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DAILY NEWS DIARY

Of

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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
BUSINESS LINE - BL
ECONOMIC TIMES - ET
TIMES OF INDIA - TOI



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ESSAY PAPER

Editorial

Q- Comment on the to-be government of Afghanistan and how it impacts India and Vice Versa?

INTRODUCTION = After postponing the announcement twice, Taliban spokesmen have said that they expect to have a new government in Afghanistan this week. There has been some speculation over the delay –

1. More than three weeks after Taliban gunmen walked into Kabul and President Ashraf Ghani fled.
2. While some have said the Taliban were waiting to take control of the last hold-out province of Panjshir, and others even suggested there was some symbolism attached to timing it with the 20th anniversary of 9/11
3. The real reason appears to be differences within various Taliban factions over the government's structure and composition. **In particular, the differences between the Taliban leadership in Helmand, Kandahar, and the political office in Doha**, seen as the more "moderate" face, as well as between the "original" Afghan Taliban leadership and the Pakistan-based Haqqani network, a designated terror entity.

WHO WAS JALALUDDIN HAQQANI

- An Afghan mujahideen commander who fought Soviet occupation in 1980s with help of US & Pakistan
- Once a CIA asset, was hailed a 'freedom fighter' by US President Reagan. Rep Charlie Wilson called him 'goodness personified'
- Joined Taliban in 1996

HAQQANI NETWORK LONG RED-FLAGGED

2012: US designates Haqqani Network as a terrorist group

2017-2018: US blocks \$800 million aid to Pakistan for not taking action against Haqqani Network



WHAT IS THE NETWORK?

<p>Haqqanis control tribal territory in North Waziristan province of Pakistan and run a parallel administration from their headquarters in Miramshah</p>	<p>Network described by US Admiral Mike Mullen in 2011 as a 'veritable arm' of Pakistani intelligence</p>	<p>Outfit said to have between 3,000 and 10,000 fighters</p>	<p>Funding sourced mainly from Gulf countries. Group also involved in kidnappings for money and extortion</p>
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The jockeying is reportedly over cabinet portfolios, the appointment of governors in the 34 provinces, control of the cities and the possibility of including non-Taliban Afghan leaders. Reports of the differences have escalated and the appearance in Kabul of the Pakistan ISI chief, Lt. Gen. Faiz Hameed, is believed to have been an attempt to smooth over the cracks in government formation.

Afghanistan -

At the base of the differences is the tussle between the Taliban's push to consolidate their takeover of Afghanistan and implement an Islamist agenda, and the desire to receive recognition from the international community and its continued financial support.

India -

The outcome holds the key not only to the future of Afghanistan but also to New Delhi's engagement with the new regime.

Any government that gives the Haqqani group key positions will make it difficult for India to have a role in either diplomacy or development projects in Afghanistan, given previous terror attacks.

Any overt role for Pakistan, as well as China, will also raise red flags for New Delhi.

The Modi government has announced that it is now engaging the Taliban, with the first publicly acknowledged meeting in Doha last week; the MEA says it conveyed concerns on the safety of Indians in Afghanistan and ensuring Afghan soil is not used for attacks in India. Any engagement with the Taliban beyond this is contingent on the composition of the new power structure and how much the new government in Afghanistan is amenable to international expectations of it, in terms of representation, rights, and in allowing UN agencies to monitor development.

Way Forward -

To this end, India must use its voice on the international stage forcefully.

1. This includes blocking any move at the UNGA and UNSC to recognise the new regime,
2. And stopping the delisting or exemptions to Taliban leaders at the 1988 sanctions committee, which India chairs, until the Taliban regime shows a willingness to comply.

GS 2

❖ Social Justice

Q- Assess the changes in Periodic labour Force Survey 2019-20 statistics for Women and its way forward?

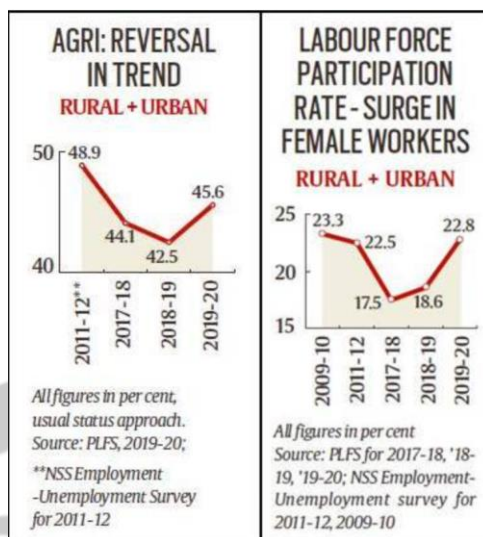
BACKGROUND = TWO SPECIFIC trends in the Government's 2019-20 employment statistics, mapped till the first three months of the pandemic (April-June 2020), signify a break from the steady structural transformation in the labour market over the last two decades:

1. **Reversal of the falling share of agriculture**
2. **And a decisive turnaround in declining female participation.**

Both these trends clearly point to household distress precipitated by the steady fall in GDP growth rates over the past years. A Union Labour Ministry official, however, attributed the farm labour surge to a "hard lockdown" in urban areas during April-June, and described the rebound in female participation as a "positive sign".

The surge in female labour force participation rate, as evidenced in the latest Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) data for July 2019-June 2020, can be interpreted as a positive sign, but there is a catch: much of this increase is in the most sub-optimal category of unpaid family workers. The rise in agriculture, too, is mostly in this category — those working in household enterprises without drawing wages.

In agriculture, which constitutes about 16 per cent of the GDP, the PLFS data show that in 2019-20, there has been an increase in percentage terms of those reported to be working in the sector (45.6 per cent). This comes after decades of a progressive fall that signalled movement to high productivity jobs outside.



At the same time, the surge for 2019-20 corresponds to a decline in manufacturing and construction in the latest survey.

Why the change in stats -

1. These figures are based on the “usual principal status” and the “subsidiary status” approach in which data is obtained for those who worked or were available for work for a relatively long part of the 365 days preceding the date of survey — and those from the remaining population who had worked at least for 30 days during the same reference period.
2. The findings are more stark for the “current weekly status” for which the reference period is of the seven days preceding the date of survey. The weekly approach is closer to the global norm and captures unemployment over a shorter term while the longer-term “usual status” tends to include chronic unemployment and seasonal work patterns.

Summary on the Stats -

1. However, PLFS data for 2019-20 also show that the **employment rate for unpaid workers in household enterprises in rural and urban areas increased** to 15.9 per cent from 13.3 per cent in 2018-19. For female workers, it increased to 35 per cent in 2019-20 (for rural and urban areas) from 30.9 per cent in 2018-19.

2. There has been an **increase in the share of employment in agriculture in 2019-20 even as the share of agriculture in GDP has declined**. Lot of people lost jobs during the pandemic and agriculture became the employment of last resort.
3. **The distress, however, was brewing before the pandemic struck**. GDP had slowed down, demand had declined and manufacturing was not expanding.
Between 2004-05 to 2011-12, many exited agriculture to join the construction sector with a big push to infrastructure, Rural India was doing well, but after 2011-12, problems surfaced such as the twin balance sheet problem and rural growth story started petering out. With the inability of the construction sector to absorb those who were exiting agriculture and with the manufacturing sector not taking off, workers got pushed back into agriculture.

Effect of the Stats -

1. If you look at the details, you find that this **increase is not in good quality work but in the unpaid family work category or in the unorganised sector**.
2. The two trends **cannot be viewed as good in terms of gender empowerment**.
3. After demonetisation, there was a slump in employment for all categories and the unemployment rate was very high. Things were recovering slowly up to the end of 2019, but then suddenly a pandemic came in and everything got reversed. After the pandemic, it appears women workers are more affected because of the restrictions such as for public transport.
4. New research by Ashwini Deshpande and Jitendra Singh of Ashoka University suggests that frequent transitions, as well as fall in participation rate, **are “consistent with the demand-side constraints, viz., that women’s participation is falling due unavailability of steady gainful employment”**.

Way Forward -

Using 12 rounds of a high frequency household panel survey, they assert that **women are likely to be displaced from employment by male workers, especially when there are negative economic shocks such as demonetisation or the pandemic**. This trend had intensified, as corroborated by CMIE data for months beyond July 2020.

“Industries that employ women haven’t done well. Unlike Bangladesh, we did not have labour intensive manufacturing. Even though rising education levels have been seen among females, there aren’t enough good jobs for them,”

The updated CMIE’s Pyramid Household Surveys for months subsequent to July 2020 show a loss of employment in service and manufacturing sectors that seems to be accompanied by a progressive shift towards low-paying subsistence work.

Snippets

❖ International Relations

Q- Write a short note on the need for Greece's New Ministry to deal with climate crisis?

- Greece's center-right government has created a new Ministry to address the impact of climate change and named former European Union commissioner Christos Stylianides as Minister.
- Mr. Stylianides, 63, who served as commissioner for humanitarian aid and crisis management between 2014 and 2019, was appointed in the wake of wildfires that burned more than 1,000 square km of forest on the island of Evia and in southern Greece.
- Intense heat waves in southern Europe in July and August — described in Greece at the worst in decades — fuelled deadly wildfires in Turkey as well and blazes in Italy, France, and Balkan countries.

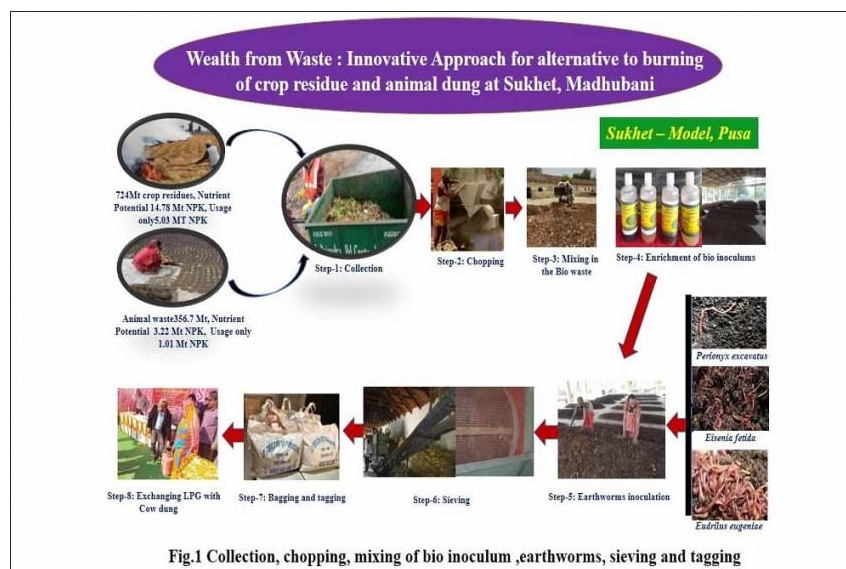
GS 3

❖ Environment

Q- Sukhet's villagers trade waste for wellness. Elucidate?

BACKGROUND = The lives of Bihar's rural women has changed dramatically with the Sukhet model that allows them to get their LPG cylinders refilled every two months in exchange for cow dung and the farmyard waste. The Sukhet Model offers four-fold benefit to the villagers: it ensures a pollution-free environment at home, waste disposal, monetary assistance for LPG cylinders and availability of organic fertiliser to the local farmers.

Today the mud stoves of Sukhet lie abandoned.



Need

The government's Ujjawala Yojna to provide free LPG connections to people in rural areas has its limitations where people are not being able to refill LPG cylinders for two reasons: their economic condition and the patriarchal nature of society.

Earlier this has been experimented - Vermicomposting to produce organic manure in two unlikely settings — the temples of Baba Baidyanath Dham in Deoghar of Jharkhand and Garibnath Temple of Muzaffarpur in Bihar — where flowers and leaves offered to the deities are collected and composted.

Under the Sukhet model, two local workers visit households that have cattle to collect cow dung and farmyard waste and bring it to a vermicomposting yard.

“Any family which gives 1,200 kgs of cow dung and wet garbage waste every two months gets their LPG gas cylinders refilled for free. Everyday, they have to meet the target of 20 kg of cow dung and garbage waste to avail the refill. Since February 4, 2021, as many as 44 households of this village are getting this facility while many more have evinced keen interest. “The target is to take this model to 100 households of the village in first phase.” The Sukhet panchayat consists of five villages — Sukhet, Godhanpur, Mazidi, Bisoul and Balliyari. The panchayat has 2,500 households and 7,000 voters and has mixed population of all castes and communities.

Challenge -

“However, out of total 44 households availing the Sukhet model facility, more than half are from the Yadav caste. And thus the only problem is that only those households who have cattle to give us cow dung are able to benefit from the Sukhet model”.

Way Forward -

- The plan is to implement this Sukhet model in 16 districts of Bihar where KVK units are located under RPAU, Pusa.

- It will also generate employment for the local youth and to make village soil nutrient self-sufficient.
- On the sustainability of the model “Primarily three points are to be taken care of — treat it as micro industry, consider the contract work under MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) scheme and through CSR funds by industries.



Q- Consider the following pairs of Indigenous Handicrafts along with states where they are predominantly prepared:

Indigenous Handicrafts	States
1. Patola	Gujarat
2. Bandanna	Rajasthan
3. Jamdani	West Bengal

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- a. 1, 2 and 3 b. 1 and 2 only
c. 1 and 3 only d. 2 and 3 only



Q- Consider the following pairs of leaders of 1857 Revolt along with their associated regions: Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

Leaders	Regions
1. Bakht Khan	Bareilly
2. Kunwar Singh	Bhojpur
3. Ahmadullah Shah	Faizaba

- a. 1 only b. 2 only
c. 3 only d. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: D

Ahmadullah Shah was a maulvi from Faizabad.♣ He prophesied that the rule of the British would come to an end soon. He caught the imagination of the people and raised a huge force of supporters. He came to Lucknow to fight the British during 1857 revolt. Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched. In Delhi, a large number of ghazis or religious♣ warriors came together to wipe out the white people

Bakht Khan, a soldier from Bareilly, took charge of a large force of fighters who came to Delhi. He became a key military leader of the rebellion. Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched. In Bihar, an old zamindar, Kunwar Singh, joined the rebel sepoys and battled with the British for many months. Leaders and fighters from across the land joined the fight. He led the revolt in Bhojpur region of Bihar. Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.

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