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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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Essay Paper

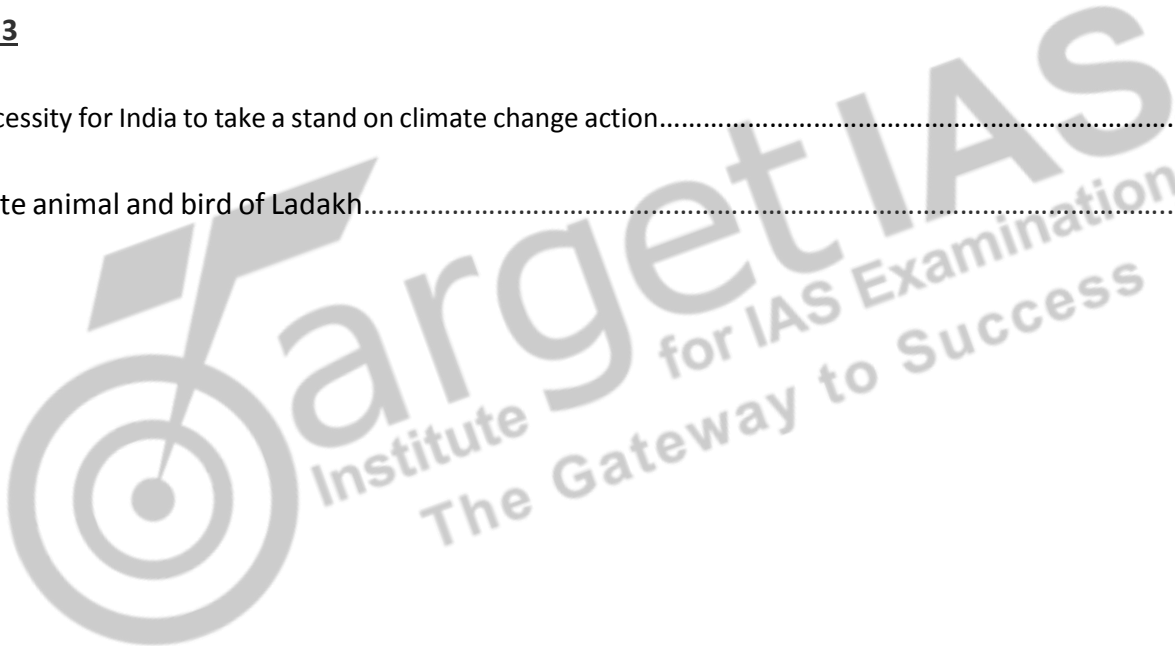
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ESSAY PAPER

Editorial

Q. Elucidate the changing nature of Liberalism and Nationalism in the context of Asia.

Background: After the rise of the nation-state, wars were attributed to the power and expansionist policies of nations. A nation-state is a political unit where the state and nation are congruent. Before Indian independence, nationalism was regarded with suspicion. Jawaharlal Nehru saw merit in nationalism as the focus of the independence movement. Yet, he feared that extreme nationalism among colonised peoples could degenerate into fascism and expansionism.

Nationalism: Nationalism may take various forms but essentially, it is about collective identity, whereas liberalism implies the defence of individual freedom and self-determination, the state's role being to protect the private sphere.

Liberalism: In practice, liberalism can underpin universal rights and Adam Smith's natural laws of economics, but its appeal is mainly to the professional educated class and lacks nationalism's emotional appeal.

ASIAN DEMOCRACY:

- ❖ Democracy in Asia is not shaped by the liberalism of the West.
- ❖ The centrality of civil and political rights is less opinionated, and a degree of state intervention is considered acceptable when it comes to individual autonomy.
- ❖ The liberal tradition contributes to the ideas underlying the post-Second World War international system, accepting democracy, free trade, international law, multilateralism, environmental protection, and human rights.
- ❖ Problems arise when such ideas become a doctrine for nation-building irrespective of context, with western intervention in the developing world and its consequences of turmoil and Islamist extremism and terror. For example: the current situation in Afghanistan is a case in point.

Concerns: Despite American diplomatic rhetoric, there never has been a community of mutually supportive liberal democracies.

International relations are conducted at the axial point of a just order of law and a hierarchical order of power: the United Nations represents this tension in the differing principles on which the Security Council and General Assembly are based.

Therefore, the reform of the UN to include India, Japan, Germany, and a few others as permanent members of the Security Council has proven difficult to achieve.

Impact of Nationalism and Liberalism on Asia:

- Both India and China were at the receiving end of western imperialism and emerged as supporters of principles of international society. This is reflected in the Panchsheel: sovereignty, territorial integrity, and non-interference.
- This implies a rejection of western efforts to qualify sovereignty by making it dependent on human rights protection.
- The Non-Aligned Movement and Afro-Asianism were efforts to project a soft power model, but soon China, India and Pakistan joined the nuclear weapons club of hard power.
- The two leading Asian nations, India, and China used the present world system to design their rise while protesting the control of the United Nations and world financial institutions but have not formulated any alternative based on Asian nationalism.
- An alternative based on Asian Nationalism is a remote prospect, given the current rivalry between India and China.

GS 2

❖ INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Q. On the onset of the Sri Lanka's declaration of economic emergency, discuss its causes.

Context: President of Sri Lanka declared an economic emergency on account to contain inflation which saw a huge spike after a steep fall in valuation of its currency caused a spike in food prices.

What precipitated this unprecedented move?

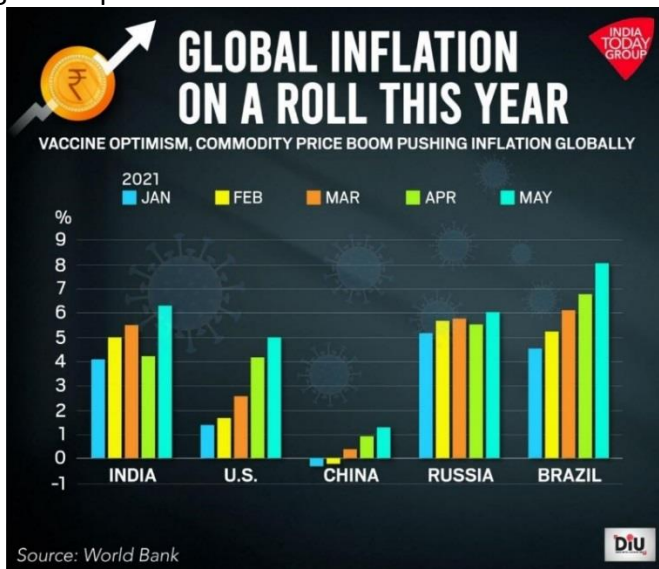
- Since November 2019, the value of Sri Lankan rupee has eroded by about 20%.
- High global market price due to the pandemic has escalated the prices of essential items.
- Hoarding by traders has also contributed to Sri Lanka taking this emergency route to combat the crisis.
- Tourism which happens to be one of the main businesses of Sri Lanka has suffered due to the travel restrictions placed owing to the pandemic. Sri Lanka's economy shrank by a record 3.6% last year.

The declaration of economic emergency will empower Sri Lankan government to:

- Prevent the hoarding of essential items by traders.
- Ensure essential items are sold at government-determined prices.
- It will also help the government to realize import duties owed to the state by the traders.

Inflation and the pandemic

Inflation is the rate of increase in prices over a given period. Inflation has been rising consistently since the pandemic hit in multiple countries; primarily owing to supply and demand-side disruptions owing to the pandemic.



Some of the causes behind the recent rise in Inflation:

- Rise in fuel prices. This is adding to the cost of production across multiple industries.
- Volatility in labour market has been hampering the normal conduct of business.
- There has been a rise in demand; particularly for essential commodities amongst the masses owing to the fear of lockdown. This has led to the behaviour of hoarding amongst common people.
- The menace of hoarding is still prevalent.
- Increase in global prices is causing the products to be diverted to these markets owing to the possibility of greater profit; this is creating shortage of products in the domestic market.
- Erratic rainfall pattern has further exacerbated the inflation issue in some countries.

Way forward

- Ensure adequate supply of essential items through appropriate measures (Ex: prevention of hoarding).
- Monitor the pricing mechanisms of essential items to prevent any steep hike.
- Intervention in the market through sale of government-held stocks to bring down the rate of essential items.
- Bring petroleum under the GST bracket. This will reduce the multiplicity of taxes currently being imposed on the product.
- Improve vaccine coverage to ensure minimal disruptions in the market going forward.

Q. Analyse America's role in Afghanistan in the past 20 years.

Context: All the American troops have exited Afghanistan. For the first time since October 2001, there are no American troops in the country.

What did the U.S. gain from it?

- Biden asserts that the U.S. invaded Afghanistan not because it was ruled by the Taliban but because the September 11 attacks originated from Afghanistan.
- America's primary objectives were to disrupt al-Qaeda and capture or kill Osama bin Laden.
- The argument is that the Taliban were not America's main enemy and defeating them was not its primary objective.
- While it's true that America went to Afghanistan because the 9/11 attacks originated from that country, Mr. Biden's assessment of the Taliban was not shared by his predecessors.
- The Taliban had offered to surrender on modest terms in December 2001, but President George W. Bush rejected the offer.
- America did not pull back from Afghanistan after the Taliban regime fell.
- America did not withdraw after bin Laden was killed in 2011.
- The U.S. stayed in Afghanistan, propping up the Islamic Republic because American leaders were of the view that a return of the Taliban to power would derail the global war on terror.
- American foreign policy thinking has changed over two decades.
- According to the Biden doctrine, the Taliban are now a problem of the Afghans, not of Americans.

Where does the global war on terrorism started by the U.S. invasion in Afghanistan stand now?

- In 2001, al-Qaeda was largely concentrated in Afghanistan.
- The U.S. invasion and the fall of the Taliban led to al-Qaeda's disintegration. The terrorist outfit was driven underground but was not defeated.
- Over the years, new branches of al-Qaeda sprang up in different parts of the world, the deadliest being al-Qaeda in Iraq, which was led by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi after the U.S. invasion of Iraq in 2003.
 - He was killed in a U.S. strike in 2006, but the AQI transformed into the Islamic State of Iraq, which later became the dreaded Islamic State (IS) that declared a Caliphate and established a proto state across Iraq and Syria in 2014.
- The IS's physical infrastructure was destroyed by both coordinated and separate war efforts by a group of powers, including the U.S., Iran, Iraq, Kurdish and Shia militias, Syria and Russia. But a part of the outfit continues to operate in parts of Syria and Iraq.
- The IS has also established provinces in other parts of the world, including the IS West Africa Province (ISWAP) and the IS Khorasan Province (ISKP).

- Al-Qaeda has also established a strong presence in Africa, particularly in the Sahel region, where they have carried out dozens of attacks in recent years.

So, if al-Qaeda was an organised terrorist machinery concentrated in Afghanistan in 2001, it's now a decentralised amalgam that has expanded across the world.

GS 3

❖ ENVIRONMENT

Q. Discuss the necessity for India to take a stand on climate change action.

Background: Over 50% of the global economy has already committed to net zero emissions by 2050. Besides, China has also committed to be so before 2060. As the recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report stressed the need for urgent and stronger responses, the pace and scale of climate action are only set to increase. With these developments, India is at the risk of being cast globally as an outlier on climate action, with a negative fallout if it fails to take a stand on climate change action.

Stance of India: India is purposely not committing to net zero by 2050, including on the basis that as a developing country, it needs to see significant support from developed countries for climate action as part of making any such commitment.

On what basis should India commit to Net Zero Emissions?

- India is among the most vulnerable countries to climate change. It faces harmful impacts related to sea-level rise, heat stress, drought, water stress and flooding, biodiversity, and natural disasters.
- Given the negative impacts, addressing climate change in India's economic development is now central to success.
- Over 100 countries have already committed to net zero emissions by 2050, with more expected at COP26.
- India is already the third-largest emitter in the world and is set to be the largest as the United States, China, and the European Union are all now signed up to net zero.
- This will become a significant drag on India's international diplomacy. This applies not just to key relationships like with the U.S., but also with much of the Group of 77 (G77) states, who are increasingly concerned to see climate action, and in multilateral groupings such as the United Nations and ASEAN-APEC.

Way Forward:

- ✚ India is set to significantly exceed its Paris Agreement commitment of reducing the emissions intensity of its GDP by 33-35% below 2005 levels by 2030, providing ready room for higher ambition.

- ✚ India has impressed the world with its leading roll-out of renewable energy and target for 450GW by 2030.
- ✚ It is also well-known for its leadership in the International Solar Alliance and recent national hydrogen strategy.
- ✚ Indian corporates are also stepping up, with the Tata Group winning awards on sustainability, Mahindra committing to net zero by 2040 and Reliance by 2035.
- ✚ And India should not be expected to build alone. Support can range from stronger political engagement and dialogue to policy support in areas of mutual challenge such as energy policy, carbon markets and post-COVID green economic recovery.
- ✚ Practical support and cooperation in areas like rolling out renewable energy and integrating it with the national grid, zero emissions transport, decarbonising hard to abate sectors like steel, cement and chemicals and decarbonising agriculture offer significant scope to raise ambition.

Countries can work with India on innovative green financing for decarbonising investments, including using donor support to mobilise private sector finance, green bonds and climate transition funds. These must be lasting partnerships that deliver results.

Snippets

❖ Economic Development

Q. What is the State animal and bird of Ladakh?

Two years after it was carved out as a separate Union Territory (UT) from the erstwhile State of J&K, Ladakh has adopted its State animal and State bird. Two endangered species, snow leopard (*Panther unica*) and black-necked crane (*Grus nigricollis*) have been adopted as the State animal and State bird respectively.

- **Snow Leopard:** Snow leopard, whose numbers are dwindling worldwide, has been categorised as “vulnerable” in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.



- **Black-necked crane:** Black-necked cranes, considered loyal couples, are only found in Ladakh's Changthang region. It was the State bird of J&K before August 5, 2019. They are classified as Near Threatened in the IUCN Red List. It is revered in Buddhist traditions and culturally protected across much of its range.



Q) With reference to Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The date of election of Deputy Speaker is fixed by the President.
2. The Constitution sets a time limit for the process of these elections.

Options:

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| (a) 1 only | (b) 2 only |
| (c) Both | (d) None |



Q- Consider the following statements –

1. The deficit figure at 21.3% this fiscal appears better than it did a year earlier, when it had soared to 103.1%
2. The Centre's total receipts stood at ₹6.83 lakh crore or 34.6% of budget estimate (BE) up to July.

Which of the above figures trend with regards to the budget estimates are **INCORRECT**?

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| (a) 1 only | (b) 2 only |
| (c) Both | (d) Neither |

Ans – d

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