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DAILY NEWS DIARY

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FOR PRELIMS AND MAINS

Warm Greetings.

- DnD aims to provide every day news analysis in sync with the UPSC pattern.
- It is targeted at UPSC – Prelims & Mains.
- Daily articles are provided in the form of Question and Answers
- To have a bank of mains questions.
- And interesting to read.
- Providing precise information that can be carried straight to the exam, rather than over dumping.

Enjoy reading.

THE HINDU - TH
INDIAN EXPRESS - IE
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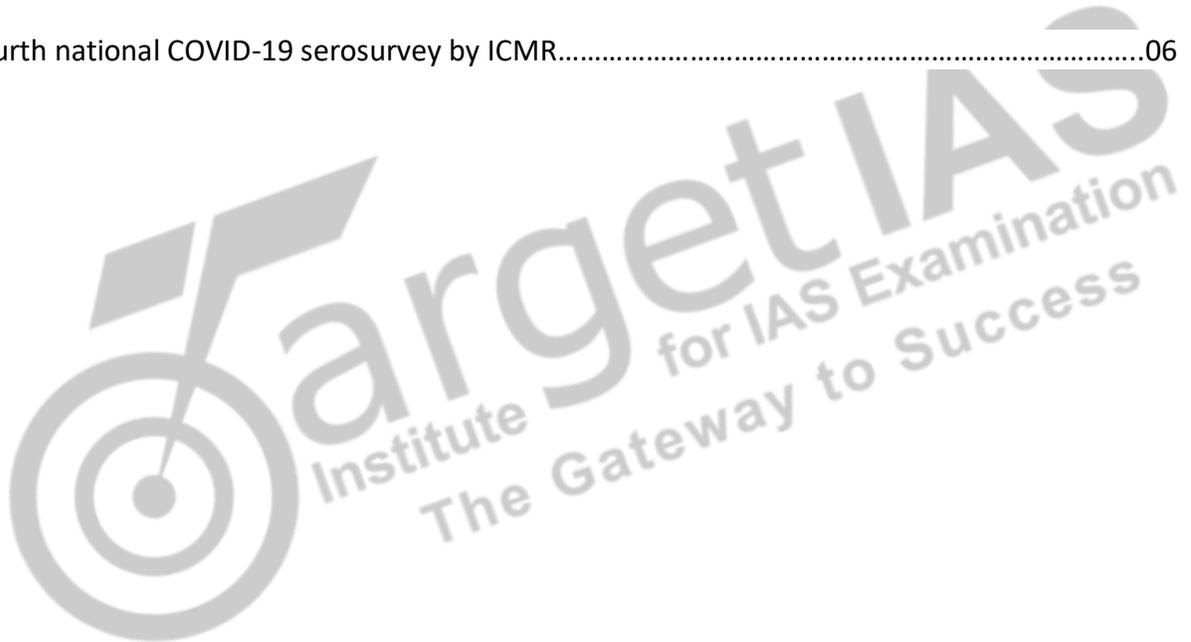
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ESSAY PAPER

Editorial

Q- Is India turning into a union of disputes? Comment?

INTRODUCTION = Recurrent flare-ups are happening along the Assam-Mizoram border for nearly a month. Assam officials allege there was encroachment of forest land by people crossing over from Mizoram. Assam's tensions with neighbouring Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Meghalaya date back to their creation from undivided Assam – there are discrepancies between official boundaries and what these states see as historical boundaries. Despite several committees attempting dispute resolution, none have succeeded.



- The 2014 Assam-Nagaland **border skirmishes** in which 11 people were killed and thousands fled their homes warn how minor flashpoints can turn deadly.
- **Obsession with ethnic identity and lack of economic development** have forced people into subsistence agriculture in dwindling forest land.
- Local politics everywhere responds to **this intense competition for land** while also feeding fears of demographic change and loss of natural resources.

Variations of such conflicts are seen elsewhere in India –

Linguistic reorganisation of states has produced intractable interstate land disputes. Centuries of cultural intermingling have left a diffused population of language speakers along quite a few interstate borders.

- **Maharashtra's claim over Karnataka's Belagavi** (Belgaum) is pending in Supreme Court.
- **Odisha has land disputes** with four neighbouring states;
- **Kasaragod's amalgamation with Kerala** has its malcontents among Kannada speakers.

With Parliament having sole prerogative to fix state boundaries, these disputes simmer with no single state possessing the clout to force Gol's hand.

Way Forward

On interstate water disputes, central and judicial intervention has kept the peace between upper and lower riparian states. **Some view nationalisation of rivers as the only solution.** Last week's Gol takeover of Godavari and Krishna irrigation projects in Telangana is triggering protests there, but was predictably welcomed in Andhra.

The cold hard reality is that no dispute over land or water can be solved to the satisfaction of contesting regional, ethnic or linguistic groups. Rather, these disputes must evolve towards conserving both natural and cultural heritage, while also being mindful of sustainable development. **That will require mature political negotiation.** Quite a tall order in today's polarised times.

GS 2❖ **Polity**

Q- What is the debate around the problematic provisions introduced in Part IXB, introduced in the Constitution through the 97th Amendment of 2012?

BACKGROUND = In a major boost for federalism, the Supreme Court struck down parts of a Constitution amendment which shrank the exclusive authority of States over its cooperative societies.

The court held that cooperative societies come under the “exclusive legislative power” of State legislatures. The judgment may be significant in the background of fears voiced by the States whether the new Central Ministry of Cooperation would dis-empower them.

Part IXB, introduced in the Constitution through the 97th Amendment of 2012, dictated the terms for running cooperative societies.

1. The provisions in the amendment, passed by Parliament without getting them ratified by State legislatures as required by the Constitution, went to the extent of **determining the number of directors a society should have or their length of tenure and even the necessary expertise.**
2. The SC, however, said the Centre had power over multi-State cooperative societies. And thus did not strike down the portions of Part IXB of the Amendment concerning “Multi State Cooperative Societies” due to the lack of ratification.

Part IX B, which consists of Articles 243ZH to 243ZT, has “significantly and substantially impacted” State legislatures’ “exclusive legislative power” over its cooperative sector under Entry 32 of the State List. In fact, the court pointed out how **Article 243ZI makes it clear that a State may only make law on the incorporation, regulation and winding up of a society subject to the provisions of Part IXB of the 97th Constitution Amendment.**

Justification to the judgement -

There can be **no doubt that our Constitution has been described as quasi-federal in that**, so far as legislative powers are concerned, though there is a tilt in favour of the Centre vis-à-vis the States given the federal supremacy principle outlined herein above, yet within their own sphere, the States have exclusive power to legislate on topics reserved exclusively to them.

The 97th Amendment which inserts the chapter dealing with cooperative societies has not been so ratified by the States, though an amendment of the Constitution is the exercise of constituent power which differs from ordinary legislative power, such constituent power does not convert Parliament into an original constituent assembly. Parliament being the donee of a limited power may only exercise such power in accordance with both the procedural and substantive limitations contained in the Constitution of India.

However, “When it comes to Multi State Co-operative Societies (MSCS) with objects not confined to one State, the legislative power would be that of the Union of India which is contained in Entry 44 List I (Union List)... It is declared that Part IXB of the Constitution is operative only insofar as it concerns multi-State cooperative societies both within the various States and in the Union Territories.”

In his dissent, Justice K.M. Joseph said the doctrine of severability would not operate to distinguish between single-State cooperatives and MSCS. The judge said the entire Part IXB should be struck down on the ground of absence of ratification.

Snippets**GS 2**❖ **International Relations**

Q- What is the plight of Afghan Army and mention the measures taken to aid them?

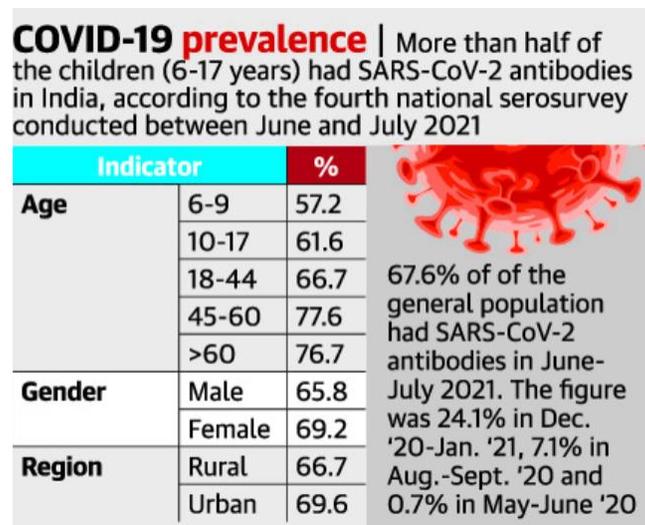
- Afghan forces have complained about being left without reinforcements and supplies, often running low on food as the Taliban advanced.

- In many instances, Afghan troops surrendered rather than fight.
- Recently the IS rocket attack on the presidential palace where Mr. Ashraf Ghani as to give an address to mark the major Muslim holiday of Id al-Adha – reveals their vulnerability.
- Washington's watchdog monitoring U.S. spending in Afghanistan reported that troops are deeply demoralised and corruption is rampant.
After their pullout, the U.S. and NATO are committed to spending \$4 billion annually on Afghan forces until 2024, the majority of that money coming from Washington. **GS 3**

❖ Science & Technology

Q- Discuss the results and implications of the fourth national COVID-19 serosurvey by ICMR?

BACKGROUND = This national serosurvey is not a substitute for local (State/district) variations. State heterogeneity indicates the possibility of future waves of infection. We strongly suggest that societal, public, religious and political congregations be avoided, non-essential travel be discouraged and travel should be undertaken only if fully vaccinated. In the meanwhile –



Results -

1. Two-thirds of the population aged above six have antibodies against SARS-CoV-2, according to a serosurvey conducted by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in June and July of 2021.
2. Nearly 40 crore people, or a third of the population, are still vulnerable to the COVID-19 infection.
3. The survey found that more than half of the children (6-17 years) were seropositive while seroprevalence was similar in rural and urban areas.
4. Eighty-five per cent of healthcare workers had antibodies, while one-tenth of them were unvaccinated
5. The survey covered 28,975 adults and children aged 6-17 years, and 7,252 healthcare workers.
6. It was conducted in the 70 districts across 21 States where the three earlier rounds were done.
The country had to work towards ensuring full vaccination of all healthcare workers while accelerating vaccination coverage among vulnerable population groups.
Though the survey offered a ray of hope, there was no room for complacency.



The China-South Asian Countries Emergency Supplies Reserve, for COVID-19 vaccines and poverty alleviation launched in July 2021 consisted which of the following countries as members?

1. India
 2. China
 3. Nepal
 4. Afghanistan
 5. Pakistan
 6. Sri Lanka
 7. Bangladesh
- a. 1, 2, 4 and 5
 - b. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7
 - c. 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6
 - d. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7



Consider the following statements –

1. The Union Budget's plan to scale up capital spending by 35% in FY22 would boost construction activity and create jobs in the informal sector
2. Along with bank-led infra funding to boost Capex.

Which of the above steps are considered by the Chief Economic Advisor for India to grow at about 11% and meet the fiscal deficit target of 6.8% of gross domestic product this year?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both
- d. Neither

Answer – A

NOTE: India should not repeat the mistakes of bank-led infra funding which led to this entire bad assets' problem. And not to repeat the mistakes we had after the global financial crisis of 2008 that led to runaway inflation.

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