## The Hindu News Analysis – 09th October 2019 – Shankar IAS Academy

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Govt. unveils faceless I-T assessment, opens National e-Assessment Centre

‘e-Assessment to bring about efficiency by eliminating human interface’

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI
Revenue Secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey has launched the faceless assessment system in the income tax department and also inaugurated the National e-Assessment Centre, promised by Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman had made in her Budget speech.

“The e-Assessment Scheme introduces the concept of tax-based assessment with dynamic jurisdiction which would bring about transparency, efficiency and standardization of procedures by eliminating human interface between the taxpayer and the income tax department,” the govt. said in a release.

The launch of the e-Assessment system comes days after the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) recently approved the system, wherein all notices and correspondence sent by the IT department would come with a computer-generated documentation identification number (DIN). Notices without the DIN will be considered non-exist or non-existent under the law. “e-Assessment is a welcome step in making assessment proceedings efficient and speedy,” said Finance Minister, partner, Deloitte India.

Same time

“Our submissions will save time and effort involved in recording tax returns for face-to-face proceedings. Faceless assessments will make the process objective and hand-held,” said the National e-Assessment Centre (NeAC) will be located in Delhi and head-quartered by the Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax. The eight Regional e-Assessment Centres will be located in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Ahmedabad, Pune, Bengaluru, and Hyderabad.

“Cases for the specified work shall be assigned by the NeAC to different units of way of automated allocation systems,” the release added. “In view of the dynamic and shifting jurisdiction of all forms of NeAC and ReAC, the kind of connective and collaborative effort of officers is likely to lead to better quality of assessments.”

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks)

- Current events of national and international importance
- Economic and Social Development—Sustainable Development, Poverty, Inclusion, Demographics, Social Sector Initiatives, etc.

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-III

General Studies-II: Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations.

- Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential; citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures.

PAPER-IV


- Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization of resources, growth, development and employment.

PAPER-V

General Studies-IV: Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude

- Probity in Governance: Concept of public service; Philosophical basis of governance and probity; Information sharing and transparency in government. Right to Information, Codes of Ethics, Codes of Conduct, Citizen’s Charters, Work culture, Quality of service delivery, Utilization of public funds, challenges of corruption.

Context: Govt. unveils faceless I-T assessment, opens National e-Assessment Centre.

- e-Assessment scheme and National e-assessment centre
  - 2nd Sep 2019

- e-Assessment scheme: Min. of Finance

- Faceless assessment of income tax returns

- Electronic communication

- Four pillars: no human interface, dynamic jurisdiction, team based working and functional specialisation

- Network of regional e-assessment centres and National e-assessment centres

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Advantages

- Greater efficiency, transparency and accountability
- Ease of compliance of tax payers
- Improves the quality of assessment
- Ease of doing business

Stirring up the truth about ZBNF

Zero Budget Natural Farming has no scientific validation and its induction into agricultural policy appears unwise.

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I—(200 marks)

- Current events of national and international importance.
- Indian and World Geography-Physical, Social, Economic Geography of India and the World.
- Economic and Social Development-Sustainable Development, Poverty, Inclusion, Demographics, Social Sector Initiatives, etc.
- General issues on Environmental ecology, Bio-diversity and Climate Change - that do not require subject specialization.

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-III

General Studies-II: Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations.

- Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.
- Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes; mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.

Issues relating to poverty and hunger.

PAPER-IV


- Major crops-cropping patterns in various parts of the country: different types of irrigation and irrigation systems storage, transport and marketing of agricultural produce and issues and related constraints; e-technology in the aid of farmers.
Agricultural Practices

- Green Revolution → Successful agricultural experiments
- Organic Farming → Non-chemical and less chemical oriented methods of farming
- Rudolf Steiner's biodynamics → influencing organic life on earth through cosmic and terrestrial forces.
- Homoeo-farming → Use of small and potent substance to stimulate potential of soil
- Vedic farming → natural agriculture
- Nutu-eco farming → no tilling, recycling, management of farm waste

- Agnihotra farming
- Amrutpani farming
- Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF)
  ➔ Subash Palekar, agriculturalist

ZBNF

- Set of farming methods
- Peasant movement in India
- Promises to end reliance on loans
  ➔ to cut production costs
- Low external input sustainable agriculture

4 Pillars

1. Jivamrita or Jeevamrutham
   - Fermented microbial culture
     - Cow dung
     - Enhances soil microbiome - Cow urine
     - Local ingredients
     - Prevents fungal and bacterial plant disease

2. Bijamrita or Beejamrutham
   - Treatment for seed, seedlings or plant materials
   - Protects from soil-borne and seed-borne diseases

3. Acchadana - Mulching
   - Materials like decaying leaves, barks or compost spread around or over a plant
   - Enriches / insulates soil

4. Whapasa - moisture
   - Building up soil humus to increase soil aeration

3 methods of insect and pest management

- Agniatva
  ➔ Brahmastra
  ➔ Neemastra
  Works as bio-pesticides

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Criticism on ZBNF

- Unsubstantiated claims

1. Hardly ‘zero’ budget
   - Ingredients have to be purchased
   - Other costs → Wages of hired labour → imputed value of family labour → imputed rent over owned land, etc.

2. No independent studies to validate claims
   - ZBNF plot yields higher → no study available
   - Current study → result after 5 years only → 30% shortfall in yield in ZBNF plots

3. Claims opposite to agricultural science
   - Indian soil poor in organic content
   - Soils deficient in micronutrients

Conclusion
- Scientific approach to agriculture is needed

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Rural children breastfed more: survey

Breastfeeding inversely proportional to household wealth, says Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey

Children in urban areas are also overweight and require special dietary advice (ZBNF) by age 10 years. About 40-60% of children in the age group of 1-5 years are overweight and require special dietary advice. About 50% of children in the age group of 10-14 years are overweight and require special dietary advice. About 50% of children in the age group of 15-19 years are overweight and require special dietary advice.

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Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I—(200 marks)

- Current events of national and international importance.
- Indian Polity and Governance—Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues, etc.
- Economic and Social Development—Sustainable Development, Poverty, Inclusion, Demographics, Social Sector Initiatives, etc.

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER III

General Studies—II: Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations.

- Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.
- Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes; mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.
- Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.
- Issues relating to poverty and hunger.
Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey (CNNS)

- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare + UNICEF
- Covering children and adolescents (0-19 years)
- Measure: Malnutrition, anthropometric data, non-communicable diseases, obesity, etc
- Clinical Development Services Agency - monitoring agency

Food for thought

Diseases and deficiencies in Indian children sharply differ depending on their location of residence. Some data excerpts from the Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey released on Monday show how problems in children differ according to the rural-urban divide.

Observations

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<th>Subject/Area</th>
<th>Urban</th>
<th>Rural</th>
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<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Rate of breast feeding (12-15 months)</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Children receiving frequent meals</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Diversified diet</td>
<td>26.9%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Iron deficiency (Children &amp; Adolescents)</td>
<td>40.6%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Higher SSFT for Age</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Vitamin ‘D’ Deficiency</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Zinc Deficiency</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Stunting</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Underweight</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>36%</td>
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\( C \rightarrow \text{Children}; \ a \rightarrow \text{adolescents} \)

- NITI Aayog - focussing on Urban specific health problems of Children
  - India
    - Coexistence of obesity and undernutrition
    - Rural-Urban divide

2nd article

- Double burden
  - malnutrition + Non-communicable diseases
- Abdominal obesity in Children and adolescents
  - Increase with
    - level of mothers schooling
    - household wealth

\[ \]
India to work with China, Pakistan to gauge impact of climate change

A regional centre will help to better forecast impact on Hindu Kush mountains

JACOB ROY

To better gauge the impact of climate change on the Hindu Kush mountains, which include the Himalayas, and improve data gathering, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) will collaborate with meteorological agencies in China and Pakistan, among others, to provide climate forecast services to countries in the region.

Earlier this month, the IMD organized a workshop to discuss ways to establish a regional climate centre that would provide forecasting services and climate analyses. It will be under the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and take a few years to take shape, IMD Director-General M. Mohapatra told The Hindu.

**Rg. 7** → C, B, T;
**Rg. 9** → D;

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**Part A—Preliminary Examination**

**Paper I—(200 marks)**

- Current events of national and international importance.
  - **Indian and World Geography—Physical, Social, Economic Geography of India and the World.**

**Part B—Main Examination**

**PAPER-II**

**General Studies-I: Indian Heritage and Culture, History and Geography of the World and Society.**

- Salient features of world’s physical geography.
  - Distribution of key natural resources across the world (including South Asia and the Indian sub-continent); factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary, and tertiary sector industries in various parts of the world (including India).
  - Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone etc., geographical features and their location changes in critical geographical features (including water-bodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes.

**PAPER-III**

**General Studies-II: Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations.**

- Important International institutions, agencies and for- their structure, mandate.

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**India Meteorological Department (IMD)**

- to collaborate with China and Pakistan
- to understand impact of climate change in Hindu Kush Himalayan Region

**Hindukush - Himalayan Region:**

- covers 12 countries including India
- Source of 10 Major rivers

**Hindukush- Himalayan Region**

- The Third Pole
- Vast cryospheric reserve - susceptible to climate change

**IMD’s proposed regional climate centre under WMO (World Meteorological Organisation)**

**Advantages of proposed regional centre:**

1. Data sharing - improve forecast & predictions
2. Training, capacity building, research and development
3. Information on hydrological extremes

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Salt packets should carry tobacco-style health warning: Position statement

Aruna Venkatesh

To reduce dietary salt intake, a simple solution for a problem with long-term impacts, the Journal of Clinical Hypertension urges that salt sold in supermarkets for consumers and sold directly to hospitals should carry a tobacco-style health warning.

The position statement urges that governments regulate health warnings on salt packaging and that they consider a minimum of 57 mg of salt per day sold for consumption and sodium-dieters. The warning label should state clearly visible and easy to read information about the consumption of sodium and the risks to health and adding consumers to use less sodium.

In the statement, the authors have proposed a voluntary system for the addition of a health warning label on each salt packet in the diet causes high blood pressure and increases the risk of stroke, cancer, stroke, heart disease, and kidney disease.

According to the lead author of the statement, Prof. G. Srinivasan, who is also the former president of the World Hypertension League, in 2010 the World Health Organization established a target for countries to reduce sodium intake by 30% by 2025, and governments and the food industry have been making commitments to reduce sodium intake in their products. The statement also emphasizes the importance of reducing sodium intake to prevent cardiovascular disease and other related health conditions.

The statement has been endorsed by several leading international health organizations, including the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Society of Hypertension (ISH), and the American College of Cardiology. The WHO has recommended that all governments should take action to reduce sodium intake and promote healthy eating patterns.

Major goal

To reduce the dietary salt intake, a simple solution for a problem with long-term impacts, the Journal of Clinical Hypertension urges that salt sold in supermarkets for consumers and sold directly to hospitals should carry a tobacco-style health warning.

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Bengaluru Edition

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I—200 marks

Duration: Two hours

- Current events of national and international importance.
- Indian Polity and Governance- Constitution, Political System, Panchayat Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues, etc.
- General Science.

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER III

General Studies- II: Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International Relations.
- Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.

PAPER IV

Science and Technology- developments and their applications and effects in everyday life.
News

- Journal of Clinical Hypertension → Salt sold in supermarket for consumptions and salt dispensers in restaurants → ‘Healthy Warning’
  - Front-of-Pack
  - Tobacco-style health warning
- FSSAI, India → currently does not require reporting of Sodium content on pack

Salt/Sodium Intake

- Sodium → essential nutrient for
  - maintenance of plasma volume
  - acid-base balance
  - transmission of nerve impulses
  - normal cell function

- Excess Sodium → adverse health impacts
  - associated with Non-Communicable diseases (hypertension, CVD, & Stroke)

  - How it enters the body?
    - Processed foods
      1. High in salt content
      2. Consumed frequently in large amounts
    - Added during cooking or at the table (Soy sauce, table salt, etc.)
    - Sodium glutamate → Used as food additive

Tackling High BP → intake of Potassium

- Potassium → acid, electrolyte balance
- Normal cell function
- Reduces systolic and diastolic blood pressure

WHO Recommendations

- Adults → less than 2g of Sodium/day
  = 5g of Salt/day = Under a teaspoon
- Children → adjusted downwards for 2 to 15 year old children (< 5g of Salt/day only)

- Iodised Salt or Salt fortified with iodine
  - healthy brain development in foetus and young children

WHO Target

- Based on “Global Action Plan for the Prevention and control of NCDs, 2013 - 2020”
- Target 4
  - “A 30% relative reduction in mean population intake of salt/sodium”
Target by India

  - Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- To achieve a relative reduction in mean population intake of salt, with the aim of achieving recommended level of less than 5 gms per day
  - By 2020 - 20% reduction
  - By 2030 - 30% reduction
Q. Consider the following statements regarding Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey (CNNS).

1. The objective of the survey is to measure only malnutrition in rural and urban children.
2. The survey is released jointly by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and UNICEF.

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
Practice Question – Prelims
Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Hindukush-Himalayan (HKH) region.

1. A regional climate centre for the HKH region is proposed between India, China and Myanmar.
2. The proposed regional climate centre will function under the aegis of International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD).

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

Practice Question – Prelims
Q. Consider the following statements.

1. World Health Organisation recommend adults should consume less than 5 g of sodium per day.
2. India has a target to achieve a relative 20% and 30% reduction in mean population intake of salt by the year 2020 and 2030 respectively.

Which among the above statements is/are correct?

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

Practice Question – Mains
GS - III
Q. What is Zero Budget Natural Farming? How far it is helpful in sustaining agricultural production?

Practice Question – Prelims
Answer
1. Option (c) – Both 1 and 2
2. Option (b) – 2 only
3. Option (d) – Neither 1 nor 2
4. Option (b) – 2 only