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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
BUSINESS LINE - BL
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TIMES OF INDIA - TOI



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ESSAY PAPER

Editorial

Q- Explain the Afghan Tangle and its complexities for India?

INTRODUCTION = The Third Regional Security Dialogue on Afghanistan hosted by India was a bold attempt on New Delhi's part to bring regional countries on the same page. The conference saw participation of all five central Asian republics, Iran and Russia.



The Delhi Declaration strongly objected to the use of Afghan soil for planning, financing and carrying out terrorist activities. It also called for collective cooperation against the menace of radicalisation, extremism, separatism and drug trafficking in the region. In other words, the conference was meant to find ways for the participating countries to coordinate and counter terrorist threats from Taliban's Afghanistan.

True, Pakistan and China did not attend the New Delhi conference. But this was along expected lines. If anything, their non-participation was yet another proof that the China-Pakistan axis will continue to undermine Indian interests. Besides, China and Pakistan's perception of the security threat from Taliban's Afghanistan is very different from that of India's or Iran's. While Beijing and Islamabad are betting on Taliban leadership to stabilise their borders with Afghanistan, they may have little concern about Taliban's lack of inclusivity or their exporting terror to other countries.

Nor should the Delhi conference be juxtaposed with Pakistan's Troika Plus summit on Afghanistan kicking off today that will see participation of China, US and Russia. That conference has a clear political dimension with Taliban's acting foreign minister in attendance. While there is no getting away from the reality that Taliban has come to power in Kabul, it is prudent for India to adopt a wait and watch approach towards the Islamist group and try to deliver aid directly to the suffering

Afghan people who have tremendous goodwill for New Delhi. India would do well to start full visa services for Afghan citizens who may want to temporarily leave Afghanistan. It must also explore ways to send aid to Afghanistan that doesn't need Pakistan's land routes.

Given the multi-dimensional uncertainty around Afghanistan India needs both defensive and proactive strategies. It must shore up domestic security and work with both the US and Russia. There are no easy options in this, especially given the China-Pakistan threat.

GS 2

❖ Economic Development

Q- Why does the new online certification system put exporters in a fix?

BACKGROUND = After crossing \$30 billion for seven successive months, India's merchandise exports have hit a home-grown stumbling block in the first 10 days of this month — a new system mandating online issuance of Certificates of Origin (CoO) for every outbound consignment from November 1 that has put exporters in a tizzy.



The Government said the move was to improve the ease of doing business in line with its "Digital India" focus, but industry bodies from several States have flagged concerns with its implementation -

Causes -

1. Several small exporters are facing challenges in registering on to the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) portal which requires high-quality digital signature certificates,

with many reporting outages on the portal that was earlier used only to issue CoOs for shipments to countries with whom India had a preferential trade pact.

2. Most critically, existing export facilitation intermediaries such as customs house agents (CHAs), who handle most of the export paperwork, have not been able to share data on exporters' behalf, as the DGFT has not shared the API (Application Programming Interface) for the new system.
3. For CoWin and Aadhaar, we have an API-sharing system so that information can be shared. Unfortunately, this facility is not there and we have flagged the issue but there hasn't been a favourable response.

Online CoO portal had a simple registration process and its design allowed the principal user or the exporter to provide access rights to the other secondary users such as the CHAs.

❖ Environment

Q- Describe the cat collaring project of Coringa National Park?

BACKGROUND = Conservation biologists of the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun, will begin collaring 10 fishing cats (*Prionailurus viverrinus*) in the Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary (CWS) in Andhra Pradesh. The country's first such project will be led by principal investigator Bilal Habib.



In Asia, a similar project had been done in Bangladesh. The project, planned in 2020, had to be postponed due to COVID-19.

- The State Forest Department had already released ₹45 lakh of the ₹75 lakh total project cost being entirely funded by the Vedanta group.
- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change had also permitted the project.
- The project begins with enumerating the fishing cat before selecting the animals for collaring, and how it survives in the sanctuary.
- The three-year project will also study its habitat, feeding habits, threats and movements.

- The 2018 census had recorded the existence of 115 fishing cats. A significant portion of the Coringa mangrove ecosystem had recently been disturbed because of the clandestine manufacturing of ID liquor in the Godavari estuary.
- There is, however, no scientific study on the impact of the illegal activity on the wildlife in general and the fishing cat in particular.
- The sanctuary spreads above 235.7 square km. In October, 177 square km area surrounding the sanctuary was declared as eco-sensitive zone.

The collars are imported, and the sanctuary is yet to be declared as a Ramsar site despite facing various threats to its ecology.





Q - Who among the following is known to have escaped to the jungles of central India and continued to fight a guerrilla war against Britishers during the 1857 revolt?

- a) Bakht Khan b) Veer Kunwar Singh
c) Dhondu Pant d) RamachandraPandurang Tope



Q- Consider the following statements –

- 1) The Ministry of Finance has been tasked to keep an eye on the inflow and subsequent outflow of foreign funds to NGOs under the foreign contributions regulations law.
- 2) As Intelligence Bureau (IB) inputs have shown that foreign funds entering India were used to fund activities that destabilise national peace and security.

Which of the above statements is/are CORRECT regarding the Foreign Contributions Regulations law in 2020?

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

Ans – b

EXPLANATION - The Supreme Court asked the government why the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has been tasked to keep an eye on the inflow and subsequent outflow of foreign funds to NGOs under the foreign contributions regulations law.

“Why has the whole operation been brought under the Ministry of Home Affairs and not under the finance department?,” The question was posed during the hearing of petitions challenging the amendments to the Foreign Contributions Regulations law in 2020. The petitions argued that the amendments severely restricted the use of foreign funds by NGOs for their activities and transfer to other philanthropic organisations within the country.

IB inputs

Intelligence Bureau (IB) inputs have shown that foreign funds entering India were used to fund activities that destabilise national peace and security.

The inputs even indicated that the money was used to train naxals.

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