit Vishwavidyalaya campus in Haridwar, Uttarakhand,, Indian vice president stated that the reevaluation and the overhauling of the Macaulay system of education is requiring . during his address to the students and the professors of the university, He stated that Macaulay system of education produces in us a sense of inferiority, replaces our traditional education in the bhashas with the alien curricula of the English, gives us a colonial mindset, makes us ignorant of our heritage, and, most of all, disconnects us from the rich body of ideas and philosophies that constitute our ancient civilization.

Today Current Affairs

INTRODUCTION :

- Modern education system is known as the Macaulay education system in the name of Macaulay, a British law member of the executive council of governor general of India (Charter Act 1832). It is correct that the basic objectives of the British education system to justify their rule in India and to transform the

Indian mindset in the favor of British rule .To establish their cultural hegemony was the prime objective of the British education system. Apart from it , They (British) wanted to create communal breach to protect British rule from emerging nationalism. The Hindu Analysis.

- Definitely, after independence, we should transform the British education system and we have been doing it for a long time. But during the transformation of the Macaulay education system, we have to find out the flaws and then substitute those elements of the education system which are obstacles in front of our overall development, in front of our national pride, in front of our ancient glorified culture. But simultaneously , we should analyze whether this transformation of the education system is tending towards saffronisation of education or not . Praising and glorifying ancient culture is a good step but criticizing medieval culture would create communal breach which would be harmful for nationalism. Today Current affairs.
- If saffronisation really means Indianisation, it would include both the orthodox and the heterodox traditions of India, the Brahmanical schools and their Buddhist and Jaina challenges. It would include the great architectural practices of the Mughals well as the Sufi and Bhakti movements. Indianisation would have many colors besides saffron.

SAFFRONISATION OF EDUCATION : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Saffron color is the symbolic color of the Hindu culture in modern days. However Saffron color has been the symbol of India's freedom struggle fought by our ancestors of different religions but British, gradually creating communal breach among us. Therefore if saffronisation of education means praising of only ancient Indian culture, Hinduism , ignoring its evils , ignoring Muslim art and architecture , ignoring science and technology during medieval period ,ignoring inclusive ideas of the cultural development , ignoring pluralism, then it should not be acceptable .
- Education system for the upliftment of the status of deprived people, minimizing the economic gap between different classes, minimizing social and religious gap must be appreciated and promoted but if any education system based on communalism must be criticized. communalism is the big threat for national integrity , therefore in any form it should neither be promoted nor be accepted

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Conclusion : On the basis of above analysis it can be said as the Macaulay education system must be revised in the favor of the interest of India as a nation . Macaulay did not only play an important role in the education system but also he transformed Indian Penal code also. It is surprising , we discuss the Macaulay's education system but ignore the old penal code formed by Macaulay to suppress the voice of opponents on the ground of patriotism . Definitely, the reforms are the obvious and gradual process of the society so transformation of the education system is also required. But it should not hamper communal harmony. It should be progressive in its nature and should be helpful to strengthen India as a nation

Dr Anshul Bajpai

Disaster Management Plan of Panchayati Raj

Disaster Management Plan of Panchayati Raj Disaster Management Plan of Panchayati Raj – Today Current Affairs

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj released a Disaster Management Plan.India has been vulnerable, in varying degrees, to many natural as well as human-made disasters on account of its unique geo-climatic and socio-

economic conditions. India has been vulnerable, in varying degrees, to many natural as well as human-made disasters on account of its unique geo-climatic and socio-economic conditions.

Today Current Affairs

DISASTER MANAGEMENT PLAN

AIM: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

To develop disaster resilience at the grassroots level among the Panchayats and Establish a framework to align the disaster management measures in rural areas to that of the National Disaster Management Authority.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The involvement of the community is the key factor in any disaster preparedness strategy and active participation of the community is vital to carry out and sustain the activities relating to disaster management in rural areas.

REMARKABLE ROLE OF PANCHAYATS DURING COVID 19: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The role of Panchayats in the management and mitigation of COVID-19 pandemic, especially in creating awareness and leading our collective battle against Coronavirus in rural areas was extraordinary.

COMMUNITY BASED PLANNING: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Starting from Village to District Panchayat level. Under the Plan, every Indian village would have a “Village Disaster Management Plan” and every Panchayat would have their Disaster Management Plan.

COMPONENTS: THE HINDU ANALYSIS

The Disaster Management Plan of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (DMP–MoPR) incorporates many innovations in addition to being in compliance with Disaster Management Act 2005, National Disaster Management Policy 2009, and guidelines issued by National Disaster Management Authority.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

IT COVERS AREAS SUCH AS-

- Institutional arrangement for Disaster Management;
- Hazard Risk, Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis; Coherence of Disaster Risk Management across Resilient Development and Climate Change Action;
- Disaster Specific Preventive and Mitigation Measures-Responsibility Framework;
- Mainstreaming of Community Based Disaster Management Plan of Villages and Panchayats.

NEED FOR PANCHAYATI LEVEL PLANS- THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Panchayat-level and village:level Disaster Management Plans to mitigate the challenges in the event of disaster from a foundational level. For holistic development of Panchayats, Disaster management should be kept in mind while making a master plan.

Most appropriate institution:The Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI), the representative body of the people, is the most appropriate institution from village to the district level in view of Its proximity,Universal coverage and Enlisting people's participation on an institutionalised basis.

Their close involvement will be able to make people more prepared for countering natural disasters as well as involve them in all possible preventive and protective activities so that the impact of the disasters are mitigated and the people are able to save their lives and property.

Social mobilisation:The PRIs can act as catalysts to the social mobilisation process and tap the traditional wisdom of the local communities to complement the modern practices in disaster mitigation efforts.

Integration: Besides PRIs will also provide a base for integration of various concerns of the community with that of the NonGovernmental Organisations (NGOs) and Community Based organisations (CBOs) which are engaged in various developmental activities at the grassroots level.

Leadership Role:The Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) members can play a role of leadership in Disaster management at all stages. Right from the preparatory stage up to the handling of the long term development activities for risk reduction.

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

INDIA'S EFFORTS IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT

- India consciously developed DM as a holistic approach, not just reacting after a disaster but also integrating disaster preparedness, mitigation, and disaster risk reduction (DRR) into plans and policies.
- India has increasingly mitigated and responded to all types of disasters, including with the establishment of its National Disaster Reaction Force (NDRF), the world's largest rapid reaction force dedicated to disaster response.
- India's foreign humanitarian assistance has increasingly included its military assets, primarily deploying naval ships or aircraft to deliver relief. In line with its diplomatic policy of "Neighbourhood First," many of the recipient countries have been in the region of South and Southeast Asia.
- Within the context of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), India has hosted DM Exercises that allow NDRF to demonstrate for counterparts from partner states the techniques developed to respond to various disasters.
- India has adopted the Sendai Framework for DRR, the Sustainable Development Goals (2015-2030), and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, all of which make clear the connections among DRR, Climate Change Adaptation (CCA), and sustainable development.

Anshum Verma

Flaws in Indian Criminal Judicial System : An Analysis to reform it

FLAWS IN INDIAN CRIMINAL JUDICIAL SYSTEM – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Context : India's criminal justice regime is beset with problems which seem ingrained in not only the constitutive fabric of institutions, but also in the psyche of their functionaries.

There are many flaws in Indian criminal justice procedures which must be reformed to retain the credibility of Indian judicial system

Today Current Affairs

Introduction : The Indian Judicial system is one of the largest judicial systems of the world . But regarding criminal justice, we followed the same penal codes and procedure codes as formed during the British period . Therefore , recently it is observed that many flaws have emerged in the criminal judicial process and the surprising thing is that we are not willing to reform it . We have accommodated ourselves in such a flawed judicial system where the Judiciary is too far from the marginalized people , where the police are still working for the power of the government, where quick and easy dispense of justice is almost impossible . A just and coherent criminal justice system is an unrealistic expectation of the people. It is not our case that we must stop attempting to rid ourselves of such problems, but to ensure that our institutional responses reflect an acceptance of the depth of their roots.

BASIC PROBLEMS OF THE CRIMINAL JUDICIAL SYSTEM OF INDIA : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- There are crores of pending cases . Approximately 4.4 crore cases are pending before the judiciary. This is the biggest problem . It can be tackled by setting up new courts and with the appointments of new judges. A central level Judicial services may be considered in this regard. Today Current Affairs
- Present day justice mechanisms are too tough and it is completely far from the marginalized people . As Amartya Sen said, our justice system follows a transcendental institutionalist approach where the focus is on getting the institutional arrangements right without regard to the world that emerges from such arrangement. In such a world, where the focus has been upon institution building rather than capacity building, marginalization of vulnerable sections of society is inevitable. It can be resolved by providing quick and sufficient financial assistance to marginalized people. A trust coefficient for the Indian Judicial system among the marginalized and common people must be raised.
- One of the biggest problems of the Indian Criminal judicial system is the problem of abuse of power by the police. The police structure and the laws are of colonial period which were formed to strengthen colonialism but after the independence, minor change in Indian police system shows the inactivism of our lawmakers regarding the criminal Judicial system. In contrast, police are continuously acquiring more and more power on the grounds of prevention laws . Our stress on crime control values too promotes such abuse of power. There are several examples – like in the case of Ashish Mishra , an accused of murder of the farmers , several impose of UAPA, however nominal conviction rate . These things reduce the credibility of the police . Therefore , our government and civil societies should work together to reduce such anomalies. The Hindu Analysis
- There are many Diversionary principles in the treatment of offenders which have not been materialized . However there are several Law Commissions and committees which have recommended non-custodial measures of punishment of offenders, these are yet to be translated into practice. . Generally the Government thinks that custodial punishments are a more effective measure. However , instead of custodial punishment social and economical, restrictions may be another alternative. The Hindu Analysis
- There is the efficiency of the accurate data sponsored by the state . The National Crime Records Bureau's data mark the extent of such data collection and analysis. But the procedure of method and collecting data can be criticized on multiple grounds . therefore an relieve institute must be setup in this regard

TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Conclusion

As per the above discussion, it may be concluded that there are many flaws in the Indian Criminal judicial system which must be considered to reform rather than to accommodate with it. Intellectuals and the thinkers of India must raise this issue and pressurize our legislature to bring reforms in the Indian police structure and rule . On the grounds of prevention act , discretionary powers of the police must be stopped. Judiciary is the most important pillar of Indian democracy. Credibility of the judicial system must be experienced by the common people . for small political benefits the important pillar of democracy and the state (Justice) must not be influenced .

Dr. Anshul Bajpai

