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Editorial Discussion & Analysis (EDA)

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Table of Contents

1. Governance	1
1.1.The Learning Journey (Indian Express)	1
1.2.A Language Ladder for an Educational Roadblock (THE HINDU).....	2
1.3.No Fundamental Right to Strike (THE HINDU)	3
2. Environment.....	4
2.1.A Just Energy Transition (INDIAN EXPRESS).....	4
3. Indian Economy	5
3.1.A Rupee Wish For India @ 100 (INDIAN EXPRESS).....	5
3.2.A Grand Tax Bargain in Danger of Coming Apart (THE HINDU)	6
4. International Relations.....	7
4.1.Getting Back in Business in the Indo Pacific (THE HINDU).....	7

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. Governance

1.1. The Learning Journey (Indian Express)

Context- Education is much beyond Online Learning

What will be required to Move the spirit behind the policy of NEP?

- For the NEP to move forward, we need robust institutional mechanisms to support the policy.
- Every teacher at the foundational, primary and middle school level must develop a sense of ownership, else the transformation will not take place.
- Schools need to focus on a growth mindset.

What have been the impediments in the last 1 year?

- Schools cannot be compared to institutions of higher education.
- The needs of children are more personalized and cannot be addressed only online.
- Children are losing touch with understanding, comprehension, reading and speaking skills.

Technology- Curse or Boon?

- Technology connects people, but it has limitations as far as teaching and learning are concerned.
- Schools of brick and mortar cannot be completely dispensed with as places of learning.
- Parents are finding it difficult to support their children in this venture.

Concerns regarding NEP Implementation

- NEP cannot be brought in through online devices.
- Significant number of students do not have devices that allow them to access online learning.
- Of lately we have been designing schools for crisis as opposed to designing schools for what we want them to be.
- Currently there is a fragile learning system with implications for the implementation of the NEP

Way Forward

- Research, evaluation and documentation is essential along with coordination and convergence of the policy and programmes connected with it.
- Creation of master trainers should be done who will train principals and teachers in urban and rural areas.
- NEP is essentially about learning through observation, listening, exploring, experimenting and asking questions.
- None of the above are part of online learning.

1.2.A Language Ladder for an Educational Roadblock (THE HINDU)

Context- Technical Education in Native Languages

Much needed Reform

- All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), has permitted B. Tech programmes in 14 native languages in tune with the New Education Policy (NEP), is momentous.
- B.Tech courses, in Hindi, Marathi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Gujarati, Malayalam, Bengali, Assamese, Punjabi and Odia.
- NEP's emphasis on the mother tongue as the medium of instruction will instill confidence in students from poor, rural and tribal backgrounds.
- Dreams of millions of students seeking to pursue professional courses in their mother tongue will be realised.

Takeaways

- "We must teach science in our mother tongue. Otherwise science will become a highbrow activity"- Sir CV Raman
- Will improve the learning outcomes of the child and the development of his/ her cognitive faculties.
- As per UNESCO, learning in the mother tongue is germane to building self esteem and self-identity.
- India offers courses of international repute in engineering, medicine, law and the humanities yet have, on the other hand excluded our people to access them.

Global Practices

- In South Korea, nearly 70% of the universities teach in Korean.
- In Japan, a majority of university programmes are taught in Japanese.
- France went to the extent of having a strict 'French-only' policy as the medium of instruction in schools.
- 80% of all masters' programmes are taught in German language in Germany.
- India has an overwhelming majority of professional courses being taught in English.

Way forward

- Technology must be leveraged to increase accessibility of these Indian language courses to everyone.
- Lack of high-quality textbooks, especially in technical courses, and this needs to be addressed urgently.
- **It is not a 'Mother tongue versus English' approach, but a 'Mother tongue plus English' approach!**

1.3.No Fundamental Right to Strike (THE HINDU)

Context- Essential Defence Services Bill, 2021

- Objectives of the Bill
- Secure the security of nation and the life and property of the public at large.
- Prevent staff of the government-owned ordnance factories from going on strike.
- Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) employees assured that their service conditions will not be affected.

Under Article 33 of the Constitution, Parliament

- Can restrict or abrogate the rights of the members of the armed forces or the forces charged with the maintenance of public order.
- For the armed forces and the police, the fundamental right to form an association can be restricted under Article 19(4) in the public interest.

Supreme Court's View

- In T.K. Rangarajan v. Government of Tamil Nadu (2003), the Supreme Court held that the employees have no fundamental right to resort to strike.
- Government employees cannot hold the society to ransom by going on strike.

Gandhiji's Views

- "Police, should never go on strike. Theirs was an essential service and they should render that service, irrespective of their pay"

Conclusion

- No fundamental right to strike under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution.
- Strike as a weapon is mostly misused which results in chaos.
- Parliament, is well within its right to expressly prohibit resorting to strikes

2. Environment

2.1.A Just Energy Transition (INDIAN EXPRESS)

Context- Renewable Energy must be People Centric

- India is one of the world's largest markets for renewable energy.
- **Trifecta of jobs, growth and sustainability can be met by energy transformation.**
- **90 per cent of new electricity generation capacity around the world now comes from renewable.**
- Due to Net Zero emission targets, global energy system is set to undergo a transformation

How is India placed in this transformation?

- India is among the world's top five countries in terms of renewable power capacity.
- India is also showing global clean energy leadership through initiatives such as the International Solar Alliance.
- India's ambitious renewable energy capacity to 450 GW by 2030.

How will this lead to Job Creation?

- **Deployment of 450 GW of renewables would employ more than half a million workers**
- **Immediate gains, including job creation and new economic opportunities.**
- Also, new jobs would need to be found over time for the coal miners affected by the changes. (displaced workers need to be accommodated)

Boost to Rural Economy

- Focus on sharing the benefits of clean energy technologies with micro- entrepreneurs and small businesses.
- **Clean energy innovations for farms and businesses offer a market opportunity worth more than \$50 billion.**
- Government must incentivize investment in decentralized low-carbon power sources like rooftop solar, and train.
- Incorporating energy efficiency and green construction in the Housing sector make will make energy efficiency a core part of building designs.

Way Forward

- Engaging the youth is critical to ensure that the energy transition is sustainable, inclusive and enduring
- Women account for nearly 32 per cent of the renewables workforce globally but only around 11% India.
- Gender parity is necessary.
- **People-centric approach, backed by good policy design in India would provide a model for other countries and communities worldwide.**

3. Indian Economy

3.1.A Rupee Wish For India @ 100 (INDIAN EXPRESS)

Context- Rupee becoming a Global reserve Currency- Vision for 2047

- \$12 trillion across 150 countries are currently stored in 8 currencies: 55% in US dollars, 30% in euros, and 15% in 6 other currencies

What will It take For Rupee to be a Reserve Currency?

- A reserve currency has to serve as a medium of exchange, a store of value, and a unit of account.

Main property of a reserve currency country is trust.

- India has never defaulted and the 1991 reforms have been accelerated by big reforms like GST, IBC, inflation targeting, education, labour, and agriculture.
- Global shift of economic gravity to Asia, and the challenges of trusting China.
- 25 per cent of the world's new workers in the next 10 years will be Indian.

How can Rupee be Strengthened?

- Fiscal policy must raise our Tax to GDP ratio. (Direct Taxes)
- Public debt to GDP ratio under 100%
- Monetary policy must control inflation.
- More number of Employees engaged in Formal Sector.
- Massive industrialisation (less than 15% farm employment)
- Rule of law, cooperative federalism, press freedom, Civil service effectiveness.

8 Reserve Currencies- U.S. dollar, Euro, Chinese Renminbi (Yuan), Japanese yen, British pound, Australian dollar, Canadian dollar and Swiss franc.

How can India leverage over China?

- China is involved in Border disputes with neighbours.
- Withdrawing the Ant IPO, and Savaging the Didi IPO
- **Under Chinese law, foreigners can't own Chinese shares directly.**
- US investors who have bought "shares" in the roughly 250 Chinese companies listed on US exchanges don't own equity in reality.
- Chinese overconfidence creates an opportunity for India.
- 2% renminbi share in global reserves doesn't reflect their status as the world's second-largest economy and biggest trading nation.
- India does not need to be have to be perfect, it just needs to be better than it's competitors.

Current Account Convertibility

- Freedom to convert rupee into dollars etc and vice versa for export and import of goods and services.
- India has full current account convertibility since 1993.

Capital Account Convertibility

- Freedom of foreign investors to purchase Indian financial assets (shares, bonds, etc.) and that of the Indian investors to purchase foreign financial assets.
- India has partial capital account convertibility in India.
- **Tarapore committee had recommended the adoption of Full Capital Account Convertibility with certain preconditions in 1997.**
- Capital account is a record of the inflows and outflows of capital that directly affect a country's foreign assets and liabilities.

3.2.A Grand Tax Bargain in Danger of Coming Apart (THE HINDU)

Context- Need for a GST 2.0

Why a Revamp in GST is required?

- Asymmetrically loaded in favour of the Centre- No particular body is tasked to adjudicate disputes between Centre & States though the original Constitution (115th Amendment) Bill 2011 (GST Bill) had a provision for such an institution.
- With equal value for each States' voting, larger and mid-sized States feel shortchanged.
- Nearly 45% to 50% of commodity value is outside the purview of the GST, such as petrol and petroleum products.
- At the retail level, irrespective of whether Input Tax Credit (ITC) is required or not, the burden is passed on to the consumer.
- Multiple rates are charged at different stages, it goes against the lessons of GST history.
- Most countries have a single rate, India stands out and is among the countries to have four rates/ slabs.
- Petroleum products remaining outside the purview of GST has helped the Centre to increase cesses and decrease central excise.
- If Oil is included in GST, then States will be benefiting the share of taxes to themselves.
- Compliance with GST return (GSTR-1) filing stipulation and the resultant tax information is not up to date. This also leads to tax evasion.

Conclusion

- The tax base of GST does not appear to be expanding as the recent uptick has reversed last month.
- Revenue collection of the GST is dependent on the nominal growth rate of Gross Value Added (GVA) in the economy.
- GVA per quarter has been between ₹40-lakh crore to ₹47-lakh crore
- But GST revenue has not been higher than ₹2.7-lakh crore to ₹3.1-lakh crore.
- The Tax to Gross value addition is only about 5% to 6.5% though GVA growth was much higher.

4. International Relations

4.1. Getting Back in Business in the Indo Pacific (THE HINDU)

- Context- Key US officials visiting Subcontinent and East Asia • Diplomatic outreach to the Indo-Pacific region last month through carefully choreographed visits of 3 top officials of Joe Biden Administration.
- Deputy Secretary of State Wendy R. Sherman, Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III, and Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken.

Takeaways for the Region from Antony Blinken's visit

- America's China policy and the Rest of the Indo Pacific policy will run in tandem, with consistency.
- Washington maintains a tough attitude towards Beijing, but it desires to keep the doors open for dialogue.
- Integrated Deterrence- U.S. is willing to resist and counter China firmly, but with the full engagement of and contribution by the like-minded states of the region.
- **Friendship with India is one of the closest that the U.S. has**, was music to Indian ears.
- Strategic re-focus, away from the 20 years of Afghanistan and Iraq and towards maritime Asia. (Climate Change, Rising threat of China, COVID).

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