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# Editorial Discussion & Analysis (EDA)

20th - 21st 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 .

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# 1. International Relations

## 1.1. The Foreign Policy Reset (Indian Express)

Author - M K Bhadrakumar

- Context- Is Indian foreign-policy changing course?

### Invitation Extended By India's NSA to "Neighbours of Afghanistan"

- No clarity yet whether Taliban officials would be invited or not
- **India has invited the national security advisers of Afghanistan's neighbours – Pakistan, Iran, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, China, and Russia**
- Since to formation of interim government in Afghanistan, India has opted to align with the Anglo-American camp in the international line-up.
- **Russia, China, Iran and other neighbouring states give primacy to stability and security of Afghanistan.**
- Pakistan's National Security Advisor Moeed Yusuf faces a Hobson's choice-
- **He is damned if he accepts invite, and he is also damned if he does not accept the invite as this will not go well with the international community.**

### What is the Change in Delhi's Approach?

- Delhi appears ready to look beyond the narrow bilateral approach to Afghanistan and promote a cooperative regional agenda
- **Over the last two decades, India's stakes in Afghanistan have gone up. So has its weight in regional affairs**
- The initiative also **opens the door for consultation** on regional security issues with Pakistan, which remains the most important external actor in Afghanistan.
- Delhi would hope that Islamabad takes India's invitation in the right spirit and is amenable to a dialogue on Afghanistan.
- When it comes to Afghanistan, it doesn't **really matter anymore** whether Russia accommodates India or not in its Troika (China, Pak, Russia Axis)
- China & Russia need to move over with their **obsession with QUAD & AUKUS** with context to India's support for both
- **The region where India & Afghanistan both exist (South Asia) is a region where QUAD & AUKUS both are irrelevant.**

## 1.2. Reading The EU Fine Print (Indian Express)

- Author - Christophe Jaffrelot
- Context- Indo Pacific & EU

### Does EU really acknowledges India as priority in Indo Pacific?

- Post the Formation of AUKUS, EU had released the “EU strategy for cooperation in the Indo-Pacific”
- **EU strategy in the Indo-Pacific appears to be over-determined by China’s expansionism.**
- While pushing back where fundamental disagreements exist with China, such as on human rights, EU will continue to engage with China on trade & Commerce.
- Security Interests vis a vis the South China sea are highlighted only in the beginning and **more emphasis on bilateral cooperation** with China is mentioned.
- In terms of partnerships, India does not figure very prominently. By contrast.
- ASEAN is presented as “**an increasingly important partner for the EU**”.
- One full section entitled “**the centrality of ASEAN**” is dedicated to the “**strategic partnership**”
- As per the paper released, EU is **interested in a deeper “engagement”, with ASEAN, Australia, India, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, the UK and US.**

### French Vs German Interpretation of EU’s Indo Pacific Policy

- Indo-Pacific strategy of the EU remains driven by economic considerations.
- India, whose main asset is geopolitical and even geostrategic, does not figure prominently in it.
- The document released last month mentions nowhere on a comprehensive trade pact between EU & India.
- **What the French see as India’s main asset, its strategic dimension, is not central in the EU document.**
- Military cooperation between Europeans and India is even put on par with their cooperation with Pakistan.
- EU strategy for cooperation in the **Indo-Pacific is more in tune with the German vision of the Indo-Pacific than with the French one.**
- For Berlin, trade, economic cooperation, human rights and **engaging China at the same time and the ASEAN** — matter more than **Security and India.**

## 1.3.The Other Quad (The Hindu)

- Context- QUAD in the Middle East.

### Highlights

- Virtual meet of the Foreign Ministers of India, the U.S., Israel and the UAE is a strong manifestation of the changes in West Asian geopolitics.
- **Growing economic and strategic cooperation between UAE & Israel** is opening up opportunities for other powers, including India.
- **The 4 nation meeting also points to India's strategic desire to adopt a regional foreign policy strategy towards West Asia.**
- India has built vibrant bilateral ties with all the countries in the grouping (USA, UAE & Israel)

### India's West Asia Policy

- In the past, there were three pillars to India's West Asia policy – the **Sunni Gulf monarchies, Israel and Iran.**
- With the normalization between Israel & UAE happening, India faces fewer challenges to a regionalist approach in West Asia
- Trade, energy ties, fighting climate change and enhancing maritime security are some areas where the cooperation can become more deeper between the 4 countries.

### India's Fine Balancing Between Iran & USA

- **Contradiction between this emerging bloc (Middle East QUAD) and Iran remains as intense as ever.**
- While India is Engaged with USA in the Indo pacific, India also needs Iran Cooperation to steer instability in Emanating from the Af-Pak Region
- **Challenge for India to keep Iran on one hand and USA, UAE & Israel on the other hand strategically placed.**

## 2. Internal Security

### 2.1. In The Cross Hairs, Civilians & Kashmiri harmony (The Hindu)

**Author - Radha Kumar**

- Context- No Repeat from the Past

#### **Fear & Insecurity**

- There has been increasing violence against innocent civilians like Kashmiri Pandits & Sikhs in the last 3 week in the Kashmir valley.
- As a result, there is a flight of Kashmiri Pandits happening again from the valley, a look-back to what happened in the early 1990s.
- The plight of migrant labour is equally grave. Most are attempting to leave the Valley and return to their home States.
- There is an urgent need to work on 2 fronts

**Reassuring the minorities in Kashmir as well as the wider public of the Valley.**

**Rethink on counter-insurgency strategy, including its cross-border tentacles**

#### **Initiatives by Civil Society**

- Mosques have broadcast their criticism.
- Kashmiri political parties have voiced their opposition to such militancy, as have political leaders, including the Hurriyat and Mirwaiz Umar Farooq.
- **Civil society groups have issued statements of protest.**
- Local community leaders and neighbours have visited Pandit homes to offer aid and support.
- **The Kashmiri Pandit tragedy has continued for 30 years now, and like all compounded tragedies requires a range of actions, from security to justice to reconciliation.**
- Despite claims by the central government post August 2019, Kashmiri Pandit organizations have increasingly complained of administrative neglect on returns of Kashmiri Pandits over the past year.
- **Not only the Kashmiri pandits, people from the Sikh Minority are also in fewer numbers in the valley.**

#### **Way Forward**

- **A mistake to imagine that gated enclaves alone will provide security, nor stepped up counter-insurgency operations alone will minimize the risk.**

- Peace-making combined with counter-insurgency has proved more efficient in ending insurgency in democratic countries than counter-insurgency alone.
- **The arrest of over 700 people in the aftermath of the recent civilian killings has added to the majority's sense of insecurity.**
- Such kind of arrests also raise the credibility of the police intelligence and their failure to narrow down from the suspects.
- Consider **revival of Political Dialogue** with regional political parties and other stakeholders involved in Kashmir.
- **Restoring Statehood would be in the long term interest of Kashmiri Civil Society.**

## 2.2.The Outlines of National Security (The Hindu)

Author - Subramanian Swami

- Context- Emerging Trends in National Security

### Cyber Warfare 5th Dimension (Land, Air, Sea, Space & Information)

- Cyber warfare has vastly reduced the deterrent value of the nations irrespective of their population, economic might & Demographics.
- Capacity to cause devastation to a large nation by cyber warfare is within the reach of even small and poorer nation.
- Innovations in weapons moved from stones in the pre-historic era, to bows and arrows, and later to cannons and guns in the 19th century.
- In the 21st century, the world is moving to cyber weapons based warfare which will also immobilise current tangible advanced weapon systems in a war.
- Sri Lanka, or North Korea, empowered by cyber-technology, will be equal to the United States, Russia.
- Weapons in the 21st century will merely mean a cyber button on the desk

### Threats to National Security in the 21st Century

- Drones, robots, satellites and advanced computers as weapons are already in use.
- Some examples of further innovations are artificial intelligence and nanotechnology.
- **Warfare, therefore, will be no more just mobilisation of weapons or be dependent on the size of the armed forces of men**
- **National security in the 21st century covers, more crucially, electronic operations from a remote centre beyond the front lines of ground forces.**
- Tracking those cyber warfare centres of the adversary will need a new national security policy.



- **In the Recent past, China had allegedly used cyber-technology to shut down Mumbai's electric supply in populated areas of the city, for a few hours. (ReadEcho Group Linked to China)**

## **Dimensions to Cybersecurity in 21st Century**

- Objective of the National Security Policy in the 21st century is to **define what assets are required to be defended.**
- Imperative to identity of opponents who seek to overawe the people of a target nation.
- Supporting several frontiers of innovation and technologies such as **hydrogen fuel cells, desalination of seawater, thorium for nuclear technology, anti-computer viruses, and new immunity creating medicines.**
- Compulsory science and mathematics education, especially in applications for analytical subjects.
- **Anticipate our enemies in many dimensions and by demonstrative but limited preemptive strikes by developing a strategy of deterrence.**
- For India, it will be the China cyber capability factor which is the new threat for which it has to devise a new strategy.



## 3. Economy

### 3.1. Is the Coal Crisis Over? (The Hindu)

Author - Anil Swarup

- Context- Coal Crisis

#### Issue

- No one can deny the fact that the supply of coal in India is well below the demand.
- Demand is nearly a billion tonnes (MT), the supply is well below 800 MT within the country.
- The acute shortage can be on the account of production, an increased demand or a failure of supply chain management.
- **India sits on 300 billion MT of coal and our demand is nearly a billion tonnes per annum**
- The immediate coal crisis is attributed to an increase in the demand for power on account of

✓Post Pandemic Recovery

✓Unseasonal Rains

✓High Prices of Coal Internationally

#### What are the Challenges of CIL?

- The production of CIL has stood at 600 MT for the past three years.
- **Had the production grown at the rate at which it was increasing (8-9%) during 2014-16, the current production of CIL itself would have been more than 750 MT.**
- A number of mines were allocated to entities other than CIL, and these mines have not augmented their coal production.
- **Non-CIL coal production fell from 128 MT in 2019-20 to 120 MT in 2020-21**
- Most of the coal mines are situated in the Opposition party ruled States.
- **Hence an effective mechanism needs to emerge where land clearances can come by swiftly & not following an obstructionist approach by states.**
- CIL, which had reserves of around ₹35,000 crore in 2015, now appears to be strapped for funds.
- The Power generating companies owe an amount of Rs. 20,000 crore to CIL

## Way Forward

- Union Government **should stop squeezing more funds** out of CIL rather release the money squeezed for opening new mines and expanding existing ones.
- **Union Government should provide cash to CIL against the dues owed by GENCO (Power generating Companies)**
- Augmentation of Mining Capacity of the Non CIL entities very essential.