The Hindu News Analysis – 11th November 2019 – Shankar IAS Academy

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C – Chennai; B – Bengaluru; D – Delhi; H – Hyderabad; T – Thiruvananthapuram;
After RCEP reticence, need for reform recalibration
India needs to prepare for the next round of structural reforms to join global value chains and attract manufacturing

Important economic structures in India
- Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)
- Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)
- Free Trade Agreement between 11 countries
- Canada + 10 Asia-Pacific countries
- Incorporates Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement
  - India not a member of both agreements

Reasons for India’s withdrawal from RCEP
- National interest and internal ambitions
  1. Generating sustained economic growth
  1.1. Within India → Creation of jobs
  1.2. Outside India → Will help India to rise as one of the poles in multipolar world
  1.3. Promoting manufacturing sector
  1.3.1. ‘Make in India’ → encourages global companies to manufacture in India
    - Employment opportunities
    - India as global manufacturing hub

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.

Part B—Main Examination
PAPER-III
General Studies- II: Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations.
- Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India’s interests.
- Effect of policies and policies of developed and developing countries on India’s interests, Indian diaspora.
- Important International institutions, agencies and fora-their structure, mandate.

PAPER-IV
- Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment.
**Concerns of India**

- affects farmers and small business owners
- lack of concessions for India
  - work visas and liberalization of services
- India’s trade deficit
  - Ex: China → influx of cheap imports
    - unfair restricted market access
    - non-tariff barriers
    - dumping

**Author’s view**

- Withdrawing from RCEP → NOT the solution
- Concessions won by India
  - protocol implementation delays, etc
  - safeguards agricultural sectors
- India can impose safeguard and anti-dumping duties
- Strategic and long term economic imperative for India
- integration into global value chains

**Delay in integration to global value chains**

- impact on internal and external ambitions
  - World Bank → “boost growth,
    Domestic reform +
    integration to
    global value chains”
  - India lose key opportunity to create
    high-quality and high-paying jobs.

- affects India’s goal → Regional + Indo-Pacific power
  - affects India’s goal to be prospective global leader
Former Chief Election Commissioner T.N. Seshan dead

A family member said, "The body was not found inside the house at 11 a.m. on Sunday. We were surprised."

T.N. Seshan, who was the 10th Chief Election Commissioner and died at the age of 86, was a key figure in Indian elections and was known for his impartiality and dedication. He was also a recipient of the Ramon Magsaysay Award in 1996.

The man who cleaned up the Indian electoral system

As a CEC, he saw to it that the model code of conduct was taken seriously by political parties and candidates.

Election Commission of India (ECI)

- A permanent, independent and constitutional body under Article 321
- Deals with election to Parliament, state legislature, the offices of the President and Vice President
- Composition
  - A CEC + such number of ECs determined by the President - Now 1 + 2(ECs)
  - CEC and EC - Equal powers, equal salary & allowances;
    - 'majority' decides the matter

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.

Paper II - Main Examination

PAPER-III

- Indian Constitution—historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure.
- Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies.

PAPER-V
General Studies- IV: Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude

- Public/Civil service values and Ethics in Public administration: Status and problems; ethical concerns and dilemmas in government and private institutions; laws, rules, regulations and conscience as sources of ethical guidance; accountability and ethical governance; strengthening of ethical and moral values in governance; ethical issues in international relations and funding; corporate governance.
Tenure and conditions:
- Determined by President
  - 6 years/65 years of age
  - can resign at any time

Provisions ensuring independence:
- Security of tenure to CEC
  - removal is similar to that of a SC judge
  - grounds: Incapacity or proved misbehaviour
- Removal of other ECs only on recommendation of CEC

Inherent flaws:
- Qualifications of the members are not prescribed
- Constitution did not specify term of office
- No restriction on reappointment

Powers and functions:
- Determines territorial areas of electoral constituencies
- Prepare and periodically revise electoral rolls + register eligible voters
- Grant recognition to parties and allot symbols + settling disputes
- Determine the code of conduct

Report on GM corn-derived feed likely to be taken up today

There is a scarcity of corn, a key source of animal feed

After the research on GM corn is completed, the remainder is rich in nutrients and can be used as animal feed.

Part A—Preliminary Examination
Paper I - (200 marks)
- Current events of national and international importance.

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.

PAPER-IV
General Studies - III: Technology, Economic Development, Biodiversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Management
- 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.
- Science and Technology-, developments and their applications and effects in everyday life.
- Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nano-technology, bio-technology and issues relating to intellectual property rights.
• Issue on import of Dried Distillers’ Grains with Solubles (DDGs)
  → derived from GM Corn (GM Maize)
  → animal feed

• Background
  → Karnataka - poultry industries → maize is the chief feed
  → Shortage of indigenously grown maize - drought and pest attacks
  → Demand for import of GM Maize

• Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)
  → plants, animals or micro-organisms
  → DNA is altered - not naturally

• Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC)
  to take up report on import of Dried Distillers Grains with Solubles (DDGs)

  → DDGs
    - Derived from GM Corn
    - Rich source of nutrient for animal and aqua feed

• Functions
  - Appraisal of large scale use of hazardous microorganisms, recombinants in research and industrial production
  - Release of genetically modified organisms and products into environment including experimental field trials.
  - The Committee or any persons authorized by it has powers to take punitive action under the Environment Protection Act

  → Chaired by the Special Secretary/Additional Secretary of MoEF&CC and co-chaired by a representative from the Dept. of Biotechnology
Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks)

- Current events of national and international importance.
- 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.

- Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.

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News

- Fewer cases and deaths in Delhi due to dengue.
- Success of campaign against dengue.

*10 Hafte, 10 Baje, 10 Minute*

- 10 Week, at 10 O’clock, for 10 minutes.
- Campaign to look for stagnant water in and around their homes for 10 minutes, at 10 am, every Sunday for 10 weeks, then dispose the stagnant water.
- Campaign of Delhi Govt. to free city from vector-borne diseases - Dengue, Chikungunya, and Malaria.
- Awareness in schools also.

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Dengue

- Mosquito-borne viral infection
- Genus - Flavivirus
- Family - Flaviviridae
- Main vector - Aedes aegypti mosquito
- Transmission
  - through bite of infective female Aedes mosquito
- Treatment — no specific treatment.

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Centre gets responses to draft Social Security Code

Govt. had asked for public suggestions

The draft code on social security, which subsumes eight existing laws covering provident fund, maternity benefits and pension, is being further worked upon after a recent round of public consultations, officials of the Labour and Employment Ministry have said.

A draft of the social security code, one of the four codes that are part of the Government’s labour reforms package, was released in September 2018 for public comments and suggestions (October 8).

Officials said over 1,000 comments or suggestions have been received. The draft might be finalised in time for the session of Parliament beginning on November 8, an official said.

However, many trade unions are not in favour of the provisions for provident fund, pension and insurance funds to be administered by a central board, and a national pension scheme that employers can opt for. Recently, the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS), an affiliate of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), had rejected the draft code and its comments submitted by a group of MPs and union leaders.

BMS president B. S. Mujumdar said in a statement that the draft had provisions for the right to social security for all and establishment of a central apex council, headed by the Prime Minister, but these were missing from the latest draft.

News

- Centre gets responses to draft Social Security Code.
- The Ministry of Labour and Employment
  1. The Code on Wages,
  2. The Code on Industrial Relations,
  3. The Code on Social Security and Welfare,

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.
- Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance, applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential; citizens’ charts, 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

- Probits 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.

Civilspedia Team - Powered by Shankar IAS Academy
• The Code on Wages, 2019
  → Subsumed four Labour Laws
    - Minimum Wages Act, 1948
    - Payment of Wages Act, 1936
    - Payment of Bonus Act, 1965
    - Equal Remuneration Act, 1976

  → Code on wages seek to universalise the provisions of minimum wages and timely payment of wages

• The other three codes are at different stages of enactment.
Practice Question – Prelims
Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the Election Commission of India.
1. It is a constitutional body.
2. The tenure of the Election Commissioners is a term of 3 years or until they attain the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.
3. It has the power to supervise and control the elections to the office of president of India and the office of vice-president of India.
Select the correct answer from the following codes.
- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 2 and 3 only

Practice Question – Prelims
Q2. Consider the following statements about Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee.
1. It is responsible for appraisal of proposals relating to release of genetically engineered products into the environment including experimental field trials.
2. It has powers to take punitive action under the Environment Protection Act, 1986.
3. It functions under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
Which of the above statement/s is/are not correct?
- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 3 only
- d) 2 and 3 only
Practice Question – Prelims

Q3. Which among the following diseases is/are caused by the Aedes aegypti mosquito?

1. Malaria
2. Chikungunya
3. Dengue

Select the correct answer from the code given below.

a) 1 and 2
b) 2 and 3
c) 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Practice Question – Prelims

Q4. Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched with reference to the enacted/proposed codes with their respective Ministries.

1. Code on Wages : Ministry of Labour & Employment
2. Code on Industrial Relations : Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

(a) 2 and 3 only
(b) 1 and 4 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4.
Practice Question – Prelims

Q1. Option ‘c’ – 1 and 3 only
Q2. Option ‘c’ – 3 only
Q3. Option ‘b’ – 2 and 3
Q4. Option ‘b’ – 1 and 4 only

LIKE, COMMENT & SHARE

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