

IMPORTANT NEWS ARTICLES & EDITORIAL FOR UPSC SATURDAY, 18TH MAY 2024

Edition: Patna (The Hindu & Indian Express)

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TOPICS (CURRENT AFFAIRS)

One Nation One Election

Uniform Civil Code (UCO)
Electoral Bonds
India Middle East Relation
India Maldives Relation



19th May 2024
Time :- 12:30PM - 03:30PM

Free for All Students
Mode : Offline

by B. Pandey Sir

GS-I : Hurdles on path to green

- **RECENT HEATWAVE has reminded us of the** stark risks posed by climate change and highlight the criticality of the efforts taken by the Conference Parties (COP) The World Meteorological Organisation has confirmed that 2023 was the warmest year on record This has brought the food, power and industry, which account for the bulk of carbon emissions India is the third largest carbon-emitting country and power steel cement chemicals, fertiliser and pesticides among heightened schemes.
- **The government has been supporting initiatives** such as the scheme in the renewable energy (RE) sector Launched for manufacturing modules, viability gap funding schemes for offshore wind and battery storage projects, and the Faster Adoption & Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles (FAME) scheme, It has also launched the National Green Hydrogen Mission, made amendments to the Energy Conservation bill, launched green bonds, etc.
- **Though it has not mandated the shift to green technology** yet, some entities are taking voluntary steps and stakeholders have also started asking for the same. During the green transformation, an entity may face several transition risks like policy regulatory, technology, market reputation, legal etc. The technological risk is the many entities will immediately face while taking voluntary steps **HURDLES ON PATH TO GREEN** Government support is critical for technology transition to achieve climate goals **PAPER** Though it has not mandated the shift to green technology yet, some entities are taking voluntary steps and stakeholders have also started asking for the same.
- **During the green transformation, an entity cent in 2022-23 to meet** target of enhancing non-fossil power to 50 per cent by 2030, various schemes have been launched to boost renewable energy KRA projects India to achieve the climate goal with the share of non-fossil fuel based installed capacity overall installed capacity rising from 41 per cent to 59 per cent by 2025-31. However, this transition will need huge investments. We project that India would need an estimated Rs 11-12 lakh crore of investments in RE power until 2030, along with over Rs 5-6 lakh crore towards investment in transmission infrastructure and storage capabilities. **National Aayog** report on cement sector would need two per cent annual capacity will be Rs 1500-1800 million tonnes **CC175** capacity by 2030 **capital** Given the abundance of virgin iron and Lack of domestic scrap, the domestic steel industry overwhelmingly uses coal as a reducing agent, leading it to remain high on the emission curve.
- **However, following India's 2070 net zero target and policies** on carbon tax implemented by some countries, domestic steel **CECILIS** estimates that their carbon footprint is as much as 25-30 makers have sharpened their focus on reducing per cent through various technological interventions by 2030 With the launch of the National Green Hydrogen Mission **lever** of its share The availability of round-the-clock supply Important to achieve the target and given their intermittent generation. This can be made possible through the use of hybrid RE projects (wind and solar) complemented with energy storage systems.
- **For hard to abate sectors like steel and cement, the government needs to** explore more ways of carbon sequestration Installation of carbon capture utilisation and storage (CCUS) will be inevitable water, concrete is the second-most in refining Hydrogen **Maslon**, Green Hydrogen usage is being planned in dining chemical and fertiliser sectors along with transport. The capex for this will be about Rs 1-9 lakh crore: Many Indian entities have launched pilot-scale plans in setting up production facilities for Green Hydrogen/Green Ammonia Several entities in these high-carbon emitting sectors are taking voluntary steps to be Nevertheless, the government's support will be critical to have the come more green technology transition in these hard-to-abate sectors. Such support could come in the form of policy interventions, subsidies duty exemption or tax benefits. Perhaps, this will form part of the policy agenda after the elections.

GS-II : Social justice with growth

- **VOTED TO power the** Congress party has study the of rang noy BCSC and ST 69 per sest higher than the 50 percess onlieng Other large states such as MaharashOdisha and Chhattisgarh have attempted increase meservation be yons 50 per cens but have been restrained by the Supreme Court (NC)bethe 50 pr hadeward cares (OBC)50 cheduled Came ant Scheduled Tribes (ST) in government po stom and colleges. Understandably there is some apprehension about they formI CRAMaining Chayattlan show it has and shert there are the main stand of opposition to this proposal-legal and economic. The men is that reserving more than half the opportunities violates the half the oppor the Putting argument is poses of this Tand spirit. The eco ing positions reserving be a compro pment aside for the puronomic oppostion can be easily doprowed with empirical evidence and examplesTN saned its msevation quota to percent in 1990.
- **In 1992, the SCamposed a 50 percent celing** on all identity-based reservation To protect per ont reservation from the Cruling then IN Chief Minner/Jayavate with the support of them I Narasimha Prame Mininer PV of then President Shankar Dayal Sharma to ensure that TN's reservacion bill is placed under the Ninch Schedule thereby excluding it fromjo dicial review. Thus. Pibecame the lone large state to have gram than 50 per o in IndiaAne measure of GDP IN's higher reservation for oppressed castes clearly does not seem to have hindered its ability to outperform other states with lower reservation One can drill down further to see if.
- **TN's CDP growth is merely a function of** overseaskerala or driven by economic activities of int production from 1993 to In the period from of factiones in TN d and employment 2023, the number the second highest incr after Gujarat, while the number of factories declined in Bhac Investments Sum and small pe sector enterprises in TN were the highexperiments are a busten Jatural experiments are search methodology shady policy changes in mHow did three decades of greater reser vation in Tamil Nadu impact ita economic propesa vis-à-vis other develoument and states?
- **This "runural experiment end tell well to test the critica greater** reservation sacrifices menta tand eff clency which then adversely imparts pri vate sector investment, ecomomil growthDavid The Canadian-American economist David Card won the Nobel Prur in 2021 for ing the impact onemployment of rangmin mum wages by comparing two American neighbourhoods actas the border finneadh state of Tew Jerse other, with the had teen rased, and in the mum wagr the other in the state of Pennsylvania, whereand propriety.est among this group and production in IN Maharashtra TN has the of total worke ers emp states.
- **not only number of most, with wag this period highest** af highest number these aximum then the than in the Reserve ers being neary Maharasherapressed castes des not date merit and his der economic development. Nesther has it scamd away investors torpemeun or work en If anything, it perhaps forces a certain in duivenant of economic growth that mostnations in the world aspire t Fear mongering about slawing down of prapes de toancmased affirma tive action is a lazy neo-classical economic trope. The evidence, at least in the Indian con text dearly damises such fears.
- **One could legitimately whether reservation by it or reven** even the the only c policy One could self is a sufficient even justifiably debate whether "Jitni abadi utnai haq" (nights proportional to population)an achievable goal. But to argue that gmater reservation will impede economic progress evidentially blind

and ideologically biased. in the context of ideas such as wealth and Inheritance taxes. I have argued previously that India can grow the economic pie large and fast enough for everyone to partake and not be trapped in a "Pareto optimum situation like the western developed nations where economic growth is tepid and one group of people cannot be better making off without another group worse off. Hence such "tax the rich ideas are ill-suited for India. Higher reservation for OBCs, SCs and STs need not hinder progress and opportunities still grow large and accommodate all. Bank of India's Annual Handbook of States) India's exponential growth in the global share of electronics and Phones manufacturing. Phones 40 per cent of the debt of India's smart country's electronics production. China alone, further nearly phone exports in from the Kanchipuram in the one district of TN, where one-third of its. Let us compare.



- **TN has the second highest growth in per capita GDP after Karnataka.** On the same point which ever way one analyses the data, clear that TN has trumped most other states in development prosperity and also in the quality of growth. Evidently beyond the 50 per cent reservation ceiling for OBCs. The writer is a member of the Congress and a key member of the Congress in the state.

GS-II : After the civil war, the stifling impasse in Sri Lanka

- **After the civil war, the stifling impasse in Sri Lanka** mano denitis irutch, watobility and r quant furure poètical choces koos lege in the onsen, theby to change the sodit, nonc, and economic werden hau hardly progressed, with subscribes setting hack dre Barthes Fins a polare drugepeopletof the Tamil how jaring the the laland wortsthe way out the Seawar omDerulled reconstructionLang the carperedand the Tamil diapors ben viatg Jatha Tet, beneath this seem peperity just a few strto the cumryode, the treas of the were evident in their despeutin ve emming these challenges, when their fields, home gardens and coconut trees began bearing frutt, Sri Lankai desanded into chvørnlundiess office Furthe depend and theA20010 followed by the COVID Lankan Independ surfacing from themache Yet, there isAbflanThe future of the Tamil people is dependent on Forang a new vision for themselves and the entire ountry based on equality and freedomcompounded by Imerabunal Monetary Fund prescribed amenity measures, the star has.
- **The myth of reading the war en regions with Tamil diaspora'** deep pockets standa exposed the Tam by the meagre flow of investment funds. The devetapient projects tr InfrastructureAfter the war have ed the scalecmonfact cance byand trapped the ideananande des Tall politics acnes the spectgibour the concerns of la as dievam beholden to especially Delhoods class and social the tamil diaspora peddle the on with indinary people. They pe diaspora remiances sacaining war affectedonly reach a very small segment of the suranTamil mille classPolarisation and the minoritiesFor the exams and political trajecmey in the North Easter the war, it is the Kajapaks regime that must take much of the blame for ins miltertion and the vulgar projection o the T ationale poltics continues to mirror thesaagh a polarising dism Tamll rights, avharix hack so the Tamil tetam, haaks in mmunity. The impilar powerthe UN Human Rights Council by the pitical action, social alles in dil society, and the virulent sections of the Tamil da bonhame hopes in the Tamil public sphere. For them, this so called accountability process is predicated on delivering erstmalics Within the thande northern Modlin viced in in act of ethe cleansing by the LTTEN handly been neintegrand Costly Tam October 2000 fe ere duplaced from the the North during sucre pand wing wir denfranchemen und warty in the North.
- **They became bonded cannon fodder fode Bor the rain** landless or senled this day remain la labour, then the and many to Sanad venutable for agri phoum in Jaffa is now dating by wealth and the temples funded by the Tamil darpoex, whilewame groups are atempning Hindu ryd munal mobilisationse of t the Tamil people Future of the misery and dupeessives ofReflecting onne la reminded of the poweramil left, V. Karulasingham Out for the Tamil words of the Tam his bookThe Way titled. The speaking people, the Junt 15 the following to syn Syears after Independen strange parados. TheWe now come agliu a strange pa Tamil speaking people have ed in the adenizap alded by the best inventions pecching nor merely the widest support of thetheir emhustastic cooperation and yet the Tanill speaking people fond themselves at the lowest ebt in their history.
- **Despite all their effor the people have suffered one defeat** after another, humilladon after another Howla one se umda explain the yawning gull between the same of ople and the virtually hopeless impese inthey find themselves None would have Imagined six decades a how much the situation of the Tamil

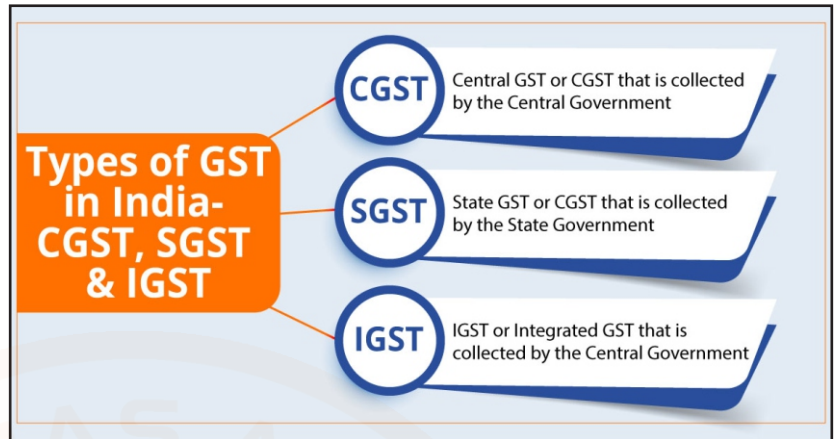
come, and to what depths Tamil politics could of the Tamil people in dependent political conditions Tamil national vulnerability for dependent on neglecting themselves and the entire country in the great revolt of 2022 of the Aragalays where Sri Lankans from different ethnic and religious backgrounds came together in chains in the meantime, political actors in the South and the North have hardly but social and economic bridges between the communities towards political reconciliation. Devolution of power to the regions and power sharing the centre have been repeatedly damped for expediency by those wielding power in Colombo. Indeed, that was the case with regime change 2015, when a major opening towards a political settlement was lost in the rivalry between then President Maithripala and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe.

- **The persisting neglect of the rational leadership,** arising from the state, and imposing local a grim reality. There was the opportunity with the election of the first Northern Provincial Council in 2010, but it ended in a fiasco with disgrace in the end. The racism and arrogance of the political elite in Colombo and the blossoming of the Tamil political leadership have been the bane of Sri Lanka. A President, who had chained the superpower war crimes and custodian of Sinhala Buddhist nationalism, there is impatience that what our country can be. Despite the authoritarian and economic pressures today, the years ahead could take on a different path, charted by the struggles for social and economic justice confronting the inescapable economic crisis in close to a century.
- **The Tamil people must rethink their strategies, darkest** and bleak politics that has reduced them to historical irrelevance, and jean forces with all the peoples to determine not yet their own future but also the democratic future of the country, based on equality and freedom. The hyperpoliticisation of Indian higher education. They wish higher education has always been sites to advance their careers and politically adorn a group hand on another rather than the orchard of knowledge and teachers were either hidden or the animators.
- **The Puerto change Thane Moka join the top levels of** global higher education. Examples of change. Not long ago, Congress Party leader Rahul Gandhi of India's academic system says a lot about the situation throughout Indian higher education. Professor Satish Dwivedi, a faculty member at the Central Board of Secondary Education, an online smear campaign recently, orchestrated by right wing groups against politically sponsored vice chancellors and received much criticism. But the fact is that as Janata Party police campers. Even students have become endorser. Party authorities throughout the country have been replacing university vice chancellors who have little or no higher education experience. And, these appointees have faculty and through other changes.
- **This is the Bengal and Purihar chancellors of the Stamenin,** what the New wish the their professors if they this ledes faculty must academy shut down. There have been several widely imported on where we would be commercial material import of a policy that tries to free the ant. The implications. Thane atrocity bestial higher education and Mos imparare, as independent and free for any woman. The learned research and have the academic expertise.

GS-III : Ease the compliance

- **THE MONTHLY COLLECTION OF GST** reached its zenith last month-crossing the Rs 2 lakh crore mark for the first time. The emphasis on collectors must not lead to a neglect of several chronic irritants and glitches in the day-to-day implementation of GST. One of what can be called the time-saver problem is a conundrum in taking input tax credit. At the core of this one report, one tax philosophy is the merger of several central and state indirect taxes with the attendant benefit of seamless availing of credit on the tax paid on all inputs.
- **The right to take such credit eliminates the cascading effect** of levying tax twice. A simple example illustrates the problem that needs urgent redress. A manufacturer has to pay a monthly tax of 100,000. In making his final product, he has used several inputs on which he has paid GST of Rs 60,000. After taking credit of this amount, the manufacturer now has to pay the balance of Rs 40,000 in cash while filing his monthly return, GSTR-38. But the assessor like many, has a cash crunch as his clients have not paid his dues. He has only Rs 10,000, resulting in tax arrears of Rs 30,000 for that month. The problem now begins. The GST portal, in its current avatar, will not accept his monthly return till the entire tax is paid. If this manufacturer again faces a shortfall the next month, he will be unable to file a return for that month. In fact, no monthly return can be filed till the previous month's return is filed. The time limit for availing of the input tax credit is November 30 of each year.
- **If this manufacturer is not able to pay the balance amount of tax** by that time, he permanently loses the benefit of the input tax credit. In the example given above, the manufacturer will lose the credit of Rs 60,000, which is the input tax actually paid by him. The inability to shortfall a liability of Rs 100,000 results in a tax. There is no doubt that taxes cannot remain due indefinitely. But when the law permits the levy of interest on delayed payment of tax, there is no justification for refusing credit on tax actually paid on inputs that have been used in the manufacture of final products. There is an urgent need to alter the portal to permit the acceptance of monthly returns even when the full tax is not paid. The portal can record the tax arrears for that month. In the example given, the return can be accepted, noting the monthly shortfall of Rs 30,000 on which interest has to be paid till the dues are cleared.
- **The enables the manufacturer to at least take the credit on the** inputs on which tax has been paid. It is common knowledge that several small and medium enterprises do not compound the problems of late payments despite the limit of 45 days imposed under the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006. In several cases, supplies made to government agencies remain unpaid for months with no effective legal recourse. The time-limit conundrum is simply a matter of practical difficulty and need not await any judicial interpretation. The injustice can be illustrated by an in-some tax example.
- **The tax liability is on the net income, which broadly means** the total income minus the total expenses. The GST sales receivables minus if an assessee is unable to pay the income tax within the time limit, it will be highly unfair to make him pay tax on the total sales and disallow the expenditure on purchases. All the expert that the law can provide is interest and penal action if the default persists. Equally a manufacturer, on purchasing duty-paid inputs appears a right to take credit for such duty. That not to be demanded because

table to pay the remaining tax in canh notCRSIt is common knowledge that several small and medium enterprises do not receive payments despite the limit of 45 days imposed under the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Acc,2006. In several cases supplies made to government agencies remain unpaid for months with no effective legal recourse The time-limitconundrum is simply a matter of practical difficulty and need not await any judicialinterpretation.



- **leaped anessees, sometimes leading ma point of no return.** The refusal to accept returns the entiresax of each month is paid has affected thousandfuxpayers. The GST portal needs to bemoxifend so that all are accepted, withthose ina narmars being subject to Interest. Thelaw can mandate the clearance of tan areasby Nevermiber of nach year and the failumcanbe subject to higher interest and pesalry The GST Council must act urgently to dress this monthly gusti practically be came the default is not o deliberate in most cases but due to advene baziness comum stances that are beyond the control of thou sands of small and medium taxpayers. Till the GST Portal accommodates monthly re hans even with a shortfall the time list of November 30 prescribed for avalling ing Las onde should not be endotestThe writers are abocates and members of the TamalatAdvoury.

GS-III : India will regulate AI, but without compromising on innovation; Meit Y Secy

- **THE GOVERNMENT will attempt to regulate artificial intelligence (AI)** but not in a way that could stifle innovation in the space, a top official from information technology (IT) ministry said on Friday, signalling that the Centre is expected to take a middle path for AI regulation, as it has taken in some of its recent technology laws such as data protection, where the focus is not just on protecting civil rights, but also facilitate the country's growing start-up base. "While we will attempt to regulate AI, we are clear that innovation is not stifled in the process. It (innovation) needs to be encouraged.
- **Like we did with the DPDP (Digital Personal Data Protection) Act**, we will ensure that both the interests of innovation and protection of vital interests will come in in the future," said S. Krishna, Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) speaking during a session titled 'AI: What does the future hold' at the CII Annual Business Summit 2024. He also said that India may have an advantage over other countries for arriving late to the regulating AI since it can learn from other regions' mistakes. "We have an opportunity to learn and figure out what has gone wrong (in other countries) and while we will attempt to regulate AI, we are clear that innovation is not stifled in the process. It needs to be encouraged... like we did with the DPDP Act, we will ensure that both the interests of innovation and protection of vital interests will come in the future"-SKRISHNAN SECRETARY, MEITY make a framework that works for India.
- **It is a bit of an advantage in coming to the scene a bit late**, Krishna said. Calling the impact of AI on job losses a "concern," Krishna said that there are still no clear answers on the kinds of jobs that could get affected due to AI. He, however, said that the impact in India could be limited because its large pool of engineers who have exposure to the technology and its white collar workforce in the technology services sector being relatively insulated from the potential impact. He cautioned that a "massive amount of retraining and skilling would be required to keep India's work force safe from possible job losses. Krishna called AI a "transformational technology, equating its potential impact to that of Internet. "AI truly is a transformational technology and could be an inflection point in economic history and make the difference that previous episodes of horizontal technologies like the steam engine, Internet etc.
- **We can see its benefits across different sectors of the economy**," he said. Before the election schedule, the Union Cabinet had approved the Rs 10,300 crore India AI Mission under which it aims to procure AI compute capacity and offer it at a subsidised rate to start-ups and researchers. Krishna said that the capacity will be put together in partnership with private companies and the government would make the capacity available either through viable gap funding or a voucher based mechanism. **EXPLAINED: AI's impact on jobs in India** ACCORDING TO Krishna, the impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on job losses in India could be limited because of its large pool of engineers, who have exposure to the technology, and its white collar workforce in the technology services sector being relatively insulated from the potential impact.



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