

**“Stop giving meaningless praise and start giving meaningful action.” Steve Maraboli**

**INTERNATIONAL&BILATERAL**

**WORLD BANK ENDORSES NEW COUNTRY PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK FOR INDIA**

The World Bank Group (WBG) Board of Executive Directors endorsed a new Country Partnership Framework (CPF) for India.

The CPF aims to support India's transition to a higher middle-income country by addressing some of its key development priorities — resource efficient and inclusive growth, job creation and building its human capital.

**Country Partnership Framework (CPF):**

The World Bank Group's CPF aims to make a country-driven model more systematic, evidence-based, selective, and focused on the Bank's twin goals of ending **extreme poverty and increasing shared prosperity in a sustainable manner**.

Used in conjunction with a Systematic Country Diagnostic (SCD), the CPF guides the World Bank Group's (WBG) support to a member country.

A Systematic Country Diagnostic (SCD) informs each new CPF.

The aim of the SCD is to identify the most important challenges and opportunities a country faces in advancing towards the twin goals.

This is derived from a thorough analysis, and informed by consultations with a range of stakeholders.

The India CPF represents the largest country programme of the WBG, reflecting the strong collaboration between India and the Group's institutions.

These institutions include International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), International Finance Corporation (IFC) and Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA).

With a fast growing economy, global stature, and its unique experience of lifting the highest number of poor out of poverty in the past

decades, India is well-positioned to become a high middle-income country by 2030.

This CPF charts a path for how the World Bank, IFC and MIGA, will leverage their relative strengths to deliver stronger development outcomes for India, whose half of population is under the age of 25.

An important focus of the CPF will be to deepen engagement with India's States and invest in the institutions and capabilities of the states and local governments to address their development priorities.

The WBG will focus on three broad areas under the new CPF:

- Promoting a resource efficient growth path, particularly in the use of land and water, to remain sustainable;
- Enhancing competitiveness and enabling job creation and
- Investing in human capital — in health, education, skills — to improve quality and efficiency of service delivery.

Within these, other engagement will include addressing the **challenge of air pollution, facilitating jobs for women, increasing the resilience of the financial sector and investing in early years of children's development**.

**US CONTINUES TO WARN INDIA OF SANCTIONS OVER MISSILE DEFENCE DEAL WITH RUSSIA**

Trump administration has warned India of US sanctions if it continues with big ticket arm purchases like S-400 missile defence system from Russia.

**Countering America's Adversaries through Sanctions Act of 2017 (CAATSA)** is a US federal law that is designed to punish Russia for its seizure of Crimea and other activities.

It requires the US to sanction anyone undertaking significant transactions with Russian intelligence and military services, including arms manufacturers.

Recently USA imposed CAATSA sanctions on China for purchasing SU-35 combat aircraft

and S-400 surface-to-air missile system from Russia.

It is the first time the Trump administration targeted a third country with its CAATSA sanctions.

India is interested in the S-400 missile defense system and the talks with Russia are in advanced stage.

The recent warning from US can have an Impact on S-400 missile system deal, which is expected to be signed during President Putin's visit to India.

However experts believe that there will be a different treatment of India and China with regards to CAATSA sanctions since America seeks a strategic partnership with India and hence will not alienate India with sanctions.

The US administration has acquired waiver power to spare allies and friends from such a sanction and officials had earlier indicated that India will be spared from the sanction for the defense deal.

But the arms lobby in US also intends to use this opportunity to wean India from Russia for its arms needs.

India has conveyed that it will do what it takes to meet its security requirements regardless of sanction threats.

#### **WORLD HAPPINESS REPORT 2018**

The World Happiness Report (WHR) 2018, which ranked 156 countries, placed India at the 133rd place on the Index of Global Happiness.

There's no denying the fact that there is an intrinsic relationship between law and people's happiness.

Experiences from several nations confirm that the countries with higher GDP and higher per capita income are not necessarily the happiest countries and there exists a link between the state of happiness and rule of law

The WHRs, over the years, confirmed that people tend to have poor mental health, a low score of subjective well-being and poor

perception about the governance and law and order, despite high-income levels

There are 3.3 crore cases pending in various courts in the country.

Criminal justice has far-reaching consequences for the lives of people — it brings difficulties when it does not act, it causes turbulence when it does

The connection between crime and happiness is understandable from the experience of Bhutan, which introduced Gross National Happiness (GNH) as a measure of good governance

The data show that a great majority of the Bhutanese population are happy (of whom 41 per cent are extremely happy), and only 4 per cent reported being victimized by crime over the last 12 months

The countries scoring high on the Rule of Law Index, a measure used by the World Justice Project, are those who are higher on the index of happiness as well.

The fact that happiness ought to be part of the agenda to improve rule of law, and vice versa, is a new thrust in the emerging policy discourse in many jurisdictions.

The institutionalization of a happiness framework as a measure of achievement for policy goals is now being debated

#### **Way Forward:**

It is probably time to change the narrative — to shift the discourse of policy-making towards the larger satisfaction of the people

It is, perhaps, time to turn the narrative of law, policy and development, towards building a happier society

Madhya Pradesh has gone ahead with this and has set up a Happiness Department to achieve such objectives

#### **NATIONAL**

#### **MAKE FILING FALSE AFFIDAVIT A CORRUPT PRACTICE, EC TELLS LAW MINISTRY**

The Election Commission (EC) has asked the law ministry to consider the filing of false affidavit as a corrupt practice under the electoral law.

Now a candidate contesting an election is required to file an affidavit called Form 26 that furnishes information on her assets, liabilities, educational qualification and criminal antecedents

Current penalty for lying, in an affidavit filed before the EC, is imprisonment of up to six months, or fine, or both.

The Supreme Court agreed in principle that filing a false affidavit in elections is a corrupt practice and should be treated seriously.

However, it also said that it cannot direct the Parliament to include it in corrupt practices

According to Section 123 of the Representation of People Act 1951, eight types of acts are considered as corrupt practices.

Bribery, appeal on grounds of religion, race and caste, creating enmity between people on the basis of religion, race and caste are among them.

The punishment for being found guilty of engaging in corrupt practices range from imprisonment to having the election declared void.

### **Suggestions:**

Filing a false affidavit, should be made a corrupt practice under Section 123 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951

Every contesting candidate should disclose its source of income and that of their children

Election commission has also sought amendment in Form 16 to include disclosure on contracts entered by candidates, their spouse and dependents with the government and public companies.

### **RBI ANNOUNCES NORMS FOR CO-ORINATION OF PRIORITY SECTOR LOANS BY BANKS, NBFCs**

RBI announced the co-origination model between banks and NBFCs.

It is a proposal for joint lending by banks and NBFCs.

NBFC- Non Banking Financial Company (NBFC) is a company registered under the Companies Act, 1956 of India, engaged in the business of loans and advances, acquisition of shares,

stock, bonds, hire-purchase insurance business or chit-fund business.

All scheduled commercial banks (excluding regional rural banks and small finance banks) may engage with non-banking financial companies to co-originate loans for the creation of priority sector assets.

Priority sectors examples- agriculture loans, affordable housing, renewable energy projects, etc.

The arrangement should entail joint contribution of credit at the facility level by both lenders.

The risks and rewards will be shared between the banks and NBFCs.

At least 20% of the credit risk will be on the NBFC's books and the balance will be on the bank's book till maturity.

For fixed rate loan, single blended interest rate will be offered (A blended rate is an interest rate charged on a loan that represents the combination of a previous rate and a new rate)

For floating interest loan, weighted average of benchmark interest rates of both bank and NBFC will be offered

Tripartite agreement will be signed between bank, NBFC and customer

The bank and NBFC will open a common account to pool loan contributions for disbursement and repayments

### **Benefits of co-origination of loans:**

Low-cost funds from banks and lower cost of operations from NBFC will be passed on to the beneficiary through weighted average rate.

### **S&T**

### **SATELLITE CONTROL SET TO GIVE DRONES MORE STING**

India is planning to upgrade its drone operations, from existing ground control stations to satellite control of military unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), to boost its range, endurance and flexibility.

This significant capability boost will come with the launch of GSAT 7A.

#### **GSAT 7A:**

It is an advanced military communications satellite built by ISRO.

It is specially geared for RPA (remotely-piloted aircraft) or drone operations.

It will be country's second **dedicated military satellite after GSAT-7 or 'Rukmini'** which was launched for the Navy in 2013.

Indian armed forces as of now control their Israeli-origin surveillance drones like the Heron and Searcher-II UAVs through a network of ground and ship-based stations, which limits their operations to 'radio line of sight'

**Radio line of sight:** It is a type of propagation that can transmit and receive data only where transmit and receive stations are in view of each other without any sort of an obstacle between them. FM radio, microwave and satellite transmission are examples of line-of-sight

With the GSAT-7A up in space in geosynchronous orbit, IAF will be able to hugely extend the reach, flexibility and endurance of its UAVs for beyond line of sight missions.

The footprint of the satellite with steerable beams will cover India and its extended neighbourhood.

#### **Way ahead:**

India has lagged far behind in utilization of frontier space for military purposes, refusing even the demand of Aerospace Command for armed forces.

IAF will get another satellite, GSAT-7C, within few years to boost its network-centric operations.

IAF is also planning to launch additional five satellites to augment the 'NavIC' project through a constellation of seven satellites (IRNSS 1A,1B,1C,1D,1E,1F,1H,1I) to rival the US-owned Global Positioning System (GPS).

India is in advanced negotiations with the US to acquire armed Predator-B or weaponized Sea Guardian drones.

#### **Predator-B or weaponised Sea Guardian drones.**

These are high-altitude, long-endurance UAVs that can fire 'Hellfire' missiles or 'smart' bombs at enemy targets before returning to their bases to re-arm for the next mission like manned fighter jets.

These were used against Taliban targets in the Afghanistan-Pakistan region.

The Indian armed forces for long have been largely using "dual-use" remote sensing satellites like the Cartosat' and 'Risat' series and foreign satellite transponders, for surveillance, navigation and communication purposes.

China, in sharp contrast, is even testing an ASAT (anti-satellite) weapon against 'low-earth orbit' satellite since 2007.

China is also developing multiple counter space capabilities to deny adversary use of space-based assets during a crisis or conflict.

In addition to the development of directed-energy weapons and satellite jammers China is also developing direct-ascent and co-orbital kinetic kill operations.

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