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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. Indian Economy

1.1. An Aatmanirbharta Challenge (Indian Express)

Author - Ashok Gulati & Ritika Juneja

- Context- Edible Oil Mission is a Good Idea, but more is needed.
- MSP for wheat is up by 2% while that of rapeseed-mustard is up by 8.6%
- This Indicates that the government wants to focus more on edible oils/ oilseeds than on wheat.
- **This is a much called for reform as** relative incentive structure under MSP remains in favour of wheat.
- **We face a dillema** of bulging stocks of wheat at home and the massive imports of edible oils on the other.
- **This is due to the fact that government has a massive procurement programme for wheat, but a very meagre one for rapeseed-mustard**

National Edible Oil Mission- Oil Palm (NEOM-OP)

- **This was recently announced (Rs. 11,000 crore) as a part of Aatmanirbhar Bharat.**
- Bold step to augment domestic edible oil supplies, given that 60% of the edible oil consumed in the country is imported.
- **FY 2020-21, edible oil imports touched \$ 11 billion or about Rs 80,000 crore.**
- Oilseeds is the only crop that can give up to four tonnes of oil productivity per hectare under good farm practices.

Characteristics of Oilseeds

- **Water-guzzling crop**
- **Requires 150 mm rainfall every month**
- **Thrives best in areas with temperature between 20 and 33 degrees Celsius.**

Objectives of NEOM-OP

- Actual area under oil palm cultivation, as of 2020, is only 3.5 lakh hectares and Much of this (34 per cent) is in the Northeastern states, including Assam.
- NEOM-OP aims to bring an additional 6.5 lakh hectares under oil palm by 2025-26, of which 3.25 lakh hectares will be in the Northeast and the remaining in other parts of the country.

- **Attract farmers as well as incentivise** the industry to work with agriculturists and augment edible oil production in a globally competitive manner.
- NEOM-OP intends to focus on productivity and area expansion by supporting the farmers through
 - ✓ **Input assistance of Rs 20,000-29000/ha for planting material**
 - ✓ **(Rs 5-crore assistance to industries that plan to set up a five tonnes/ hour processing unit.**
 - ✓ **Assistance of Rs 100 lakh to seed gardens in the Northeast for 15 hectares.**

Suggestions

- Government can consider covering more area under Oilseeds given the huge deficit in edible oil production.
- **Achieving self sufficiency in Edible Oil would require drastically cutting down area under cereal crops.**
- Revisiting the existing incentive structure that unduly favours rice, wheat and sugarcane through heavy subsidisation of power, fertilisers and open-ended procurement.
- **To keep a check on higher import duties due to which global edible oil prices have gone up by almost 70 %.**

1.2.It's still Uphill (Indian Express)

Author - Aditi Nayar

- Context- GDP to Reach @ Pre Covid Level will take time
- The impact of the second wave was a considerable 9.2% contraction in the real GDP relative to the pre-Covid level.
- **Change displayed by other large economies over the same period ranged from a moderate contraction of 3.9% for Italy to a stellar growth of 11.5% for China.**
- **Drivers of Demand- Private Consumption & Investment trailing behind the Pre Covid Levels by 12% & 7% respectively.**
- Loss of employment, higher medical and fuel expenses, contributed to the overall squeeze in private consumption.
- **Investment plans were put on hold by the private sector amidst the second wave.**
- However, Government Capital Spending put up a healthier performance.

Centre & State Finances

- **Centre's revenue expenditure rose by 7.8 per cent, led by non-subsidy spending & Capital Expenditure doubled to Rs.1 Trillion from Rs 0.6 Trillion (Compared to Pre Covid Levels)**

- Centre's fiscal deficit declined to a modest Rs 2.7 trillion from the pre- Covid level of Rs 4.3 trillion.
- Centre's fiscal deficit declined to a modest Rs 2.7 trillion from the pre- Covid level of Rs 4.3 trillion (due to increase in revenue receipts)
- **Centre's overall gross tax revenues have also grown (Corporate Tax, Income Tax and Excise Duty Collections)**
- Most of the states also reported to have increased their revenue expenditure due to higher social sector spending amid the second wave of the pandemic.
- **The states have also seen an increase in their Capital Spending compared to pre pandemic levels.**

Way forward

- **GDP will have to grow by 8 per cent (year-on-year) in the ongoing quarter to equalise to the pre-Covid level.**
- Forecasts suggest that a continued lag in demand for contact-intensive services may narrowly prevent this from being achieved.
- Pace of Vaccinations need to be sustained.
- **Average of 7.3 million doses/day as of September 5 can be sustained, 64% of adults will have received their second shot before the year draws to a close.**

2. International Relation

2.1.A Global War on Terror with no Tangible Results (The Hindu)

Author - Brahma Chellaney

Context- US Led war on terror has made the world less safe

- Why was withdrawing from Afghanistan a blunder?
- **The scourge of transnational terrorism has only spread deeper and wider in the world.**
- Have seeds of another 9/11 have been sown by this premature withdrawal
- **The Taliban's defeat of the world's most powerful military represents the greatest victory of violent Islamists in the contemporary times.**
- The Afghan Debacle could leave India less space to counter an expansionist China.
- **American Allies feel the fear of being abandoned from USA.**
- Although Joe Biden has assured American allies that America is back in International politics unlike in the times of Trump when America was seen to be retreating.

Terror Interconnections

- **Taliban are closely in alliance with other terror groups.**
- UNSC report says "Taliban and al-Qaida remain closely aligned" and cooperate through Haqqani Network.
- **Taliban has repeatedly claimed there is "no proof" that bin Laden was responsible for 9/11"**
- Interestingly, Afghanistan is set to again become a haven for transnational terrorists under an all-male regime dominated by former Guantanamo inmates and U.N.-listed or U.S.-designated terrorists.
- **Remembering the 9/11 attacks after 2 decades, the need of the hour is to build a new international consensus to help drain the terrorism breeding swamps.**

2.2.War & Terror (Indian Express)

Author - Kanwal Sibal

- Context- Failure of US War on Terror

Why has US led war on terror failed badly?

- **Failure in Iraq and Afghanistan to do "nation building" on democratic foundations.**
- Chaos in Libya and the havoc in Syria exposed the political and military limitations of the war on terror as an instrument of state power in eliminating non-state actors.

- **Upsurge in terrorism, civil conflict, refugee flows and unprincipled local compromises with extremism.**
- Post death of Bin Laden, Islamist terrorism and religious extremism got a tremendous boost with the rise of the Islamic State in parts of Iraq and Syria.
- **Europe has suffered dramatic terrorist attacks and an influx of refugees, with political and social consequences.**

How has the war on terror impacted India?

- Jihadi Terrorism in Subcontinent.
- Rise of anti Islamic forces in India & right wing forces creating disharmony in society.
- **America's sanctions on countries like Iran had made India's engagement with Iran & its strategic energy interests detrimental.**
- The terrorists continue to enjoy safe sanctuaries in Afghanistan & Pakistan.
- Ironically, whereas the US acted to destroy the Islamic State in West Asia, it has **handed over a state to the Taliban which includes UN designated terrorists as its ministers.**
- **US recognition of the LeT, JeM, HuM as terrorist groups, and its references to "cross-border terrorism" have been ONLY diplomatically helpful.**
- US war on terror has been selective, marred by double standards, equivocations and geopolitical motive.

2.3.Dont' Bank On the Shangai Group

Author - C Raja Mohan

- Context- SCO will not help in stabilization of Afghanistan

Why is SCO unlikely to come up with a Regional Solution?

- SCO has not deepened regionalism in Central Asia & does not shine in comparison with its peers in East Asia and Europe (ASEAN, EU)
- The only real Afghan convergence today is between Pakistan and China, which will not be favourable in terms for India
- **Most likely, Pak & China will nudge the members of SCO towards a positive engagement with the Taliban.**
- Untill Now, Delhi has sought to make full use of the SCO's diplomatic possibilities despite knowing about its futility.
- **At the SCO, Pakistan would portray the image of Taliban as a Saint.**

Way forward

- Indian Prime Minister at the summit which will be held later this week @ **Dushanbe, Tajikistan** must remind leaders of the SCO on 3 evils which it should as a bloc defeat **(a) terrorism, (b) extremism, (c) Separatism.**
- India must contribute to the collective effort at SCO to hold the Taliban and Pakistan to their promises
- **Delhi must focus on finding common ground with those members of the SCO who do share India's concerns about Afghanistan.**

Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)

- SCO meeting- Geography, membership and capabilities make the SCO an important forum to address the post-American challenges in Afghanistan.
- A few months after the SCO was set up, the world saw 9/11 terror attacks by Al Qaeda that was thriving in the shelter provided by Taliban-ruled Afghanistan.
- The current members of the SCO are **China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, and India**
- SCO has four observer states – **Iran, Afghanistan, Mongolia and Belarus**
- **Turkmenistan which** shares 800 km border with Afghanistan and a 1,150 km border with Iran is **not in SCO grouping.**
- SCO is expected to add Egypt, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia as dialogue partners.

3. Indian Society

3.1. Capital for their Courage

Author - Chetna Gala Sinha

- Context- Financial Inclusion Among Women

Concerns

- **In a financially integrated world, capital is agile.**
- Bankers and private financial institutions erroneously believe that a poor person takes a microcredit loan because she cannot save.
- But in Reality, Rural Women are able to save because of village postal agents who collect their savings from their doorstep.
- **Financial Products must be designed and delivered intelligently to meet the customer where they are, and by keeping in mind that they use products to reach their goals.**
- Tailor the products to the needs and income profile of the customer, including being cognisant of their environment.
- Financial service providers are not motivated from attempting to reach rural, financially excluded groups & availability of financial services, therefore, remains an urban privilege.
- **Financial literacy & Technology Readiness are 2 critical issues which need to be addressed among the rural women.**