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Editorial Discussion & Analysis (EDA)

11th & 12th October 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. Environment

1.1.A Carbon Policy for The Farm (Indian Express)

Author - Ashok Gulati & Purvi Thangaraj

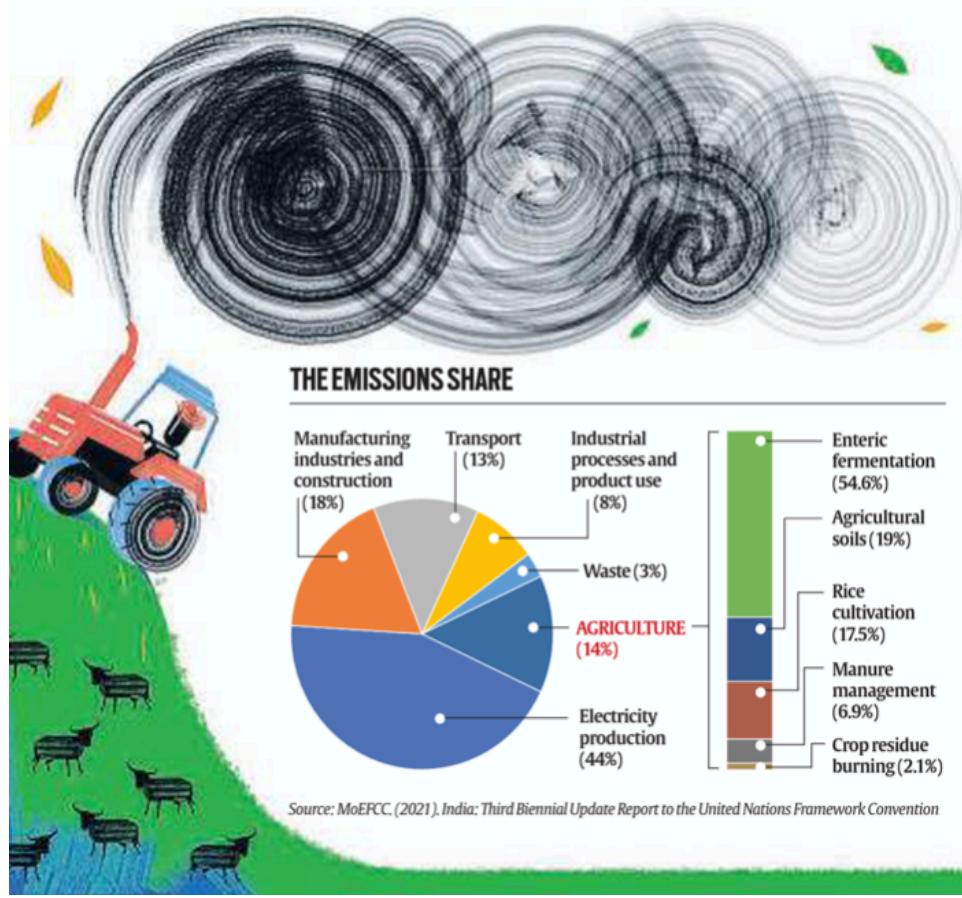
- Context- A Carbon Policy For Agriculture (Run Up to COP-26 @ Glasgow)

Concerns

- 22 of the 30 most polluted cities in the world are in India is a major cause of concern
- Delhi is the world's most polluted capital as per the World Air Quality Report, 2020.
- According to the Global Carbon Atlas, **India ranks 3rd in total greenhouse gas emissions by emitting annually around 2.6 billion tonnes (Bt) CO₂eq.** (USA & China being the 1st & 2nd)
- However in terms of Per Capita emissions, **India's is just 1.8 tonnes**, significantly lower than the world average of 4.4 tonnes per capita.
- India ranked seventh on the list of countries most affected due to extreme weather events, incurring losses of **\$69 billion (in PPP) in 2019**

GHG Emissions Caused Due to Agriculture-

- The share of agriculture in total emissions has gradually declined from 28% in 1994 to 14% in 2016.
- **But In absolute terms, emissions from agriculture have increased to about 650 Mt CO₂ in 2018, which is similar to China's emissions from agriculture.**
- Agricultural emissions in India are primarily from the livestock sector in the form of methane emissions due to enteric fermentation.





- Use of nitrogenous fertilisers in agricultural soils (19 per cent) which emit nitrous oxides.
- Rice cultivation (17.5%) in anaerobic conditions.
- Livestock management (6.9 per cent) and burning of crop residues (2.1 per cent).

Way Forward

- India needs better feeding practices with smaller numbers of cattle by raising their productivity.
- Switching areas from rice to maize or other less water-guzzling crops. Cultivation of Rice leads to significant production of GHGs in the Atmosphere.
- Nitrous oxide emissions from use of nitrogen-fertiliser increased by approximately 358 per cent during 1980-81 to 2014-15.
- Instead Government should focus on promoting Fertigation..
- Government should incentivise and give subsidies on drips for fertigation.

2. International Relations

2.1.A Taiwan Flashpoint in the Indo Pacific (The Hindu)

Author - Shyam Saran

- Issue- Rising Confrontation between the United States and China vis a vis Taiwan

Historical Background

- Post the surrender of Japan during World War II, the island of Taiwan was put under Chinese control
- End of the Chinese Civil War in 1949 , members of the Kuomintang party (KMT) under Chiang Kai Shek were driven out of the mainland by the Communists (**Under Mao Zedong**)
- Chiang retreated to the island of Taiwan and set up a regime that claimed authority over the whole of China.
- **The CCP in turn pledged to reclaim what it regarded as a “renegade” province and achieve the final reunification of China.**
- Taiwan became a military ally of the United States during the Korean War of 1950-53.
- U.S. has declared that it will “maintain the ability to come to Taiwan’s defence” while not committing itself to do so.

China's Attitude Towards Taiwan

- **Carrot and stick policy to achieve the reunification of Taiwan with the mainland.**
- **Promising a high degree of autonomy to the island under the “one country two systems” formula first applied to Hong Kong.**
- In addition, Taiwan could also retain its armed forces during the transition period.
- Post 1978, Taiwan business entities have invested heavily in mainland China and the two economies have become increasingly integrated.
- **Stock of Taiwanese capital invested (1991-2001) in China reached U.S. \$188.5 billion and bilateral trade in 2019 was U.S. \$150 billion.**
- Chinese capital invested in Taiwan is barely **U.S. \$2.4 billion.**
- China is capable of **inflicting acute economic pain on Taiwan** through coercive policies if the island is seen to drift towards an independent status.
- Chinese actions have escalated since the re-election of Tsai Ing-wen in the 2020 election. She is from the DPP (Democratic Progressive Party)



Current Standoff

- China is escalating military threats against Taiwan, through daily violations of its air defence identification zone (ADIZ).
- Naval manoeuvres in the Taiwan Strait.
- These measures are aimed at heading off any move towards independence and its closer military relationship with the U.S.
- In the past U.S. did not support a declaration of independence by Taiwan officially but has flipped from it's stand of lately.
- The Taiwanese representative in Washington was invited to attend the presidential inauguration ceremony of Joe Biden, first time since 1979.
- U.S. Pacific Commander, Philip Davidson, warned China could invade **Taiwan within the next six years as part of its strategy**.
- **China may continue to develop its abilities and yet at the same time wait for the US power to decline in the times to come or perhaps showing less interest to protect Taiwan's Independence.**
- **Taiwan Remains adamant to consider itself as a sovereign nation.**



2.2. European Booster Shot (Indian Express)

Author - C Raja Mohan

- Context- EU's Indo Pacific Orientation
- EU's Indo-Pacific strategy got little public attention in Delhi.
- EU's approach to the Indo-Pacific was overshadowed by the controversial announcement of the AUKUS.
- EU's Indo-Pacific strategy, is likely to have a much greater impact on the region **more immediately and on a wider range of areas** than military security.
- **Areas of Cooperation- Trade and investment to green partnerships**, the construction of quality infrastructure to digital partnerships, and from strengthening ocean governance to promoting research and innovation.
- After a Long time, Europe is returning as a geopolitical actor to Asia and its waters.

- Policymakers in the ASEAN region put the EU as the most trusted partner in the region after Japan and ahead of the US

How Is India's engagement with EU?

- After independence, India viewed Western Europe as an extension of the US and saw Eastern Europe through Moscow's eyes.
- Post the Disintegration of USSR, Delhi had a different set of diplomatic priorities with little diplomatic bandwidth in Delhi to think strategically about Europe.
- As per S.Jaishankar, " Delhi did not devote adequate attention in the past to Brussels" & is now focused on developing a strong partnership with Brussels and engage all its 27 members.
- At a Summit this year in May, EU and India agreed to resume free trade talks and develop a new connectivity partnership that would widen options for the world beyond the Belt and Road Initiative.
- **India-EU strategic partnership is crucial for the rebalancing of the international system amidst the current global flux**
- A Stronger Europe could help strengthen the military balance and contribute to regional security in the Indo Pacific.

3. Agriculture

3.1. Paying Farmers not to burn crops will work

Author - Kelsey Jack, Namrata Kala, Rohini Pande and Seema Jayachandran

- Context- Winter is Coming!

Concern

- Millions in India will breathe much more polluted air as farmers across northern India burn stubble to clear fields for the winter wheat sowing.
- **2018 Lancet study** found this to be the cause for being the number one reason for premature deaths in India.
- Indian farmers set some **92 million tonnes** of crop residues on fire. Financially strapped farmers often can't afford other methods of crop residue management.

Findings from a Survey done in Punjab

- Farmers perceive the alternatives to burning as too expensive, even though the **central government has subsidised equipment** for crop residue management.
- Preference to ex-situ management equipment such as balers over in-situ machinery such as the Happy Seeder and the Super SMS.
- Cash rewards worked only if a portion of the payment was given at the beginning.
- Upfront payment is Necessary as otherwise farmers do not trust that they will get the promised payment afterwards.

Way Forward

- Subsidy of about Rs 2,500 per acre should be able to achieve a marked reduction in burning.
- Subsidising the entire cost for farmers to make the switch away from burning their paddy stubble is worth it for society.
- Conditional cash payments work only if the policy is designed effectively.
- Policies that may reap benefits in the longer run include **further encouraging the operation of biogas plants**.
- Encourage innovation of new, much cheaper and more appealing farm equipment for in-situ management

4. Health & Governance

4.1. The Next Step is a Constitutional Right to health

Author - Kailash Satyarthi

- Context- Making Right To Health A Fundamental Right

What does this mean for the Average Citizen of India?

- In Context of Farmers, Woman & Children it would be a big boon
- Majority of the **Farmers** remain at a loose end when it comes to their own rights and well-being, and that of their families.
- Without an anchor during times of severe illness or disease several poor farmers end up being in the **vicious cycle of bondage and debt** by having to pay for medical cost.
- Implementation of the right to health can provide simple, transparent and quality health care to those who are most in need of such care.
- Social and economic challenges prevent **Woman** from freely and openly accessing the little care that is available.
- '**Right to Health**' would mean that services reach the woman where and when she needs them.
- Children, are not able to attend schools due to the pressing financial needs of the family , often because of unexpected out-of-pocket medical expenses

Conclusion

- A Constitutional 'Right to Health' will act as a leap for the economic and developmental progress of the nation.
- The '**Right to Health**' will help transition the children in exploitative conditions into a safer future.
- Complex and often corrupt means of accessing even existing health care only adds to the suffering.
- '**Right to Health**' will be seen as a measurable impact on family savings and in the long-term emotional, psychological and social security of people.