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# Editorial Discussion & Analysis (EDA)

18th & 19th August 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. History

## 1.1. Remembering the Horrors of Partition

- Context- Intent Matters!

### Issue

- We should certainly keep alive the tragic memories associated with Partition.
- Blood-letting that scarred people of both countries must never be repeated.
- If intent behind “Partition Horrors Remembrance Day” is to cast India- Pakistan hostility in stone, then it can only spawn negative domestic political consequences
- Will also limit India’s foreign policy options.
- Apprehension that such a “remembrance” might play a communal card ahead of the Elections in Uttar Pradesh.

### How can Remembrance be used or Misused?

- Remembrance can be a prelude to healing from a tragedy, to foster a determination among people to never allow the tragedy to repeat itself.
- It can be used to reopen the wounds of yesteryears, to reignite ugly passions.
- Partition of India in 1947 is a warning of what can happen when the politics of exclusion overwhelms the culture of inclusion.
- Tragic history be used instead to heal the wounds of the past.

### Way forward

- This remembrance must be of all the communities – Hindus, Muslims, and Sikhs in undivided India, on both sides of the present borders.
- We would not want that this to reopen the wounds and give a new edge to the divisions that led to the deaths during Partition.
- Consider establishing a **national museum of Partition** in the heart of New Delhi.
- **A good idea would be to make a larger South Asian process of remembrance of everyone who died, whatever their religious denomination and wherever their location at the time of Partition was.**

## 2. International Relation

### 2.1. The Script of the New Endgame in Afghanistan (The Hindu)

- Context- Afghanistan is the Sick Man of Asia Now!

#### How is 2021 any different from the 1990s when Russia had withdrawn?

- After the Russian withdrawal in the 1990s, Afghanistan still had a future, for in the final years of the 20th century
- In the 1990s, moreover, the Taliban were a band of outlaws.
- Funny that today Taliban is Recognized by powers such as the U.S., Russia and China, and is on the brink of gaining a country.
- There could be no greater tragedy than the emergence of a 'rogue' state under the Taliban.

#### How is Afghanistan Different from Syria?

- Syria had a relatively strong President (Bashar al Assad), while Afghan President Ghani can hardly be compared to him.
- Afghanistan's borders, with Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, unlike that of Syria are extremely porous and almost impossible to guard or protect.
- Taliban is intent on keeping absolute control and is counting on China, Russia, and Pakistan to do so.

#### Will the crisis in Afghanistan reignite other Militant organizations?

- Resurgence in al Qaeda activities recently.
- The IS, after some earlier setbacks, is again regrouping and currently poses a real threat to areas abutting, and including, Afghanistan.

#### Conclusion

- Taliban will need Pakistan at least in the short and medium term.
- India, even more than Shia dominated Iran, may be the outlier among Afghanistan's neighbours.
- India enjoyed warm relations with the Karzai and the Ghani regimes in the past 20 years.
- To India's disadvantage
  - ✓ China Russia Pakistan Nexus across the region.
  - ✓ Retreat of USA
  - ✓ Iran under a hardliner like Ebrahim Raisi

## 2.2. Ungraceful Retreat

- Context- Goodbye too soon!

### Issue

- USA's Premature exit will go down in history as a stark lesson in how a superpower does business with the world.
- **Joe Biden clarified that America's intent was Not focused on Nation Building in Afghanistan.**
- There is contradiction in USA'S earlier stance on it's policy towards Afghanistan w.r.t Promoting democracy.
- USA has closed Afghanistan Chapter in it's history.

### Challenges for India in this Scenario

- India had built on its age-old ties with the country to win back the influence it had lost after the exit of Soviet troops .
- **India has zero diplomatic presence in Afghanistan (As of now).**
- Re-establishing it will depend upon the kind of dispensation that takes
- shape in Kabul and whether India decides to engage with it.
- **India is now virtually friendless in the region, cut off by the China- Pakistan axis, and more or less by Russia too**

## 2.3. Understanding Taliban 2.0 (Indian Express)

- How is Taliban 2.0 different from Taliban of 1996?
- Unlike previous occasions, the Afghan state structures are largely intact, which was highlighted by the Taliban's dramatic press conference in a grand setting.
- **Signs that the victor (Taliban) is amenable to persuasion to accept a consensual outcome.**
- International community, especially regional states, is midwifing the transition (China-Pak- Russia Axis)
- **Taliban has transformed into an incredibly diverse movement that made inroads into all communities and ethnic groups.**
- The Sheikhs held the Taliban in a pernicious grip in the 1990s, but the latter holds Saudis and Emiratis at arm's length now.
- Talibs are wiser now about the ways of the world, exposed to the metropolis and have diversified external relations in the West and East alike, and are hankering for legitimacy.

## Counter View for the Taliban Sceptics in India

- **Erroneous assumptions leave no scope to accommodate the compelling ground reality that Taliban today is largely an indigenous movement with roots running extensively in Afghan society.**
- A great opportunity was at hand to plough a new Afghan policy independent of American tutelage.
- In the past Prime Minister Narasimha Rao **didn't have an iota of doubt** that India shouldn't lose time to launch a conversation with the Mujahideen groups
- Need to move away from the notion that Taliban as a plaything of the Pakistani establishment.
- **The Notion of "spillover" from Afghanistan is unwarranted. The Taliban has an exclusively Afghan-centric agenda**

## 3. Polity & Governance

### 3.1. Guardian of the House (Indian Express)

- Context- Unbiased role of Speaker in Parliamentary Democracy

#### Office Of Speaker

- In the Lok Sabha, as in the United Kingdom, the **Speaker is the supreme authority**. He has vast powers and it is his primary duty to ensure the orderly conduct of the business of the House.
- GV Mavalankar, the first Speaker, observed: “Once a person is elected Speaker, he is expected to be above parties, above politics.” – He belongs to all members or to none!
- Pandit Nehru referred to the Speaker as “**the symbol of the nation’s freedom and liberty**” and emphasised that Speakers should be men of “outstanding ability and impartiality”.
- Sole discretion to permit an adjournment motion to be tabled or to admit a calling attention notice, if the issue is of urgent public importance.

#### Partisan Role of Speaker

- **Sadly, over the last decade and more, an impartial and independent Speaker remains a contradiction.**
- Speaker ought to resign from his party.
- **Sole allegiance must be to the Constitution** and to maintaining the dignity of the House.
- **Present practice of the Speaker continuing to be an active member of the ruling party has the inevitable result of his refusing to allow any debate or discussion that may be essential in national interest.**
- Disruption of Parliament causes extensive damage not only to the prestige of the House but also frustrates the primary function of any legislature.

#### Conclusion

- Separation of powers is part of the basic structure of our Constitution.
- **If Parliament ceases to be relevant, the foundation of our democracy will progressively get weaker.**
- Imperative that the Speaker of every legislature resigns from his party to honour his constitutional obligation of independence and impartiality.

## 3.2. The Significance of there is No Data Answer (The Hindu)

- Context- No Data in Public domain eludes Accountability.

### Why is it convenient for the Government to cite Unavailability of Data?

- It would be mean entering the ring and opening itself up to scrutiny as being accountable for the mess and deterioration in the state of affairs.
- Deflect accountability to the only other unit of power that continues to stand and challenge the Centre – and that is State governments.
- Example- When asked the number of Oxygen related deaths, the centre passed the blame on to states saying Health is a state subject
- Allows regimes to rewrite the story of the times. The truth does not matter, the narrative does.
- Example
  - ✓ National Health Mission's Health Management Information System went missing. It was only after data-watchers made a fuss that the data on the website was restored.
  - ✓ No data for the lack of oxygen deaths

### Conclusion

- **Information is power and a lack of information is the absence of power.**
- There is a gigantic and growing information gap between the state and citizens.
- Denying citizens the data helps to restate the emergent power equation between the Government and citizen.
- Denial of data on important markers of governance, delivery and issues that matter to people, Example- Farmers killing themselves, people consuming far less than before, hunger rising etc keep **shrugs off Government's responsibility.**
- **Good and truthful information is the very basis of the quality of democracy**

## 4. Indian Society

### 4.1. The Future is Female (Indian Express)

- Context- Woman & Technology
- **World Economic Forum- Some of the sought-after skills for the 21st century workplace include emotional intelligence, creative problem solving, critical thinking and storytelling.**
- These are actually innate abilities that many women are proficient in.
- Empathy, compassion and sensitivity that women are gifted with are actually strengths that leaders should equip themselves with to solve problems in today's work world.
- **Most large companies do not give as much importance to degrees any longer and are demanding "smart generalists".**
- Women from lower income communities at scale only get access to job opportunities that require limited application of their creative and emotional intelligence.
- **Woman are rarely considered for leadership roles especially in conventional SMEs that actually create majority employment.**

#### Way Forward

- Women from lower-income groups to aspire to be financial analysts, AI and ML (machine learning) experts, copywriters, product managers, entrepreneurs or CEOs.
- Corporates and, more specifically, male leaders in positions of power must make an active **effort towards creating equal opportunities and a secure environment.**
- Organisations should emphasise on the immense value that women could add due to their proficiency in the most sought-after non- technical skills

#### Question Of the Day

- **Data is said to be the "New Fossil Fuel" of the 21st Century. However, In light of Recent revelations of Pegasus spyware, how mature is our polity and society to move towards a Data Protection Regime? Comment (250 words)**