## The Hindu News Analysis – 04th & 05th August 2019 – Shankar IAS Academy

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*C – Chennai; B – Bengaluru; D – Delhi; T – Thiruvananthapuram
Lower rates the growth key?
What does the government need to do to stimulate the economy? Is cutting interest rates enough?

Reduction in repo rates → 75 basis points in the last three monetary policy reviews, by the Monetary Policy Committee.

Monetary Policy Committee:
- 6 Member Committee constituted by the Central Government (Sec 45 ZB of RBI Act, 1934)
- Chairperson - Governor of RBI
- Fixes policy interest rates to achieve inflation target.
- Required to meet at least 4 times in a year

Policy Repo Rate:
- Rate at which the commercial banks borrow from RBI by mortgaging their government securities and treasury bills

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

⇒ If repo rates are reduced → Increase the borrowing from RBI
   - Banks must pass the rate cut benefits to borrowers

⇒ If repo rates are increased → Reduce the borrowing from RBI
   - Banks will borrow money from RBI and pass on rates to borrowers

News
- RBI’s assessment → 21/75 basis points only passed into the borrowers
Reverse Repo Rate:
- Interest for the money deposited by the commercial banks with RBI
Why banks are not ready for immediate transmission of rate cuts?
- Deposits
  - Higher deposit rates
    - Due to higher interest rates in the govt’s Small Savings Schemes
      - Public Provident Fund
      - National Savings Certificate
    \[ 7.9\% \]
    Vs
    SBI - 6.8% 
- Liquidity crunch due to IL & FS Crisis
  - Higher Banks should pass on the rate cut benefits

Govt Vs Central Banks \( \rightarrow \) On Repo rates:
- Govt - Supports lower interest rates
  \[ \downarrow \text{Lower Interest} \rightarrow \text{Job Creation} \rightarrow \text{Higher growth} \]
- Central Banks - Support high interest rates
  \[ \downarrow \text{Targeting the inflation} \]
- Govt - Short term view
- Central Banks - long term view

Fiscal Deficit and Repo rates:
- Fiscal Deficit = Expenditure \( \rightarrow \) Revenue
  \[ \downarrow \text{more spending} \rightarrow \text{High Inflation} \rightarrow \text{(Govt)} \]
  \[ \downarrow \text{High interest rates (Central) to control inflation (Bank)} \]

Are repo rates enough for the growth in the economy?
- Three factors of Production
  - Capital
    \[ \rightarrow \text{(cheap)} \]
  - Land
    \[ \rightarrow \text{(skilled)} \]
  - Labour
  \[ \rightarrow \]
  Demand in the market to purchase Goods and Services

Solution:
- Govt \( \rightarrow \) Stimulate the demand
  RBI \( \rightarrow \) Should keep the interest rates low
- Only rate cuts will not help in reviving the economic activity
Ministry of Earth Sciences - Deep Ocean Mission will be launched in October 2019

Rs. 8,000 Crore plan in Indian Ocean Deep Sea Mining: extracting mineral deposits from the area of ocean below 200m

IVCN - Deep Sea Mining - Process of extracting mineral deposits from the area of ocean below 200m - mining below the epipelagic zone

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-II

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

- 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).

PAPER-IV


- Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.

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Deep Sea Mining hotspots:
- Ferromanganese nodules - Ocean bed or abyssal planes - (4000m - 6000m)
- Metal rich crusts - Seamounts - 800 - 2500m
- Sulphide deposits → hydrothermal vents (1000m - 4000m) - mineral rich rocks

Polymetallic nodules:
- Small rounded accretions of minerals - nickel, cobalt, copper, iron hydroxide
- Can be used in - electronic devices, smartphones, batteries and solar panels
- Identified in - Indian Ocean Region - 6000m depth - Clarion Clipperton Zone in eastern Pacific Ocean

resource potential in Central Indian Ocean Basin (CIOB)

1987: International Seabed Authority (ISA)
- granted ‘Pioneer Investor’ status to India - first to receive
- ISA - allots areas for deep sea mining
- Allowed 1.5 Lakh sq.km to India; now India retained 75,000 sq.km.

ISA - formed in 1994, under UNCLOS 1982
- regulates - exploration of marine non-living resources in international waters
- UN Observer status

India to start mining by October 2019
- National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai says - demonstrated mining technology with artificial nodules at 500 m depth
  - Remotely operated vehicle and In-situ Soil tester at 6000m

Other countries in the race:
- ISA - 15 year contracts for exploration for polymetallic nodules, polymetallic sulphides and Cobalt rich ferromanganese crusts - 29 Contracts
- China, Russia, South Korea, Japan, France, Germany, Cooks Islands, Kiribati
- Deep Sea Mining - economically viable only if about 3 million tonnes are mined every year

Environmental Impacts:
- Deep Sea ecology and biodiversity - poorly understood so difficult to assess environmental impact and framing guidelines

IUCN - deep and remote locations - home to unique species
- Species adapted to poor sunlight and oxygen, high pressure and extremely low temperature.
- Mining - make them extinct

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**Tigers in India face lurking threat from virus**

There is heightened risk of disease transfer from dogs to tigers, leopards in Rathnambore National Park

**Local context:**

The Prime Minister's announcement that tiger numbers have increased in the country may be good news, but the low numbers, a decline of many species, and the deforestation of their habitat is a concern. Tigers are apex predators and serve as indicators of the health of an ecosystem. They rely on forests for cover and water sources. Deforestation leads to habitat loss, fragmentation, and fragmentation, which can affect tiger populations. The government has initiated several programs to protect tigers, including tiger conservation programs, forest management, and anti-poaching efforts.

**Risk of disease transfer:**

A recent study published in the *Journal of Veterinary Medicine* showed that 40% of the tiger deaths around Rathnambore National Park in Rajasthan were caused by diseases such as canine distemper and canine parvovirus. The study suggested that dogs are a major vector for disease transmission to tigers and leopards. The study recommended the implementation of vaccination programs for dogs to reduce the risk of disease transmission.

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Civilspedia Team - Powered by Shankar IAS Academy
PM released All India Tiger Estimation 2018 - 33% increase in tiger population b/w 2014 and 2018
- Threats to its survival - loss of habitat, poaching, decline of prey
- New threat: Canine Distemper Virus (CDV) Infection

CDV: Contagious disease; affects respiratory, gastrointestinal and nervous system
- Spread: direct or indirect contact
- Inhaling virus
- No cure

Research Group: Blood samples of dogs around Ranthambore National Park, Rajasthan
- Result: Over 86% of the dogs tested carry CDV antibodies
- Meaning: Either currently infected or have been infected sometime i.e., increased risk of transfer of CDV from dogs to tigers

How?
- Dogs along with humans enter forests - tigers and leopards hunting them
- Also through air - sneeze/cough of infected animals

2018 - More than 20 lions died due to CDV in Gir Forest, Gujarat
NTCA - Guidelines to prevent spillover of CDV to wild animals
Analysis in Russia and Africa:
- Isolated wildlife populations - more susceptible to CDV
Way forward:
- Understand the role of domestic animals as carriers of CDV
- Vaccination of free-ranging and domesticated animals near national parks

NGOs - Animal birth control measures - need Govt. support
- Countrywide data of CDV cases - make preventive guidelines
- Preventive measures - Govt. initiative to vaccinate dogs
Bigger and better

A move to increase the strength of the judiciary is an important aspect of India’s efforts to strengthen the structure of the judiciary. This has led to an increase in the number of judges in the Supreme Court, which is the highest court of appeal in India.

• Increase in the strength of the judges of the Supreme Court (SC)
  - Decision of SC - 31 to 34
  - No. of pending cases - 59,331

Author:
• Unnecessary burden on SC
  - Bail related cases
  - Public Interest Cases

• Increasing Court’s strength → Pending cases not going to decrease

Suggestions:

- Reasonable restrictions on timing of oral arguments in Supreme Court
- Schedule of hearing time of cases → Should be correctly followed
- Primary role of Supreme court must be preserved
- Ultimate arbiter in interpreting the Constitution of India and laws
Implementation of 229th report of the Law Commission - 2009

- Division of Supreme Court
- One constitutional bench at Delhi
  - Cassation bench
    - North - Delhi
    - South - Chennai / Hyderabad
    - East - Kolkata
    - West - Mumbai

Cassation Benches
- Decrease in the pending cases
- Increase in the access to justice

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20,000 genomes to be scanned for cancer study

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) plans to scan nearly 20,000 Indian genomes over five years, in a two-phase exercise, and develop diagnostic tests that can be used for cancer.

The first phase involves sequencing the genomes of nearly 10,000 Indians to capture the biological diversity of the country, Dr. Sivaprakash, Secretary-DST, told The Hindu.

In the next phase, about 10,000 "diseased individuals" would have their genomes sequenced. These data would be compared using machine learning to identify genes that can predict cancer risk, as well as other diseases that could be significantly influenced by genetic anomalies.

While 22 institutions, including those from the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and DBT would be involved in the exercise, the data generated would be accessible to researchers anywhere.

This would be through a proposed National Biological Data Centre, envisaged in the "Biological Data Storage, Access and Sharing Policy" that is still in the early stages of discussion.

"Genomics research is a major thrust area for us. What is unique about this programme, called the Genome India Initiative, is its scale. The deliverables are genomic-based diagnostics that can be affordably made available through a lab," Dr. Sivaprakash added. The programme is expected to launch in October, with an estimated budget of ₹250-300 crore for phase I.

The Pune-based National Centre for Cell Sciences – also involved in the project – will collect samples of microbiome from the human gut. The diversity of the bacterial samples is at the frontier of global research, and scientists have said there is an intimate connection between the genome, the gut microbiome and disease.

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Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks)

- Current events of national and international importance.
- General Science.

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-IV


- 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.
Dept. of Biotechnology - Genome India Initiative Programme
- Scan 80,000 Indian genomes
- 2 phases
  - Phase 1: genome sequencing of 10,000 Indians
capture biological diversity
  - Phase 2: genome sequencing of 10,000 ‘diseased’
individuals’
- Genome: Complete set of genes - genes made up of
DNAs
- Genome sequencing - figuring out order of DNA
nucleotides or bases - Adenine, Guanine, Cytosine,
Thymine

- 2 sets of data from 2 phases - compare using
machine learning
  - identify genes that can predict cancer risk
diseases that would be influenced by
  - genetic anomalies
- Machine learning: Application of AI (Artificial
Intelligence) - ability to automatically learn and improve
- Genome scanning project - 22 institutions from
CSIR, and DBT
- Data generated - accessible to researchers
anywhere - through National Biological Data Centre
  - envisaged under ‘Biological Data Storage,
Access and Sharing Policy’
  - Under Dept of Science and Technology

DBT - First phase will start by October 2019
  - budget Rs.250 Crore - Rs.350 Crore
- National Centre for Cell Sciences, Pune
  - Collect samples of microbiome from
human gut/stomach
- Human microbiota - trillions of cells - bacteria,
viruses and fungi
  - biggest collection of microbial cells in
gut, skin and genititals
- Microbiome - all genes in these cells
- Microbiota - important for nutrition and
immunity

Importance of genome sequencing
- Data on genome sequencing - genome based
diagnostics - affordable delivery through labs
- Genome India Project - cover biological
diversity in India
  - reasons for prevalence of diseases
  - particular region or groups
- Predict cancer risk and diseases caused by genetic anomalies
- Effective analysis of diseases - Single gene
malfunctioning - Thalassemia
PMAY(Gramin) - Annual Action Plan - 2019-20
allocated 8.32 lakh houses to MP, 2.22 lakh surrendered not in a position to meet target
- Rural Development Ministry: first time any state has done so
- Reason: farm loan waiver scheme of MP - financial burden

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Gramin:
- PMAY(a) - restructured - Indira Awas Yojana
- expected to build a total of 2.95 crore houses by 2022
- beneficiaries identified by SECC 2011

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.

Part B—Main Examination
PAPER-III
General Studies- II: Governance, Constitution, Policy, Social Justice and International relations.

- Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

- Each beneficiary - Rs.1.2 Lakh in plain areas, Rs.1.3 Lakh in hilly areas
- Cost Shaving - 60:40 - Centre:States - plain areas
- 90:10 - C:S - North East and Himalayan States

- Geo-tagged photographs
- Construction of toilets - Swachh Bharat
- Pan-India training and certification - rural masons - skilling
Practice Question – Prelims

Q1) Consider the following statements regarding International Seabed Authority.
1. ISA was established under the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).
2. It regulates the exploration and exploitation of marine living and non-living resources of oceans in international waters.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?
   a) 1 only
   b) 2 only
   c) Both 1 and 2
   d) Neither 1 nor 2

Practice Question – Prelims

Q2) Consider the following statements about Canine Distemper Virus.
1. CDV attacks respiratory and gastrointestinal parts of dogs.
2. The infection can spread through air.
3. CDV has resulted in the death of lions in Gir forests in 2018.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?
   a) 1 and 2
   b) 1 and 3
   c) 1, 2 and 3
   d) 2 and 3
Practice Question – Prelims

Q3) Consider the following statements regarding genome sequencing.
1. Genome sequencing is figuring out the order of DNA nucleotides or bases in a genome.
2. The Genome India Initiative aims at sequencing the diverse Indian genomes.
3. Genome sequencing will help to study cancer risks.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
a) 1 only
b) 1 and 2
c) 1 and 3
d) 1, 2 and 3

Practice Question – Prelims

Q) Consider the following statements regarding Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Grameen).
1. The beneficiaries are identified from the Socio-Economic Caste Census 2011.
2. The cost is shared between the Centre and States in the ratio 60:40 in plain areas and 90:10 in the northeastern and Himalayan states.
3. It is implemented by Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
a) 1 only
b) 1 and 2
c) 1,2 and 3
d) 2 and 3

Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements.
1. The strength of the Supreme Court judges can be modified by amending the constitution of India.
2. The present strength of judges in the Supreme Court is 34 including the Chief Justice of India.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2

Practice Questions – Prelims Answers
5th August 2019

Q1. Option ‘a’ – 1 only
Q2. Option ‘c’ – 1, 2 and 3
Q3. Option ‘d’ – 1, 2 and 3
Q4. Option ‘b’ – 1 and 2
Q5. Option ‘d’ – Neither 1 nor 2
LIKE, COMMENT & SHARE

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