### The Hindu News Analysis – 09th July 2019 – Shankar IAS Academy

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*C – Chennai; B – Bengaluru; T – Thiruvananthapuram; D – Delhi
Reinforcing caste hierarchies

‘Backward’ → People embracing it
- Reservation demands by landowning castes
  - Politically and economically dominant
- Marathas → Demanding reservation in jobs and educational institutions
- Inclusion in socially and educationally Backward communities by Maharashtra Govt.
- 3rd attempt → repeatedly struck down by courts
- Dominant Castes demanding quota - rich, landowning, politically influential
  - Marathas (Maharashtra)
  - Jats (Haryana)
  - Patidars (Gujarat)
  - Kapus (Anahra Pradesh)
- Economic growth didn’t bring communities upward enough

Agricultural community - benefitted from Green and White Revolutions
- Traditional source of livelihood → fragile due to the agrarian crisis

Determining the validity for demanding quota:
- Indian Human Development Survey (IHDS)
- Compared different castes
- Maratha’s own or cultivate land than other social groups
- Low per capita consumption expenditure than other forward castes
- Greater accessibility to electricity than Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes
- Access to flush toilets → more
- Average years of education → 6.58 years
- Marathas - second only to Brahmins → better than other social groups
Main motivation to quota - access to govt. jobs
- Marathas already have access → higher than other forward castes and OBCs
- 3 rounds of IHDS examined
- Whether position of communities deteriorated → NO!
- Avg. per capita expenditure - improved
- Probability of being poor - same
- Probability of owning/cultivating land - declined

Factors for underlying Anxiety:
- Feels vulnerable
- Transformation of Indian economy
- Declining importance to agriculture
- Growth of corporatised agriculture
- Water shortages
- Lower levels of casualization of labour force
- Discontent among powerful farming communities
- Power slipping away
- Feeling ill-prepared to shift to urban, formal sector livelihood opportunities

Author's views:
- Answer for grievances is reservation? NO!
- Reservations shrinking
- Privatisation
- OBC's and SC, ST's lagging behind
- Leads to diluting of entitlement for disadvantaged and discriminated communities
- 10% quota → not to move to caste-free system
- Will reinforce obnoxious hierarchies of caste system

Conclusion:
- Indian polity should weaken caste system, not embolden or reinforce them

Practice Question – Mains
GS-II
Q. “Indian polity should weaken the caste system, not embolden or reinforce it”. Discuss in the context of Quota for new communities.
Stand-Up India Scheme:
- Scheme for financing women entrepreneurs and also
  the entrepreneurs from Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes
- Launched in 2016
- Objective:
  1. Facilitate bank loans between Rs.10 lakh and Rs.1 crore
     to borrowers at least one person belonging to Scheduled
     Castes, or one person belonging to Scheduled Tribes, or
     one woman, per bank branch for setting up a
     Greenfield enterprise
  2. Greenfield enterprise - 1st time business in manufacturing,
     services or trade sector
  3. In case of non-individual enterprises, 51% of the
     shareholding and controlling stake should be held by
     entrepreneurs either from SC/ST or women

Eligible entrepreneurs can avail composite loans (Working Capital + Term loans)
- Scheme will be operated by all the branches
  of Scheduled Commercial Banks in India
- Web portal to guide the entrepreneurs
- Scheme is managed by Department of
  Financial Services, Ministry of Finance
- Union Budget 2019-20: 'Stand-Up India' scheme
  has been extended up to 2025

News:
- Tamil Nadu lagging behind targets set up
  under Stand-Up India Scheme
- Progress Report by State-level Bankers
  Committee
  1. FY 2018-19 - Rs. 157 crore loans disbursed
  2. FY 2017-18 - Rs. 133 crore loans disbursed
- SCBs should actively implement the scheme
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements regarding ‘Stand up India’.

1. It is a scheme for financing women entrepreneurs and also the entrepreneurs from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
2. The scheme is managed by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?
a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2

African Continental Free Trade (AfCFTA):

- Signed at 12th Extra-Ordinary Summit of the African Union in Niamey, Niger Republic
- 54/55 member states - Signatories
- 47/55 member states - Ratified
- Cross-border free trade from July 2020
  - Customs duty will be eliminated for 90% of tariff lines
- Creation of African Common Market of 1.2 billion people and over 3.4 trillion US Dollars
- Will be the World’s largest Free Trade Agreement
  - will have a global impact
**Challenges of AfCFTA:**
1. Unsuccessful functioning of African Union since its inception (Organisation of African Unity, founded in 1963)
2. African Unity Project - Failure
3. Africa - low manufacturing base
4. Various political, organisational, and logistic challenges
5. 2/3 of Africa's total trade happening within Africa
6. Protectionism trend present across the world
   - USA-China Trade War
   - Brexit
   - Stalemates at WTO and UNCTAD
7. Slowdown in world trade
   - 2019 - 2.6% (expected); 2018 - 3.0%
   - Africa's share - Only 3%

**Opportunities for AfCFTA:**
1. AfCFTA - Economic Integration
   - Self-reliance in trade
2. AfCFTA should gain knowledge and experience from the region's economic blocks (communities) of Africa
3. AU - failed to achieve its objectives due to inefficient planning
   - But AU has prepared an extensive roadmap for AfCFTA
   - Incremental tariff reduction
   - Elimination of non-tariff barriers
   - Supply chain
   - Dispute Settlement
4. AU has organised 1st Intra-African Trade Fair, Cairo in December 2018

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**India’s Gains from AfCFTA:**
1. India-Africa trade relations
   - Annual Merchandise trade - $70 billion
   - 1/5th of India’s global trade
2. India → Africa’s 3rd largest trade partner
3. Despite stagnation in India’s global exports, India’s exports to Africa have increased
4. Skill Africa's demands are unfulfilled
5. African economy set to become formal and transparent
6. India should increase the economic relations with Africa
Practice Question – Mains
GS – II

Q. “India-Africa enjoys cordial relations in all aspects but has not materialised in terms of potential it offers”. Discuss African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) in the context of the above statement.
### News:
- National Crime Records Bureau has invited bids for the Automated Facial Recognition System (AFRS).
- Automated identification & verification of persons from digital images, photos, sketches, video frames and video sources.
- Comparison of selected facial features of the image with the already existing image database.
- Conceptualised by NCRB.
- A Centralised web application will be hosted at NCRB Data Centre, Delhi.
- An effort to modernise police force, information gathering, criminal identification, verification and dissemination of information among various police organisations/units.

### Importance:
- Availability of relevant and timely information for investigation, tracking and detection of criminals.
- Facilitates easy recording, analysis, retrieval, sharing of information.
- Creation and maintenance of database of photographs in digital form to effectively meet the challenge of criminal identification and verification.
- Great investigation enhancer.
- Identification of criminals, missing children/persone, unidentified dead bodies, unknown traced children or persons.

### Stakeholders:
- MHA/NCRB - Create repository of photographs of criminals, detect crime patterns and modus operandi.
- State Police.

### Functions:
- Foundation for a national level searchable platform for facial images.
- Logical algorithms, user-friendly and simple graphical user interface.
- Capture face images from CCTV feed and generate alerts if matched with blacklisted person.

### Additional Points:
- Match suspect/criminal photograph with existing database.
- Passport
- 'Khoya Paisa'
- NADIS
- ICJS and Prisons.
- Add photographs from newspapers, raids sent by people, sketch.

### Information Security & Data Protection:
- Unauthorised Access
- Accidental modification
- Confidentiality, Integrity and Availability - data transport/physical storage
- Encryption/Decryption engine.
Rajya Sabha too clears Aadhaar Bill

Opposition raises concerns over delay in enacting law on data protection

The Aadhaar and other laws (Amendment) Bill, 2019:
- Has amended
  - Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016
  - Indian Telegraph Act, 1855
  - Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002
- Aadhaar Act, 2016 → Passed as Money Bill

Money Bill:
- Money bill can be introduced only in Lok Sabha
- Money bill → Lok Sabha (Passes with simple majority) → Presidential
- Rajya Sabha send recommendations within 14 days of receipt of the Bill
- Rajya Sabha Assent
- Act

Aadhaar Act, 2016:
- Enacted to provide good governance, efficient, transparent and targeted delivery of subsidies, benefits and services
- Expenditure - From Consolidated Fund of India
- Money bill as per Article 110(1)(c) of Indian Constitution

2019 Aadhaar Amendment Bill Provisions:
- Voluntary use of Aadhaar by citizens as a proof of identity to open bank accounts and get mobile connections
- Individuals cannot be denied services on the grounds of authentication of Aadhaar not being done

Authentication of offline verification of Aadhaar number can be performed only with the informed consent of Aadhaar number holder
- Option to children of Aadhaar Number holders - to cancel their Aadhaar number once they have attained the age of 18 years
- To establish "Unique Identification Authority of India Fund"
- Rs. 1 Crore penalty and jail term for private entities who are violating provisions in Aadhaar data
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements.

1. A money bill can be introduced in both the houses of the Parliament.
2. If any question arises whether a Bill is a Money Bill or not, then the decision of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha is final.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2

Objections Vs Claims:

- Opposition parties - Questioned the government's intention on clearing the Bill without bringing a law on data protection
- Government → to bring in a comprehensive law on data protection
  - Aadhaar - completely safe and sound with all necessary encryption
Practice Question – Prelims

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding ‘Stand up India’.

1. It is a scheme for financing women entrepreneurs and also the entrepreneurs from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

2. The scheme is managed by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2

Practice Question – Prelims

Q2. Consider the following statements.

1. A money bill can be introduced in both the houses of the Parliament.

2. If any question arises whether a Bill is a Money Bill or not, then the decision of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha is final.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2
Q1. “Indian polity should weaken the caste system, not embolden or reinforce it”. Discuss in the context of Quota for new communities.

Q2. “India-Africa enjoys cordial relations in all aspects but has not materialised in terms of potential it offers”. Discuss African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) in the context of the above statement.
Practice Question – Prelims Answers

Q1. Option - a) 1 only
Q2. Option - b) 2 only