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DAILY NEWS DIARY

Of

05.01.2022

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

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ESSAY PAPER

Editorial

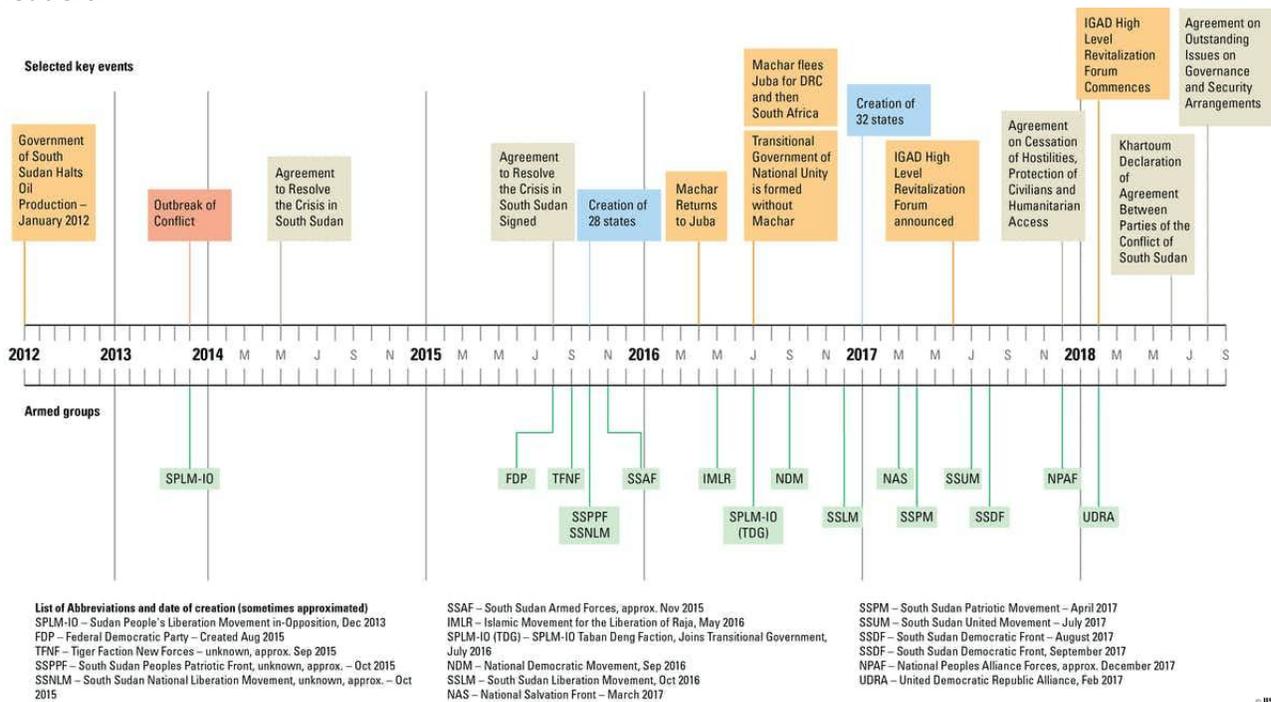
Q- The military should end the crackdown in Sudan and pave the way for democracy. Why?

INTRODUCTION = The resignation of Sudan’s civilian Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok has pushed the country, already battered by political instability, anti-military protests and violence, into further chaos.

1. Mr. Hamdok, who was ousted in a military coup in October and then reinstated as part of an agreement, failed to convince the protesters that he could form an independent technocratic government that would complete Sudan’s democratic transition.
2. As violent clashes continued, Mr. Hamdok, who was called a “traitor” by the protesters, was left with no other option but to go. The crisis is of the military’s own making.

Origin -

Sudan was on a slow but steady transition towards democracy under the Sovereignty Council, which was formed as part of a power-sharing agreement between the Generals and the civilian leaders.



- But General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan disbanded the Council and ousted Mr. Hamdok. Ever since mass protests in late 2018, the Generals have tried everything to protect the military’s privileges.
- They first removed long-time dictator Omar al-Bashir and took power in their hands.
- They agreed on power sharing only after direct military rule became unsustainable.

- And when the civilian leaders were consolidating power, the military struck again through the coup. But where they erred was in miscalculating the will of the protesters.

The military now has power, but is in a difficult situation.

When Gen. Burhan reinstated Mr. Hamdok sans the Sovereignty Council after the coup, he may have calculated that the military could exercise greater control over the civilian government and the transition process, which includes elections. But with Mr. Hamdok's resignation, this plan seems to have collapsed. A direct takeover of the government by the military would be extremely unpopular.

Finding a legitimate Prime Minister would not be easy either.

According to the constitutional declaration of 2019, the Prime Minister should be selected by a legislative council and then endorsed by the Sovereignty Council. The legislative council was never formed and the Sovereignty Council was disbanded. The military could appoint another technocrat. But if the protesters did not accept Mr. Hamdok, they are certainly not going to accept anyone the military appoints next.

Way Forward

Weeks-long protests have also paralysed an already enfeebled economy. Inflation has soared to over 400%. The UN says at least a third of the country's nearly 43 million people will need humanitarian assistance in 2022. Sudan needs a stable, responsive government that can address the critical challenges.

The military has the moral and political responsibility to resolve the crisis. It should immediately end the crackdown, respect the power-sharing agreement it signed with the civilian leaders in 2019, restore the Sovereignty Council and allow the country's full transition into democracy.

GS 2

❖ Governance

Q- Analyse Rajasthan's poor ranking on Niti Aayog's Health Index, suggesting reforms to be undertaken?

BACKGROUND = Health rights groups in Rajasthan expressed concern over the NITI Aayog giving low ranking in the health index round IV report with the findings that health status had stagnated and health services were deteriorating in most parts of the State.

WHERE THEY STAND

OVERALL PERFORMANCE

TOP THREE

- Kerala
- Punjab
- Tamil Nadu

BOTTOM THREE

- Bihar
- Rajasthan
- Uttar Pradesh

INCREMENTAL IMPROVEMENT

TOP THREE

- Jharkhand
- J&K
- Uttar Pradesh

BOTTOM THREE

- Gujarat
- Haryana
- Kerala

Source: NITI Aayog Health Index

About the Index -

- The ranking was given recently on the basis of 24 indicators related to health outcomes and on key inputs and processes.
- The report 'Healthy States, Progressive India', prepared by the NITI Aayog, the World Bank and the Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, has placed Rajasthan at the 16th position among 19 big States. Moreover, the State has shown a decline between the base year 2018-19 and the reference year 2019-20.

Rajasthan has been depicted as the 'worst performer' in health outcomes measured in the form of neonatal, under five and maternal mortality rates, tuberculosis treatment success rate, etc. It falters even on institutional deliveries and immunisation in comparison with other States.

Reforms to make -

The State government get its act together and take decisive steps to improve the health status of people. T

he enactment of the Right to Health Care Act, strengthening of primary healthcare and making free and rational medication accessible to all as the urgent steps.

The State government must ensure that all citizens get free basic preventive and curative services within half-an-hour of walking distance as part of the right to healthcare.

The State must also invest generously in primary healthcare and maternal and child health services which should be delivered through an outreach in villages or through the institutions such as the anganwadi centres.

The functioning of the primary healthcare services largely influences indicators such as immunisation, antenatal care, institutional deliveries and infant and maternal mortality rates.

❖ International Relations

Q- Discuss why and how the Chinese armed forces must redouble their efforts to better combine training with combat operations?

BACKGROUND = China's President Xi Jinping signed an annual mobilisation order to mark the start of this year's training for the Chinese military, with an emphasis on "combining training with combat operations".

1. The armed forces must closely follow the evolution of technology, warfare and rivals, redouble their efforts to better combine training with combat operations, and strengthen systematic training and the use of technologies to develop an elite force that is capable of fighting and winning wars, adding that "all officers and soldiers should uphold the spirit of fearing neither death nor hardship, and conduct training in a vigorous, well-designed and safe manner to boost their commanding and fighting capability and foster excellent conduct."
2. Another order had also issued training in combat conditions in January 2020. Four months later, the PLA deployed two divisions right up to the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh after the completion of routine exercises, sparking the worst crisis along the India-China border in decades.
3. Twenty months on, disengagement is yet to happen at several locations along the LAC after multiple rounds of diplomatic and military talks, while tens of thousands of troops remain deployed in forward areas.
4. The PLA has also continued to build infrastructure in forward areas to sustain its deployments through the winter, while India has matched the PLA's build-up with its own deployments.
5. The training mobilisation order in January 2020 had called for strengthening military training in combat conditions and it was seen by observers as altering the pattern of annual exercises and forward deployments not only closer to the LAC but also in other theatres, leading to tensions in the South China Sea as well.

Snippets

❖ International Relations

Q- Comment on the changing stance in World's Nuclear Arsenal Story?

- In a rare joint statement setting aside rising West-East tensions, the U.S., China, Russia, Britain and France reaffirmed their goal of creating a world free of atomic weapons and avoiding a nuclear conflict.
- The five nuclear powers also committed to full future disarmament from atomic weapons, which have only been used in conflict in the U.S. bombings of Japan at the end of the Second World War.

- But squaring that rhetoric with reality will not be easy at a time of spiralling tensions between those same global powers not seen since the Cold War.
- **There are growing global concerns about China's rapid military modernisation, especially after its armed forces last year announced they had developed a hypersonic missile that can fly at five times the speed of sound.**
- The U.S. has also said China is expanding its nuclear arsenal with as many as 700 warheads by 2027 and possibly 1,000 by 2030.
- **China defended its nuclear weapons policy and said Russia and the U.S. — by far the world's largest nuclear powers — should make the first move on disarmament.**
- "The U.S. and Russia still possess 90% of the nuclear warheads on Earth, they must reduce their nuclear arsenal in an irreversible and legally binding manner."
- China dismissed U.S. claims that it was vastly increasing its nuclear capabilities. "China has always adopted the no first use policy and we maintain our nuclear capabilities at the minimal level required for our national security." Beijing would "continue to modernise its nuclear arsenal for reliability and safety issues".





Q- Which of the following was a part of the green revolution strategy?

- a) High yielding variety seeds b) Chemical fertilizers and pesticides
c) Irrigation d) All the above



Q- Consider the following statements:

- 1) The Indian Ocean Commission was created to protect the interests of countries of the entire Indian Ocean region.
- 2) India was among the founding members of the Indian Ocean Commission.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2 d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: d

The Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) is an intergovernmental body created in 1984 to protect the interests of the Western Indian Ocean islands. It consists of Madagascar, Comoros, La Réunion (French overseas territory), Mauritius and Seychelles. Hence, statement 1 is not correct. India has been accepted as an observer of the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) in 2020. The Commission has five observers: India, China, European Union (EU), Malta and International Organisation of La Francophonie (OIF). OIF is 54 French speaking nations collective. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

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