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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. Environment

1.1. The Climate Decline

Context- Climate Crisis is Here!

Issue

- Globally, average surface temperatures have already risen by 1.09°C between 1850-1900 and 2010
- If we followed high fossil fuel development (doubling emissions by 2050), temperatures would rise by 4.4°C (range of 3.3-5.7°C) by 2100.
- India is particularly vulnerable. If warming exceeds 4°C, India could see about 40% increase in precipitation annually, leading to extreme rainfall events
- **3/4th of India's districts are now hotspots of extreme weather events.**
- Even with warming restricted to 1.5°C, we are still on course for more than 2 metres of sea-level rise beyond this century

Way Forward

- Anthropogenic emissions must become net-zero.
- Cumulative emissions cannot exceed a global carbon budget.
- Mere announcements of net-zero targets do little to retard the “carbon grab” of the largest emitters.
- CEEW researchers find that rich countries, as a whole, emitted 25 gigatonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (GtCO₂eq) more than their estimated emission allowance during 2008-20.
- This is more than half the world's greenhouse gas emissions in 2019.
- Climate justice demands that developed countries now take steps to free up carbon space for others.
- The claim on a fair share of the carbon budget is not a licence to pollute.

Carbon budget- is the amount of CO₂ that humanity can emit while still having a chance to contain global warming within 1.5degrees compared with preindustrial levels, as advocated by the Paris Agreement.

India's Role in Mitigating the Crisis

- India must deliver high rates of economic growth within a shrinking carbon budget. As of now it's energy consumption and carbon footprint are well below the global average.
- India must tap New technology frontiers (Green hydrogen)
- New business models (distributed and digitalised services, for distributed energy, EV charging, cold chains), New construction materials (low-carbon cement, recycled plastic)

Conclusion

- Climate science is not sensationalism but gets plugged that way because of our short attention spans.
- **At COP-26 in Glasgow (UK), which is 3 months from now on, climate negotiators must upscale climate ambitions.**

2. Economy

2.1. Retro tax out, Reform in

Context- Impetus to Financial Sector Reforms

A Move which was long awaited

- Doing away with the Retrospective Taxation was a reform is a welcome step for India, without undermining the Government's authority to tax.
- India is enjoying one of the best years of foreign direct investment and foreign portfolio investment- so this step will bring in cheers to the Foreign Investors.
- Modern nation, especially a democratic nation, does not go about imposing retrospective taxes.
- March towards an internationally competitive economy needed the stamp of a tax litigation friendly regime.
- India needs to be trusted completely on the rule of law. The rule of law will also help privatisation and other associated best practices.

Scope for more Financial Reforms

- A long-neglected aspect of Indian exports are exports related to financial services. Food exports from a food-deficit India in 1980 were around \$10 billion, yet financial services exports currently are around \$5 Billion.
- India had one of the highest effective corporate tax rates till 2019 which has now been coming down of recently. (**Effective Corporate Tax is 25.17 % now**)
- Indian sovereign (and corporate) bonds can become part of global bond indices.
- Cost of borrowing for governments and corporates will come down as individuals across the world invest in the now high nominal (and real) Indian yield. (**Indian bond yields are @ 6.23%**)
- Allowing Foreign Investors to directly Purchase Securities from the Indian Capital Market without the need to pay commissions or "rents" to foreign investment banks.
- This will make Markets more stable and less volatile.

2.2. Unpacking the Resiliency of Global trade, Yet again

Context- Post Covid Trade Integration

Challenges to World Trade

- COVID-19 pandemic has shrunk the world economy by 4.4% and global trade by 5.3%.
- Countries have responded to pandemic-induced shortages with protectionist reactions and nationalist aspirations.

- Blame game on trade openness and trade agreements for widening trade deficits

Re-Look in the Past

- 2nd World War created sustaining multilateral institutions; besides the United Nations, World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) and International Trade organization (ITO)
- The oil shocks of the 1970s led to the establishment of the International Energy Agency (IEA) in 1974 to manage oil supply disruptions.
- The financial crisis of 2008 led to the G20 Leaders Summit, an elevation from the G20 Finance Ministers forum in 1999
- These developments had a consequential impact on global trade, with dramatic surges in volumes.
- **From \$60.80 billion in 1950, trade across the world increased to \$19,014 billion in 2019.**

Way forward for Global economy Post Covid

- International trade is vital for development and prosperity, while competition is central to generating competence.
- Global supply chains will revive manufacturing with lower production costs, induce investments and promote technology transfers.
- **Countries that harness technology are expected to dominate international trade in future with a transformational impact on the global economy.**
- Rapid growth in e commerce and the virtual world will demand entirely new skills from the workforce.
- **Data is the new Steam engine of 21st century.**
- At WTO, nations should take a resolve collectively to discipline nations that are known to dumping goods and erecting trade barriers.

Way forward for India

- Building an ecosystem that incentivises value-added manufacturing and technology-induced finished products should form a part of our long-term strategy. **(Production Linked Incentive Scheme across 13 sectors)**
- Developing a synergistic relationship between the big industry and MSMEs is at the core of a successful Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- Along with Stimulus packages, Support MSME's with cheaper input costs, raw materials so as they can sustain Job creation in longer run.
- **Skills Upgradation to global standards is paramount in Post Covid Global Economy.**

3. Polity & Governance

3.1. Counting In

- Context- Caste Census is much needed.

Issue

- 127th Constitution Amendment Bill, which restores the rights of state governments to make their own OBC lists
- The architecture of India's affirmative programme is based on caste.
- Accurate data on the caste composition of the population is needed to maximise the gains of policies such as reservation in education and employment.
- **Caste census was last held in 1931 and discontinued thereafter. The SECC held in 2011 was made public in 2015, however it has not been utilised to identify Castes which are in Dire need of affirmative action.**
- Since Independence National Parties have felt that reintroduction of caste census will defeat free India's aim of annihilation of the caste system.
- **However, the concern is that caste continues to be an influential determinant in public affairs and access to resources.**

Way forward

- Accurate data on caste will help both National parties and Government.
- Will help in political focusing and social engineering better.
- **It will serve for the government as a reliable data for preventing leakages in it's welfare scheme.**
- Targeted Delivery programmers through JAM can be more efficiently carried out by using the census.
- **Expose the dominance and privilege certain castes have continued to enjoy in social, cultural, political and economic spheres.**

4. Ethics & Integrity

4.1. Due Process For all

- Context- Decriminalizing Indian Politics

Political Interference

- Karnataka government decided to drop charges in 61 criminal cases, several of which involved elected representatives and ministers, including the state's law minister
- To this the Karnataka HC restrained the state government from acting on that order by saying that Courts are duty bound to assess whether prima facie a case is made or not.
- Recently CJI N V Ramana said that in determining whether the withdrawal of the prosecution subserves the administration of justice, the court would be justified in scrutinising the nature and gravity of the offence.

Red Flags

- Links between money and muscle power with politics continue to bedevil democracy, despite numerous interventions by the country's highest court.
- SC's 2020 directive- Political parties to publicly disclose the criminal antecedents of candidates put up by them in elections to Parliament and state assemblies.
- This was necessary so as to enable voters to have all necessary information, so that they can exercise their right to franchise in an effective manner.

Way Forward

- Public prosecutors had the right to disagree when governments invoked Article 21 of the CrPC to withdraw criminal cases
- Supreme Court held that Power to withdraw cases cannot be used for political purposes

5. Science & Technology

5.1. The Importance of Booster dose to plan ahead

- Context- Need for a 3rd Dose

Replicating Vaccines

- Replicating Vaccines are Live Infectious vaccines while Non Replicating are Non Infectious Vaccines.
- Live virus vaccines- Used for measles, rubella, mumps and chickenpox.
- In Replicating Vaccines live but attenuated viruses replicate in body tissues without producing overt disease.
- Immune responses to replicating live virus vaccines - both antibody and T cell immunity are robust and long-lasting
- As the injected viruses (weak) continue to multiply within the human body the stimulus for the antibodies starts increasing progressively.

Non Replicating Vaccine

- Include nearly all others – the most common being diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), tetanus, hepatitis B
- What is injected is a tiny amount of antigen, measured in micrograms, plus stabilisers and preservatives.
- Immunogens that are used to induce pathogen-specific host immune responses include killed pathogens, purified or synthetic pathogen structures, or recombinant pathogen products as antigens.
- RNA vaccines are Non Replicating vaccines.

What is the Need for a Booster does?

- **To get robust and long lasting immunity with non-replicating vaccines, we need to give multiple doses.**
- Initial one, two or three doses given in quick succession, at intervals of one or two months, are “priming doses”
- Over time, in a few months to one year, the antibody levels wane in almost all vaccinated individuals.
- **Every non-replicating vaccine requires priming and boosting.**
- Example- Influenza vaccine boosters are recommended annually.
- **COVID-19 vaccines fall in the non-replicating category and for robust and long-lasting immunity they require a booster dose.**

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Strategy For India

- Seems inevitable the pandemic will evolve into a permanent ‘pan- endemic’ and vaccination is here to stay for years to come.
- **Science of vaccinology demands that all those getting priming doses should receive at least one booster dose.**
- **Timing- 6 to 12, months after the last priming dose, will stimulate the production of ‘long-lived’ antibodies.**
- Meticulous planning and the execution of such a vaccination campaign is what is needed to come out of this deadlock.

Question

- In Light of IPCC’s 6th assessment report, what do you think are the concerns specifically for the developing nations? Will the “Net Zero” emission target towards 2050 be another whitewash by the Developed Countries? (250 Words)



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