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Editorial Discussion & Analysis (EDA)

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Table of Contents

1. Indian Economy	1
1.1.The Economic Reforms- looking back to look ahead (<i>The Hindu</i>)	1
1.2.Decoding Asset Monetization (<i>The Hindu</i>)	2
1.3.The Party wants it's Pupil Back (<i>Indian Express</i>).....	3
2. International Relation.....	5
2.1.The Idea of South Asia (<i>Indian Express</i>).....	5
3. Environment.....	6
3.1.The Future of Food (<i>Indian Express</i>)	6
3.2.Green Hydrogen,a new ally for a Zero carbon future (<i>The Hindu</i>).....	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. Indian Economy

1.1. The Economic Reforms- looking back to look ahead (The Hindu)

Author - D. N. Gupta

- Context- Harnessing Human Resource Capital
- Primary drivers of the economy
 - ✓ Human Capital
 - ✓ Technology Readiness
 - ✓ Labour Productivity
 - ✓ Disposable income
 - ✓ Capital expenditure
 - ✓ Process innovation
- **Human resource capital (HRC) formation, a good determinant of labour productivity, has been found wanting over the entire period of reforms.**

Significant Data

- Lack of quality education, low skilled manpower and inadequacies in basic health care have resulted in low HRC.
- The HRC rank for India stands at 103. Sri Lanka is at 70, China at 34, and South Korea at 27, as brought out by the Global Human Capital Report, 2017.
- **World Bank database on GDP for 2019, the low per capita GDP in India, at \$2,104 (at \$6,997 in PPP terms, ranked 125th globally) against the world average of \$11,429.**
- Low Incomes leave little room for the majority of households to have enough disposable income to purchase consumer durables or industrial products, affecting demand.
- **Low research and development expenditure at 0.8% of GDP as compared to South Korea (4.5%), China (2.1%) and Taiwan (3.3%)**

Need for Fresh Thinking in Reforms

- The Focus should be on technology readiness, labour productivity and per capita income.
- To attract large investment in manufacturing and advanced services investment in human capital and technology is a prerequisite.
- Enhanced public sector outlay to 8% of GDP, from current about 5%, for education, skill development and Public Health.



- Enhancing public research and development expenditure to 2% of GDP over the next 3 years.
- Efforts for technology readiness are very essential to stay competitive as Industry 4.0 will be defined by new technologies such as robotics, 3-D printing, artificial intelligence (AI), the Internet of things (IoT).
- Enhance per capita income by more wages for workers through higher skills and enhancing minimum wages.

1.2.Decoding Asset Monetization (The Hindu)

Author - Rajiv Lall

- Context- NMP is Bold but not failure proof

What were the challenges involved under PPP model?

- PPP was about attracting private parties to build, operate and then transfer '**greenfield**' or **new infrastructure projects** under build-operate-transfer (BOT) concession agreements.
- Winning private bidder had to take not only the operating risk, but also the development and construction risk of the project.
- It was a **complex process** as land acquisition was involved in it. This involved securing environmental and other regulatory approvals.
- A lot of liaisoning and corruption was involved in this regime. It had remnants of the Inspector raj era.

How is NMP Different from PPP?

- **NMP is about leasing out 'brownfield' infrastructure assets.** Ex; An already operating inter-State toll highway under a toll-operate-transfer (TOT) concession agreement.
- In such an arrangement no acquisition of land is involved and neither does the concessionaire need to take any of the construction risk.
- To be successful in the BOT bids required a proven ability to navigate and manage the system.
- **NMP process promises to be much simpler and cleaner than what was required in the PPP programme.**
- Instead of liaisoning with government officials, **operational experience in running a particular class of infrastructure assets is what is needed.**

But Why is NMP not Fail Proof?

- There is no clarity over the key performance **indicators to be kept for the contracts assigned**

- Tendency for government departments to **inject opacity** into the implementation of concession agreements so that they have more power over the concessionaire.
- **Very important to have a robust dispute resolution mechanism which is not there presently.**

1.3.The Party wants it's Pupil Back (Indian Express)

Author - Rohan D'Souza

- Context- Over Regulation Ed Tech in China
- **China was a natural destination for the early ed-tech startups and innovators.**
- **In 2018, over 50% of the global investments in ed-tech startups was funnelled into China.**
- Chinese Ed Tech Companies- DaDaABC, CodeMao, VIPKID, Zuoyebang
- Over \$10 billion in 2020 made its way to the Chinese ed-tech industry. This was about two-thirds of the world's total venture capital investments in the ed-tech sector.
- India was able to attract close to \$1.4 billion investments by October 2020.
- **3 Indian ed-Tech Startups- Unacademy, Eruditus and UpGrad have already become unicorns, while Byju is now a decacorn.**
- China, in July this year issued comprehensive guidelines that required existing private tutoring companies to register as non-profit organisations.
- China banned extracurricular tutoring from going public and made it obligatory for all tutoring agencies to have regulatory approval.

Why Such a Crackdown on Ed Tech in China?

- Need to keep a strict control on growing social inequality.
- To stop the brutal overworking of young children by over aspiring and ambitious parents.
- Government's larger design to encourage families to have more babies, now that education was back to being public and cheap.
- **The CCP wants to ensure that the autonomy of the government run schools & colleges is maintained** so as the behavior of the masses is not influenced by the emerging Ed Tech Startups.

Ed Tech & India

- New Education Policy- the effort is to further amplify an already ongoing momentum for privatising and commercialising India's existing educational capacities.
- **Government is embracing both the novelty and the aggressive pitch of the rapidly growing Ed-tech sector within India.**



- India is reconciled to the idea of having its ruling elites being remade and reorganised by private education and corporate interests.
- **Need of the hour in India- Meaningful public capacity and intervention to check private interests in the education sector, but not following China's path of over regulation.**

2. International Relation

2.1. The Idea of South Asia (Indian Express)

Author - Krishna kumar

- Context- South Asian Solidarity

Concern

- SAARC was sought to diminish the political legacies of Partition by nourishing a regional fraternity.
- However, SAARC has remained incapable of responding to the unabated rise of identity-based aggression and violence.
- Remarkable degree of indifference to others' woes has grown- Ex; attitude of SAARC towards Myanmar & Afghanistan in recent times.
- Nothing contributes to enmities among nations more than the perpetuating of a mindset that acquires comfort from hostility towards others.

Conclusion

- The hope that a regional perspective would gradually encourage regional consciousness and identity has receded.
- Children growing up in our part of the world, irrespective of the country they live in, need explanatory help from adults as to why there is so much turmoil all around.
- The idea of South Asia is relatively young, and SAARC's attempt to promote it has not been a great success so far.
- South Asian region cannot remain mute spectator for the turmoil happening across borders within the subcontinent.
- SAARC has immense potential only if it can realize it.

3. Environment

3.1. The Future of Food (Indian Express)

Author - S Mahendra Dev

- Context- Food system must respond to Climate Crisis

Objectives of Upcoming Food Systems Summit w.r.t SDG

- Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
- Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
- Boost nature-positive production
- Advance equitable livelihoods
- Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

Takeaway- India also needs to transform her food systems, which have to be inclusive and sustainable for higher farm incomes and nutrition security

Concerns regarding Food Security

- Thanks to Green Revolution, we are now a Food sufficient nation, but along with this we have inherited problems such as **water-logging, soil erosion, groundwater depletion**.
- **Diversification of crops is not taking place and yet Rice, Wheat & sugarcane is consuming 75% of irrigated water.**
- **Hunger & Malnutrition-** As reflected from the recent NFHS-5. 38 per cent of the country's children reported stunting in 2015-16.
- **Obesity-** Processed foods like biscuits, Chips are cheaper and in abundance as compared to fruits & vegetables.
- **Per capita consumption of Animal Meat is lowest in India i.e 10kg.** Animal sourced foods are important for India.
- Food Sector emits around 30 % of GHGs.

Way Forward

- Indian Agriculture must be inclusive in terms of women and small farmers. It must be nutrition-sensitive, environment friendly and sustainable.
- Best institutional practices have to be followed in agricultural marketing. **Successful examples of a value chain that helped small holders, women and consumers is Amul (Anand Milk Union Ltd).**
- Safe and healthy diversified diets are needed for sustainable food systems. (to tackle obesity & malnutrition)

- Instead of giving input subsidies, cash transfers can be given for farmers for promoting Climate resilient agriculture.
- Inequalities in health and education have to be reduced for woman, to promote healthy and sustainable food systems.
- **Solution for problems in agriculture was in non-agriculture.** Labour intensive manufacturing and services can reduce pressure on agriculture.
- **On lines of IPCC, need to have an International Panel on Food & Nutritional Security (IPFN)**

3.2. Green Hydrogen, a new ally for a Zero carbon future (The Hindu)

Author - Pritam Singh

- Context- Green hydrogen will aid in decarbonization

What is Green Hydrogen?

- 'Green hydrogen', is a **zero-carbon fuel** made by electrolysis using renewable power from wind and solar to split water into hydrogen and oxygen.
- It can be utilised for the generation of power from natural sources – wind or solar systems – and will be a major step forward in achieving the target of 'net zero' emission.
- It has the potential for providing power to industries & and lighting our homes with the 'zero emission' of carbon dioxide.
- **Energy Density of Hydrogen is thrice than of Diesel making it a rich source of energy.** Black Hydrogen is produced by use of Fossil Fuel.
- **75 million tons/year of hydrogen capable of generating 284GW of power**

What are the challenges involved in Green Hydrogen?

- To compress or liquify the liquid hydrogen, it needs to be kept at a stable minus 253° C.
- According to studies by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IREA), the production cost of this 'green source of energy' is expected to be around \$1.5 per kilogram.

How will this be Beneficial for India?

- India is the world's 4th largest energy consuming country (behind China, the United States and the European Union).
- Power generation by 'net-zero' emission will be the best solution to achieve sustainable growth.
- The Indian Railways have announced the country's 1st experiment of a hydrogen-fuel cell technology-based train by retrofitting an existing diesel engine. (will be run under 89 km stretch between Sonipat & Jind).