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Editorial Discussion & Analysis (EDA)

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Note -

- The Newspaper clippings pasted in PDF are important from Mains point of view as it contains the fodder material for Mains Answer Writing.
- Also watch DND video lectures everyday @ 4 PM on Sleepy's YouTube channel in order to understand how to get the most out of everyday's Newspaper .

Click [here](#) to watch the following topics on YouTube

1. International Relations

1.1. Beijing's World View

Context- Chinese Interpretation of Multilateralism

- Vijay Gokhale (Former Foreign Secretary Of India) is quoting from a report in the magazine *The Foreign Affairs*, which was written by Yan Xuetong and Wang Jisi, who are foreign policy experts for China.

What do they observe about Evolving US- China Relations?

- US-China relationship has always revolved around two ideas
 - ✓ US will respect and not de-stabilize China's internal order
 - ✓ Chinese will not intentionally weaken the US-led international order.
 - ✓ China's foreign policy seems to be a reaction to America's "Provocation"
- Further, both the Scholars write that China has been attacking American uni- polarity and the "Cold-War type alliance"
- According to Yan and Wang what is the challenge for China Presently?
 - ✓ Championing the cause of Multi polarity while actually striving for a "duel identity" with the US.
 - ✓ "A multi-polar order with US-Chinese relations at its core."

What do they mean by China's Duel identity?

- No contradiction between China seeking global co-hegemony At the same time Continuing to be a "developing country"
- Observation- If other developing countries want, they too can follow the Chinese Model.

Inclusive Multilateralism vs. Exclusive Multilateralism

- Inclusive Multilateralism- Beijing's uncontrolled efforts at building plurilateral platforms, including in South Asia.
- China Claims that their led Multi-lateralism is Open and Non Threatening!!
- Exclusive Multilateralism- Promoted by USA which are Issue-based coalitions in opposition to China. (Opposition to QUAD)

What is their perception towards China being different from America?

- China is a developing country with "Chinese characteristics"
- Its political system and governance model cannot merely be exported to other countries.
- America on the other hand exports its value system (democracy) as part of its foreign policy, while China does not.

What is the main message to America in their reading about China's Foreign Policy?

- Americans should stop pressuring China to change its political system as this will be futile
- Bend to China's inevitable hegemony
- Chinese Communist Party must be seen as a legitimate global player.

What should be important takeaway for India from This?

- Paradigm shift in post-Covid Chinese foreign policy
- Beijing views America's so-called "issue-based coalitions" as a potential threat (QUAD)
- China is ready to accommodate if Washington just respects Beijing's internal order and acknowledges China's regional dominance

1.2.Hold the Red Line

Context- Engaging with Taliban Must require an Assertive yet Patient approach

What were the Statements by External Minister of India at SCO?

- Foreign Minister S Jaishankar at the SCO has rightly underlined the importance of peaceful and legitimate means in rearranging the current political order in Kabul.
- Afghanistan's past ,under the brutal rule of the Taliban during 1996-2001, can't be the formula for its future
- Extraordinary investment in blood and treasure that the international community has made in building a modern state in Afghanistan since 2001.

Why should New Delhi Resist the Rush to engage with Taliban?

- Pakistan's promotion of the myth that the group has been converted to moderation.
- Like Minded Nations should not squander it by pre-emptive normalization of the Taliban
- Very little has changed in the behavior of Taliban since 1996.
- Naive to expect the Taliban to abide by any norms of international conduct
- Security concerns for India
 - ✓ Taliban in Kabul has strong links to the Pakistan army and its terror proxies
 - ✓ This poses threats to the security of India and to the subcontinent as a whole.
- Need of the hour
 - ✓ Strategic patience that will help resist the temptation to normalize the Taliban
- Some Important investments done by India towards Afghanistan
 - ✓ The 2011 India-Afghanistan Strategic Partnership Agreement recommitted Indian assistance to help rebuild Afghanistan's infrastructure and institutions; education and technical assistance for capacity-building in many areas
- India's development assistance is now estimated to be worth well over \$3 billion.

- ✓ Salma dam- Hydropower and irrigation project. Also called as the Afghan- India Friendship dam
- ✓ Zaranj Delaram Highway- strategic importance to India as this highway provides alternative route into landlocked Afghanistan through Iran's Chabahar Port. Zaranj is located close to Afghanistan's border with Iran
- ✓ Parliament- Built by India at a cost of USD 90 Million.



1.3. When China Meets Taliban

Context- China's Engagement with Taliban post US Withdrawal

- Can China succeed in the “graveyard of empires” where others – Britain, Russia, US have got their punishment?
 - ✓ The demands on China to save Afghanistan are growing.
 - ✓ Washington sees Afghanistan as a potential area of bilateral cooperation with China, although they are ideologically in conflict.
 - ✓ There was a time when even Delhi thought that Afghanistan would be a natural area for India and China to work together.

✓ Afghanistan's Northern neighbours, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan all have expanding political and economic ties with China.

Why does Pakistan Need China more than ever to rebuild Afghanistan?

- China's emergence as a great power is the main difference between 1996, when the Pakistan Army installed Taliban in Kabul.
- Pakistan always had little to offer Afghanistan except religious extremism .
- No agenda for rebuilding a nation that had seen two decades of civil war.
- China, has the economic resources and political will to invest in the reconstruction of Afghanistan (extension of CPEC to Afghanistan)
- In the past, US was too dependent on Pakistan for sustaining a large military presence in Afghanistan.

How will managing Taliban be challenging despite China's Economic strength?

- Caution in Chinese policy- China knows that the Taliban is yet to gain control of Kabul and other Afghan cities.
- Beijing can't be Pre- Assumptive that stability will prevail soon after Taliban victory.
- Beijing can not bet that it's special relationship with the Pakistan army will guarantee the security of China's frontiers. (Recent attacks in Kohistan)
- No clarity if economic development of Afghanistan is a top priority for Taliban.
- China's fear of Taliban fermenting instability in China's Muslim majority province of Xinjiang. (Uyghurs)



Recent Statement by Taliban

- Taliban wants “**good, strong diplomatic, economic and political relations**” with the world and that it will not allow anyone to use its territory to threaten the security of other countries.

2. Agriculture

2.1. Areas of Competition and Cooperation

Context- New Ministry of Co-operation must ensure nurturing of Cooperatives efficiently

How has been India's Experience with Co-operatives till now?

- India's trust with the cooperative movement has produced mixed results with few successes and many failures
- Performance of Co-operatives in Financial sector (Urban & Rural) have been below average.
- Sugar cooperatives of Maharashtra, initially touted as exemplars of the movement, are being sold to the private sector at throwaway prices.

How has been the Dairy Co-operative Experience been?

- Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF) – with its poster brand, Amul – has been most successful
- Received a lot of capital at highly concessional terms
- Verghese Kurien (Milk Man of India)- Supported dairy farmers strongly, at times even at the expense of consumers.
- Despite the Success in Gujarat, this model was not copied by other states
- Almost 60 per cent of milk procured from cooperatives comes from two states, Gujarat and Karnataka.
- Uttar Pradesh which is the biggest producer of milk- Cooperatives, are nowhere in the scheme of things.
- What is special about Karnataka Model?
- Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF), sells its products under the brand name of Nandini.
- In its eagerness to please dairy farmers it gives them Rs 5 to Rs 6 extra per liter.
- KMF procures a lot of milk and then dumps it at lower prices in the market for consumers and affecting prices of Milk in adjoining states like Maharashtra.

Way forward for The New Ministry

- Ministry should give them soft loans for innovation and technology upgradation
- Ministry can also consider to extend such soft loans to Private Sector also to make it a level playing field and increasing Competition.
- Ministry of Cooperation should ensure least political & bureaucratic interference in the operation of cooperatives.
- Accountability towards Taxpayers money while infusing funds for Co- operatives.

3. Governance

3.1. Sensitive & Precise

- Context- Trafficking (Prevention, Care and Rehabilitation) Bill 2021
- Trafficking is a pernicious offence, towards which societies and governments must have zero tolerance
- However, dealing with this crime needs Sensitivity and not a sledgehammer.

Objective Of the draft Bill

- Preventing and countering trafficking in persons, particularly women and children,
- To provide for care, protection and rehabilitation to the victims
- Respecting their rights, and creating a supportive legal, economic and social environment for them
- Covers offences not only within India but also outside India also.
- When passed, envisages setting up of anti-trafficking committees at the State and national levels to implement the provisions

What are the Concerns over this bill?

- Investigation in Trafficking crimes to the NIA- This will burden NIA further and also be an attack on Federalism. This will make Local Enforcement agencies Irrelevant.
- Criminalizing sex workers- Refusal to consider consensual sexual activity for commerce.
- Penalties for non-reporting offences- Considering the tortuous processes, the fact that victims often do not want a complaint to be recorded.
- Absence of community-based rehabilitation

Observation

- Sexual exploitation and trafficking is a ghastly crime, however a wholesome approach may be considered which involves Sensitivity and Precision to this menace.

Views of Judiciary On Sex Workers

- September 2020- "Prostitution Not An Offence; Adult Woman Has Right To Choose Her Vocation": Bombay HC
- Prostitution had not been considered a criminal offence under the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956.
- Sex Workers are "adults," and "entitled to their fundamental right to move freely and choose their own vocation."
- What is punishable under the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act is sexual exploitation or abuse of a person for commercial purpose and to earn the bread thereby

3.2. Health Above Faith

- Context- Religious Rights are Subordinate to Right to Life
- Kanwar yatra, in which Kanwarias, devotees of Shiva, make a pilgrimage to collect water from the Ganga, was not held last year due to COVID-19. This year, it was scheduled to start on July 25.

What was the Supreme Court response?

- Court was perturbed by reports of the plan to conduct the yatra, resulting in the initiation of suo motu proceedings.
- The court disagreed with even the idea of a 'symbolic yatra' in deference to religious sentiment.
- SC stated that health of the public and their right to life are paramount
- "All other sentiments, albeit religious, are subservient to this most basic fundamental right"

Religious Devotion prior to Public Health?

- Already, Kumbh Mela earlier this year was seen as responsible for a surge in infections in the run-up to the disastrous second wave.
- There are sections that believe that rituals and gatherings associated with religious faith must be allowed with some restrictions.
- As per SC verdict- No question of choosing between religious rights and the right to life and safety.

Kerala's Example-

- Lockdown restrictions for three days in Kerala led people to Celebrate Bakri Eid.
- Any relaxation after a long spell of severe curbs will have to be based on a scientific assessment of the number of daily infections.