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Veritas et Aequitas

PROJECT STATECRAFT**UNNITI**

YOUTH IN POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT

April 2022

Vol 1 Issue 2

KNOW YOUR POLICY**NATIONAL
PROGRAMME FOR
FAMILY
PLANNING**
PAGE. 04**GUEST SUBMISSION****INTERNATIONAL
WATER CONFLICTS:
DIPLOMACY AND
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SPACE: EXPLORING
GENDERED
EXPERIENCES "AT
WORK"****EDITOR'S COLUMN***by B. S. Ashish*

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EDITOR'S COLUMN



Dear Reader,

Welcome to another edition of our newsletter, Unniti. We are delighted to share our progress over this period with you and have a collection of fantastic perspectives on the youth and policy forums from our researchers that are sure to intrigue you.

Know Your Policy brief for this month is focused around the National Programme for Family Planning covered by Jaya Narayan.

With most of the countries keenly focused on implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) etched out in 2015, the role of the youth in shaping the future is often not emphasized enough. Although the United Nations and its subsidiaries have invested a lot of efforts in carrying out research studies that highlight the pivotal role of young demography in a nation's progress towards achieving the SDGs, there is a gap in understanding and comprehending the importance of youth in policy and decision-making at the national level in many countries.

What many stakeholders miss to factor in is that the current youth demography is diminishing at a steady rate each year. Therefore, it is not only crucial for countries to listen to, and incorporate the views and opinions of the global youth, they have to do it immediately in order to help the next generation to be more aware and prepared to face global challenges, such as climate change.

In this regard, for this newsletter, we have an important contribution by Abhishek Sudke, our founder, on the importance of the voices of youth being heard, through quoting surveys and research studies of U.N-affiliated organizations. Project Statecraft's own initiative of 'Hear the Future' comes at a vital juncture when youth voices are steadily going unheard.

EDITOR'S COLUMN



Next, Jaya Narayan and Dhruv Nilkanth have compiled a line-up of invigorating book, article and video interview recommendations for your weekend reading and must-watch video list, followed by Nupur Burman's round-up of the key dates that occurred in June and their significance.

This is followed by a short quiz to test your understanding about the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act of 1971, and Shreesh Karmakar's summary of events that transpired in the international community in May to give you a quick summary of important international events.

Some notable mentions that you may peruse on our website by following the given links are: ["International Water Conflicts: Diplomacy and Politics,"](#) and ["Work from Home and Domestic Space: Exploring Gendered Experiences 'At Work'"](#) by our guest publishers Narender Kumar and Sumedha Singh.

The return to a semblance of normalcy after COVID-19 was marked by the celebration of the two-year anniversary of Project Statecraft at Lodhi Gardens very recently. A lot of reminiscing stories about the organization were shared by the board members. We invite our readers to reach out to us and hope that through our research and educational output, we can forge bonds of knowledge and understanding to guide us through the paths toward a brighter and more compassionate future.

Happy Reading!



B.S. Ashish
Publishing Editor, Project Statecraft

KNOW YOUR POLICY

Jaya



KNOW YOUR POLICY- NATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR FAMILY PLANNING

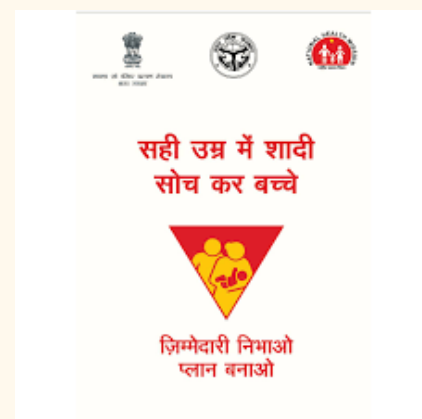
The idea of family planning and contraceptives in India started with Raghunath Dhondo Karve's Marathi magazine 'Samaj Swasthya'. The National Programme for Family Planning was introduced in 1952; India being the first country to do so..

Over the years, the programme has shifted focus from population stabilisation to including other concerns like reproductive healthcare access and reduction of maternal, infant & child mortality and morbidity. The programme includes providing reproductive healthcare services at subsidised costs at various levels of the public healthcare system. The primary aim of the National Programme for Family Planning was to lower fertility rates and slow population growth as a means to propel economic development.

The Programme acts on some basic guiding principles. Firstly, ensuring that the community being targeted is aware and accepting of the provisions of the plan. Secondly, only the parents should decide the number of children they want and can provide for. Thirdly, any awareness campaigns by media, leaders, NGOs etc. should be done in a manner that does not offend the peoples' moral values and religion.

Services under the programme should be as "near to doorstep" as possible to ensure access. Moreover, services under the programme, such as contraception, abortion etc, should be an integral part of the public health services.

Currently, the programme includes two major schemes- Mission ParivarVikas and National Family Planning Indemnity Scheme (NFPIS); aiming at population control ultimately. The programme is additionally supported by media awareness campaigns, measures to enhance quality and integration of IT aids into family and record-keeping.



FOUNDER'S COLUMN

Abhishek Sudke



A Junior on the Development Street

Today we strive to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 and while we make our best efforts to reach every target under every goal, we need to start thinking about the future. The 23-year old today will be over 31-years old by 2030 and will be impacted if not working towards solving the problems of our world, as we know it. Young people today are an optimistic, aware, passionate but a rapidly shrinking demographic. The United Nations and its agencies along with multiple global organisations such as Asian Development Bank and AIESEC recognised the make-or-break role this demographic could play in the achievement of SDGs. More than one-third of the 169 SDG targets highlight the role of young people and the importance of their empowerment and well-being.



Youth around the world, starting from the high offices such as the Office of the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth to the very grassroots organizations working on individual SDGs or its targets, have delivered. Young people have been at the centre of activism, community engagement, workforce contribution, social and eco- entrepreneurship and leadership in places possible for the SDGs and the development. However, with the global youth population of today decreasing at an annual rate of 10%, where is the world on including the youth in future preparedness through policy and politics, on inviting us to the decision making table and leveraging our perspectives, outlooks and experiences?

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FOUNDER'S COLUMN



A YouthSpeak global survey of 180,000 young people showed 68% believe the world will be a better place by 2030. Youth today are an optimistic demographic and including them into policymaking, politics, governance, decision-making and strategizing will bolster us into an era where future preparedness becomes a norm. Conversely true is also that not including youth would leave the world unprepared for challenges and changes we are yet to foresee. Launching 'Hear the Future' is Project Statecraft's effort to bring a detailed research study and white paper along with numerous initiatives showcasing the perspectives and capabilities of youth on policy and political inclusion and lay the foundation for future preparedness.

Decision makers of today have not inherited this world from their predecessors but have borrowed it from their successors, the youth, and it's about time the successors receive the exposure and voice they have proven to deserve.

Stay tuned for the monthly column of the development sector from Abhishek Sudke.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Jaya

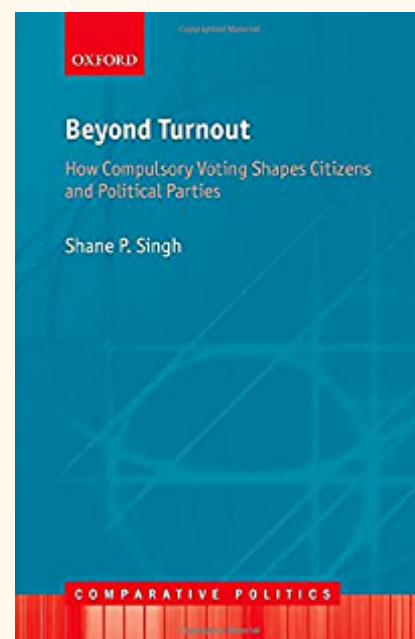


BOOKS

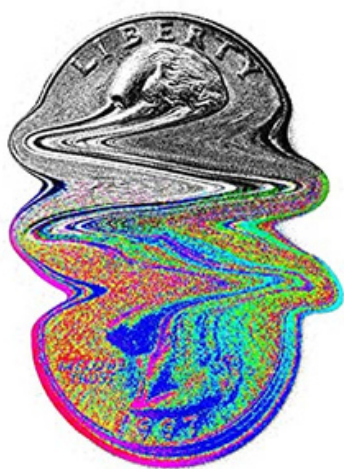
Beyond Turnout: How Compulsory Voting Shapes Citizens and Political Parties

By: Shane P. Singh

Compulsory voting is a system used to increase electoral participation in the democratic world. This book examines the effects of the system going beyond voter turnout. The author proposes theories on the effects of compulsory voting on the behaviours and attitudes of citizens, political parties, etc., using examples from Argentina and Switzerland. This book is a must-read for students and professionals of political science and those with an interest in elections and electoral politics.



The Future of Money

How the Digital Revolution
Is Transforming Currencies and
Finance Eswar S. Prasad

The Future of Money: How the Digital Revolution Is Transforming Currencies and Finance

By: Eswar S. Prasad

The author explains how the digital revolution is disrupting world finance, including how people perceive and use money itself. This book examines the rise of crypto-currencies, the future of physical cash, and how these changes will affect countries, bankers, corporations, and people. An analysis of the opportunities and risks that such a transformation would bring about makes this book a must-read for students, professionals, and enthusiasts of economics, banking and finance, international relations, etc.

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RECOMMENDATIONS

Dhruv Nilkanth



ARTICLES

View: A former Indian diplomat's take on how not to fritter away gains in West Asian ties

Anil Trigunayat
CNBC TV18

<https://www.cnbctv18.com/world/view-a-former-indian-diplomats-take-on-how-not-to-fritter-away-gains-in-west-asian-ties-13769632.htm>

India's relations with West Asia have made significant gains in recent years. Recently, comments made on the Prophet Muhammad by spokespersons of the BJP led to a strong response by the OIC. The author, a former Indian diplomat, assesses the situation and makes recommendations on what India should do to avoid any hindrances to India's diplomatic gains in the region in the future.

The Longer-Term Impact of the Ukraine Conflict and the Growing Importance of the Civil Side of War

Anthony H. Cordesman
Center for Strategic & International Studies

<https://www.csis.org/analysis/longer-term-impact-ukraine-conflict-and-growing-importance-civil-side-war>

The author argues that the civil side of the war caused by the Russian invasion of Ukraine is much more than the military lessons. Cordesman examines the long-term impact of the conflict on local, regional, and global political trends. The conflict has catalysed a shift in relations between the West and Russia, which will shape geopolitics in the near future.

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RECOMMENDATIONS

Dhruv Nilkanth



ARTICLES

The U.S. is uniquely terrible at protecting children from gun violence

LAUREL WAMSLEY

National Public Radio

<https://www.npr.org/2022/05/28/1101307932/texas-shooting-uvalde-gun-violence-children-teenagers>

A string of recent mass shootings in the US has reignited the debate on gun freedom in the country. This analytical piece examines the role of gun violence in child and youth deaths using statistics and compares them to other countries. The author also points towards the calls from the youth to the lawmakers in order to act on the issue.

Why organizations need to nurture youth leadership – and how to do it

ARJUN SHEKHAR

World Economic Forum

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2022/05/why-youth-leaders-business/>

The author suggests that there is a need to develop leadership potential in youths working in organisations. His argument is based on the low representation of young people in the top leadership of business organisations. The article suggests ways to foster youth leadership and the impact that youth has on decision-making in contemporary organisations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Dhruv Nilkanth



VIDEO INTERVIEWS

Raisina Dialogue 2022 | Ukraine and the Future of BRICS

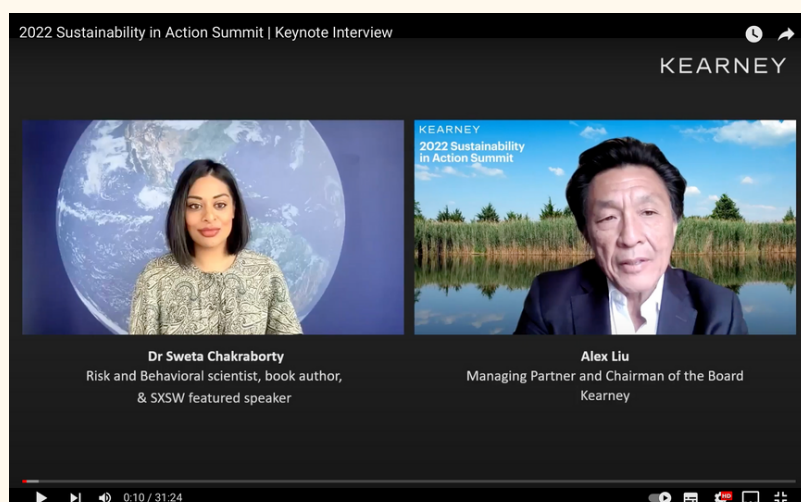
<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=mGQdcnID6GE&feature=youtu.be>

BRICS was formed as a means of cooperation between the emerging countries of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. The Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022 has presented both challenges and opportunities for BRICS. The panelists discuss the impact of the Ukraine crisis on cooperation and the future of BRICS. Highly recommended for enthusiasts of international relations, foreign policy, global cooperation, etc.



2022 Sustainability in Action Summit | Keynote Interview

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NMXEf6WjpKs>



Just like the advent of the internet changed our communication systems, the move toward a more sustainable future would disrupt traditional industries with new strategies and new risks. In the keynote interview at Kearney's 2022 Sustainability in Action Summit, Chakraborty talks about the behavioural side of human actions and sustainability. A must watch for those interested in sustainable development, climate change, behavioural sciences, etc.

IMPORTANT DATES

Nupur



ROUND-UP OF IMPORTANT DAYS IN JUNE

2nd June	Telangana Formation Day The day celebrates the formation of Telangana state. Telangana is the youngest state and was formed on 2nd June 2014. Telangana, the 29th state in the country, came into existence after it was carved out of Andhra Pradesh, triggering massive protests in the Seemandhra region. Political leaders of the state pay floral tributes at the memorial of Telangana martyrs and give them a guard of honour by an armed police contingent.
5th June	World Environment Day The day celebrates our environment by spreading awareness and carrying out several activities towards restoring the environment. The World Environment Day 2022 global campaign #OnlyOneEarth calls for transformative changes to policies and choices to enable cleaner, greener, and sustainable living in harmony with nature. It will focus on the need to live sustainably in harmony with nature, and our possibilities for shifting to a greener lifestyle through both policies and individual choices.
7th June	World Food Safety Day The day is celebrated to spread awareness and inform people about several foodborne risks, contribute to food security, health, and prevent risks. World Health Organization (WHO) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) jointly facilitate this day. This year, World Food Safety Day aims to draw attention and mobilize action to prevent, detect and manage foodborne risks and improve human health.

IMPORTANT DATES

NUPUR



ROUND-UP OF IMPORTANT DAYS IN JUNE

8th June	<p>World Oceans Day</p> <p>The United Nations proposed World Oceans Day, and it reminds us of the role of oceans in our life. The day is used for creating awareness among people on the critical role of oceans and how human actions affect them. The theme this year is 'Revitalization: Collective Action for the Ocean' which aims to shed light on the communities, ideas, and solutions that are working together to protect and revitalize the ocean and everything it sustains</p>
12th June	<p>World Day Against Child Labour</p> <p>The World Day Against Child Labor is held annually on June 12. It is an international day to raise awareness and prompt action to stop child labor in all of its forms. UNICEF and ILO release the data on child labour and provide ways to eradicate child labour.</p>
20th June	<p>World Refugee Day</p> <p>World Refugee Day is an international day designated by the United Nations to honour refugees around the globe. It falls each year on June 20 and celebrates the strength and courage of people who have been forced to flee their home country to escape conflict or persecution. World Refugee Day is an occasion to build empathy and understanding for their plight and to recognize their resilience in rebuilding their lives.</p>
26th June	<p>International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking</p> <p>The day is observed for supporting people and communities in the world against drug abuse and trafficking.</p> <p>The day was recognized by the United Nations General Assembly in 1987.</p>

QUIZ

NUPUR



MEDICAL TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY (MTP) ACT, 1971

Recently, the Indian government notified rules under the latest amendment to the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act, 1971, that was passed the Parliament in March this year. The rules that allow termination of pregnancies even up to [1] of the gestation period stand out in sharp contrast to recent moves in countries ranging from the United States to Poland, where getting abortions even after the sixth week is becoming a nightmare. Some of the more developed nations in Europe and other parts of the world that present themselves as champions of gender equality are still struggling over abortion rights or even pulling back from advances made earlier. Yet, to portray India as the champion of women's rights, at least in the matter of abortions, would be an extreme exaggeration as even though on the paper the law is very liberal, it comes loaded with several challenges when it comes to the practice of the law on the ground.

Based on the above information, try to answer the following:

Q1. Which of the following will replace [1] in the above passage?

(a) 16 weeks (b) 20 weeks (c) 24 weeks (d) 28 weeks

Q2. How many categories of women have specified for whom the gestation limit have been increased?

(a) 5 (b) 7 (c) 8 (d) 9

IMPORTANT DATES

NUPUR



QUIZ- MAY NEWSLETTER

Q3. A state-level medical board will be set up to decide if a pregnancy may be terminated after 24 weeks in which of the following cases?

- (a) Women with physical disabilities
- (b) Mentally ill women
- (c) Widowhood and divorce during the pregnancy
- (d) Fetal abnormalities

Q4. Which of the following is Incorrect?

- (a) The Act requires abortion to be performed only by doctors with experience of atleast 10 years.
- (b) The new rules will contribute towards ending preventable maternal mortality to help meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 3.1, 3.7 and 5.6.
- (c) The abortion procedure has to be done with five days of the board receiving the request for the same.
- (d) It expands the access of women to safe and legal abortion services on therapeutic, eugenic, humanitarian or social grounds.

Q5. In the new rules how many Registered Medical Practitioners are required to give opinion before the termination of Pregnancy in the case of increased gestation period?

- (a) One
- (b) Two
- (c) Four
- (d) Five

WRAPPING UP THE WORLD

SHREESH



MONTHLY REVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

MAY 2022

May 9: The Prime Minister of Sri Lanka Mahinda Rajapaksa resigns after huge protests erupt and continue for 2 months because of the economic crisis of Sri Lanka. His successor Ranil Wickremesinghe promises change for the better.

May 12: Sagittarius A; the supermassive black hole at the galactic centre of the Milky Way is directly imaged for the first time.

May 15: Finnish President and the Finnish Ministerial Committee on Foreign policy and security decide that after consulting with the Finnish Parliament, Finland will apply for NATO membership.

May 16: Sweden confirms that it will apply for NATO membership after decades of non-alignment.

May 16: The Battle of Mariupol ends in a decisive Russian victory as the under defended, under armed Ukrainian forces are evacuated.

May 20: The WHO holds an emergency meeting over the Monkeypox outbreak as it spreads over more than a dozen countries and the infected toll rises above 100.

May 24: A mass shooting at Uvalde Texas claims the lives of 21 people of which 19 are children.

June 1: The Depp v Heard trial finally concludes, the jury verdict found both Johnny Depp and Amber Heard guilty of defamation, Depp himself was awarded \$10 million in compensatory damages and \$5 million in punitive damages (reduced to \$350,000) and Heard was awarded \$2 million in compensative damages but none in punitive damages.

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CHANCE TO BE FEATURED IN OUR NEWSLETTER



SWIPE>

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With an emphasis on producing quality output and research focused on issues pertinent to the youth, policy, governance, and society, ProjectStatecraft provides a platform for young researchers to become a strong voice in policymaking and development.
Publishing with us will enable you to reach out to like minded individuals and gain the benefits of enhancing the ties for progress.

SWIPE>

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