



Editorial Discussion & Analysis (EDA)

25th & 26th 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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Agriculture

Time to Seed A Transition (Indian Express)

Author - Ashok Gulati & Ranjana Roy

- Context- Nutritional Security & Climate Friendly Agriculture.

Declining Productivity & Incomes of Farmers

- As per the latest Situation Assessment Survey (SAS) of agricultural households, average Indian farmer earned Rs 10,218 per month in 2018-19
- Across states, the highest income was received by a farming household in Meghalaya (Rs 29,348) followed by Punjab (Rs 26,701), Haryana (Rs 22,841)
- When normalizing these incomes of Agri-households by their holding sizes, Punjab's ranking on per hectare income **falls from 2nd to 11th and Haryana goes down from 3rd to 15th.**
- In States like Jammu and Kashmir, Kerala & Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh, Farmers earn their income from **cultivating fruits and vegetables, spices, and livestock.**
- This can serve as a **lesson** for Farmers in Punjab & Haryana to **Augment their incomes on a per hectare basis.**

How can Farmers From Punjab & Haryana Augment their Incomes?

- High time Policymakers realize rice cultivation is depleting the state's water table, emitting methane and other GHGs.
- Plan to shift at least a million hectares of paddy area (out of a total of 3.1 million hectares of paddy area in Punjab) to maize.
- In Punjab, an agency, the Maize Corporation of Punjab (MCP), should be created to buy maize from farmers at MSP.
- MCP should enter into contracts with **ethanol companies**, and much of this maize can be used to produce ethanol.
- Maize productivity must be as competitive as that of paddy & best seeds should be used for that purpose.

Maize vs Paddy- Benefits

- Maize needs less than 1/5th the water that paddy does for irrigation.
- Most of the Paddy growing States like Punjab give subsidies for power which is consumed during irrigation of rice.
- This electricity and it's consumption can be easily saved by switching over to Maize gradually.
- Maize will cause lesser methane emissions and less stubble burning.

Conclusion

- Diversification strategy have to be along the lines of increasing the area under fruits and vegetables.
- Profitability is much higher in livestock farming, Fruits & Vegetables than cultivating cereals.
- Incomes of farmers from Punjab & Haryana is languishing in the low equilibrium trap of rice & wheat cycle.
- Agricultural incomes need to rise sustainably in a way which protects Environment.

Polity & Governance

A Faster Track to Growth (Indian Express)

Author - Hardeep Puri

- Context- Potential of PM Gati Shakti Yojana.

PM Gati Shakti Yojana

- This Scheme is a bold step in changing the status of the progress of the nation from “go slow” to “go fast”
- The Indian logistics sector, already a **\$200 billion market**, is set to grow at over 10 per cent CAGR in the next five years to reach around **\$330 billion**
- Cost of Indian logistics remains high at **13-14% of GDP** compared to developed nations where they are **8-10%**.
- 60-65% of transport happening via road compared to 25-30 per cent in developed countries which leads to higher costs.
- Rail freight business depends excessively on coal and domestic waterways face numerous challenges.
- It is Expected that PM Gati Shakti will synergise infrastructure development projects from multiple ministries under one masterplan.
- Highway construction per day in India increased almost 300 per cent from 12 km/day in 2014-15 to 33.7 km/day in 2020-21
- Aim to increase India’s highway network to **2 lakh km**.
- Masterplan under Gati Shakti Yojana will further augment urban infrastructure development by **streamlining planning and approvals, and integrating civic amenities**.

Environment

In Glasgow, All Eyes to 2030 (The Hindu)

Author - D Raghunandan

- Context- Short term Targets Must not be Compromised over Long term Ambitions.

Issue

- Many high-emitter countries are woefully short of the emissions reductions required by 2030 to restrict global temperature rise to “well below 2°C” .
- The loudest buzz now, however, is around net zero emissions by 2050 i.e., greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions equaling absorption by sinks such as forests.
- **As per the IPCC 6th Assessment Report, Far From achieving Net Zero** global emissions should be reduced by 45% from 2010 levels by 2030 on priority basis.
- Developed countries, responsible for over 75% of accumulated atmospheric GHGs causing climate change, should shoulder most of the burden for reducing emissions.
- No obligation for all Countries to reach Net Zero by 2050.

Why Are The Targets For 2030 Critical?

- IPCC has called for 2030 emissions to be 45% less from 2010 levels for the 1.5°C goal.
- The Biden administration has also promised to reduce emissions by 50–52% below 2005 levels by 2030
- This is grossly insufficient as the U.S. is the world’s second largest emitter.
- China, the world’s largest emitter, whose relentless push to add maximum infrastructure may use up much of the cumulative global emissions available for 1.5°C
- COP26 must focus sharply on reducing emissions till 2030, rather than on net zero 2050.
- If COP 26 is unable to form a consensus on reducing emissions towards 2030, world may well have squandered away one of its last chances to avert disastrous climate impacts.

Position of India

- India emits **7% of global emissions**, has extremely low per-capita emissions that are far below the global average.
- India has so far **resisted pressures** to raise its **Paris Agreement** emission reduction commitments.
- India can, without much difficulty, raise its NDC pledge of reducing Emissions Intensity (ratio of emissions to GDP) from **33-35% @2005 levels to 38-40%**.

- India could also offer to achieve that by 2070-75, invoking **Common But Differentiated Responsibilities**.
- For India, adding **green hydrogen or increasing electric vehicles** into commitments may require more homework than done so far.

International Relations

India's Central Asian Outreach (The Hindu)

Author - Harsh V Pant & Ayjaz Wani



- Context- India & Central Asia.

Highlights

- India reset its ties with the strategically critical region post the disintegration of USSR.
- India provided **financial aid** to the region and established diplomatic relations.
- New Delhi signed the **Strategic Partnership Agreements (SPA)** with **Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan** to stimulate Defence cooperation and deepen trade relations.
- In 2012, New Delhi's '**Connect Central Asia**' policy aimed at furthering India's political, economic, historical and cultural connections with the region
- Pakistan & China have blocked several attempts of India to integrate deeper with Central Asian Region.

Relevance of Central Asia for India

- The Taliban re-establishing its supremacy over Afghanistan has exposed the weaknesses of SCO.
- SCO has been used by most member countries for their own regional geostrategic and security interests.
- The evolving situation in Afghanistan has thrown up renewed challenges for India's regional and bilateral ties with Central Asia.
- **Rising anti-Chinese sentiments** within the region and **security threats** from the Taliban allow New Delhi and Central Asia to reimagine their engagement.

Ashgabat Agreement

- Ashgabat Agreement envisages facilitation of transit and transportation of goods between Central Asia and the Persian Gulf.
- Accession to the Agreement would diversify India's connectivity options with Central Asia and have a positive influence on India's trade and commercial ties with the region.
- India joined the Ashgabat Agreement in 2018, which was instituted in April 2011
- The Agreement was first signed by Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Iran, Oman and Qatar on 25 April 2011.
- The Ashgabat Agreement came into force in April 2016.
- Its objective is to enhance connectivity within the Eurasian region and synchronize it with other regional transport corridors, **including the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)**.

The Tumult next Door (Indian Express)

Author - C Raja Mohan

- Context- India Must Pay Attention to Its Neighbor.

Increasing problems For Pakistan

- Fresh breakdown in civil-military relations as Prime Minister Imran Khan bites the hand that has nurtured his rise to power.
- A coalition of opposition parties is stepping up protests to highlight the economic misery of the people, bringing the Imran Government on the brink of a collapse.
- The Arab Gulf states that have been fast friends of Pakistan are now tilting towards India
- Pakistan today faces tensions in its ties with the US and Europe.

- Pakistan's economy is now 10 times smaller than that of India and is well behind Bangladesh.

What Lies For India to Offer to Pakistan?

- Growing frustration among Islamabad's friends that there is little that they can do if the Pakistani state has no will or capability to get its act together.
- For India, It should be an occasion to reflect on the long-term regional consequences of Pakistan's internal turbulence.
- Sceptics will, however, say the differences within the Pakistani establishment on the policy towards India are tactical.
- However, realism demands that India should increase its leverage in Pakistan's Internal politics.
- Not to say that India is not relevant in Pakistan politics mind space.
- For Delhi, it may be worth trying to turn that into influence over Pakistan's policies if only at the tactical level and at the margins.

A Festering Crisis in The Palk Strait (The Hindu)

Author - Meera Srinivasan

- Context- India Sri Lank Fishermen Disputes.

Issue

- Many Instances have occurred in the past and this year also whereby many fishermen reportedly crossed the International Maritime Boundary Line.
- The IMBL is an invisible demarcation between India and Sri Lanka.
- Fishermen were intercepted in Sri Lankan waters by the Sri Lankan Navy for "illegal fishing", following which some of them returned dead.
- This has posed a serious threat to the livelihoods of fishermen from both sides of the IMBL.
- Using the bottom trawling fishing method, they drag large fishing nets along the seabed, scooping out a huge quantity of prawns, small fishes and virtually everything else at one go.
- **Incessant bottom trawling** along the coast of Tamil Nadu pushes them into a cycle of arrest, remand, release, or in some unfortunate cases, violence or death at sea.
- The Sri Lankan state's response to the problem has been largely a military and legal one, tasking its Navy with patrolling the seas and arresting "encroachers".



What is Bottom Trawling?

- Bottom trawling is an industrial fishing method where a large net with heavy weights is dragged across the seafloor.
- When the weighted nets and trawl doors are dragged along the seafloor, everything in their path is disturbed or destroyed, including seagrasses, coral reefs or rock gardens where fish hide from predators.
- In the past both the countries have exchanged views on the status of cooperation between Navy & Coast Guard- in patrolling, and related operational matters.



Way Forward

- In the past successive talks between both the countries have yielded outcomes which have mostly ranged from deadlocks, with Tamil Nadu refusing to give up bottom trawling.
- India has been seeking a “humanitarian response” from Sri Lanka.
- The closest that the two countries came to reaching a solution was in November 2016, following a meeting in New Delhi led by the Foreign and Fisheries Ministers from both sides.
- The Indian government’s attempt to divert fishermen to deep sea fishing has not taken off as was envisaged.
- Tamil Nadu fishermen continue to allege that the Sri Lankan Navy is unleashing violence on them and Sri Lanka has been denying this.
- Well known that the relentless trawling by Indian vessels has caused huge losses to northern Sri Lankan fishermen.
- Tamil Nadu must consider a moratorium on bottom trawling in the Palk Strait.
- Strong bilateral ties are not only about shared religious or cultural heritage, but also about sharing resources responsibly.