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*C – Chennai; B – Bengaluru; D – Delhi; H-Hyderabad; T – Thiruvananthapuram
Committee to study porn content on Internet

Panel formed by RS Chairman on Dec 5

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI
Rajya Sabha Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu convened an informal group of MPs constituted to study issues related to pornographic content on the Internet and social media platforms into an ad-hoc committee.

Mr. Naidu said the committee would submit a report within a month. The group, with Congress MP Jairam Ramesh as coordinator, was formed by the Chairman on December 5.

"On December 5, 2019, I had announced in the House the constitution of an informal group... The group has held several meetings... However, Jairam Ramesh, the coordinator of the informal group, met me and explained certain legal problems being faced by the group being an informal one. I have considered the matter and decided to form an ad-hoc committee with the same composition," Mr. Naidu told the Upper House.

The group had 14 MPs and was studying issues related to pornographic content on the Internet and its effect on children.

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, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues, etc.

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-III

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

- Indian Constitution—historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure.
- Parliament and State legislatures—structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers & privileges and issues arising out of these.
- Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies.

News

- Informal group of M.P.’s into Ad hoc Committee
  - To study issues & effect on children
  - Pornographic content on the internet & Social media platforms

Parliamentary Committees

- Oversight of the executive
  - Holds govt accountable
  - Prevents arbitrary & unconstitutional actions
- Instrument of Parliament for its effective functioning
- Appointed or Elected by House or nominated by Speaker/Chairman
- Works under direction of Speaker/Chairman
- Submits report

* Link between Parliament, Executive and Public
* Need:
  - Vigilance → Over actions of Executive
  - Heavy volume of work regarding legislation
  - Provides expertise on the matter
    - Views expressed freely
    - In-depth consideration
    - Calmer atmosphere
  - Aid & assist to Parliament → effective, expeditious & efficient
  - Through Committees, Parliament exercises control & influence over administration
    - Salutary effect on Executive
UPSC Previous Year Question – 2019 Prelims
Q. In India, which of the following review the independent regulators in sectors like telecommunications, insurance electricity, etc.?

1. Ad Hoc Committee set up by the Parliament.
2. Parliamentary Department Related Standing Committee
3. Finance Commission
4. Financial Sector Legislative Reforms Commission
5. NITI Aayog

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

a) 1 and 2
b) 1, 3 and 4
c) 3, 4 and 5
d) 2 and 5

UPSC Previous Year Question – 2013 Prelims
Q. Consider the following statements- The Parliamentary Committee on Public Accounts.

1. Consists of not more than 25 Members of the Lok Sabha.
3. Examines the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3
CAG hints at massive diversion of LPG

Report finds that around 139.6 lakh beneficiaries of PMU scheme consumed 3 to 4 million in a month. The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, in a report on the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY), has highlighted the diversion of LPG cylinders for commercial use. The 139.6 lakh beneficiaries of the scheme had an average annual consumption of more than 32 cylinders. The CAG said this level of consumption seemed improbable in view of the BPL (below poverty line) status of such beneficiaries.

Vanishing into thin air?

- 3.82 lakh cylinders were supposed to be discarded due to the LPG consumption of 5000 kg.
- 1.67 lakh cylinders were found to be marketed to the public for continued use.
- 7.6 lakh cylinders were detected to be still in use.
- 6.15 lakh cylinders were disclosed to be used for cooking in a single day due to the increased consumption.

The CAG also noted that the state agencies had failed to monitor the LPG consumption of beneficiaries, resulting in a significant deviation from the intended usage.
Audit Findings

* LPG for domestic purpose diverted for commercial use
* 1.98 lakh beneficiaries with average annual consumption - more than 12 cylinders
* 13.96 lakh beneficiaries - 3 to 41 refills in a month
* Issues:
  - Laxity in identification of beneficiaries
  - Connections based on AHLTIN - not found in SECC-2011 list
  - Connections given to minor beneficiaries
  - Connection given to AHLTIN of males
  - Mismatch between PMUY list & SECC-2011

Solutions

* Proper cross-checking with SECC list
* Ensure that it is not used for commercial purpose
* Recommendations by CAG report
  - Aadhaar no. of all adult family members → to reduce duplication
  - Software inputs to restrict issuance to non-beneficiaries
  - e-KYC needs to be initiated

Comptroller & Auditor General of India (CAG)

* Article 148
* CAG - head of Indian Audit and Accounts Dept
* Duty: To uphold Constitution and laws of Parliament in financial administration
* Appointment and Term of Office:
  - Appointed by President
  - Term: 6 years / 65 years of age
  - Removal: Like a judge of Supreme Court
  - Security of Tenure
* Article 149 - Parliament to prescribe duties & power

Functions of CAG:

* Auditing expenditure from
  * Consolidated Fund of India
  * Consolidated Fund of States & UTs with legislative assembly
* Auditing expenditure from
  * Contingency Fund of India
  * Public Account of India; those of each state
* Auditing of accounts of departments of Centre and States
* Audit all receipt and expenditure of Centre & States - satisfy herself
* Audit any account of any authority - based on request of President / Governor
Q. In India, other than ensuring that public funds are used efficiently and for intended purpose, what is the importance of the office of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)?

1. CAG exercises exchequer control on behalf of the Parliament when the President of India declares national emergency/financial emergency.
2. CAG reports on the execution of projects or programmes by the ministries are discussed by the Public Accounts Committee.
3. Information from CAG reports can be used by investigating agencies to press charges against those who have violated the law while managing public finances.
4. While dealing with the audit and accounting of government companies, CAG has certain judicial powers for prosecuting those who violate the law.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1, 2 and 4 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4
IBM’s weather forecast system
to tap users’ phones for data

IBM GRAF can generate forecasts at a resolution of 3 km.

International technology company IBM plans to make a high-resolution weather forecast model that will also rely on user-generated data to improve the accuracy of forecasts available in India. IBM GRAF, as the forecast system is called, can generate forecasts at a resolution of 3 kilometers. This is a significantly higher resolution than the 12-kilometer models used by the India Meteorological Department to generate forecasts. These weather forecasts are four times more accurate than those generated by 12-km resolution models. Cameron Clayton, general manager, IBM Watson IoT, said: “We’ve learned that people who share data often share it in their own language, and this approach helps us generate forecasts that are 10 times more accurate.”

Tests we’ve done so far, our forecasts are 30% more accurate than those generated by 12-km resolution models. Cameron Clayton, general manager, IBM Watson IoT, said: “We’ve learned that people who share data often share it in their own language, and this approach helps us generate forecasts that are 10 times more accurate.”

Key Features: IBM - GRAF

- Improved global mapping of the atmosphere
- Better data and observations – incorporate un tapped data source from Airplane sensors 
  & pressure sensor readings from smartphone users
- Same technology like Powerful Supercomputer
- Will improve the resolution from the existing 10-12 km to 3-4 km and frequency of updates every hour instead of existing 6 to 12 hours
- GRAF, going to empower companies, airlines, broadcasters and farmers
- 30% more accurate than those generated by 12-km resolution models
Three tribes set to enter Karnataka ST list

NEW DELHI

The Rajya Sabha on Thursday passed a bill to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950, to include three tribes - Parivara, Talwara and the Siddi community of Dharwad and Belagavi districts - in the list of Scheduled Tribes in Karnataka. The Bill was introduced by Tribal Affairs Minister of State Renuka Singh Saruta. Currently, the Siddi tribe of Uttar Kannada alone is included in the list.

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, 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-II

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

- Social empowerment, communalism, regionalism & secularism.

PAPER-III

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

- Indian Constitution — historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure.
- 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.

PAPER-IV


- Inclusive growth and issues arising from it.

Article 366

(25) "Scheduled Tribes" means such tribes or tribal communities or parts of or groups within such tribes or tribal communities as are deemed under article 342 to be Scheduled Tribes for the purposes of this Constitution;

342. (1) The President [may with respect to any State [or Union territory], and where it is a State [***, after consultation with the Governor [**** thereof,] by public notification, specify the tribes or tribal communities or parts of or groups within tribes or tribal communities which shall for the purposes of this Constitution be deemed to be Scheduled Tribes in relation to that State [or Union territory, as the case may be].

(2) Parliament may by law include in or exclude from the list of Scheduled Tribes specified in a notification issued under clause (1) any tribe or tribal community or part of or group within any tribe or tribal community, but save as aforesaid a notification issued under the said clause shall not be varied by any subsequent notification.

* Consultation with the Governor - Consultation with S. Govt (Article 163)

* President issues the First list of Specified Scheduled Tribes under Article 342(1) for a concerned state or UT

Any modification in this list can be done only by Parliament
Reference Question
UPSC Prelims 2019

Q. Consider the following statements about Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in India:

1. PVTGs reside in 18 States and one Union Territory.
2. A stagnant or declining population is one of the criteria for determining PVTG status.
3. There are 95 PVTGs officially notified in the country so far.
4. Irular and Konda Reddi tribes are included in the list of PVTGs.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(a) 1, 2 and 3
(b) 2, 3 and 4
(c) 1, 2 and 4
(d) 1, 3 and 4
Not many lessons learnt from water planning failures

In the absence of scientific planning and implementation, measures like Jal Shakti Abhiyan may not be successful.

**Jal Shakti Abhiyan**

* Formal response to the Summer Water Crisis across India in 2019
* time-bound, mission-mode water conservation campaign

  - **Two phases**
    - a. 1 July 2019 - 15 Sep 2019
      - for all States & UTs
    - b. 1 Oct 2019 - 30 Nov 2019
      - for States & UTs receiving retreating monsoon (Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, T N, Puducherry)

  * Implemented across 255 water-stressed districts - critical & overexploited GW levels
  * Not intended to be a ‘funding programme’
  * Aimed to make water conservation as people’s movement through ongoing schemes

Part A — Preliminary Examination

**Paper I — (200 marks)**

- 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.

PAPER-IV

**General Studies- III:** Technology, Economic Development, Bio-diversity, 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.
- Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.
Author's Opinion on JSA

- Aim, intent of JSA - noble & genuine but assumptions are facile / superficial
  - Assumes that 'common people in rural areas are ignorant & prone to waste water'
  - Per capita water allocation
    - Rural areas - 55 Litres/day
    - Urban areas - 135 to 150 Litres/day
  - Pressure on village resources because of towns & cities

Implementation

- Lacked scientific planning in implementation
  - Took political and admin boundary of districts as basis
    - Do not coincide with hydrological or aquifer boundaries
  - Contrary to principle of water management
    - Multiple units, multiple policies; issues with coordination in short term;
- Supervision
  - Already burdened ‘bureaucrat’
    - Technical authority would have been better
- Involvement of autonomous and knowledge-intensive river basin organisations
**Evaluation / Presenting achievements / outcomes**

- JSA Portal (on authorised access)
  - 1 crore ongoing & completed water conservation structures
  - 76 lakh recharge structures
  - 1 billion saplings planted
  - lot of people participated in awareness

- no data on pre-JSA water levels, monthly water levels, impact of monsoon on water levels

- Quality, maintenance, sustainability of structures - no data

**Issues to be resolved / addressed**

- Lack of proper engineering supervision of structures

- Multiple departments with less/no coordination

- Limited funding under Govt. schemes like MGNREGA

- 80% of freshwater utilisation/consumption (annually) is by Agriculture
Civilspedia Team - Powered by Shankar IAS Academy

"Feroz Khan is at BHU, will teach there"

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

"Sanskrit is not just a language but contains the essence of our nation, culture and tradition," said Human Resource Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal in the Lower House, which on Thursday cleared the Central Sanskrit Universities Bill, 2019.

The Minister, while replying to a question, also told the House that Feroz Khan "will continue teaching Sanskrit in BHU."

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Central Sanskrit Universities Bill, 2019

* to establish and incorporate Universities for teaching & research in Sanskrit + development
  - Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan
  - Lal Bahadur Shastri
  - Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth
  - Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth

* Sanskrit
  - Not just a language
  - Essence of our Nation, culture & tradition

* MHRD to promote all classical languages in India

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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.

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-II

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

- Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of Art Forms, literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times.

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.

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* CRITERIA TO BECOME A CLASSICAL LANGUAGE

i. High antiquity of its early texts/ recorded History over a period of 1500-2000 years.
ii. A body of ancient literature/ texts, which is considered a valuable heritage by generations of speakers.
iii. The literary tradition be original and not borrowed from another speech community.
iv. The classical language and literature being distinct from modern, there may also be a discontinuity between the classical language and its later forms or its offshoot.

b classical languages at present

- Tamil (2004) - first to get the status
- Sanskrit
- Telugu
- Malayalam
- Kannada
- Odia
Practice Question – Prelims
Q1. Consider the following statements with reference to the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India.

1. It is a constitutional position mentioned under Article 148.
2. CAG can be removed from office by the Council headed by Prime Minister on the grounds of proved misbehaviour or incapacity.
3. CAG can audit the accounts of any authority based on the request by the President or Governor.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Practice Question – Prelims
Q2. Consider the following statements with reference to ‘IBM-GRAF, the new Global High-Resolution Atmospheric Forecasting system’

1. It is a high-precision, rapidly updating global weather model.
2. It is partnered with Indian Meteorological Department which uses the state-of-the-art science to forecast the atmosphere at a truly global scale.
3. It empowers companies, airlines, broadcasters and farmers because of its high resolution and frequency in updates.

Select the correct statements using the codes given below

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

Practice Question – Prelims
Q3. Consider the following statements with reference to Article 342 of Indian Constitution.

1. First list of Scheduled Castes in relation to a State or Union Territory is to be issued by a notified Order of the President.
2. Any subsequent inclusion in or exclusion from the list of Scheduled Castes in the notified order of the President can be made through an Act of Parliament.

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
Q4. Consider the following classical languages of India.

1. Odia
2. Malayalam
3. Kannada
4. Sanskrit
5. Tamil

With reference to the languages mentioned above, in terms of granting the classical language status, which one of the following is the correct ascending order?

a) 1-2-3-4-5
b) 4-5-3-2-1
c) 5-4-3-2-1
d) 4-3-2-1-5
Practice Question – Mains

GS-II

Q. Implementation of Jal Shakti Abhiyan suffered in terms of certain vital factors. Identify these factors and suggest measures for the effective implementation in future. (10 marks, 150 words)

Practice Question – Prelims Answers

1. Option (d) – 1 and 3 only
2. Option (c) – 1 and 3 only
3. Option (d) – Neither 1 nor 2
4. Option (c) – 5-4-3-2-1