



2022



YOJNA IAS

WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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15/08/2022 TO 21/08/2022

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CURRENT AFFAIRS

AUGUST 2022



Chronic fatigue syndrome and euthanasia



- Recently, a petition has been filed in the Delhi High Court to prevent a person suffering from Chronic Fatigue Syndrome since 2014 from going to Europe for medical assisted euthanasia.

Chronic fatigue syndrome

- It is a serious and debilitating disease that affects the nervous system, the immune system and the body's energy production system.
- Also known as “myalgic encephalomyelitis”.
- Possible consequences are viral or bacterial infections, hormonal imbalances and genetic defects.
- It can affect anyone from children to adults.

Symptoms:

- Illness causes a significant decrease in the ability to work.

- The condition becomes more severe if this type of fatigue or debilitating illness lasts more than 6 months.
- The most recognizable symptom is post-exercise malaise (PEM).
- Feeling “depleted” in physical/mental energy even after minor activities like simple petty shopping or brushing teeth.

Other symptoms:

- Trouble sleeping, difficulty thinking, memory or concentrating, dizziness/lightheadedness, headache, muscle aches, joint pain, flu-like symptoms, tender lymph nodes, and digestive problems.

Remedy:

- There is no specific type of test available for CFS disease, so it is diagnosed on the basis of symptoms, for this blood and urine tests may also have to be done.
- Doctors have described ways of dealing with disease symptoms such as “pacing” in which patients learn to balance rest and activity to prevent accidents caused by exertion.

Euthanasia:

- Euthanasia is the practice of ending the patient’s life in order to limit the suffering of the patient (the patient in question will usually be mentally ill or experiencing great pain and suffering).

Type:

Active Euthanasia:

- ‘Active euthanasia’ is a situation when a person (patient) seeking euthanasia is assisted in this act, such as injecting poison, etc. It is also sometimes called “invasive” euthanasia.

Passive Euthanasia:

- Willfully allowing the patient to die by stopping artificial life support.

Voluntary Euthanasia:

- With the consent of the patient.

Involuntary euthanasia:

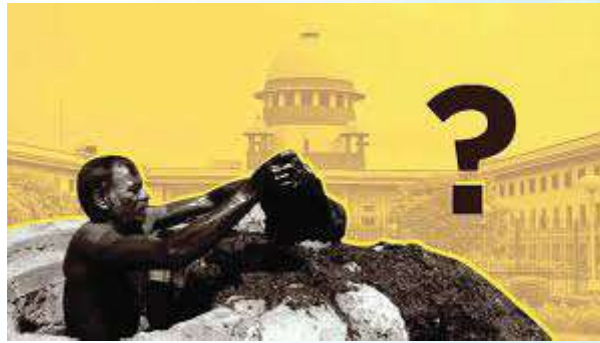
- Without the patient's consent, for example if the patient is unconscious and his wishes are unknown.

Legal Provisions in India:

- In 1994, the Supreme Court of India in *Gyan Kaur v State of Punjab* held that both suicide and euthanasia were illegal.
- The 'right to life' does not include the right to death. It therefore set aside the decision of a two-judge bench in *P. Rathinam v. Union of India* which held section 309 (attempt to commit suicide) of the Indian Penal Code as unconstitutional.
- In 2011, in *Aruna Ramchandra Shanbaug v Union of India*, the Supreme Court held that passive euthanasia can be allowed in exceptional circumstances and under the strict supervision of the apex court.
- In the year 2018, the Supreme Court declared the right to die with dignity as a fundamental right, allowing passive euthanasia in the country.

Swadeep Kumar

Manual scavenging



- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJ&E) is preparing to conduct a nationwide survey to enumerate all sanitation workers engaged in cleaning sewers and septic tanks.

Key points:

- This census is part of the National Action Plan for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem (Namaste) scheme and will be conducted in 500 AMRUT (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation) cities
- It will replace the Self-Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS) introduced in 2007 with its merger.
- Program Monitoring Units (PMUs) will be set up for 500 AMRUT cities under the exercise.
- Once this exercise is completed in 500 cities, it will be expanded across the country to enable them to easily access government benefits such as upskilling and loans and capital subsidies.

Namaste scheme:

- It was launched in July 2022.
- Namaste scheme jointly launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and MoSJ&E, aims to eradicate unsafe sewer and septic tank cleaning practices.

Purpose:

- Zero deaths in sewage cleaning in India.
- All cleaning work should be done by skilled workers.
- No sanitation workers came in direct contact with human excreta.
- Safai Karyakartas are mobilized into Self Help Groups (SHGs) and empowered to run sanitation enterprises.
- Strong supervision and monitoring system at National, State and Urban Local Body (ULB) levels to ensure enforcement and monitoring of safe cleaning operations.
- Raising awareness among sanitation service seekers (individuals and institutions) to avail services from registered and skilled sanitation workers.

Calculation Required:

- A minimum of 351 deaths have occurred in manual scavenging since 2017.
- It aims to streamline the process of rehabilitation of Safai Karamcharis.
- This will make it easier for them to access government benefits such as upskilling and loans and capital subsidies.
- To link the empaneled sanitation workers with the Swachh Udyami Yojana, through which the workers themselves will be the owners of the cleaning machines and the government will ensure that work is available at the municipal level.
- Swachh Udyami Yojana has twin objectives – to provide livelihood to sanitation and sanitation workers and to free manual scavengers to achieve the overall goal of “Swachh Bharat Abhiyan”.

Manual Scavenging:

- Manual Scavenging or manual scavenging is defined as “the removal of

human excreta from public roads and dry latrines, cleaning of septic tanks, drains and sewers”.

- India banned the practice under the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 (PEMSR).
- The Act prohibits any person from manual scavenging, carrying, disposing of or otherwise disposing of human excreta in any manner.
- The Act recognizes manual scavenging as an “inhuman practice”.

Major reasons for manual scavenging currently in use:

Indifferent attitude:

- In many independent surveys, the lack of proactiveness on the part of the state governments in curbing this practice is seen and this practice is prevalent only under their supervision.

Issues arising due to outsourcing:

- At times, local bodies delegate sewer cleaning works to private contractors. However, many of those contractors do not provide proper equipment and sanitation resources for the sanitation workers.
- In case of death of workers due to suffocation, these contractors deny any relation with the deceased.

Social issue:

- This practice is inspired by the division of caste, class and income.
- It is linked to the caste system of India where the so called lower castes are expected to do this work.
- In 1993, India banned the employment of people as manual scavengers (The Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993), however, the stigma and discrimination still associated with it has sustained.

- This makes it difficult for manual scavengers to secure alternative livelihoods.

Enforcement and shortage of unskilled workers:

- The lack of implementation of the Act and exploitation of unskilled laborers is still prevalent in India.

Steps taken to tackle the problem of manual scavenging:

The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation (Amendment) Bill, 2020:

- It proposes to completely mechanize sewer cleaning, introduce 'on-site' protection methods and provide compensation to manual scavengers in case of sewer deaths.
- It will amend the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013.
- However, it has not yet received the approval of the cabinet.

Prohibition of Employment of Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013:

- The 2013 Act, replacing the 1993 Act, outlaws all manual scavenging cleaning of insanitary latrines, open drains, or pits, in addition to a ban on dry latrines.

Construction and Maintenance of Insanitary Toilets Act 2013:

- It outlaws the construction or maintenance of insanitary latrines, and the hiring of anyone to do manual scavenging, as well as dangerous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks.
- It also provides a constitutional obligation to provide alternative employment and other assistance to manual scavengers as compensation for historical injustice and humiliation.

Prevention of Atrocities Act

- In 1989, the Prevention of Atrocities Act became an integrated measure for sanitation workers, as more than 90% of the manual scavengers belonged to the Scheduled Castes. This has proved to be an important milestone in freeing manual scavengers from specified traditional occupations.

SafaiMitra Safety Challenge:

- It was launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in the year 2020 on World Toilet Day (November 19).
- Challenge for all was launched by the government in April 2021 to mechanize sewer-cleaning for all states. Along with this, if a person needs to enter the sewer line in case of unavoidable emergency, he should be provided with proper equipment/material and oxygen cylinder etc.

‘Swachhta Abhiyan App’:

- It has been developed to identify and geotag the data of insanitary latrines and manual scavengers so that insanitary latrines can be replaced with sanitary latrines and rehabilitated to provide dignity of life to all manual scavengers can go.

Supreme Court’s decision:

- A Supreme Court order in 2014 made it mandatory for the government to identify all those who died in sewage works since 1993 and to pay Rs 10 lakh as compensation to each person’s family.

Conclusion:

- Swachh Bharat Mission has been identified as a top priority area by the 15th Finance Commission and the funds available for smart cities and urban development provide a strong opportunity to address the problem of manual scavenging.
- To address the social sanction behind manual scavenging, it is necessary

to first acknowledge and then understand how and why manual scavenging continues in the caste system.

- The state and society need to take active interest in this issue and make a proper assessment and look into all possible options to end this practice later.

Swadeep Kumar

A Humble tribute to Atal Bihari Vajpayee: An Architect of Suraj (Good Governance)

Context: On 16th Aug, the nation is paying its humble tribute to the great leader of Indian politics Atal Bihari Vajpayee on his fourth death anniversary

Introduction: Atal Bihari Vajpayee, ex-prime minister of India and a great leader of Indian politics who had set some values for Indian politics. He had been the only leader of Indian politics who had never compromised with his political and ethical values on the coast of the political benefits. He always believed in the sanctity of political tools. Once he had to resign from the prime ministership and he could not manage only one vote in Loksabha because he did not accept unethical means of politics.

Biography of Atal Bihari Vajpayee

Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the first noncongress prime minister. Before being prime minister, he served as the foreign minister during Morar Ji Desai. He founded a new political party Bhartiya Janta Party in 1980 and challenged the political monopoly of the congress and finally, he succeeded to form a government in 1996 first time

Achievement of Atal Bihari Bajpai

However, he launched many projects for the well-being of this country. But among his all project, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana and the National Highways Development Project were two significant projects.

During his period, the 86th constitutional amendment was brought through

which the right to education was given to every child before 14 years (A new article 21 A was added). The Vajpayee government launched the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan campaign. He knew the importance of primary education for the development of any nation

The Golden Quadrilateral connected four meteors Delhi, Bombay, Kolkata, and Chennai through highways. For increasing the investment in the development of the country, he also prompted privatization. therefore he formed a department under the ministry of finance (De investment Department). For smooth public transport, he launched the Delhi metro. Nowadays, Delhi Metro has become the lifeline of the citizen of the Delhi

One of the most important achievements of Atal Bihari Vajpayee during his career was the nuclear testing in Pokhran. After that, India has been also declared nuclear power.

Atal Bihari Vajpayee gave the slogan for the country- Jai jawan, Jai Kishan, and Jai Vigyan. During his period the telecom sector also developed rapidly because he opened the door for foreign investment in the telecom sector also

Conclusion

As per the above discussion, Atal Bihar Vajpayee was one of the greatest prime ministers. Who lead the foundation of a new era of scientific development in India. During his time a Kargil war was fought and he showed the world that India believes in nonviolence but India is not a coward and India's army threw the infiltrators out of the territory of India. He was the only prime minister who always maintained the dignity and purity of Indian politics. He followed the high values of the ethics of politics

Anshul

Lake Garda: Italy



- Italy's worst drought has caused the country's largest Lake Garda to reach its lowest water level in decades.
- As a result, underwater rocks became visible and the water temperature warmed to the average temperature of the Caribbean Sea.

Garda Lake

- Northern Italy has received very little rainfall for months, and snowfall has decreased by 70% in 2022, drying up important rivers such as the Po, which flow through Italy's agricultural and industrial regions.
- The dry condition of Italy's longest river, the Po, caused billions of euros in damage to farmers who usually depend on it to irrigate their fields and paddy.
- Authorities allowed more water from Lake Garda to flow into local rivers to make up for the damage.
- But at the end of July 2022, they reduced the amount for the lake and its associated economically important tourism.
- The lake came to its lowest level with a large amount of water diverted to the rivers.

Drought

- Drought is generally thought of as a decrease in rainfall/precipitation over an extended period, usually one season or more, resulting in water scarcity that adversely affects vegetation, animals and/or people.

Type:

Meteorological Drought:

- It is based on the degree of dryness or lack of rainfall and the long dry spell.

Hydrological Drought:

- It is based on the effect of rainfall deficit on water supply such as stream flow, reservoir and lake levels and decline in groundwater level.

Agricultural Drought:

- It refers to the impact on agriculture by factors such as lack of rainfall, lack of water in the soil, low ground water level or the level of reservoir required for irrigation.

Socio-economic drought

- It considers the effect of drought conditions (meteorological, agricultural, or hydrological droughts) on the supply and demand for certain economic goods, such as fruits, vegetables, grains, and meats.

Cause:

- Variability in rainfall is a major cause of drought. The percentage of variability is inversely proportional to the total rainfall.
- Deviation in the course of monsoon winds, or early withdrawal of monsoon, can also create drought conditions in an area.
- Drought can also occur due to forest fire, due to which the soil of that area becomes unsuitable for agriculture and at the same time there is a shortage of water in the soil.
- In addition to climate change, land degradation results in increased

drought.

Solution:

Water management:

- Saving, reusing treated water, rainwater harvesting, desalination or direct use of seawater for salt-loving plants.

Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR):

- Enabling growth of native sprout trees through selective pruning of shrubs.
- Trimmed tree residues can be used to provide mulching for fields, which increases the water retention capacity of the soil and reduces evaporation.

Other Remedies:

- To protect the soil by fencing for soil protection from sand, wind gusts etc.
- Need for enrichment and over-fertilization of soil.
- Using water-efficient irrigation equipment such as micro and drip irrigation, soccer hose systems, etc.

Government of India Initiatives:

- Integrated Feed Management Program
- National Mission on Green India

Desert Development Programme:

- It was started in the year 1995 to reduce the adverse effects of drought and rejuvenate the natural resource base of the marked desert areas.

Swadeep Kumar

Gang rape: Supreme Court



- Recently, a petition has been filed in the Supreme Court by a 29-year-old man serving life sentence for the gang rape of a nine-year-old girl in Maharashtra.
- The Supreme Court will examine the validity of a law that gives either life imprisonment or death sentence to a person convicted of gang rape of a child under the age of 12 without giving him an opportunity to atone for the crime or make amends.

Issues highlighted in the petition:

Restricting Judge's Choices:

- It argued that Section 376DB of the Indian Penal Code (gang rape of a child below 12 years of age) limited the options available to trial judges to either punishment for the remainder of the person's life or the death penalty.
- However, a minimum, compulsory punishment has been provided under the provision of life imprisonment.

Discrepancy prevailing in the year 2018 amendment:

- The petitioner further argued that there is an anomaly in the penal system created through the criminal amendments made in August 2018.
- Section 376DB was introduced in the year 2018 when the penal code was amended to provide for harsher punishment for the offense of rape.

Arbitrary:

- Whereas in Section 376-AB, a person convicted of raping a girl below the age of 12 years had a provision of imprisonment of not less than 20 years.
- Whereas Section 376-DB provides for a mandatory minimum sentence of life imprisonment for every person involved in the gang-rape of a girl below the age of 12 years.
- Both the sections provide for the death penalty as the maximum punishment.
- This life imprisonment without remission can mean 60-70 years in jail for a person who is less than 20 years of age.

Violation of Right to Life:

- Section 376DB did not give any option to the lower court except the higher punishment of life imprisonment or death sentence.
- The petition argued that Section 376DB violates Article 21 (right to life) and Article 14 (right to equality) of the Constitution.

Global Scenario:

- Given the global context of the issue, the European Court of Human Rights in *Winter v. United Kingdom* ruled that life imprisonment without a real possibility of parole was a violation of Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights.
- It was held that life imprisonment could not be treated as punishment only because they did not provide any opportunity of atonement to the prisoner and such sentences were inconsistent with respect for human dignity.
- The United States Supreme Court held that the inconsistent sentence in extreme cases violated the Eighth Amendment, which prohibits cruel and unusual punishment to the US Constitution.

Approach of the Supreme Court:

- The Supreme Court has already quashed the compulsory death penalty

as unconstitutional and therefore called for consideration of this question.

- Further, it asked the petitioner along with an Additional Solicitor General to make written submissions and proposals on the issue.

Historical perspective:

- In 1983, in *Mithu v. Punjab*, the Supreme Court ruled that Section 303 of the IPC was unconstitutional to the extent that a person who committed murder while serving a sentence of life imprisonment in any other case would be given compulsory death sentence.
- Section 303 mandates that the Supreme Court should not impose any punishment other than the death penalty in such cases.

Swadeep Kumar

The Role of Subhash Chandra Bose in National Movement: An Analysis

Context : Today, we are paying our humble tribute to our great freedom fighter Subhash Chandra Bose on the occasion of his 77th death anniversary. This day is celebrated as the Netaji Diwash.

Introduction

Subhash Chandra Bose was one of the most prominent freedom fighters of India. He was not only a freedom fighter of India but he is a good leader of congress also. However he had a different opinion from Mahatma Gandhi on some issues but he respected Gandhiji and in his first speech delivered from Singapore, he called Gandhi the Father of the nation “Bapu”.

Subhash Bose preferred any tools through which the freedom of India could win irrespective of the sanctity of those tools. But Gandhi believed in the sanctity of the tools always. Gandhi did not want to take any support from

Nazi Germany and fascist Italy to defeat British because of the racist and despotic nature of both countries

After the Civil disobedience movement, Subhash rose as the unanimously accepted leader of the congress. This was the time when the stature of Subhash seemed larger than the stature of Gandhiji. In the presidential election of congress in 1939, he successfully defeated the Gandhi-supported candidate Pattabhisita Rammiya. However, he could not complete his tenure because of the resignations of many leaders from the working committee of congress. And Subhash realized that he could not work independently inside the congress without the support of Gandhian leaders, therefore he also resigned and formed his own political party inside the congress – Forward Block.

Biography of Subhash

Subhash was born in Cuttack on 23rd Jan 1897 in an elite family. The birth anniversary of Subhash is also celebrated as the Parakram Diwash. He took the civil services exams and got selection but he did not join and resigned. He joined congress in 1921 and participated in Non-cooperation Movement. He openly criticized the decision of Gandhiji regarding the withdrawal of the Non-Cooperation Movement . he called Gandhi Ji a Betrayer. He was elected the congress president in 1938 and once again he was reelected as the president of the congress in 1939. with the support of the enemies of Britain in the second world war, he wanted to fight for the liberation of India. He reorganized the Indian National Army and he also formed the Free government of India in exile. The axis powers (Japan, Germany, and Italy) recognized the government of India in exile .he established the headquarter of the INA at Rangoon. He formed three Brigades of INA- Gandhi, Nehru, and Subhash brigade. This shows that despite being the difference in the ideologies of Gandhi and Nehru, Subhash respected both.

Ideology of Subhash

Subhash was an extremist and he believed in socialism. The tools of the Subhash were similar tools of Karl Marx. He has influenced Lenin also and he also want to liberate India through violent means. But here it should not be understood, he was on the same path which was adopted by Bhagat Singh-

type revolutionaries. He also wanted to make people aware first that political tools should be used against British rule. He also believes in mass protest. He was the core supporter of complete freedom. During the proposal of the Nehru Report, he openly condemned the demand of the dominion status of India. Here he got the support from Jawahar Lal Nehru.

In 1939, he also wanted to launch a big mass protest against British rule but Gandhiji was not ready because Gandhi Ji was doubtful regarding the support of the masses and the mass protest would be interpreted by the British rule as a pro-Racist protest. On this issue, he left the congress

Gandhi, Nehru, and Subhash: A comparative analysis

Gandhi, Nehru, and Subhash, all wanted to liberate India but both had different tools to liberate India. Gandhi believed in the sanctity of the tools and in his view, the achievement would be long-lasting if the tools are pure and sanctified. while Subhash believed in achievement, he was ready to use any tools to get success. All these three were socialist. Gandhi believed in the concept of Sarvodaya. Through trusteeship, he wanted to bring equality. While Nehru and Subhash believed the existence of the classes. Subhash believed in class struggle and through violent means, he propagated to establish socialism. Nehru wanted to establish socialism through non-violent means. through political reforms, social could be established.

Conclusion

As per the above discussion, it is clear that Subhash was agreed with Gandhi and Nehru up to a certain extent. The ideology of the Subhash was not quite different from the ideology of Gandhi and Nehru. Subhash also loved Gandhi and Nehru. Despite having ideological differences Subhash also moved on the path of freedom of India shown by the Gandhiji. This is the day today we should pay our humble tribute to a great leader of India

Anshul

Free Period Product: Scotland



- Scotland has become the first nation in the world to legally protect the right to access free period products and to make period products free to all by passing the Period Products Act.
- Period Poverty occurs when low-income people cannot afford or access essential period product/s (such as tampons, sanitary pads, etc.).

Scotland's Initiative

- Under the Period Products Act, schools, colleges and universities, as well as local government bodies, must provide a variety of period products in their bathrooms for free.
- Every council in Scotland is required to work with local communities to determine the best access point for menstrual/period products.

Accessibility:

- The mobile phone app (PickUpMyPeriod) also helps people find the nearest location such as a local library or community center where they can get period products.
- Period products will be available in libraries, swimming pools, public gyms, community buildings, town halls, pharmacies and doctor's offices.

Status of Menstrual Hygiene in India:

According to a study by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in the year 2011:

- Only 13% of girls in India are aware of menstruation before menstruation.
- 60% of girls drop out of school because of menstruation.
- 79% faced low self-confidence due to menstruation and 44% were embarrassed

and humiliated by restrictions.

- Menstruation adversely affects women's education, equality, maternal and child health.

National Family Health Survey 5:

Use of period products in women aged 15-24 years:

- In seventeen states and union territories 90% or more of women use period products.
- The share of women using period products in Puducherry and Andaman and Nicobar Islands was 99%.
- Tripura, Chhattisgarh, Assam, Gujarat, Meghalaya, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar – 70% or less of women use period products.
- Bihar is the only state where the figure of less than 60 percent has been recorded.

The top three states that reported an increase in women's use of period products from NFHS 4 to NFHS 5:

- Bihar: 90%
- Odisha: 72%
- Madhya Pradesh: 61%

Government of India Initiative for Menstrual Hygiene:

Cleanliness plan:

- Shuchi Yojana aims at creating awareness about menstrual hygiene among adolescent girls.
- It was launched in 2013-14 initially in a centrally sponsored form.
- However, the Center asked the states to take over the scheme from 2015-16.

Menstrual Hygiene Plan:

- Menstrual Hygiene Scheme 2011 focused on promoting menstrual hygiene among adolescent girls (10-19 years) in rural areas of selected districts.

Sabla Program:

- It was implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

- It focuses on nutrition, health, hygiene and reproductive and sexual health.

National Rural Livelihood Mission:

- It helps self-help groups and small manufacturers to manufacture sanitary pads.

Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and Swachh Bharat: Swachh Vidyalaya (SB:SV):

- Menstrual hygiene management is also an integral part of the Swachh Bharat Mission.

Guidelines for Gender Issues in Sanitation (2017):

- These have been developed by the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation to ensure gender equality and empowerment of women and girls with regard to sanitation.
- Safe and effective menstrual hygiene management is an essential component for better and stronger development of adolescent girls and women.

National Guidelines on Menstrual Hygiene Management:

- It was released by the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation in the year 2015.
- It addresses every component of menstrual hygiene, including raising awareness, driving behavior change, increasing demand for better hygiene products, and capacity building.

Conclusion:

- Government of India should also consider Scotland's point of view and provide period product or at reasonable price/discount.
- Government can also promote small scale sanitary pad manufacturing units to make low cost pads more easily available, this will also help in income generation for women.
- The government needs to provide directed efforts for awareness and education about menstrual and menstrual hygiene, and access to safe products, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure.
- Although menstrual health cannot be achieved through government efforts alone, community and family level interventions are necessary as a social issue.

Swadeep Kumar

Visit of Gabon Delegation to India



- Recently a delegation from Gabon visited India and interacted with the Indian business community, also India congratulated Gabon on its Independence Day (17 August).
- Earlier, the Vice President of India visited Gabon, where he signed two MoUs.

What are MoUs:

- Establishment of a Joint Commission between the Governments of India and Gabon.
- Diplomatic Training Institute, Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Services and Gabonese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- India signed to work with Gabon to strengthen cooperation in various fields at the bilateral, regional and multilateral levels.

India-Gabon Partnership:

Diplomatic:

- India and Gabon have had cordial and friendly relations since the pre-independence era of Gabon.
- The former Vice President of India visited the African nation of Gabon in May 2022, which was India's first high-level visit to Gabon.
- Both India and Gabon currently serve as non-permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

Trade and commerce:

- Bilateral trade between the two countries has reached US\$ 1.12 billion in the year 2021-22.
- India is the second largest destination for exports from Gabon.
- In the business sector, more than 50 Indian companies are engaged in the Gabon

Special Economic Zones.

Cooperation on International Forum:

- Both India and Gabon are members of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).
- NAM focuses on contemporary mainstream issues of relevance to the developing world.
- Gabon supports India's interests in various international fora.
- India congratulated Gabon on being elected as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council for the period 2022-23.
- India has supported the Azulwini consensus and the position of ordinary Africans enshrined in the Sirte Declaration.
- The Azulwini Consensus is an agreement on the reform of international relations and the United Nations, agreed upon by the African Union.
- It calls for a more representative and democratic Security Council, in which Africa is represented, like other countries of the world.
- Sirte Declaration (1999), was a resolution adopted to establish the African Union.

International Solar Alliance:

- Gabon is one of the first countries to sign and ratify the International Solar Alliance Agreement.
- India has assured to provide all possible help to Gabon to achieve its renewable energy goals.
- Gabon plans to achieve 100% clean energy by 2030.

Education:

- Many Gabon citizens follow scholarship/training programs offered by India under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) and ICCR schemes.

Energy Cooperation:

- India imported crude oil worth about US\$ 670 million from Gabon in the year 2021-22, making it an important partner for India's energy security requirement.

Indian Diaspora:

- The people of the Indian community are basically engaged in infrastructure proj-

ects, trade, export of wood and metal scrap.

- The Indian diaspora is making significant contributions to various areas of Gabon.
- The Indian community in Gabon has kept Indian culture alive and major Indian festivals are celebrated together by the entire community.

Conclusion

- There is a need to enhance India-Gabon cooperation in other areas such as green energy, services, health and agriculture.
- Both countries should widen their economic partnership to attract investments.
- There is immense potential for cooperation in agriculture such as knowledge transfer in the agricultural sector from India to Gabon.

Swadeep Kumar

Historical Significance of Krishna Janmashthami



Context: Today, the famous Hindu festival Janmashthami is being celebrated by Hindus across the world. This festival is being celebrated in Islamic countries like Pakistan, Bangladesh, UAE, etc by Hindu communities as well as in many European countries.

Introduction

Krishna Janmashthami has celebrated as f the Birth date of the lord Krishna, the incarnation of Vishnu. The worship of the lord Krisha has been practiced for 3-4th century BC. The birthplace of the Krishna is considered Mathura, one of the important Mahanpada existing during the 6th century BC. As per the mythology, Krishna took birth for the elimination of evil and demons and the re-establishment of righteousness (Dharma). In

Bhagwat Gita, it has been clearly described that

Yada Yada hi Dhramasya Glanir bhavata bharata

Abhyusthanamadharsa tadatmanam srijamyham

Paritranaya cha Sadhunam Vinashaya cha drshkritam

Dharma Sansthananrthaya Sambhavani Yuge Yuge

History of the lord Krishna

Lord Krishna is described as the disciple of the sage Ghor Angiras as per the Chandogya Upanishad. In this Upanishad, lord Krishna is described as the Vrishni tribe who were pastorals. During the Kushan period, many sculptures related to lord Krishna have been received from the Mount of Mathura (khinkali Teela). The Vasu Doorjamb Inscription is an early 1st-century CE Sanskrit inscription in Brahmi script dedicated to the deity Vāsudeva, related to the Vaishnavism tradition of Hinduism. Mathura was the center of the Jain culture also

There are descriptions of the punch Vrishniveer in the inscription (Besnagar Inscription). The tribe of Vrishni is also known as Asthdyayi of Panini. The cult of the Vrishni heroes existed as an independent cult in Mathura. As per the Mora well inscription **Punch, vrashniveers** are worshiped by a particular clan.

The Vrishni heroes are generally identified as

1. Vasudeva- Son of the Devaki and Baasudeva
2. Sankarshan – Son of Rohini and Vasudeva. He is also known as the Balrama or Haldhara (Representing the significance of agriculture)
3. Praduman- Son of basudeva Krisna and rukmini
4. Samba – Son of vasudeva and Jamvanti
5. Aniruddh – Son of Pradyumna

Historical Significance of the Lord Krishna

The incarnations of the Vishnu explain about the gradual development of the socio-cultural milieu. Krishna is described as the 9th incarnation of Vishnu who believed in diplomacy. For the victory and political success, Krishna supported the diplomatic tools(Unrighteousness tools, and in many places Krishna violated the rules of the war). In fact, it explains the political milieu of 6-5th century BC when the various states were emerging and conflicting and merging with each other.

Conclusion

As per the above discussion, it is almost clear that the Krishna Janmasthan festival is not a new festival but it has been celebrated in India for hundreds of years not only in northern India but also in southern India. During the Chola period, many copper sculptures of Krishna are recovered from the Chola dynasty. However Chola kings were the followers of Shaivites but still, the sculptures of Krishna explain the historical significance of Janmashtami. In India, every festival giving some messages to the world is celebrated. This festival also gives a message to the world that the end of evils is inevitable.

Anshul

Resolve to make India a developed country



- Recently, in his Independence Day speech, the Prime Minister has set a target of completing Pancha Prana by the year 2047 (when India's independence will be 100 years old).
- The first resolution is to make India a developed country in the next 25 years.
- The remaining pledges for the year 2047 are – eradication of traces of slavery, taking pride in our heritage, ensuring unity in diversity and performing civic duties.

Developed country:

- A developed country is industrialized, with a higher quality of life, a developed economy, and advanced technological infrastructure relative to

less industrialized nations.

- Whereas developing countries are those which are in the process of industrialization or pre-industrial and are almost entirely agricultural.

The most common criteria for evaluating the amount of economic growth are:

Gross Domestic Product (GDP):

- Gross Domestic Product (GDP) or the monetary value of all goods and services produced in a country in a year.
- Countries with high GDP and per capita income (the amount of earned income per capita) are considered developed.

Dominance of Tertiary and IV Sectors:

- Countries that are dominated by the tertiary (companies providing services such as entertainment, financial and retailers) and the fourth sector of industry (knowledge-based activities such as information technology, research and development, as well as consulting services and education) to develop them. as has been described.

Post-Industrial Economy:

- In addition, developed countries generally have more advanced industrial economies, which means that the service sector provides more wealth than the industrial sector.

Human Development Index:

- Other parameters are infrastructure measurements, general standard of living and the Human Development Index (HDI).
- Since the HDI focuses on indices of life expectancy and education, and does not take into account factors such as per capita net wealth or relative quality of goods in a country.
- This is why some of the most advanced countries including G7 members (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, UK, US and EU) and others do not perform very well in HDI and countries like Switzerland are high in HDI.

Definition of developed country:

- There is no unanimous definition of a developed country.
- Agencies such as the United Nations, the World Bank, the World Trade Organization and the World Economic Forum use their indicators to classify developed and developing countries.
- For example, the United Nations classifies countries into low, low-middle, upper-middle and high-income countries.
- This classification is based on the per capita Gross National Income (GNI) of a country.
- Low-income economy: up to \$1,085 per capita GNI
- Lower middle-income: GNI per capita of up to \$4,255
- Upper-middle-income: \$13,205 GNI per capita
- High-income economy: GNI per capita above \$13,205

Opposed to the United Nations Classification:

- The UN classification is not very accurate as it focuses on limited analytical value. Due to which only the top three countries – US, UK and Norway – are classified as developed countries.
- Whereas, there are about 31 developed countries, and remaining 17 (excluding transitional economies) are designated as developing countries.
- In the case of China, the country's per capita income is closer to that of Norway than to Somalia.
- China's per capita income is 26 times that of Somalia while Norway's is almost seven times that of China, but still, it has got the tag of a developing country.
- On the other hand, countries like Ukraine, which has a per capita GNI of \$4,120 (one third of China), are designated as transition economies (instead of a developed nation).

India's position:

- India is currently far behind developed countries as well as some developing countries.
- India is the sixth largest economy in terms of GDP but India lags behind Bangladesh in terms of per capita income.
- Furthermore, China's per capita income is 5.5 times that of India and nearly 33 times that of the UK.
- To map this inequality and compare it with scores from India and other countries, we look at the Human Development Index (HDI),
- India's performance has been very good.
- Life expectancy at birth in India has increased from about 40 years in 1947 to about 70 years now.
- India has also made considerable progress in the enrollment of education at all the three levels of primary, secondary and tertiary.
- India needs to increase per capita income to be called a developed country because people as a unit matter more.
- Inequality in per capita income is often reflected in the overall quality of life in different countries.

Areas of lack of progress in India:

- According to the 2018 Diagnostic Report on India by the World Bank, despite being the third largest economy in terms of purchasing power parity, most Indians are still relatively poor compared to people from other middle-income or wealthy countries.
- The consumption level of about 10% of Indians exceeds the commonly used limit of US\$10 per day (PPP) expenditure for the global middle class.
- In addition, other groups such as the food share of consumption suggest that even rich households in India must see a substantial expansion of their total consumption to reach the level of poor households in rich countries.

India to achieve the goal of a developed country by 2047:

- According to a 2018 World Bank report, by 2047, the centenary of its independence, at least half of its citizens could join the ranks of the global middle class.
- This would mean that households would have access to better education and health care, clean water, better sanitation, reliable electricity, a safer environment, affordable housing and enough discretionary income to spend on leisure activities.
- In addition, the report significantly improved public service delivery along with preconditions for income above the extreme poverty line.

Achievements of India since Independence:

Gross Domestic Product (GDP):

- India's GDP increased from Rs 2.79 lakh crore in the year 1950-51 to an estimated Rs 147.36 lakh crore in the year 2021-22.
- India's economy currently stands at US\$ 3.17 trillion, which is expected to become the world's fifth largest economy in the year 2022.

Foreign currency:

- India's foreign exchange reserves have increased from Rs 911 crore in the year 1950-51 to Rs 45,42,615 crore in the year 2022.
- India now has the fifth largest foreign exchange reserves in the world.

Food production:

- India's food grain production has increased from 50.8 million tonnes in 1950-51 to 316.06 million tonnes now.
- Literacy Rate:
- Literacy rate has also increased from 18.3% in the year 1951 to 78%. The female literacy rate has increased from 8.9% to over 70%.

Swadeep Kumar

FIFA ban on India



- Recently the Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) suspended the country's top administrative organization All India Football Federation (AIFF) for undue influence by third parties.
- This suspension took away from the country the right to organize the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup 2022 to be held from October 11-30.

FIFA:

- FIFA or Fédération Internationale de Football Association is the highest governing body of football in the world.
- It is the international governing body of association football, futsal and beach soccer.
- FIFA is a non-profit organization.
- Founded in the year 1904, FIFA was launched to monitor international competition between the national federations of Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland. FIFA now consists of 211 member states.
- Its headquarter is in Zurich.

Purpose:

- The primary objective of FIFA is to spread football internationally and to promote integrity and fair play.
- It is responsible for the organization and promotion of international tournaments, including the Men's World Cup that began in 1930 and the Women's World Cup that began in 1991.

- It is affiliated with the International Olympic Committee and is also a member of the Board of the International Football Federation, which is responsible for setting the rules of football.

The six regional associations affiliated with FIFA:

- The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) is the governing body for Asia and Australia
- The Confederation of African Football (CAF) has 56 members,
- The Confederation of North Central American and Caribbean Association Football (CONCACAF) has 41 members.
- The Confederation of Sudamericana de Ftbol (CONMEBOL) is a 10-member South American federation,
- The Oceania Football Federation (OFC) has 14 members, including New Zealand,
- The Federation of European Football Federations (UEFA) is the governing body for Europe with 55 members.

All India Football Federation (AIFF):

- The All India Football Federation (AIFF) is the organization that manages the game of football in India.
- It manages the operations of the India national football team and controls the I-League, India's premier domestic club competition, in addition to several other competitions and teams.
- AIFF was established in the year 1937, and gained FIFA affiliation in the year 1948 after India's independence in 1947.
- Presently it has its office in Dwarka, New Delhi. India was one of the founding members of the Asian Football Confederation in the year 1954.

All India Football Federation (AIFF) banned by FIFA:

Reluctance to step down by the President of AIFF'S:

- President Praful Patel, who is also a member of the FIFA Council, has re-

fused to step down as head of football in the country.

- He cited the long-running pandemic with the court case regarding the AIFF constitution.

Third-Party Interference:

- Despite growing concerns about the functioning of the AIFF, the Supreme Court of India intervened and removed Patel from his position.
- Apart from this, the Supreme Court also appointed a Committee of Administrators (COA) to run the AIFF.
- According to FIFA law, member associations should not be subject to legal and political interference in their respective countries.
- Third-party interference refers to a situation in which a FIFA member association fails to remain independent, is co-opted and no longer has control over the organisation.
- In the case of India, the Supreme Court had directed the COA to conduct the AIFF as a case of third party interference.

Meaning of suspension with reference to India:

- This means that India will not participate in any international football match and this applies to all national level team and club teams of each age group in the country.
- The suspension affects international transfers as well as any developmental programs that AIFF officials had or were participating in.
- It means a complete ban on all football related activities outside India.

Possible measures by India to lift the sanctions:

- According to FIFA, in order to lift the ban on the AIFF, it needs to follow the following instructions:
- The mandate of the COA will have to be repealed completely.
- The AIFF administration should once again be made independent in charge of its day-to-day operations.

- The rules and regulations of the AIFF need to be amended on the terms of the policies of FIFA and the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) and its members are elected on the current AIFF membership structures based only on state federations.

Swadeep Kumar

Rajiv Gandhi: The founding father of the Technological era in modern India

Context :

Today, on 20 Aug, our nation is paying humble tribute to Rajiv Gandhi, the founder of the technological revolution in India on his 78th birth anniversary

Introduction :

Rajiv Gandhi, a legend Indian political leader and ex-prime minister of India led the foundation of technological development in India. He was the youngest prime minister of India and He was also awarded Bharat Ratna. During his time, the congress party had won 401 seats in the Loksabha election out of 508 which was the most significant victory with a huge margin (land slide victory) of any political party in the history of India. He served as the prime minister of India from 1984 to 1989

Achievement of Rajiv Gandhi

- Rajiv Gandhi not only led the foundation of technological development in India but he did several drastic reforms in the political system of India. During his time, the voting age was reduced from 21 to 18 (61st constitutional amendment 1989). He also accepted the recommendations of the Balwant Raj Mehta committee and the way for the Panchayati Raj system was paved through 73rd and 74th amendments of the Indian constitution, however, it was passed during the period of Narsimha Rao .
- Through Panchayati Raj System, Rajeev Gandhi wanted to transfer the political power to maximum people up the village level.
- To protect the political party from further defection, the 10th schedule

was inserted in the Indian constitution (52nd constitutional amendment 1985). In fact, through the laws against defection, he wanted to establish purity and ethical values in the Indian political system. However, in modern days defection has become a tradition. Horse trading is now common. through the central agencies, the Government successfully compel the leaders of the opposition political parties to defection

- Rajiv Gandhi is hailed as the 'Father of Information Technology and Telecom Revolution of India'. In fact, he must be said as the architect of digital India. To promote technology, he established the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) in August 1984. After the establishment of C- Dot, we see drastic progress in the telecom sector in India. This institute revolutionized the communication network in the towns and even villages of India. Many PCOs were opened to connect the people from the rest of the world
- The establishment of the MTNL (Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited) was another landmark during the period of Rajiv Gandhi. He appointed Sam Pitroda as an advisor to him. Sam Pitroda brought revolutionary changes in every field telecommunications, water, literacy, immunization, dairy, and oil seeds with the help of technology. India had been connected to the world now
- Rajiv knew the role of education in national development. So he brought National Policy on Education (NPE) in 1986. The object of the NPE was to modernize and expand higher education programs across the country. Many schools, colleges, and universities were opened residential schools called Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas, under the central government, were set up to bring out the best of rural talent. These schools provide free residential education to the children of the village

Conclusion

Rajiv was a visionary leader of India. His achievement in the field of education, political reforms, and education are landmarks in the history of India

Anshul