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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 .**

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1. International Relation

1.1. Deal with the new Kabul (Indian Express)

Author - M K Bhadrakumar

- Context- Not the time to Demonize Taliban

Power Inequality in International Politics-

- Message coming out of the interim government packed with hardliners that the Taliban will not submit to Washington.
- **Despite the UNSC passing Resolution 2593, Taliban feels not obliged to comply with the UNSC.**
- Taliban is not desperate to seek the legitimacy of the USA.
- **Cuba & Iran have had their problems in the past with USA and granting legitimacy to such regimes is not the prerogative of USA.**
- Pashtuns love to practice hospitality, love and forgiveness and tolerance, but Self Respect to them is non negotiable.

What are the needs of Afghanistan at the moment?

- They are certainly not looking for Nanotechnology at the moment.
- Reconstruction remains very basic as of now – roads, highways, transport, healthcare, foundational services and structures in public health and education.
- **Afghanistan is estimated to have mineral wealth worth around \$3 trillion, which can generate a substantial income.**
- The US is having tough time to accept the stark contrast in the situation as compared to the 90s.

Role of Neighborhood (with emphasis on India)

- All would agree that border security, drug trafficking and regional stability are overriding concerns.
- None of them wants Afghanistan to become a revolving door for international terrorists.
- **Western countries grudgingly acknowledge the need to engage with the authorities in Kabul, despite all the hype on legitimacy.**
- **Makes no sense for India to continue bandwagoning with the US.**
- **Indian Diplomacy should harmonize with Beijing and Moscow , which can be beneficial. (reviving Russia-India-China platform)**
- Demonising the Taliban can only be counterproductive for India.

1.2. The National Security Discourse is Changing (The Hindu)

Author - Harsh V. Pant

- Context- Evolving Dimensions of National Security

Perspective of USA

- **The NSA (of USA) recently expressed that for The US, task is to re- imagine American national security for the unprecedented combination of crises.**
- Crises such as Pandemic, the Economic crisis, climate crisis, technological disruption, threats to democracy.
- Foreign policy & domestic policy are to be designed in a utilitarian way for the average American Citizen. The distinction between the two seem to be fading away.
- **Unlike the Cold war era, today's paradigm requires ramping up domestic industrial base, maintaining pre-eminence in critical technologies, making supply chains for critical goods more resilient.**
- **Strategic thinking in democracies, at the end of the day looks for sustenance in public domain.**

Perspectives for India

- **It has taken a pandemic for India to realize it's dependence on Chinese manufacturing for critical supplies.**
- Dependence on overseas supply chains is a national security challenge of the highest order
- **General M.M Narvane- National security comprises not only warfare and defence but also financial security, health security, food security, energy security and environment security.**
- National Security has to be viewed from a much broader perspective.
- Investment in the armed forces contributes to the national economy such as indigenisation of defence procurement.
- **The Chief of Army has done well to remind us role of armed forces in sustaining a broader conception of national security than primarily focusing on war fighting.**

1.3. The Triumph Of the Nation State (Indian Express)

- **Author - C Raja Mojan**
- Context- 2 Decades after 9/11

Impact on International Politics

- **Power of non-state actors increased; demonstrated by al Qaeda's massive surprise attack on the world's lone superpower.**

- **At present system of nation-states looks quite robust after enduring the challenge from international terrorism.**
- Religious extremism inspiring non state actors continue to be a concern
- Liberal democracies, have curtailed individual liberty by offering greater security against terrorism.
- States have become adept at using digital tools to counter extremism.
- America launched a military oppression in Afghanistan and the Middle East and over-determined the terror threat emanating from there.
- **Gulf kingdoms friendlier approach towards Israel, diminishing the Jihadi hope of extremist organizations to launch an assault on the Jewish state.**

Rise of China

- The Middle East crusades cost America enormous blood and treasure taking away valuable resources away from America's own internal needs.
- This gave gave Beijing two valuable decades to consolidate its rise without any hindrance.
- China has embarked on a bold mission to "Sinicise" Islam (Xinjiang Muslims suppression-Uighyurs) as part of a grand design to subordinate religion to Xi Jinping's thought.
- **The Islamic states see cooperation with the powerful Chinese state as more important than religious solidarity with Xinjiang Muslims.**
- No Longer a Unipolar world, though USA still remains relevant & a global hegemon. **But with the Rise of China in last 2 decades**, china has become more involved in the geopolitics of the Middle East

1.4. Two other towers that Fell (Indian Express)

Author - Pratap Bhanu Mehta

Crises in the Aftermath of 9/11

- More than 9/11, it was the overreaction and response to 9/11 that shaped its meaning.
- 9/11 became the pretext to legitimise unaccountable exercise of executive power & institutionalise the surveillance state.
- The United States was drawn into wars that it could neither win nor sustain thereby weakening the US's geopolitical credibility and authority. (Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Libya)
- Liberalism has still not found it's relevance in foreign policy where (a) neither world open to terrorist regimes & it's sympathizers nor (b) devolve into arbitrary overreach causing needless suffering.

Destructive Liberalism

- **Liberalism as we have been taught depends on respecting Individual's dignity.**
- Mere suspicion is not a ground for violating someone's dignity under the garb of national interest.
- **Post 9/11 created a disposition to believe that any location or person could be a target, or that threat lurked in the most unlikely of places. (Targeting of Muslims due to religion)**
- **The over reach of West and it's measures used in the war on terror weakened liberalism.**

A Spectacular Crisis

- Behavioural Impact- Apart from Modern Technology, the attackers of 9/11 also relied on another thing i.e. to Create a spectacular event to establish a new norm and get more recruits to the cause
- This also led to destabilising all forms of authority in the Middle East. Al Qaeda's response also marked the death nail of varieties of Arab nationalism.
- **ISIS that rose in the wake of al Qaeda deepened the crisis of authority within Islam, replacing it with a new and more repressive radicalism.**
- Aftermath of 9/11 became, not a war between Islam and the West, but states of all kinds and radical Islamic groups.
- **Victory of the Taliban on the 20th anniversary of 9/11 has already aggravated the crisis of liberal statecraft.**

2. Environment

2.1. The Other Shared Crisis (Indian Express)

Author - Maria Flachsbarth and Norbert Barthele

- Context- India & Germany Cooperation on Climate Change

Role of India to meet the SDGs-

- Compared to other G20 countries, India's per capita emissions are very low.
- **India has the opportunity to make its massive investments in infrastructure over the next 15 years climate-smart and climate-resilient.**
- Without India, the world will not be able to fight climate change
- **India has a leading international role to play in the global race to sustainability.**

India Germany Cooperation

- Germany is targeting to achieve climate neutrality by 2045 and stopping the use of coal for electricity production by 2038.
- Core Focus of India- Germany would be on
 - ✓ **The transition to renewable energies**
 - ✓ **Sustainable urban development**
 - ✓ **Sustainable management of natural resources**
 - ✓ **Agro Ecological approaches & Sustainable Management of forests, soil & water**
 - ✓ **Sustainable solutions for this growth challenge in the face of limited urban resources and climate change**
 - ✓ **One Health Approach- Tackle the challenges posed by population growth, increased mobility, shrinking habitats, industrialised farming**