

Technology and sovereignty

- First, as defined by political theorists, a nation- state is a territorially -bounded sovereign polity.
- However, this fundamental notion of a nation- state of a geographical unit in which citizens live is undergoing a massive change because of technology.
- While geographical boundaries are still essential to be safeguarded against physical aggression/invasion, there are now several externalities occurring across the borders of nation-states, i.e. cyber-attacks, which have a ripple effect on the physical boundaries to challenge their socio-economic and political existence
- The advent of Web3, massive peer-to- peer networks, and blockchains has allowed actors, both state and non-state, to influence areas such as trade, commerce, health, and education even while remaining outside of the financial and judicial scope
- Second, geography- based rules are no longer easily enforceable simply because of the declining significance of conventional geographical borders in the era of high technology.
- Now, any form of “virtual activity” is not confined to the realms of the borders of a country; data travel on the chain of the world wide web and spread across the world at speed hitherto unimaginable
- Third, the emergence of newer technologies has exposed the incapacity and inability of the government of the nation- state to administer and regulate these technologies.
- On the economic side, “with a valuation of more than \$4,100 billion, the five largest American tech companies (Google, Amazon, Facebook, Apple, and Microsoft) have symbolically surpassed Germany’s GDP (the world’s fourth largest economy) in terms of valuation”
- This means that data “have become the most important raw material of our times, and only a handful of companies now hold unparalleled economic power and influence over it.
- These are the meta- platforms: their huge size allows them to constantly increase the amount of information they analyze and refine the

algorithms they use to influence, if not control, us and our activities”.

THE HINDU

Energy transition

- India’s global climate pledges 50% non-fossil electricity generation capacity by 2030 and net-zero emissions by 2070 are backed by domestic energy targets at the national level.
- States are critical actors in India’s energy transition as there is multi-tier governance of energy production and usage
- Moreover, about 80% of the current renewable energy capacity is confined to six states in the west and south of India.
- In a federal setting, States matter for four functions critical to the energy transition. First, States as spheres of implementation are critical to the realization of national targets
- Second, the legacy issues in the electricity sector, such as high losses, unreliable supply, and service quality, if left addressed, could be exacerbated by the transition.
- These are embedded in the State political economy and must be addressed at the State level.
- Third, States as laboratories of policy innovations have been instrumental to India’s energy transition
- Fourth, States could also be roadblocks to national goals, particularly when the goals are perceived to be misaligned with State priorities.
- An effective transition requires multiscale planning and execution strategy, consideration of inter-linkages and implications, and cross-learning.
- Examples of such considerations include whether State targets add up to meet national goals, managing renewable energy-enabled load migration, the changing role of institutions, how these will affect legacy issues, and the resources required to deal with these implications.
- Central mandates to update the State Action Plans on Climate Change, recommendations to set up State level steering committees for energy transitions, and regular meetings of the Central and state energy ministers reinforce the importance of States.

- Central agencies have also developed multiple indexes that rank States on different aspects of energy transition
- There is a need for a State level framework to understand plans, actions, and governance processes toward an energy transition.
- First, it helps to broaden the transition discourse from a narrow set of outcomes and to include the processes that shape the outcomes.
- Second, it leads to greater transparency which could enable the participation of stakeholders in the processes and ensure public legitimacy and buying too complex decisions.
- Kosovo, a former province of Serbia, unilaterally declared Independence in 2008 and is recognized as a country by about 100 nations including the U.S. and a number of Member countries.
- Serbia, however, does not recognize Kosovo's sovereignty and continues to consider it as a part of itself despite having no administrative control over it. Serbia sees historic significance in Kosovo
- In 2008, Kosovo declared independence from Serbia. While Serbia challenged Kosovo's actions before the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the ICJ was of the opinion that Kosovo's declaration was not against international law

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Kosovo and Serb Conflict

- Clashes broke out on May 29 between Serbs protesting in North Kosovo and the NATO-led Kosovo Force (For), leaving about 30 NATO soldiers and 50 Serbs injured.

What are the roots of the conflict?

- Both Kosovo and Serbia lie in the Balkans, a region of Europe made up of countries that were once a part of the erstwhile Republic of Yugoslavia.

Where do the resolution talks stand?

- So far, the dialogue has produced over 30 mostly technical and some political agreements, between Serbia and Kosovo. Since late 2015, there has been little progress in reaching new agreements or implementing existing ones

What about Serbia's ties with Russia?

- Kosovo's current leader and the West are also concerned about

Serbia's strong historic and military ties with Moscow and its political closeness with President Vladimir Putin who has maintained support for the Serbian claim.

- The concerns have intensified after the start of the Ukraine conflict.

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Kakhovka dam

- Ukraine accused Russian forces of blowing up the Kakhovka dam and hydroelectric power station on the Dnipro River in an area that Moscow controls, while Russian officials blamed Ukrainian bombardment in the contested area
- Officials raced to check cooling systems at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant.

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Fattah missile

- Iran claimed on Tuesday that it had created a hypersonic missile capable of traveling at 15 times the speed of sound.
- The new missile called 'Fattah,' or 'Conqueror' in Farsi

AMR and pandemic treaty

- In late May, the latest version of the draft Pandemic Instrument, also referred to as the "pandemic treaty," was shared with member states at the World Health Assembly
- Since the beginning of negotiations on the Pandemic Instrument, there have been calls from civil society and leading experts, including the Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance, to include the so-called "silent" pandemic of antimicrobial resistance in the instrument.
- But not all pandemics in the past have been caused by viruses and not all pandemics in the future will be caused by viruses. Devastating past pandemics of bacterial diseases have included plague and cholera
- Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is the process by which infections caused by microbes become resistant to the medicines developed to treat them.
- Microbes include bacteria, fungi, viruses, and parasites. Bacterial infections alone cause one in eight deaths globally.
- AMR is fueling the rise of drug-resistant infections, including drug-resistant tuberculosis, drug

-resistant pneumonia and drug-resistant Staph infections such as methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA)

- The Pandemic Instrument is the best option to mitigate AMR and safeguard lifesaving antimicrobials to treat secondary infections in pandemics.
- AMR exceeds the capacity of any single country or sector to solve.
- Global political action is needed to ensure the international community works together to collectively mitigate AMR and support the conservation, development, and equitable distribution of safe and effective antimicrobials.
- Treating these bacterial infections requires effective antibiotics, and with AMR increasing, effective antibiotics are becoming a scarce resource.
- Essentially, safeguarding the remaining effective antibiotics we have is critical to responding to any pandemic.

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