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Editorial Discussion & Analysis (EDA)

26th & 27th July 2021

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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. Environment & Climate Change

1.1.A Climate Risk

Context- Mitigation efforts need to evolve amidst rising uncertainty due to Climate change

Erratic monsoon

- According to India Meteorological Department (IMD) data on the regional distribution, the 'South Peninsula' has seen 29% more rain from June 1-July 25 than what is normal for this period.
- **At the same time, the rainfall pattern in much of North and North western India has been very irregular since 2nd week of June.**
- The monsoon is characterized by unexpected variability that forecast models can capture only in a limited way.
- **Observation-** A heating globe has increased atmospheric moisture levels, contributing to short, intense spells of rains.

Climate change impacting Cyclone Pattern in Peninsular India?

- The frequency and the strength of cyclones over the Arabian Sea have increased in the last two decades.
- There has been a 52% increase in the frequency of cyclones over the Arabian Sea from 2001-2019 and an 8% decrease over the Bay of Bengal compared to 1982-2002.
- Historically, most cyclones have been in the Bay of Bengal.

Changing Pattern of Cyclones

- More cyclones are bringing in more moisture from the Arabian Sea and contributing to extreme rainfall events over the western coast.
- Recent example being cyclone Tauktae in May, which at 185 kilometers per hour was among the strongest cyclones to approach Mumbai

The Broader implications of such Erratic Patterns-

- Interaction between warming, rainfall and temperature is complex.
- Extreme events — bursts of torrential localised rainfall and prolonged droughts and heat waves — are likely to increase.
- Need of the hour would be to develop accurate weather prediction models which can warn such events at least 3-5 days.

What are the Challenges which lie ahead in the face of such frequent events?

- Climate-proofing of the most vulnerable regions and taking warnings of scientific risk assessment seriously
- To make evacuation easier, there should be limited construction in places that have been marked vulnerable



- Proper planning can insure against the **inevitable extremities of nature** (earthquake, floods, draughts, heat waves etc)

1.2.A Problem of Adjustment

Context- Implications of EU's new GHG emissions law for Indian industry

- **Fit for 55- Legislation Introduced by EU, to cut its GHG emissions by 55 per cent by 2030 and to net zero by 2050.**

What is Net Zero?

- Net-zero, which is also referred to as carbon-neutrality, does not mean that a country would bring down its emissions to zero
- Net-zero is a state in which a country's emissions are compensated by absorption and removal of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere
- Absorption of the emissions can be increased by creating more carbon sinks such as forests.
- Removal of gases from the atmosphere requires futuristic technologies such as carbon capture and storage.

Immediate Implications of this legislation?

- It opens new markets for Indian industry, for example for electric vehicles. It also introduces a potentially adverse policy called the **Carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM)**.
- EU will bring more sectors into this trading scheme and tighten its allocation of permits
- In EU, carbon price is likely to go up as a result, making its domestic products more expensive than imports from countries that do not have such rules.
- **CBAM is meant to level the playing field between domestic and imported products.**
- **The EU has had a carbon emission trading system since 2005, with a current market price of 50 euros per tonne of carbon.**

What is the CBAM?

- **Fear of Carbon leakage-** Companies based in the EU could move carbon-intensive production abroad to take advantage of lax standards
- Alternatively, EU products could be replaced by more carbon-intensive imports.
- **The CBAM will equalize the price of carbon between domestic products and imports.**
- This will ensure that the EU's climate objectives are not undermined by production relocating to countries with less ambitious policies.
- **Alternatively, CBAM will encourage industry outside the EU and our international partners to take steps in the same direction.**

In which sectors will the CBAM be applied?

- Iron and steel, aluminum, cement, fertiliser, and electricity, Automobile Manufacturers.
- Automobile manufacturers may buy domestic low-carbon steel rather than imported high-carbon steel

How will this proposal affect India?

- India is Europe's third-largest trading partner, and it does not have its own carbon tax or cap.
- India will lose \$1-1.7 billion in exports of energy-intensive products such as steel and aluminum.
- India's goods trade with the EU was \$74 billion in 2020.
- Adjustment rate will vary by country and product, depending on the carbon intensity of the production technology and the electricity mix.
- EU Parliament's endorsement is expected to take 2 years, and CBAM will be imposed by 2026.

How can Indian Industry prepare itself before 2026?

- Enter clean technology partnerships with European industry.
 - ✓ Example- Such partnerships can help enhance the competitiveness of it's high-technology stainless or alloy products.
 - ✓ At present, India exports semi-finished and flat-rolled products of iron or non-alloy steel.
- Invest in more renewable electricity and energy efficiency and incentivise low-carbon choices.
- Government can provide finance to MSMEs to upgrade to clean technologies.
- India can try to diversify its exports to other markets and products.
 - ✓ For example, India could increase it's market share of crude steel in comparison to more emission intensive producers like China and Russia.





Sectors covered in the first phase of the CBAM - our environmental policy tool to help maximise the European and global impact of our fight against climate change.

CEMENT

IRON & STEEL

ALUMINIUM

FERTILISER

ELECTRICITY

#EUGreenDeal



European
Commission

2. International Relation

2.1. The Case for Reviving SAARC

Context- Utility of SAARC in a "Tense" South Asian region.

Why is South Asia a complex region Geopolitically?

- The region is beset with unsettled territorial disputes, as well as trans- border criminal activities.
- Theatre for ethnic, cultural, and religious tensions and rivalries.
- Nuclear-armed neighbors India and Pakistan are at loggerheads US President Bill Clinton once deemed it, **"the world's most dangerous place."**

What are the course of events which have led Afghanistan to turmoil in last 40 years?

- In 1979 Soviet forces invaded Afghanistan.
- In response, the US working with Pakistan, Saudi Arabia backed Afghan Mujahideens against the Soviets.
- Soviets withdrew from Afghanistan in 1988, and so did USA.
- The vacuum created post withdrawal of USSR and USA facilitated the growth of religious fanaticism and the emergence of the Taliban.
- In 2001, the US military went into Afghanistan to "Disrupt the terrorist base of operations," (Post 9/11- The great war on terror)
- 20 years afterwards, Taliban and Al Qaeda remain closely aligned and show no indication of breaking ties.

Historical background of SAARC

- In 1985, at the height of the Cold War, leaders of South Asian nations namely Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka created a regional forum- SAARC.
- Objective of SAARC- Contributing "to mutual trust, understanding and appreciation of one another's problems."
- Afghanistan was admitted as a member in 2007.
- SAARC has remained dormant since its 18th summit of 2014 in Kathmandu.
- Despite other forums like BIMSTEC, BBIN there has not been any strong alternative for SAARC which can assure Mutually Beneficial Diplomacy.

Observations

- SAARC's importance in stabilizing and effectively transforming the region is becoming increasingly self-evident.
- Allowing SAARC to become dysfunctional and irrelevant greatly distorts our ability to address the realities.



- Failure to Act will push South Asia into danger with escalating tensions with jihadi militias at the forefront.
- India needs to move away from the long hold suspicion that SAARC is a way for smaller neighbors to “gang up” against her.

Reason for Engaging SAARC more actively

- SAARC has made significant contributions to the development of civil society and track-two initiatives.
- SAARC summits provide a unique, informal window for leaders to meet without aides and chart future courses of action.
- Coming together of leaders at the height of tensions and hostility is a significant strength of SAARC that cannot be overlooked.
- SAARC members are among the top troop-contributing countries to UN peacekeeping missions.

Conclusion

- A Joint peacekeeping force from the SAARC region under the UN aegis could be explored to fill the power vacuum post USA withdrawal from Afghanistan.

No	Date	Country	Host	Host leader
1st	7–8 December 1985	Bangladesh	Dhaka	Ataur Rahman Khan
2nd	16–17 November 1986	India	Bengaluru	Rajiv Gandhi
3rd	2–4 November 1987	Nepal	Kathmandu	King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah
4th	29–31 December 1988	Pakistan	Islamabad	Benazir Bhutto
5th	21–23 November 1990	Maldives	Malé	Maumoon Abdul Gayoom
6th	21 December 1991	Sri Lanka	Colombo	Ranasinghe Premadasa
7th	10–11 April 1993	Bangladesh	Dhaka	Khaleda Zia
8th	2–4 May 1995	India	New Delhi	P V Narasimha Rao
9th	12–14 May 1997	Maldives	Malé	Maumoon Abdul Gayoom
10th	29–31 July 1998	Sri Lanka	Colombo	Chandrika Kumaratunga
11th	4–6 January 2002	Nepal	Kathmandu	Sher Bahadur Deuba
12th	2–6 January 2004	Pakistan	Islamabad	Zafarullah Khan Jamali
13th	12–13 November 2005	Bangladesh	Dhaka	Khaleda Zia
14th	3–4 April 2007	India	New Delhi	Manmohan Singh
15th	1–3 August 2008	Sri Lanka	Colombo	Mahinda Rajapaksa
16th	28–29 April 2010	Bhutan	Thimphu	Jigme Thinley
17th	10–11 November 2011	Maldives	Addu	Mohammed Nasheed
18th	26–27 November 2014 ^[69]	Nepal	Kathmandu	Sushil Koirala
19th	15–16 November 2016	Pakistan	Islamabad	Cancelled
20th	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

2.2. The Great Convergence & Lag

- Context- Intensify USA- India bilateral engagement in View of Upcoming visit of USA Secretary of State, Antony Blinken
- India and the US have come a long way since the 1990s.
- There is Growing political and security cooperation, expanding economic engagement, widening interface between the two societies
- Intensifying footprint of the Indian diaspora in the US.
- However some questions still haunt the policy makers in India with reference to USA's stand on issues of "Strategic Interest" for India.
- As India's relative weight in the international system continues to grow, it creates much room for give and take between India and the US.
- However, "The Small State" syndrome haunts Indian Foreign Policy Elite.

Why is there no cohesion in Public debate with evolving India- USA relations?

- Indian elite's entrenched ideological suspicion of the US since independence (NAM made India more closer to Soviets)
- Nations with big stakes in the US relationship have no choice but to develop the capacity to see the big picture amidst the chaos.
- **Delhi's under-investment in public understanding of American society.**
- Unlike India, Russia and China have put large resources in American studies at their universities and think tanks.

Joe Biden's Economic Policies

- Broken from the neoliberal economic policies initiated under Ronald Reagan in the 1980s and sustained by successive administrations.
- Biden is moving left on the relationship between the state and the market i.e. raising taxes, increasing Public spending.
- Like Trump, questioning America's uncritical economic globalization of the past.
- Biden wants to make sure that America's foreign and economic policies serve the US middle class.
- In past American policy was to open financial markets everywhere for Wall Street.
- No FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS in the near future.

Joe Biden's Foreign Policy

- Rebooting the American economy through an active industrial policy to vigorously compete with China.
- Responding effectively to China's aggressive policies in the Indo-Pacific has strong backing from the Republican Party.



- Seeking to overcome Washington's hostility to Russia by resetting ties with Moscow.

Observation

- America's new orientation under Biden has opened much space for India to widen and deepen ties with Washington.

Democracy and USA

- Living up to this ideal at home and abroad has not been easy for the United States over the last 200 years!
- Biden recognizes that renewing American democracy is the most powerful way of supporting democracies around the world.
- Underlined the importance of confronting institutional racism within America.
- Limiting the constitutional right to bear arms.

Observation

- Biden's efforts will have valuable lessons for reforming India's own democracy.
- Both USA and India can engage in the challenges that new surveillance technologies and big tech monopolies pose to democratic governance.

Why is it even more justified for India and USA to engage more than ever now?

- Many notes to exchange on democracy and human rights.
- Afghanistan to Indo-Pacific.
- Addressing climate change
- Vaccine Diplomacy

3. Food Security

3.1. Lessons from India's Food Security Response

Context- Takeaways from Government's approach towards Food crisis amidst the Pandemic.

Covid and Food Security

- Deadly virus has been around for two years and it is not clear as to how and when it will end.
- Government interventions promised food and livelihood security, along with the strengthening of health support during this crisis.
- **The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World, estimates that around a tenth of the global population (81.1 crore persons) were undernourished last year.**

India And Food Security

- Enormous progress in food production over the years, with an inspiring journey towards self-sufficiency in food production marked by the Green Revolution.
- In 2020, India produced over 30 crore tonnes of cereals and had built up a food stock of 10 crore tonnes.
- India exported a record 1.98 crore tonnes of rice and wheat in FY21.

What were the Measures adopted by Union Government to address the food crisis?

- States to lift their allocations (under PDS) for six months in one go
- The public distribution system became a lifeline for millions hit by the pandemic.
- Increase in entitlements given to National Food Safety Act (NFSA) beneficiaries in 2020.
- Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), 81.3 crore NFSA beneficiaries received an additional 5 kg of food grains per person per month.

PMGKAY

- Introduced in 2020 for 8 months to provide relief to 80 crore beneficiaries. (NFSA)
- Reintroduced this year for the third phase implementation for two months till June
- Extended till November under the fourth phase.

Observation

- The scale of India's public food distribution systems is immense and has gone through constant navigation and improvement, which is commendable.
- More needs to still be done to improve access and inclusion among the missing vulnerable population.

Way Ahead

- **One Ration Card (ONORC)** scheme is an innovation that can be a game changer, allowing beneficiaries to access their food entitlements from anywhere in the country.



- Efforts are needed towards programmes that focus on building **Resilient agriculture that is adaptive to Climate change.**
- There should be enhanced efforts to prevent food losses.
- Annual GHG emissions associated with food losses and food waste reaches to around 3.5 GT of the CO₂ equivalent.
- Mobilise agenda of Food security and Nutrition in the upcoming UN Food Systems Summit, the Nutrition for Growth Summit and the COP26 on climate change.

4. Governance

4.1. Guardrails Of Privacy

Context- Privacy protection alone wont be sufficient to protect against Illegal Surveillance

- **Bhima Koregaon Case Forensic Study by Arsenal Consulting**
- In light of recent incidents , if found to be true, they will have a chilling effect on personal and civil liberties that are crucial for a democracy to function.
- On the other hand there also happens to be a veiled popular opinion which justifies such transgressions in the name of national security.
- According to the Arsenal reports, there is clear evidence that the incriminating files were **planted** in the hard disks by unknown entities (Bhima Koregaon Cases Files)
- Planting a Trojan malware called NetWire by orchestrating some kind of phishing attacks on the unsuspecting activists.
- **Governments and legal authorities need to ensure that digital evidence arising out of such forensic analysis is admissible in courts.**

Pegasus Attacks

- Described in the Amnesty International report are significantly more sophisticated.
- They are “zero-click” attacks that do not even require a mistake by a victim to be successful.
- This can be Orchestrated by network injection attacks through clever redirections using tactical devices, compromised network devices.

Is it possible for the hardware devices to have Virus Proof pre installed software?

- Vulnerabilities are inevitable.
- Difficult for hardware and software designers to ensure that the devices are not compromised.
- Rather difficult to prevent a determined and resourceful attacker from successfully carrying out silent network injection attacks in user devices.

Will Passing a Data Protection Bill Ensure safeguards?

- It is unlikely, because for every instance of an Amnesty report, there will likely be many more undetected instances of Pegasus-like infringements.
- Stealth attacks are not only difficult to detect but are also difficult to prove and easy to deny.
- Having said that, Such a framework is essential for defining the contours of lawful surveillance and data processing.
- **High probability** surveillance attempt as sophisticated as Pegasus altogether bypasses the data protection and regulatory oversight.

Observation

- State may have some legitimate requirements for surveillance if it has to keep us safe, but they cannot be outside the ambit of the law.
- Without a doubt, the country urgently requires surveillance reforms and data protection standards

Conclusion

- Right to dissent is a hallmark of democracy.
- Learn to distinguish criticism and protests from terrorism and other criminal acts.
- The commitment to the rights to free speech and liberty as espoused in Articles 19 and 21 of our Constitution seems to be wavering.
- In the times ahead, combating unlawful surveillance through stealth attacks and protecting privacy.
- Strong public outrage and disapproval, can perhaps be an effective deterrent.